13 Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation

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13 Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation

13.1 Executive Summary

13.1.1 The Proposed Development consists of 21 turbines of up to 6 MW each, resulting in a combined installed capacity of up to 126 MW. This chapter has assessed the potential socio-economic, tourism and recreation effects of the Proposed Development.

13.1.2 This assessment found that the local area has a population older than the South Lanarkshire and Scottish averages with limited opportunities for education or employment. The local economy has been adversely affected by the decline of coal mining and other local industries. There are a limited number of tourism assets and accommodation providers in the local area.

13.1.3 It was estimated that:

- during the development and construction phase, the Proposed Development would invest approximately £152 million, that could generate up to:
  - £13.3 million GVA and 202 years of employment in South Lanarkshire; and
  - £42.6 million GVA and 657 years of employment in Scotland (including South Lanarkshire).
- during each year of the operational phase, the Proposed Development would spend around £3.3 million on operations and maintenance. This could generate up to:
  - £0.7 million and 10 jobs in South Lanarkshire; and
  - £1.2 million GVA and 18 jobs in Scotland.

13.1.4 The Proposed Development would form part of a wider cluster of onshore wind developments in the area (refer to Chapter 1 and Figure 1.2). This presents an opportunity for local suppliers to have continuity of work across multiple projects and encourages local suppliers to diversify into the onshore wind market.

13.1.5 There would also be wider benefits associated with the Proposed Development as a result of the provision of community benefit funding of £5,000 per MW of installed capacity per year (a total of up to £630,000 per year, based on an installed capacity of 126 MW). This would enable the local communities surrounding the Proposed Development, such as Coalburn, Lesmahagow, Douglas, Glespin, Rigside, and Douglas Water to invest in the local area, and meet the objectives set out in their community action plans. This could involve developing the area's adventure tourism offering, resulting in increased visitor numbers and tourism. There could also be additional benefits as a result of an offer from the Applicant to explore the potential for shared ownership in the Proposed Development with the local community.

13.1.6 There would also be benefits to the public sector from payment of non-domestic rates estimated to be worth £1.3 million each year.

13.1.7 A review of the latest research evidence suggests that there is no evidence of wind farm developments adversely affecting the tourism economy of Scotland. However, an assessment of the potential effect of the Proposed Development on local tourism assets, accommodation providers and tourism routes was undertaken and found that there were not expected to be any adverse effects. The assessment notes that there may be positive effects on the tourism economy if community benefit funding or revenue from any shared ownership in the Proposed Development is invested in developing the local area's adventure tourism offering.

13.1.8 Overall, there were no significant adverse effects identified.

13.2 Introduction

13.2.1 This chapter considers the potential socio-economic, tourism and recreation effects from the Proposed Development. This includes a consideration of local tourism activity, employment generation and any indirect economic effects from the Proposed Development.

13.2.2 The chapter evaluates the Proposed Development on socio-economic, tourism and recreation and has been prepared by BiGGAR Economics.

13.2.3 The assessment has been undertaken based on a 21-turbine development, each with an installed capacity of up to 6 Megawatts (MW). Therefore, the total installed generating capacity of the wind farm would be up to 126 MW.

13.2.4 The chapter is structured as follows:

- Section 13.3 considers the legislation, policy and guidelines that have informed the analysis;
- Section 13.4 considers consultations undertaken to inform the assessment;
- Section 13.4.1 considers the methodology used to undertake the assessment, including the baseline and estimation of effects, as well as the criteria used to determine significance;
- Section 13.6 outlines the socio-economic and tourism baseline of the local area, South Lanarkshire and Scotland, based on available statistics and strategic documents;
- Section 13.7 assesses the potential socio-economic and tourism effects arising from the construction and operation of the Proposed Development;
- Section 13.8 discusses measures that may be needed to mitigate effects;
- Section 13.9 summarises the residual effects;
- Section 13.10 assesses the cumulative effects arising from the Proposed Development;
- Section 13.11 provides a summary of the assessment; and
- Section 13.12 lists the references used in the assessment.

13.3 Legislation, Policy and Guidelines

13.3.1 There is no specific legislation, policy or guidance available on the methods that should be used to assess the socio-economic impacts of a proposed onshore wind farm development. The proposed method has however been based on established best practice, including that used in UK Government and industry reports on the sector.

13.3.2 In particular, this assessment draws on two studies by BiGGAR Economics on the UK onshore wind energy sector, a report published by RenewableUK and DECC in 2012 on the direct and wider economic benefits of the onshore wind sector to the UK economy (Department of Energy and Climate Change, RenewableUK, 2012) and a subsequent update to this report published by RenewableUK in 2015 (RenewableUK, 2015).

13.3.3 Scottish Planning Policy (Scottish Government, 2014) does provide general guidance on how the economic impacts of a development should be considered. It states that policies and planning decisions will consider, amongst other things:

- the net economic benefit of a proposed development; and
- how a proposed development responds to economic issues, challenges and opportunities.

13.3.4 There is no formal guidance on the methods that should be used to assess the effects that wind farm developments may have on tourism and leisure interests.

13.4 Consultation

13.4.1 The Applicant has held pre-application discussions with the South Lanarkshire Council and various local community groups regarding the Proposed Development and matters to be addressed within the EIA. In particular, this considered the options for Community Benefit contributions from the Proposed Development and to consider potential local priorities to direct funds towards.

13.4.2 Further public consultation on community benefits from the Proposed Development, and other projects within the Hagshaw Cluster (refer to Chapter 1), is currently planned to take place in late 2020.

13.5 Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria

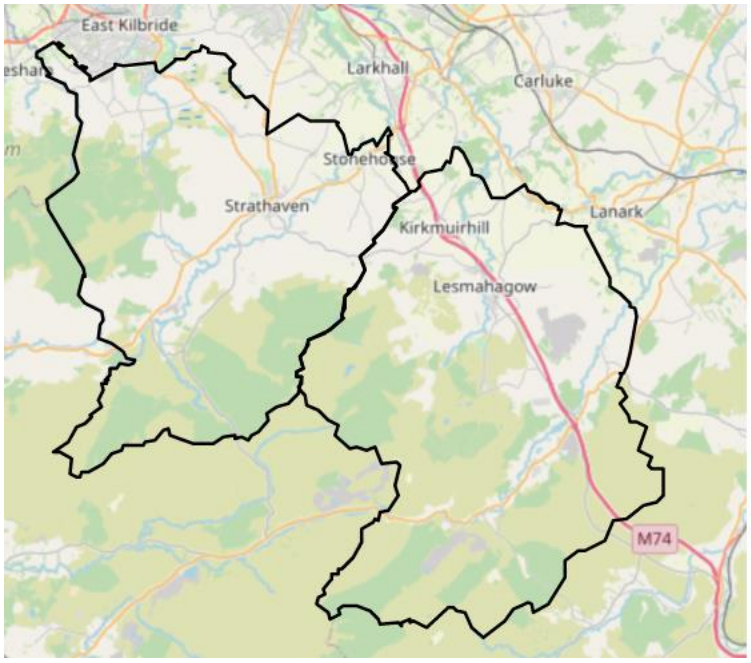
Study Area

13.5.1 The study area will cover three areas for analysis and comparison, namely:

- the Local Area (Clydesdale South and Avondale and Stonehouse electoral wards);
- South Lanarkshire; and
- Scotland.

13.5.2 The 'Local Area' is displayed in Graphic 13.1.

Graphic 13.1 Illustration of the 'Local Area'



Source: Nomis

Desk Study

13.5.3 To assess the effect on socio-economic, tourism and recreation factors on the baseline conditions, the following study approach was taken:

- a review of economic strategies in the Local Area, South Lanarkshire and Scotland;
- an analysis of socio-economic statistics for the Local Area, South Lanarkshire and Scotland;
- an analysis of tourism statistics in the Local Area, South Lanarkshire and Scotland; and
- identification of local tourism and recreation assets, including accommodation providers and public foot and cycle paths.

Site Visit

13.5.4 No site visits were conducted as part of the study, as the necessary information could be collected solely through a desk study approach. However, the authors are familiar with the site and the Local Area from previous work.

Stages in Socio-economic Analysis

13.5.5 There is no specific legislation or guidance available on the methods that should be used to assess the socio-economic effects of a proposed onshore wind farm development for an EIA. Therefore, to identify and assess the significance of predicted socio-economic effects, the assessment has been based on professional judgement for the degree of change resulting from the proposals, using methods commonly used in EIAs for proposed renewable energy developments, as outlined below.

13.5.6 The assessment of economic effects was undertaken using a model that has been developed by BiGGAR Economics specifically to estimate the socio-economic effects of wind farm developments. This model was also the basis of an assessment of the UK onshore wind sector for the then Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and RenewableUK in 2012 (Department of Energy and Climate Change, RenewableUK, 2012), which was subsequently updated in (RenewableUK, 2015). These assessments were based on case studies of the local, regional and national socio-economic effects of wind farms that have been developed in the UK in recent years.

13.5.7 This approach is considered industry best practice in the assessment of the socio-economic effects of the onshore wind sector, being used in reports for the DECC and RenewableUK. This model has been used by BiGGAR Economics to assess the socio-economic effects of numerous wind farms across the UK, with the results being accepted as robust at several public inquiries.

13.5.8 The assumptions have been made based on two main sources:

- Firstly, the analysis that was undertaken in the 2015 report on behalf of RenewableUK, which uses evidence from previous wind farms around the UK. This report examined the size and location of contracts for their development, construction, and operation and maintenance phases.
- Secondly, bespoke evaluation of the economies of the relevant study areas undertaken for this assessment. This was based on analysis of local, regional and national statistics.

13.5.9 The units of measurement which are used to quantify the economic impacts of the Proposed Development are:

- GVA – this is a measure of the economic valued added by an organisation or industry and is typically estimated by subtracting the non-staff operational costs from the revenues of an organisation;
- Years of employment – this is a measure of employment which is equivalent to one person being employed for an entire year and is typically used when considering the short-term employment impacts, such as those associated with construction; and
- Jobs – this is a measure of employment, which considers headcount employment in an organisation or industry.

13.5.10 To begin estimating the economic activity supported by the Proposed Development, it is first necessary to calculate the expenditure during the development and construction, and operation and maintenance phases. The total expenditure figure is then divided into its main component using assumptions regarding the share that could be expected by main and sub-contractors on each study area.

13.5.11 There are three sources of economic activity:

- component contracts and the jobs they support;

- wider spending in the supply chain (indirect effect); and
- spending of people employed in these contracts (induced effect).

13.5.12 There are four key stages of this model:

- estimation of the total capital expenditure;
- estimation of the value of component contracts that make up total expenditure;
- assessment of the capacity of businesses in the study area to perform and complete component contracts; and
- estimation of economic impact from resultant figures.

Tourism and Recreation Assessment

13.5.13 The potential effects of wind farm development on the tourism and recreation sector are well-researched, and as such, key studies have been included for reference, including:

- Wind Farms and Tourism Trends (BiGGAR Economics, 2017);
- A Report on the Achievability of the Scottish Government's Renewable Energy Targets (Scottish Parliament Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee, 2012); and
- The Economic Impacts of Wind Farm on Scottish Tourism (Glasgow Caledonian University/Moffat Centre, 2008).

13.5.14 Tourist attractions and accommodation were identified within the vicinity of the Proposed Development. Tourist attractions include permanent fixtures (e.g. museums, castles and trails) as well as temporary events.

13.5.15 Important attractions attributed to South Lanarkshire are also identified due to their increased sensitivity, even if they are not within the vicinity of the Proposed Development.

Assessment of Potential Effect Significance

13.5.16 The significance of the effect of the Proposed Development on each tourism and recreation asset and the economy for each study area is considered by determining the type and magnitude of change on each.

13.5.17 The impact magnitude is assessed using the economic model and professional judgement, considering the socio-economic effects from the Proposed Development on South Lanarkshire and Scotland.

13.5.18 The significance of effects from the Proposed Development on tourism and recreation assets are assessed with reference to evidence from research and comparable wind farm developments.

13.5.19 The significance of effect on each economic, tourism and recreational asset is determined based on the criteria provided below, in Table 13.1. Major and moderate effects are considered significant in relation to EIA Regulations.

Table 13.1 Significance Criteria

Significance	Description
Major	Major loss/improvement to key elements/features of the baseline conditions such that post-development character/composition of baseline condition will be fundamentally changed. For example, a major long-term alteration of socio-economic conditions, a major reduction/improvement of recreational assets, or a substantial change to tourism spend
Moderate	Loss/improvement to one or more key elements/features of the baseline conditions such that post-development character/composition of the baseline condition will be materially changed. For example, a moderate long-term alteration of socio-economic conditions, a moderate reduction/improvement in the recreational asset, or a moderate change to tourism spend
Minor	Changes arising from the alteration will be detectable but not material; the underlying composition of the baseline condition will be similar to the pre-development situation. For example, a small alteration of the socio-economic conditions, a small reduction/improvement in the recreational asset, or a small change in tourism spend
Negligible	Very little change from baseline conditions. Change is barely distinguishable, approximating to a "no change" situation

Requirements for Mitigation

13.5.20 Where applicable mitigation measures are identified and highlighted within the text. However, mitigation requirements in socio-economics, tourism and recreation assessments are generally limited.

Assessment of Residual Effect Significance

13.5.21 The significance of residual effects has been assessed based on the same criteria as outlined in Table 13.1.

Limitations to Assessment

13.5.22 The assessment is based on the experience of comparable development elsewhere and a review of the local socio-economic context. To maximise the economic effects associated with the Proposed Development it will be necessary for local contractors to engage with opportunities that arise, which can be aided by the Developer increasing awareness of these opportunities.

13.6 Baseline Conditions

13.6.1 The sources of data on which the baseline assessment were based all have lag times in publication which means that they do not take account of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is acknowledged that the socio-economic baseline position will have declined as a result of COVID-19, including business closures, reductions in levels of employment and increased unemployment. This is likely to be particularly the case for the tourism economy, given the restrictions that were in place for a substantial part of 2020.

Strategic Economic Context

Scotland's Economic Action Plan

13.6.2 The Scottish Government's Economic Action Plan (Scottish Government, 2018) sets out how it plans to make Scotland a leader in technological and social innovations. It aims to deliver higher

productivity and greater competitiveness while transitioning to a carbon-neutral economy through measures that support business, and encouraging investment, innovation and upskilling.

13.6.3 At the heart of this strategy is inclusive growth, combining increased prosperity with greater equity, which requires getting the fundamentals right. These include:

- investment: boosting private and public investment and delivering world-class infrastructure;
- enterprise: ensuring a competitive business environment;
- international: growing exports and attracting international investment;
- innovation: supporting world-leading innovation;
- skills: providing a highly-skilled workforce;
- place: supporting thriving places;
- people: ensuring a sustainable working population where everyone can participate in and benefit from increased prosperity; and
- sustainability: seizing the economic opportunities in the low carbon transition.

Scottish Energy Strategy

13.6.4 In December 2017, the Scottish Government published the Scottish Energy Strategy (Scottish Government, 2017), which sets out the Government's vision for Scotland's energy future. Onshore wind is highlighted as continuing to provide a pivotal role in Scotland's economic growth.

13.6.5 The Scottish Government indicate that the use of renewable energy continues to increase in Scotland and exhibits large areas of opportunities. The Scottish Government will work to continue to support businesses in this sector to meet climate change targets and become a decarbonised society.

13.6.6 The strategy also highlights the importance of community benefits in renewable developments and the increase in desire for shared ownership of renewable energy projects between developers and the local communities they are delivered in.

Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill

13.6.7 In 2019, the Scottish Parliament unanimously passed the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill (Scottish Parliament, 2019). The bill sets a legally binding target of achieving "net-zero" carbon emissions by 2045. Amendments to the bill also raised the interim targets to 70% carbon emissions reductions by 2030 and 90% by 2040.

Economic Strategy for South Lanarkshire Council, 2013-23

13.6.8 South Lanarkshire Council's (SLC) economic development strategy for the region highlights South Lanarkshire's strong skills base in engineering and related sectors and the potential of this for expansion into renewable technologies (South Lanarkshire Council, 2013). The strategy also places an emphasis on ensuring that local people benefit from renewable energy developments in the area.

13.6.9 As an example of this, it highlights the development of a community benefit policy managed by the Council, known as the Renewable Energy Fund. This has enabled contributions towards a wide range of community-based projects as well as partnership programmes aimed at improving employability for unemployed people in South Lanarkshire.

Coalburn, Douglas and Glespin: Community Action Plans

13.6.10 In August 2016, the Coalburn, Douglas and Glespin Community Action Plans were released (Urban Animation, 2016) which discuss the current socio-economic context of the local area and provide a series of aims and objectives for how the local community would like to see their villages develop over the coming years.

13.6.11 The villages considered have populations that are somewhat older than the national average as well as higher levels of unemployment and benefits claimants. There are also higher incidences of some forms of poor health. The communities have an industrial heritage with significant employment previously provided by textiles and mining, with some former colliery bings remaining which form a proud part of the landscape. Given the decline of these industries, as well as more recent closures such as Ramage Distribution in 2008, the communities are in an ongoing period of transition.

13.6.12 Members of the community, including children at the local schools, were asked to contribute their aspirations for the community. From these discussions, action plans for each of the communities were produced. The major themes for these strategies were:

- **helping people into work** – this will focus on improving local skills, developing existing support, creating incentives and premises for businesses locating in the area, and maximising opportunities for local people in planned projects;
- **improve local transport** – improve access to facilities locally and regionally through grant assistance, and ventures by local community groups and social enterprises;
- **improve quality of life, health and well-being** – work with Healthy Valleys Community Health Matters to improve health and activity levels, make each village a more attractive place to live and build on specific strengths and assets, including places and people;
- **build community capacity** – increase local participation and ensure that each community can lead to change, develop/consolidate community anchor organisations, and build capacity in other organisations, such as community groups and third sector organisation;
- **promote easy access to funding** – channel the flow of funding, particularly from wind farms so that it creates the most benefit, for example through funding social enterprises or specific local projects. To do this, processes need to be put in place to ensure fairness, as well as ensuring sustainability; and
- **building sustainable community assets** – ensure that assets can secure income sources on a long-term basis, improve community assets so that the villages are a good place to do business and the community has the skills and support to seize opportunities.

13.6.13 In Coalburn, this means developing and consolidating the Miners Welfare and Leisure Centre as hubs of community activity, with new opportunities for outdoor recreation such as cycling and hill walking developed and promoted. It would also mean more green spaces, paths and bus shelters, which could be complemented by a range of other facilities such as housing and shops.

13.6.14 In Douglas, this would involve developing St Brides Centre and Universal Connections as community hubs, giving the main street a facelift, including maintaining current buildings and developing gap sites, and cleaning up old factory sites for new uses. New facilities, such as an all-weather sports pitch and rural walking and cycling paths were also identified as significant opportunities.

13.6.15 In Glespin, the main aims are to increase the population (or halt decline), through improved housing policies and employment opportunities, and improving quality of life, for example by reducing vehicle speeds, controlling odorous emissions from sewage sludge, and improving parking and maintenance. The other main aim was to improve employment and training, mainly through improving the use of the land and supporting employers who locate in Glespin.

Rigside and Douglas Water: Community Action Plan 2018-23

13.6.16 Rigside and Douglas Water's action plan was developed by Coalfields Community Futures (Coalfields Community Futures, 2017). It consists of an analysis of the community as it stands, a shared vision and priority themes and actions for the future. The action plan was informed by 52 household surveys and a community event attended by 160 people.

13.6.17 The Rigside and Douglas Water area is associated with high levels of poor health, low economic activity, low educational qualifications and a low proportion of owner-occupied homes. The main

employers locally are two transport and haulage companies. Public transport links are very limited, making accessing employment opportunities difficult for those without cars. Local people feel that more could be done to integrate new residents from outside the area, and better housing would encourage people who currently travel into the area for work to live there permanently.

13.6.18 The community has a shared vision where the Rigside and Douglas Water area is a friendly place with strong community spirit, is attractive with good shops and houses, interacts strongly with the environment through walks and other outdoor activities, and supports families and the elderly.

13.6.19 The community action plan identifies several activities across four themes where the community can be improved. Many of these will require working with partners, such as South Lanarkshire Council, as well as identifying funding sources. The four themes are:

- **amenities** – more shops, gym for all ages indoor and outdoor, improve the path network, improve parks, ponds and woodland, and a community noticeboard;
- **community activities and facilities** – more activities for children and young people, annual activities, more activities for the elderly, better use of the existing community hall and employability initiatives;
- **roads and transport** – create a safe crossing across the A70, road maintenance, speed calming measures, improve bus times, more affordable public transport, a community bus and upgrading the roads; and
- **village environment** – clean up the village, specifically litter and fly-tipping, improve the housing situation, a safer community, community garden/allotments and floral enhancement/encouraging biodiversity.

Lesmahagow, Brocketsbrae and Hawksland: A Community Led Action Plan 2019 – 2024

13.6.20 The Lesmahagow, Brocketsbrae and Hawksland Community Led Action Plan was produced by a steering group drawn from members of the community, including schools, businesses and community groups.

13.6.21 The community engagement exercise used to create this action plan found that the population had high levels of satisfaction with their natural space, identify and belonging. However, they had lower levels of satisfaction with the local economy and employment opportunities and public transport connections.

13.6.22 The Action Plan identified proposals for improving the wellbeing of residents in the area, which were focuses around three main themes:

- **Looking Good** – to turn around the physical presentation of the town to refresh and rejuvenate positive attitudes to Lesmahagow, Brocketsbrae and Hawksland;
- **Going Out** – improve the access between the town centre, residential areas and natural spaces around the town; and
- **Meeting People** – improve the ability of the residents to socialise locally, both inside and outside, to enhance the strong sense of community identity.

13.6.23 The proposals within the Action Plan were considered in how they related to these themes. For example, the proposals for Work and Local Economy were;

- to convert vacant units back to economic use, which would work towards the Looking Good theme; and
- to work with public transport providers to develop new routes that suited working people, which would work towards the Going Out and Meeting People themes.

Covid-19 and the Economic Recovery Plan

13.6.24 At the time of writing, it is difficult to predict the longer term consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. To date the impact has been highest on sectors associated with tourism, such as accommodation and food services, which is particularly important in Scotland.

13.6.25 The renewable energy sector is well placed to make an important contribution to local, regional and national economic recovery and transformation. This is because it is employment intensive in the short term, during the construction phase and so can provide employment opportunities during the COVID-19 crisis (and recovery), and also because it delivers sustainable growth in the longer term, by decarbonising the energy supply for the economy as a whole.

13.6.26 The role that renewable energy can play in the economic recovery was recognised in the June 2020 report of the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery (AGER) to the Scottish Government (Advisory Group on Economic Recovery, 2020). This group was established by the Scottish Government in April 2020 as a response to the long-term impact of Covid-19 and was asked to focus on Scotland's economic recovery. The recommendations in. this report included "prioritisation and delivery of green investments", including that the green economic recovery is central to recovery overall and that Scotland should lever its natural advantages, such as "the almost limitless quantities of renewable energy from wind, wave and tidal power".

13.6.27 The report also endorsed the principles for a resilient recovery set out by the Committee on Climate Change (Committee on Climate Change, 2020), which included "use climate investments to support the economic recovery and jobs" and "ensure the recovery does not 'lock-in' greenhouse gas emissions or increased climate risk".

13.6.28 The Scottish Government's response, the Economic Recovery Implementation Plan (Scottish Government, 2020), sets out how it intends to take forward the AGER report's recommendations. It prioritises a sustainable recovery that supports jobs and supports all parts of Scotland, while meeting its climate change targets and wider environmental objectives.

Socio-economic Baseline

Population

13.6.29 The population of the Local Area is 31,232, approximately 10% of the total population of South Lanarkshire.

13.6.30 The demographic profile of the Local Area is older than that of South Lanarkshire and Scotland as a whole, with 20.5% of the local population aged 65 or over, compared to 19.0% and 18.6% respectively. The Local Area also has a lower than average working-age population, accounting for 62.0% of the local population, compared to the average of 63.6% for South Lanarkshire and 64.5% for Scotland. The proportion of the population aged 0-15 living in the Local Area is slightly higher than average at 17.7% compared to 17.4% for South Lanarkshire and 16.9% for Scotland.

Table 13.2 Population of Study Areas

		Local Area	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Total Population		31,232	320,530	5,463,300
	0-15	17.7%	17.4%	16.9%
	16 – 64	62.0%	63.6%	64.5%
	65+	20.5%	19.0%	18.6%

Source: National Records of Scotland (2019), Electoral Ward Population Estimates 2018 National Records of Scotland (2020), Mid-2019 Population Estimates Scotland.

13.6.31 As shown in Table 13.3, population projections suggest that the population of South Lanarkshire is expected to increase 2.8% between 2018 and 2043. This is smaller than the 2.5% projected increase for Scotland as a whole over the same period.

13.6.32 The proportion of the population aged 65+ is projected to increase across Scotland to 24.9% and this rise is expected to be more pronounced in South Lanarkshire where it is estimated to be 26.3%. The proportion of the population of working age is also expected to be lower than average at 58.2% compared to the predicted Scottish average of 60.3%. The youth population is expected to be lower than average in South Lanarkshire by 2043, accounting for 14.8% of the total population, compared to 15.5% for Scotland.

Table 13.3 Population Projections of Study Areas, 2018-2043

		South Lanarkshire		Scotland	
		2018	**2043**	**2018**	**2043**
Total Population		319,020	328,001	5,438,100	5,574,819
	0-15	16.9%	14.8%	17.3%	15.5%
	16 – 64	64.2%	60.3%	63.5%	58.2%
	65+	18.9%	24.9%	19.2%	26.3%

Source: National Records of Scotland (2020) Population Projections, 2018-2043

Labour Market Indicators

13.6.33 As Table 13.4 indicates, South Lanarkshire has a slightly higher economic activity rate than the Scottish average. Conversely, the unemployment rate is lower than that for Scotland as a whole, at 3.0% compared to 3.5%. Annual gross wages in South Lanarkshire (£30,520) are broadly in line with the Scottish average (£30,000).

Table 13.4 Economic Indicators of Study Areas, 2019

	South Lanarkshire	**Scotland**
Economic Activity Rate	79.3%	77.1%
Unemployment Rate	3.0%	3.3%
Median Annual Gross Wage	£30,520	£30,000

Source: ONS (2020), Annual Population Survey 2019. ONS (2019), Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings – Resident Analysis 2019. Data is not available at ward level.

Industrial Structure

13.6.34 The Business Register and Employment Survey suggests that 6,500 people were employed in the Local Area in 2018, representing 5.4% of the total number of people in employment in South Lanarkshire.

13.6.35 The construction sector in the Local Area accounts for 13.1% of total employment, significantly higher than its 7.5% share in South Lanarkshire and more than double the 5.5% share in Scotland as a whole.

13.6.36 The public sector (including the health, education and public administration and defence sectors) accounts for 22.6% of total employment in the Local Area. This is lower than in South Lanarkshire (27.5%) and Scotland (28.5%).

13.6.37 In the private sector, wholesale and retail trade (16.9%), administration and support services (10.8%) and accommodation and food services (9.6%) are the highest areas of employment and above the Scottish average in all sectors (Table 13.5). Accommodation and food services, which is typically associated with the tourism sector accounts for 9.6% of employment, which is higher than the share in South Lanarkshire (6.7%) and Scotland (7.9%).

Table 13.5 Industrial Structure of Study Areas, 2018

	Local Area	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	0.5%*	2.1%	3.2%
Mining, quarrying & utilities	1.1%	3.4%	2.6%
Manufacturing	3.5%	9.2%	6.9%
Construction	13.1%	7.5%	5.5%
Wholesale and retail trade	16.9%	16.7%	13.6%
Transportation and storage	5.8%	3.8%	4.2%
Accommodation and food service activities	9.6%	6.7%	7.9%
Information and communication	0.9%	1.9%	3.1%
Financial and insurance activities	0.7%	2.5%	3.3%
Real estate	0.8%	1.5%	1.5%
Professional, scientific and technical activities	6.2%	5.0%	7.0%
Administration and support services	10.8%	7.5%	7.9%
Public administration and defence	0.6%	6.7%	6.0%
Education	10.5%	5.8%	7.4%
Human health and social work	11.5%	15.0%	15.1%
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other service activities	6.9%	4.4%	4.9%
Total	**6,500**	**120,000**	**2,612,000**

Source: ONS (2019) Business Register and Employment Survey, 2018. *Employment at the local area level does not include farm agriculture.

Summary of Socio-economic Baseline

13.6.38 The Local Area has a lower proportion of the population that is of working age, and this proportion is expected to decrease in the future. Employment in the area is concentred in the construction, wholesale and retail sectors with wages broadly in line with the Scottish average. Unemployment in the region is significantly lower than the Scottish average. The local area is an ongoing transition away from sectors such as coal mining and textiles, which dominated employment in the 20th century.

Strategic Tourism Context

Scotland's Outlook 2030

13.6.39 Following on from the Tourism Scotland 2020 (TS2020) strategy, a collaborative network of industry experts created Scotland's Outlook 2030, which is focused on creating a world-leading tourism sector in Scotland that is sustainable in the long-term.

13.6.40 The strategy is focused on four key priorities:

- people;
- places;
- businesses; and
- experiences.

13.6.41 The strategy recognises the effects of climate change, technological advancements, Brexit and changing consumer behaviour on tourism and highlights the need for collaboration between government, communities and the public and private sectors (The Scottish Tourism Alliance, 2020).

13.6.42 There are six conditions that the strategy has highlighted as being crucial for success:

- using technological advancements and information to understand changes and trends in tourist behaviours;
- ensuring policies are in place that support the vision;
- enabling investment opportunities into Scotland's tourism market;
- improving transport and digital infrastructure;
- greater collaboration between businesses in the industry; and
- positioning Scotland as a great place to live and visit locally and globally.

13.6.43 A main commitment of the strategy is to address the effects of energy demand associated with tourism and make the sector commit fully to Scotland's ambition of becoming a net-zero society by 2045.

South Lanarkshire Tourism Action Plan 2016-2020

13.6.44 The Lanarkshire Tourism Action Plan sets out aspirations for the Lanarkshire tourism industry to 2020 (Lanarkshire Area Tourism Partnership, 2016).

13.6.45 The mission of the strategy is that tourism will grow in Lanarkshire between 2016 and 2020 with tourism expenditure increasing 2.5% per year during this period. This is in line with the wider Tourism Lanarkshire 2020 strategy, which aims to grow tourism expenditure by 2.5% annually between 2016 and 2020. Both strategies only cover the period up to 2020. There is no longer a Tourism Officer within South Lanarkshire Council and future strategies for tourism within South Lanarkshire are expected to be covered by the wider Glasgow City Region Tourism Strategy.

Tourism Baseline Context

Sustainable Tourism Sector

13.6.46 Sustainable tourism is one of the six growth sectors identified in the Scottish Government's Economic Strategy.

13.6.47 In 2018, the sustainable tourism sector employed 9,000 people across South Lanarkshire and in 2017 the sector generated £119.3 million GVA (Scottish Government, 2020). This represented approximately 2.9% of Scotland's total GVA (£4.1bn) from the sector.

Table 13.6 Employment and GVA in Sustainable Tourism

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Employment (Jobs)	9,000	218,000
GVA (£m)	119.3	4,127.1

Source: Scottish Government (2020), Local Authority Area Growth Sector Database.

Visitors

13.6.48 The tourism baseline will consider three types of visitor: day visitors, domestic overnight visitors and international overnight visitors.

13.6.49 The Great Britain Day Visitor Survey (GBDVS) provides national and regional data on domestic daily trips across the UK. Due to the smaller data samples at the local level, the figures at local authority level are averages over the period 2016-2018. In 2018, there were 8.1 million domestic day trips in South Lanarkshire, which was equivalent to around 6% of day trips taking place in Scotland. Day visitors spent £122.6 million in South Lanarkshire, which was equivalent to around 2% of the spend in Scotland (£5.4bn) resulting from day visits.

Table 13.7 Day Visitor Trips to South Lanarkshire and Scotland, 2018

	South Lanarkshire*	Scotland
Trips	8,070,000	130,000,000
Spend (£)	122,600,000	5,474,000,000

Source: Kantar TNS (2019), The Great Britain Day Visitor 2018 Annual Report. *This represents the three-year average for 2018.

13.6.50 The Great Britain Tourism Survey provides a series of data on tourism across the UK, including overnight domestic trips. As with the GBDVS, data used for 2018 is the average over the period 2016-2018. In 2018, over 0.1 million domestic overnight trips occurred in South Lanarkshire, accounting for approximately 1% of domestic overnight visits taking place in Scotland. As shown in Table 13.8, overnight visitors to South Lanarkshire spent £22.0 million, around 1% of the total spend in Scotland.

Table 13.8 Domestic Overnight Tourism, 2018

	South Lanarkshire*	Scotland
Trips	140,000	11,660,000
Spend (£)	22,000,000	2,888,000,000

Source: Kantar TNS (2019), The GB Tourist, 2018 Annual Report. *This represents the three-year average for 2018.

13.6.51 Table 13.9 shows the number and expenditure of international visitors staying overnight in South Lanarkshire and Scotland. In 2018, approximately 28,000 international visitors stayed in South Lanarkshire, accounting for 1% of all overnight international visitors to Scotland. International visitors spent £16.5 million in South Lanarkshire, out of the £2.2bn spent in Scotland.

Table 13.9 Overnight International Tourism, 2018

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Trips	28,000	3,538,000
Spend (£)	16,500,000	2,206,000,000

Source: Visit Scotland (2019), Key Facts on Tourism in Scotland, 2018. BiGGAR Economics Calculation

Visitor Attractions

13.6.52 Of the top 20 tourist attractions in Scotland, complied by the Moffat Centre Visitor Attraction Monitor in 2017, none are located within 15 km of the Proposed Development, nor are the top 5 outdoor/nature attractions.

13.6.53 Local visitor attractions were considered from a web search of Visit Scotland and identified the main visitor attractions in the area as:

- Scottish Wildlife Trust – Falls of Clyde Visitor Centre and Wildlife Reserve;
- Clyde Valley Woodlands National Nature Reserve;
- Craignethan Castle; and
- New Lanark World Heritage Site.

13.6.54 Each of the above attractions are located 10-15 km from the Proposed Development. There are a small number of recreational assets that are likely to be used primarily by local people, such as the Douglas Water Golf Club, Hollandbush Golf Club, Lanark Golf Club, Kypeside Fishery, Lanark Loch and Clyde Valley Family Park that are within 15 km of the Proposed Development.

Accommodation Providers

13.6.55 There are 25 accommodation providers located within a 15 km radius of the Proposed Development, as listed in Table 13.10**Error! Reference source not found.**, which is based on BiGGAR Economics analysis of VisitScotland's website and other online resources. Accommodation is grouped by cluster and approximate straight-line distance from the site.

Table 13.10 Accommodation Providers

Distance	Location	Number of Places to Stay	Approximate Distance from the site (km)
0-5 km	-	-	-
5-10 km	Boghead/Kirkmuirhill	1	5 km
	Lesmahagow	1	6 km
	Muirkirk	2	6 km
	Strathaven	6	9-10 km
10-15 km	A70	1	12 km
	Crawfordjohn	1	13 km
	A71/Drumclog	2	13 km
	New Lanark/Lanark	8	13-14 km
	Larkhall/M74	3	12-13 km

13.6.56 None of the accommodation providers are located within 5 km of the site of the Proposed Development.

13.6.57 A small number of accommodation providers are located 5-10 km away, including Dykecroft Farm near Boghead/Kirkmuirhill and the Mason Arms Hotel/pub in Lesmahagow to the north-east, and two providers in Muirkirk (the Old Church B&B and Muirkirk Caravan Park), which are approximately 6 km away. There is also a cluster of accommodation providers in Strathaven 9-10 km to the north, including the Strathaven Hotel and Bucks Head Hotel.

13.6.58 To the east, approximately 12 km away on the A70 is the Station House, and to the south-east is the Redmoss Hotel near Crawfordjohn off the M74. Approximately 13 km to the west near Drumclog are two accommodation providers (Drumboy Lodge and Loudoun Hill Inn). To the north of the site are three accommodation providers near Larkhall/the M74 (the Old Schoolhouse Hotel, the Radstone Hotel and the Popinjay Hotel) which are approximately 12-13 km away.

13.6.59 To the north-east, approximately 12-14 km away, are New Lanark and Lanark, which have eight identified accommodation providers.

Tourist Routes

Driving Routes

13.6.60 VisitScotland promotes a series of 12 signposted tourist routes throughout Scotland. The National Tourist Routes are designed to provide tourists with an alternative to the main trunk roads and motorways. One of these routes passes through South Lanarkshire, the Clyde Valley Tourist Route. This 67 km route follows the River Clyde through Lanark but the route does not pass along any of the roads close to the Proposed Development.

13.6.61 The M74 is the only major trunk road close to the Proposed Development and is 7 km away at its closest point. This is not a recognised tourist route and as such, any visual impact on this route would have a negligible effect on the local tourism sector.

Walking Routes

13.6.62 Walkhighlands is a website dedicated to promoting walking routes across Scotland. It includes a searchable database of walks in every region of Scotland and is an important information source for tourists.

13.6.63 The study area of this assessment corresponds to the Lanarkshire region used by Walkhighlands where 14 walks are listed. Of these, nine walks pass within the 15 km study area of this assessment and none directly pass through the site of the Proposed Development.

13.6.64 The closest route to the Proposed Development is John Brown's Memorial Walk, which is 2.5 km in length and located in the village of Muirkirk. The walk follows a straight-line track to the monument of the martyr John Brown.

13.6.65 The Douglas Explorer walk, which is 6 km in length and explores the village of Douglas as well as the parkland and woods around it, is also located within 10 km of the site.

13.6.66 The Falls of Clyde and New Lanark walk is also 6 km in length and follows a route along the River Clyde from the Heritage Site of New Lanark, passing waterfalls and a peregrine falcon watching area. The starting point of this walk is approximately 12 km from the site.

13.6.67 Scotland's Great Trails is a network of 26 nationally promoted trails in Scotland. Each trail is waymarked, largely off-road, with the potential for multi-day journeys on foot. The Clyde Walkway is a 65 km long route running between Partick in Glasgow and New Lanark. Two stretches of the route, Maudslie Bridge to New Lanark (13.5 km) and Falls of Clyde and New Lanark (6 km) fall within the study area, both are approximately 12 km from the site.

13.6.68 The River Ayr Way is a 65 km route that traces the length of the River Ayr from its source, Glenbuck Loch, to the sea at Ayr. The start/end of the route at Glenbuck Loch is located within 5 km of the site.

13.6.69 In addition to these routes, there is also a network of core paths in the local area (South Lanarkshire Council, 2020). Under Scottish access legislation, each local authority in Scotland has to draw up a plan of core paths in their area. These plans are informed by consultation with local communities, land managers and path users. The core paths in the study area include:

- a path beginning in Douglas West Wind Farm leading to Existing Hagshaw Hill Wind Farm and several paths around it;
- a series of paths to the south-east of Coalburn passing Wallace's Cave (CL/5734, CL/5735);
- a series of paths to the west of the Proposed Development around Dungavel Hill;
- the Auchengilloch Monument core path to the north of the Proposed Development;
- a path (CL/5192, CL/5193) passing to the east of the Proposed Development through the adjacent part of the former Dalquhandy Opencast workings; and
- three paths in and around Coalburn.

13.6.70 Although core paths/rights of way can be used by anyone, including tourists and day visitors, in practice the routes included tend to be those that are most popular with local residents and as such should be considered primarily as local leisure assets rather than tourism assets.

Cycling Routes

13.6.71 Sustrans is a charity dedicated to sustainable travel choices. It publicises a network of cycle routes around the UK. One of these is National Cycle 7, which extends from Sunderland to Inverness. Route 74 is an offshoot of this route and is intended to connect Gretna and Glasgow via Lockerbie and Abington. Between Gretna and Douglas, the route follows large sections of the old A74 (B7078) and passes Lockerbie and Moffat before arriving in Douglas, though the section directly north of Lesmahagow is not complete.

Summary of Tourism Baseline

13.6.72 The immediate locality around the Proposed Development has limited tourism activity.

13.6.73 The major attractions are located in the area of New Lanark, outside the boundary of the local study area. The main clusters of tourist accommodation are at Strathaven and Lanark, both of which are located at least 10 km from the site.

13.6.74 In terms of tourist routes, no driving or completed cycle routes were identified in the study area. There are several walking routes within 15 km of the site however none that pass directly through the site of the Proposed Development.

13.7 Potential Effects

13.7.1 This section describes the potential effects on socio-economics and tourism that could arise from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.

Socio-economics

Construction

13.7.2 The application is for 21 turbines with a capacity of up to 6 MW each, giving a combined generating capacity of approximately 126 MW. Using research undertaken by BiGGAR Economics on behalf of RenewableUK in 2015 (RenewableUK, 2015), the average expenditure on construction and development can be estimated based on the average spend per MW, the average spend per turbine, or a combination of the two, as appropriate. Based on this methodology the total development and construction cost was estimated to be £152 million.

13.7.3 The expenditure was split into four main categories of contract:

- development and planning;
- balance of plant;
- turbines; and
- grid connection.

13.7.4 The proportion of construction and development spending that is spent on each of the main categories was also informed by BiGGAR Economics' research into wind farms that are currently in operation in the UK. As can be seen in Table 13.11, this found that the largest proportion of capital expenditure (Capex) was on turbine related contracts (70.5%), followed by the balance of plant (20.3%), grid connection (5.1%) and development and planning (4.2%).

13.7.5 The value of these contracts for the Proposed Development was estimated by applying these percentages to the total development and construction expenditure.

Table 13.11 Development and Construction by Contract Type

	% Capex	Value (£m)
Development and Planning	4.2	6.3
Turbines	70.5	107.0
Balance of Plant	20.3	30.8
Grid Connection	5.1	7.7
Total	*100*	*151.8*

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis **Numbers may not sum due to rounding.*

13.7.6 The economic impact of the development and construction phase was estimated for South Lanarkshire and Scotland. To do this, it was necessary to estimate the proportion of each type of contract that could be secured in each of the study areas. The assumptions were based on RenewableUK research, analysis of the industries and professions in the study area, and BiGGAR Economics' previous experience of evaluating the economic impact of other wind farm projects in South Lanarkshire.

13.7.7 To estimate the expenditure for each contract in each of the study areas these percentages were applied to the estimated size of each component contract.

13.7.8 On this basis, it was estimated that South Lanarkshire could secure contracts worth £120.3 million, equivalent to 13% of Capex. The largest opportunity would be balance of plant. It was estimated that companies in South Lanarkshire could secure a significant proportion of these contracts (29%), worth up to £9.0 million. It was also estimated that South Lanarkshire could secure 17% of the development and planning and 6% of the turbine's contracts, which could be worth £1.1 million and £6.9 million respectively.

13.7.9 It was estimated that Scotland could secure up to 34% of the total Capex, worth £52.0 million to the national economy.

Table 13.12 Development and Construction Expenditure by Study Area and Contract Type

	South Lanarkshire		**Scotland**	
	%	**£m**	**%**	**£m**
Development and Planning	17	1.1	77	4.9
Turbines	6	6.9	17	18.5
Balance of Plant	29	9.0	68	20.8
Grid Connection	44	3.4	100	7.7
Total	*13*	*20.3*	*34*	*52.0*

Source: BiGGAR Economic Analysis ** Numbers may not sum due to rounding.*

13.7.10 The contract values potentially awarded in each area would represent an increase in turnover in businesses in these areas. The Gross Value Added (GVA) impact, a measure of economic activity, was estimated using industry-specific data from the Annual Business Survey (ONS, 2020), which gives the turnover to GVA ratio for each of the industries involved.

13.7.11 On this basis, it was estimated that the development and construction of the Proposed Development could generate £9.8 million GVA in South Lanarkshire, and £25.0 million GVA in Scotland (Table 13.13).

Table 13.13 Development and Construction GVA by Study Area and Contract Type (£m)

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Development and Planning	0.7	3.4
Turbines	3.1	8.5
Balance of Plant	4.6	10.1
Grid Connection	1.3	3.1
Total	*9.8*	*25.0*

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis **Numbers may not sum due to rounding.*

13.7.12 Similarly, the contract values potentially awarded in each area would support employment. Turnover per employee for each of the industries involved is also given by the Annual Business Survey (ONS, 2020), which can be used to estimate the employment impact from any increase in turnover.

13.7.13 The employment impacts during the construction and development phase are reported in years of employment as the contracts would be short-term. Years of employment measures the number of years of full-time employment generates by a project. For example, an individual working on this project for 18 months would be reported as 1.5 years of employment.

13.7.14 In this way, it was estimated that the development and construction impacts would support 153 years of employment in South Lanarkshire and 394 years of employment in Scotland (Table 13.14).

Table 13.14 Development and Construction Employment by Study Area and Contract Type (Years of employment)

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Development and Planning	11	48
Turbines	54	150
Balance of Plant	68	149
Grid Connection	20	47
Total	*153*	*394*

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

13.7.15 There would also be knock-on effects associated with spending in the supply chain (indirect effects) and spending of employees in the wider economy (induced effects). Supply chain effects are estimated by applying Type I (indirect) GVA and employment multipliers (Scottish Government, 2019) to direct and employment impacts.

13.7.16 These multipliers are for the Scottish economy as a whole and therefore it was necessary to adjust them for South Lanarkshire, which was assumed to capture 33% of the indirect effect support by South Lanarkshire-based businesses.

13.7.17 In this way, it was estimated that the indirect effect was £1.4 million GVA and 22 years of employment in South Lanarkshire and £9.9 million GVA and 160 years of employment in Scotland (Table 13.15).

Table 13.15 Development and Construction Indirect Impact

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Indirect Impact (£m)	1.4	9.9
Indirect Impact (years of employment)	22	160

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

13.7.18 Similarly, the induced effects are captured by subtracting Type II multipliers (indirect and induced) from Type I multipliers (indirect). They were then adjusted for South Lanarkshire, where it was assumed that the induced effect would be 70% of the national level, based on the analysis of household spending data (ONS, 2019).

13.7.19 On this basis, it was estimated that the induced impact in South Lanarkshire would be £2.2 million GVA and 27 years of employment. In Scotland, it would be £7.7 million GVA and 103 years of employment (Table 13.16).

Table 13.16 Development and Construction Induced Impact

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Induced Impact (£m)	2.2	7.7
Induced Impact (years of employment)	27	103

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

13.7.20 The total impact which is the sum of the direct, indirect and induced impacts, was estimated to be £13.3 million GVA and 202 years of employment in South Lanarkshire, and £42.6 million GVA and 657 years of employment in Scotland (Table 13.17).

Table 13.17 Total Economic Impact during Development and Construction

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
GVA (£m)	13.3	42.6
Employment (years of employment)	202	657

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

13.7.21 The effect of construction on the South Lanarkshire economy was assessed as temporary, beneficial and **minor**, and therefore not significant. At the Scottish level, it was assessed as **negligible** and not significant.

Operation

13.7.22 The operation and maintenance impact of the Proposed Development would persist throughout its lifespan.

13.7.23 Annual expenditure on operations and maintenance of the Proposed Development was estimated based on analysis undertaken in the 2015 RenewableUK report. It was estimated that expenditure would be £3.3 million annually.

13.7.24 To estimate the economic impact of the operations and maintenance expenditure secured in South Lanarkshire and Scotland it was first necessary to make assumptions about the proportion of contracts that could be secured in each of these areas. These assumptions were based on the contract proportions reported in the RenewableUK report, analysis of industries present in each area, as well as BiGGAR Economics understanding of existing onshore wind farms in South Lanarkshire.

13.7.25 On this basis, South Lanarkshire could secure 32% of operation and maintenance contracts worth £1.1 million and Scotland could secure 47% of contracts worth £1.6 million (Table 13.18).

Table 13.18 Annual Operation and Maintenance by Study Area

	South Lanarkshire		Scotland	
	%	£m	%	£m
Operation and Maintenance	32	1.1	47	1.6

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

13.7.26 As with the development and construction impacts, the contract values awarded in each study area would represent an increase in turnover in those areas. The economic impact of this increase in turnover was estimated by applying turnover to GVA and turnover per employee ratios for the relevant industries.

13.7.27 It was estimated that operation and maintenance contracts associated with the Proposed Development would directly support £0.6 million GVA annually and 9 jobs in South Lanarkshire, and £0.8 million GVA annually and 12 jobs in Scotland (Table 13.19).

Table 13.19 Annual Operation and Maintenance Direct Impact

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Economic Impact (£m)	0.6	0.8
Economic Impact (jobs)	9	12

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

13.7.28 As with the development and construction impacts, there would be indirect and induced impacts. Adding together direct, indirect and induced impacts, it was estimated that the total annual operation and maintenance impacts would be £0.7 million GVA and 10 jobs in South Lanarkshire and £1.2 million GVA and 18 jobs in Scotland (Table 13.20).

Table 13.20 Annual Economic Impact During Operation and Maintenance

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Economic Impact (£m)	0.7	1.2
Economic Impact (jobs)	10	18

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

13.7.29 The effect of annual operations and maintenance on the economy of South Lanarkshire and the economy of Scotland was considered beneficial, but **negligible** and therefore not significant.

Decommissioning

13.7.30 The Proposed Development would have an economic impact during the decommissioning phase. Very few onshore wind projects to date have been fully decommissioned in the UK and as a result, there is minimal data regarding the current costs of this phase. Given that decommissioning activity would take place in future decades it is difficult to predict what local economic conditions at that time would be. For these reasons, the decommissioning costs and impacts have not been quantified in this assessment.

13.7.31 The scale of the economic activity during the decommissioning phase would likely be less than that of the construction phase. Therefore, the effect on the economies studied would be less than that assessed in the construction phase.

13.7.32 The effect on the economy of the local area was assessed as **minor** beneficial**,** and the effect on the South Lanarkshire economy and Scottish economy was assessed as **negligible** beneficial and so not significant in EIA terms.

Wider Benefits

Community Benefit

13.7.33 In addition to the operational impact of the Proposed Development itself, a further beneficial effect on the local community would be generated by community benefit contributions.

13.7.34 The Applicant has committed to providing annual community funding of £5,000 per MW of installed capacity during the 30-year operational life of the Proposed Development. The total installed capacity of the Proposed Development is anticipated to be 126 MW and therefore, on this basis, the total community funding associated with the Proposed Development would amount to £0.63 million per year, which equates to £18.9 million over the anticipated 30 year lifetime of the Proposed Development.

Table 13.21 – Community Benefit Fund

	Value
Funding per MW (£)	5,000
Installed Capacity (MW)	126
Annual Contribution (£)	630,000
Lifetime Contribution (£m)	18.9

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

13.7.35 The economic impact of this funding will depend on the uses to which it is put but by way of illustration, figures from the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations, 2020) show that each £56,408 in income to the voluntary sector in Scotland supports one full-time equivalent job. On that basis, funding of £0.63 million per year would be enough to support around 11 jobs in the voluntary sector.

13.7.36 The Applicant is consulting with local stakeholders to identify local priorities and to consider the best option for the delivery of community benefits. There are three potential models of community benefit which are being considered as part of the community consultation. These are:

- Option 1 – funds would be held and administered by the existing South Lanarkshire Council Renewable Energy Fund, with grants awarded to eligible projects within 10km of each windfarm;
- Option 2 – funds would be held and administered by South Lanarkshire Council as part of a new Douglas Valley Initiative, with decisions on funding priorities and funding applications being made by a local board. Grants would be awarded to eligible projects within an agreed geographical area; and

- Option 3 – funds would be held by a local Community Trust, supported by a third party administrator, and the administrator would report to the Trust. Grants would be awarded to eligible projects within an agreed geographical area.

13.7.37 The community benefit fund options for the Proposed Development are being considered alongside the options for the neighbouring Douglas West Wind Farm Extension and Hagshaw Hill Repowering projects. In total, the annual community benefit fund from these wind farms could be up to £1.4 million and the largest fund would be associated with the Proposed Development.

13.7.38 The community consultation is also considering the local priorities for what kinds of projects should be supported.

13.7.39 The funds could be used to support short term projects, such as annual commitments to activities including gala days and music groups and applications from individuals. This would also cover support for carers and education activities.

13.7.40 The funds could also be used to support medium term projects, which could support economic development such as support for apprenticeships, rural housing and transport projects and rural energy and ICT support.

13.7.41 An element of the fund could also be used to deliver long term strategic, large–scale projects/initiatives which create tangible and lasting benefits for local communities. Initial possibilities that have been raised are developing a mountain biking destination and Adventure Tourism offering in the local area and assisting small business start-ups and social enterprises in this sector. This would capitalise on wind farm infrastructure, local heritage assets and the proximity to the M74, stimulating job creation and economic activity in the local area. Delivering strategic improvements in the physical and recreational environment of Coalburn, Lesmahagow, Douglas, Glespin, Rigside and Douglas Water, and improving transport links to/from the local communities, have also been suggested.

13.7.42 Community benefit payments are not considered as part of the EIA process and therefore the significance of effect has not been assessed.

Shared Ownership

13.7.43 In addition to community benefit funding, the local community could also financially benefit from the Proposed Development through a shared ownership scheme.

13.7.44 The Scottish Government Good Practice Principles for Shared Ownership of Onshore Renewable Energy Developments (Scottish Government, 2019) sets out the Scottish Government's view that shared ownership should become the standard in the renewables industry, and how this can be achieved. This commitment to shared ownership was renewed in the 2017 Onshore Wind Policy Statement (Scottish Government, 2017).

13.7.45 The Scottish Government is committed to shared ownership because it can strengthen relations between developers and communities, build the capacity of communities and empower their members, and support Scotland's ambitious targets for locally-owned renewable energy.

13.7.46 In the case of the Proposed Development, the Applicant is committed to exploring the potential for a community investment with the local community whereby the Applicant owns the project and the community group(s) would have an opportunity to invest in the operational windfarm in order to receive a share of the revenue. In this context, the community group(s) is not a shareholder of the project and does not own a physical asset.

Economic Impact of Community Investment Revenue Sources

13.7.47 The returns to the community from any involvement with a wind farm community investment scheme will vary depending on the anticipated operational costs and any costs associated with raising the finance needed to fund the community investment.

13.7.48 By way of example, a 5% community investment in the Proposed Development would be equivalent to the output of 6.0 MW. The returns that a community share of this size would vary depending on

the output of the wind farm, the value of the electricity sold in the market, the capex and opex costs of the wind farm, and the costs to the community from financing the project. Similarly, the value of the revenue is likely to fluctuate between years.

13.7.49 Income received from any community investment would be in addition to the £0.63 million community benefit funding paid by the Applicant.

13.7.50 The community could use revenues to support economic development projects in the local area, in line with the Community Action Plans discussed in Section 13.6.

13.7.51 In addition to directly supporting employment, the income received from any community investment in the Proposed Development could also be used to leverage in more private funding to support other wider economic development projects. Experience of similar Community Development Trusts to date have found that the availability of local revenue streams, such as those provided by a shared ownership scheme can result in leverage of five to ten times the resources under the control of the local organisation (BiGGAR Economics, 2018).

13.7.52 The economic impact associated with these revenues would be dependent on the projects in which the funds were spent. The Community Action Plans describe investments in a variety of areas including:

- skills development;
- community organisations;
- leisure centre development;
- physical regeneration; and
- community activities.

13.7.53 Given the possibility of direct job creation, as well as the meeting of the goals of each community, the effect of a shared ownership scheme was assessed as **moderate** and therefore significant (beneficial).

Non-Domestic Rates

13.7.54 The Proposed Development would be liable for non-domestic rates, the payment of which would contribute directly to public sector finances. Analysis of the rateable values of several wind farms nearby suggests that the average rateable value per MW is £20,760. On this basis, the total rateable value would be £2.6 million.

13.7.55 Applying a poundage rate of £0.52 per £1 of rateable value (Scottish Parliament, 2020), it is estimated that the Proposed Development could contribute £1.3 million annually to public finances. However, the actual contribution would depend on variables such as the actual load factor.

13.7.56 These non-domestic rates, by providing an additional revenue stream, would support the delivery of local government services. Over the 30-year lifetime of the Proposed Development, non-domestic rates contributions are expected to be £40.5 million. However, the actual contribution will depend on variables such as the load factor and the potential for any relief from non-domestic rates.

13.7.57 The contribution to public finances was assessed as **negligible** and therefore not significant.

Tourism and Recreation

Wind farms and Tourism

13.7.58 The extent to which the development of the onshore wind sector affects the tourism sector is a well-researched topic, with several studies published over the last decade.

Glasgow Caledonian University's Moffat Centre (2008), The Economic Impacts of Wind Farms on Scottish Tourism

13.7.59 Whilst now over a decade old, the report by Glasgow Caledonian University's Moffat Centre (Glasgow Caledonian University/Moffat Centre, 2008) is perhaps the most comprehensive on the impacts of wind farms on tourism in Scotland, incorporating a literature review, an intercept survey of tourists in the study area, an internet survey, a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) study about the effect on accommodation and economic analysis of the results. The study area for this report included Caithness and Sutherland, Perth and Kinross, Stirling, Dumfries and Galloway, and the Scottish Borders.

13.7.60 The literature review found that most of the studies concluded that there were no significant adverse outcomes of wind farms on tourism in sensitive areas, as they generally don't have wind farms approved.

13.7.61 The intercept survey of tourists carried out in Scotland found 25 % viewed wind farms negatively, but the majority had neutral or positive opinions. Respondents who had already seen a wind farm were also less likely to be hostile to them. Although a significant minority (20-30 %) preferred landscapes without wind farms, very few would change their future intention to revisit Scotland based on them.

13.7.62 A 2012 report commissioned by the Scottish Government (ClimateXchange, 2012) subsequently found that the findings of the Glasgow Caledonian report were robust and that there had been no adverse effect on tourism in the areas considered in the original report.

Scottish Parliament Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee (2012), Reports on the Achievability of the Scottish Government's Renewable Energy Targets

13.7.63 Also, in 2012, following an inquiry into the achievability of the Scottish Government's renewable energy targets, the Scottish Parliament's Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee (Scottish Parliament Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee, 2012) concluded that:

13.7.64 *"Several witnesses made assertions that there would be a negative impact on Scotland's tourism industry from renewable developments. However, these assertions were contradicted by research evidence from VisitScotland and others.*

13.7.65 *Whilst care always needs to be taken in terms of the planning process and decisions on the siting of individual projects in areas popular with tourists and in our more rural and remote rural areas, no witness has provided the Committee with robust, empirical evidence, as opposed to anecdotal comment and opinion, that tourism is being negatively affected by the development of renewable projects."*

VisitScotland (2012), Wind Farm Consumer Research

13.7.66 A survey commissioned by VisitScotland in 2011 (VisitScotland, 2012) looked at the attitudes of tourists towards wind farms. It surveyed 2,000 people in the UK and 1,000 people in Scotland, who had visited Scotland recently. The majority (86-91 %) were in agreement about the importance of the natural scenery and landscape, for most of the respondents (80-83 %) their decision to stay in the UK for a short holiday would not be affected by the presence of a wind farm. In general, the respondents did not feel that wind farms ruined the tourism experience.

BiGGAR Economics (2017), Wind Farms and Tourism Trends in Scotland

13.7.67 A study undertaken by BiGGAR Economic in 2017 (BiGGAR Economics, 2017), analysed the effects of wind farms on the tourism sector in Scotland at a National, Regional and Local level. This was an updated study of work previously published in 2016.

13.7.68 The report found that while the capacity of wind farms has more than doubled over the study period, employment in sustainable tourism had increased by more than 15 %. Furthermore, the analysis found no correlation between tourism employment and the number of turbines at the Local Authority level. The study also considered the impact on employment up to 15 km from developments, and the wind farms considered were those constructed between 2009 and 2015.

13.7.69 The study concludes that national statistics suggest there is no relationship between the development of onshore wind farms and tourism employment in Scotland, the Local Authority in which the wind farms are located or the local area surrounding the development.

Tourist Attractions

13.7.70 It should be noted that the Proposed Development exists within an area where the presence of onshore wind development has already been established and will remain in place for many years to come. This suggests that any effect of the Proposed Development would be limited as a wind farm landscape has already been established at this location.

13.7.71 Several of the attractions near the Proposed Development are recreational assets for the local area, for example, Douglas Water Golf Club, Hollandbush Golf Club and Kypeside Fishery, as well as Lanark Golf Course, Lanark Loch and Clyde Valley Family Park. The nature of the attractions and their comparative distance from the site indicate that there would be limited impacts resulting from the Proposed Development. Therefore, the effect on each of these attractions was assessed as **negligible** and therefore not significant.

13.7.72 The attractions in New Lanark, including the New Lanark World Heritage Site and Visitor Centre and the Falls of Clyde Visitor Centre and Wildlife Reserve, as well as Craignethan Castle and the Clyde Valley Woodlands National Nature Reserve, are considered to be important to the regional or national tourism offering by attracting visitors from outside the area. Visitors to Craignethan Castle, for example, are likely to be interested in the history of the site, visitors to the nature reserve in Clyde Valley would be attracted to nature and woodlands, and it is reasonable to assume that visitors to New Lanark would primarily be interested in the site's social and industrial historical significance. Furthermore, it is noted that the Proposed Development will not be seen from the New Lanark World Heritage Village. As a result, it is considered unlikely that the Proposed Development will affect the visitor experience. This is particularly true given the considerable distance from the Proposed Development to these attractions. Therefore, the effect was assessed as **negligible** and not significant for each of the attractions.

Tourism Accommodation

13.7.73 The impact on tourism businesses would depend on the extent to which impacts from the Proposed Development, such as the additional views that they may acquire, may influence the behaviour of tourists visiting the businesses. Views of the Proposed Development from accommodation providers are likely to be limited, given the relative distances to sites such as Muirkirk, New Lanark, Lanark, Strathaven and Larkhall. There are also a small number of accommodation providers near the M74 or A71 and are marketed on their relative proximity to these transport routes. Therefore, the effect on accommodation providers in these areas is assessed as **negligible**.

13.7.74 It is also possible that the construction of the Proposed Development could have a temporary beneficial effect on local tourism businesses as a result of employees either staying locally and/or purchasing food and other supplies while working on site. The relatively low number of accommodation businesses in the local area suggests that the effect on these businesses would be **moderate** and beneficial.

Tourist Routes

13.7.75 Potential permanent adverse effects on walking and cycling routes in the local area (both short-distance and longer distance) would depend on the extent to which the Proposed Development might change the existing character of the routes and tourists' enjoyment of them. The fact that there are already operational wind farms in the study area, means that this type of development is already an established part of the local environment. This means that walkers and cyclists visiting the area should already have a reasonably high expectation of seeing a wind farm during their trip.

13.7.76 The magnitude of the effect of any additional views of turbines that may be acquired as a result of the Proposed Development would be low and this implies that the overall significance of this effect would be **negligible** and therefore not significant.

13.7.77 In terms of future Tourist Routes, it is noted that SLC and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) are exploring plans to link Glasgow with the River Ayr Way and the Southern Upland Way as part of the Clyde Walkway Extension Project.

13.7.78 The development of the Clyde Walkway Extension would, therefore, join up multiple long-distance routes through central and southern Clydesdale. The Douglas/Coalburn area could play an important part in these new routes with the potential for the east to west route from Glenbuck to New Lanark to pass through parts of the Proposed Development site, and there is also the potential for a further route south to the Southern Upland Way from the Douglas area via Crawfordjohn.

13.7.79 Graphic 13.2**Error! Reference source not found.** illustrates how the development of a Heritage Trail and path network around Douglas and Coalburn could contribute to the missing link between the Clyde Walkway and the River Ayr Way.

Graphic 13.2 Strategic Walking Routes of Scotland

13.7.80 Existing long-distance path networks have been shown to boost tourism, the economy, the health of local people and the environment of communities through which they pass. Facilitation of the Clyde Walkway Extension through the site and the adjoining wind farms could provide an interesting part of the new route which could enhance the existing tourism and recreation offering in the local area and bring more passing trade and visitors to Douglas and Coalburn. This would create the opportunity to build on existing marketed walks around Douglas such as the 'Douglas Explorer' walk promoted by Walkhighlands.

13.7.81 The potential effect of the proposed network was assessed as **moderate** and therefore significant.

Proposed Investment in Adventure Tourism

13.7.82 As noted there are limited tourism assets within the vicinity of the Proposed Development. The Applicant has proposed community benefit and shared ownership schemes that could result in significant community investment, and be used to create new assets such as a mountain biking destination or similar adventure tourism opportunities in the local area, which have been identified as potential growth areas in Scotland's tourism offering. One of the potential long-term investment options for the community benefit funding that has been put forward for public consultation is a major investment in adventure tourism. Similar destinations include Glentress near Peebles. Given the proximity to the M74, and existing walking/cycling trails, this could result in a noticeable increase in visitors to the area, and opportunities for local employment.

13.7.83 Although the potential effect of this employment has been considered previously, it is worth noting that the Proposed Development could strengthen and catalyse the area's tourism offering and create new employment opportunities. Therefore, this has been assessed as a **moderate** beneficial effect on the local community.

13.8 Mitigation

13.8.1 The assessment has not identified any significant effects associated with the Proposed Development and therefore it is unnecessary to consider mitigation.

13.9 Residual Effects

13.9.1 The residual effects identified in this assessment include:

- a temporary, **minor** beneficial effect on the regional economy as a result of construction-related expenditure;
- a temporary, **negligible** beneficial effect on the national economy as a result of construction-related expenditure;
- a temporary, **moderate** beneficial effect on local accommodation providers as a result of contractors paying for accommodation;
- a permanent, **negligible** beneficial effect on the regional and national economy due to operations and maintenance expenditure;
- a permanent, **negligible** effect on local tourism assets and accommodation providers from the operation of the Proposed Development;
- a permanent, **moderate** beneficial effect on local communities arising from increased investment and capacity building as a result of the shared ownership and community benefit proposals; and
- a permanent, **moderate** beneficial effect on local communities arising from increased investment in local tourism infrastructure.

13.10 Cumulative Assessment

13.10.1 There are three main ways in which the Proposed Development could contribute to cumulative socio-economic effects. Two of these could result in beneficial cumulative effects and the other could result in an adverse cumulative effect.

13.10.2 Adverse cumulative effects on tourism, recreation and socio-economics could occur if the Proposed Development was expected to have a significant cumulative visual impact on important tourism receptors and this resulted in a change of visitor spending behaviour. The cumulative visual impact of the Proposed Development is assessed in Chapter 6, Landscape & Visual. It is, however, important to note that even if such effects were to occur, they would not necessarily result in impacts on the tourism and recreation economy.

13.10.3 The Proposed Development also has the potential to generate beneficial cumulative impacts if it were to help encourage the development of a significant local renewable energy supply chain. Investigations undertaken by the Applicant have identified several potential suppliers in the local area so there is some evidence that this effect may already be occurring.

13.10.4 The Proposed Development forms part of a cluster of onshore wind developments in the local area, including neighbouring projects such as Douglas West Extension and Hagshaw Hill Repowering, which were also developed by 3R Energy. There is now the potential for onshore wind construction activity to be present in the Hagshaw Cluster for the next 5 years or so; from now through to 2025, based on current proposals (see Chapter 1, Table 1.1). The development of a cluster of projects presents local suppliers with the opportunity to secure longer term work and maintain a stable income stream. Similarly, the longevity of the opportunity is likely to encourage local suppliers to consider how they could diversify to meet the needs of the projects. Support through the operational life of the wind farms will continue well beyond 2025.

13.10.5 The development of a strong local supply chain would help to increase the economic benefits of the Proposed Development and similar projects to the local area, which could help to increase the magnitude of the long-term beneficial economic effects considered in this chapter. The Applicant's stated preference for securing supplies locally wherever possible should help to support this. The Applicant is committed to developing a strong relationship with local suppliers in the area who may be able to diversify into providing services to the onshore wind sector.

13.10.6 Additionally, if further community benefit and shared ownership income was secured from other similar developments in the area this would enable the local community to leverage more funding and investment into the area.

13.11 Summary

13.11.1 The socio-economic baseline indicates that the Local Area has a lower proportion of the population that is of working age, and this proportion is expected to decrease in the future. Employment in the area is concentred in the construction, wholesale and retail sectors with wages broadly in line with the Scottish average. Unemployment in the region is significantly lower than the Scottish average. The local area is an ongoing transition away from sectors such as coal mining and textiles, which dominated employment in the 20th century.

13.11.2 The Proposed Development will result in a substantial investment in South Lanarkshire and Scotland, and is therefore expected to generate economic impact:

- during the development and construction phase, the Proposed Development would generate up to:
  - £13.3 million GVA and 202 years of employment in South Lanarkshire; and
  - £42.6 million GVA and 657 years of employment in Scotland (including South Lanarkshire).
- during each year of the operational phase, the Proposed Development would generate up to:
  - £0.7 million and 10 jobs in South Lanarkshire; and
  - £1.2 million GVA and 18 jobs in Scotland.

13.11.3 These effects have been assessed as not significant in EIA terms. Whilst the beneficial socio-economic effects may not be significant in EIA terms, the project can contribute to economic recovery, locally and nationally, and to longer term inclusive and sustainable growth.

13.11.4 The Applicant has also committed to contributing £5,000 per MW per year in community benefit payments, in line with the Scottish Government guidance, which would be around £630,000 per year based on a total installed capacity of 126MW.

13.11.5 The Applicant has also indicated that shared ownership opportunities will be explored with the local community for the Proposed Development.

13.11.6 This would enable the local communities surrounding the Proposed Development, such as Coalburn, Lesmahagow, Douglas, Glespin, Rigside, and Douglas Water to invest in the local area, and meet the objectives set out their community action plans. This could involve developing the area's adventure tourism offering, resulting in increased visitor numbers and tourism.

13.11.7 There will also be income associated with the Proposed Development due to the payment of Non-Domestic Rates. Given the rates paid by similar development, it was estimated that the annual contribution of the Proposed Development would be £1.3 million.

13.11.8 The area immediately surrounding the Proposed Development has limited tourism activity at present and most of the nearby attractions are a substantial distance from the site. Furthermore, there are limited driving and cycling routes, although there are several local walking routes, including a section of the River Ayr Walkway.

13.11.9 It was assessed that there would be limited effects on tourism assets in the local area, such as tourism accommodation and tourism routes.

13.11.10 As this assessment did not identify any potentially significant adverse effects it was not necessary to consider mitigation.

Table 13.22 – Summary Table

Description of Effect	Significance of Potential Effect		Mitigation Measure	Significance of Residual Effect	
	Significance	Beneficial/ Adverse		Significance	Beneficial/ Adverse
During Construction & Decommissioning					
Economic impact of £13.3 million GVA and 202 years of employment in South Lanarkshire	Minor	Beneficial	n/a	Minor	Beneficial
Economic impact of £42.6 million GVA and 657 years of employment in Scotland	Negligible	Beneficial	n/a	Negligible	Beneficial
Expenditure of construction workers in local economy	Moderate	Beneficial	n/a	Moderate	Beneficial
During Operation					
Annual economic impact of £0.7 million GVA and 10 jobs in South Lanarkshire	Negligible	Beneficial	n/a	Negligible	Beneficial
Annual economic impact of £1.2 million GVA and 18 jobs in Scotland	Negligible	Beneficial	n/a	Negligible	Beneficial
Potential revenue from shared ownership	*Moderate*	*Beneficial*	*n/a*	*Moderate*	*Beneficial*
Payment of an estimated £1.3 million in Non-Domestic Rates	Negligible	Beneficial	n/a	Negligible	Beneficial
Effect on tourism assets	Negligible	Beneficial	n/a	Negligible	Beneficial
Effect on tourism accommodation providers	Negligible	Adverse	n/a	Negligible	Adverse
Effect on tourism routes	Negligible	Adverse	n/a	Negligible	Adverse

Description of Effect	Significance of Potential Effect		Mitigation Measure	Significance of Residual Effect	
	Significance	Beneficial/ Adverse		Significance	Beneficial/ Adverse
Effects of proposed investment in tourism infrastructure	Negligible	Adverse	n/a	Negligible	Adverse
Effect of proposed investment in path network	Moderate	Beneficial	n/a	Moderate	Beneficial

13.12 References

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