



Harestanes South Windfarm Extension

Pre-application Consultation Report

December 2020

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

1. This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report accompanies an application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 submitted by ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Ltd (SPR) (the Applicant) to the Scottish Ministers. The application is for the construction and operation of the Harestanes South Windfarm Extension (the Proposed Development) on land approximately 13 kilometres (km) north of Dumfries in Dumfries and Galloway. The location of the Site is shown on **Figure 1.1 Site Location**.
2. There is no statutory obligation to consult the public under the terms of the Electricity Act application process. Nevertheless, in accordance with best practice, a programme of pre-application community engagement has been undertaken by the Applicant which applies the principles of the consultation process recommended for 'major' planning applications as set out in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013¹ and Planning Circular 3/2013 - Development Management Procedures².
3. This PAC Report provides details of the various meetings, correspondence, Public Information Events (PIEs) and other discussions which have taken place with the community. This report also details the findings of that work and illustrates the ways in which community engagement has helped identify potential issues and how this influenced the design of the Proposed Development. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) also accompanies the planning application and provides further detail surrounding the wider consultation process and the responses received regarding the Proposed Development. It also sets out the iterative design process from project initiation through to submission of the application.
4. It should be noted that the method of public consultation for the project has been heavily influenced by, and has been undertaken in compliance with, the restrictions imposed by the Scottish Government guidance³ due to COVID-19.

1.2 The Applicant

5. SPR 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 day⁴ 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.
6. SPR 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.
7. With over 40 operational windfarms, SPR manages all its sites through its world leading Control Centre at Whitelee Windfarm, near Glasgow.
8. In addition to the operational Harestanes Windfarm, SPR currently has three operational windfarms within the Dumfries and Galloway Council; Kilgallioch, Wether Hill and Ewe Hill.
9. SPR recognises the importance of the economic benefits to Scotland and the rest of the UK from investing in onshore wind generation. SPR constructed eight onshore windfarms in south west Scotland between 2016-17 with a combined capacity of 474MW. It is estimated that this £1.6billion investment would have 51% Scottish

¹ *The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations, 2013. HM Government.*

² *Planning Circular 3/2013: Development management procedures. Scottish Government. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/planning-series-circular-3-2013-development-management-procedures/>*

³ *Coronavirus (COVID-19): planning guidance on pre-application consultations for public events (Scottish Government, 2020).*

⁴ * between 2018-2022

expenditure content over the lifetime of the project, provide 31,118 UK Full Time Equivalent (FTE) job years, including 7,768 FTE years within south west Scotland and provide £297 million local value-added and £59 million in community benefit funding⁵. It is expected that the Proposed Development would further enhance the economic opportunities within the region and would contribute significant local income through business rates.

10. SPR is also committed to ensuring that projects provide a community benefit and that the local community are involved in deciding how this should take place. Through consideration of the local interest and current use of the Site, as part of the Proposed Development, SPR are also looking to implement recreational enhancements.

1.3 The Proposed Development

11. The Proposed Development is within the Forest of Ae in Dumfries and Galloway, and forms an extension to the south of the operational Harestanes Windfarm. The Proposed Development would comprise of up to eight turbines with a blade tip height of up to 200 metres (m) along with associated infrastructure and its generation capacity would be around 45 megawatts (MW). The Proposed Development layout is illustrated in **Figure 1.2 Site Layout Plan**.

2 Pre-Application Consultation

2.1 Scoping

12. A request for an EIA Scoping Opinion was submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) on 3 April 2020 via the submission of an EIA Scoping Report. The Applicant received an initial Scoping Opinion in June 2020 and a revised Scoping Opinion in August 2020 based on the receipt of comments that were submitted to the Scottish Ministers after the initial Scoping Opinion.

The ECU consulted with a variety of statutory and non-statutory consultees, set out in **Table 2.1**, and provided them with a copy of the EIA Scoping Report. Consultation on the EIA Scoping Report was undertaken by the Scottish Ministers between 20 April 2020 and 27 May 2020.

EIA scoping consultees	
Annan District Salmon Fishery Board	British Horse Society
BT	Civil Aviation Authority – Airspace
Crown Estate Scotland	Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Fisheries Management Scotland	Galloway Fisheries Trust
Glasgow Airport	Glasgow Prestwick Airport
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	John Muir Trust
Joining Radio Company (JRC)	Marine Scotland
MET Office	Mountaineering Scotland
NATS Safeguarding	Nith DSFB
Royal Society for Protection of Birds	Scottish Forestry
NatureScot (then called Scottish Natural Heritage)	Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)
Scottish Water	Scottish Wild Land Group
Scottish Wildlife Trust	South Lanarkshire Council
The Coal Authority	Transport Scotland
Visit Scotland	West of Scotland Archaeology Service

⁵ BVG Associates (2017). *Economic Benefits from Onshore Windfarms*

EIA scoping consultees	
Ae Community Council	Auldgirth and District Community Council
Closeburn Community Council	Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere
Johnstone Community Council	Kirkmahoe Community Council
Kirkmichael Community Council	Tinwald Parish Community Council

Table 2.1 List of EIA Scoping Consultees

13. A Scoping Consultation Meeting was held on 7 May 2020 to provide a forum for members of the project team to introduce themselves with the ECU and consultees and to enable an initial discussion on the EIA Scoping Report in advance of formally providing a consultation response or Scoping Opinion. The meeting was attended by representatives from the ECU, the Applicant, WSP (including key topic specialists), Dumfries and Galloway Council, NatureScot (then called Scottish Natural Heritage) and Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held via conference call.
14. Direct consultation has also been undertaken with consultees, to discuss and agree the approach and scope of environmental surveys and assessments on a topic-by-topic basis. Matters raised as part of the scoping process by consultees are discussed in each relevant technical chapter of the EIA Report.

2.2 Energy Consents Unit

15. The Applicant has been in regular contact with the ECU throughout the pre-application phase. In addition to the Scoping Consultation Meeting discussed above, the Applicant has kept the ECU aware of ongoing dialog between the Applicant and stakeholders further to receipt of the Scoping Opinion, where relevant. This includes responding to comments made by the ECU in their Scoping response such as agreeing viewpoints. Further correspondence taken place between the ECU and the Applicant has included clarifying the requirements for the gate-checking and application submission process, to ensure that all requirements are met. A Gatecheck Report was issued to the ECU on 30 September 2020 in line with the ECU gate check process.

2.3 Dumfries and Galloway Council

16. In addition to attending the Scoping Consultation Meeting, further direct consultation has taken place between members of the EIA team and Dumfries and Galloway Council. This included discussion on methodologies proposed as part of the EIA, such as the noise assessment and landscape and visual assessment, and requests for data and information. Consultation was held with Dumfries and Galloway Council's planning officer and Environmental Health Officer.

2.4 Consultee Site Visit

17. During the Scoping Consultation Meeting, it was agreed that it would be mutually beneficial for all parties who attended the meeting to undertake a site visit, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.
18. A site visit was subsequently undertaken on the 5 August 2020 and was attended by representatives from the Applicant, WSP, NatureScot and Dumfries and Galloway Council. Other invited stakeholders were unable to attend.
19. During the site visit, key viewpoints were discussed so that the consultees could understand the Site in relation to the surroundings. The operational Harestanes Windfarm was also visited, to understand the relationship between the two sites. The site visit was also used as an opportunity for the consultees, the Applicant and WSP to discuss matters relating to the proposal such as current design and assessment progress and survey findings.

2.5 Community Councils

20. Further to EIA Scoping, the Applicant has kept the relevant Community Councils (CCs) informed of the project progress and public consultation process. **Table 2.1** summarises the correspondence that has taken place between the Applicant and CCs (see **Appendix A**). Where reference is made to a Public Consultation Leaflet and Virtual Public Consultation Event, details of these are provided in **Section 3**.

Community Council	Correspondence	Response/Outcome
Ae CC	Email from the Applicant 21 April 2020 providing a letter (see Appendix A) which introduced the proposal to investigate the potential to extend the operational Harestanes Windfarm	No reply received
	Email from the Applicant 27 May 2020 advising of the circulation of the Public Consultation Leaflet, a copy of which was attached. Welcomed opportunity for further discussion with the CC.	See row below.
	Emails between the Applicant and Ae CC Vice chair and residents 1 June – 16 June 2020. Requested a virtual meeting set up to discuss the project	The Applicant and Ae CC agreed meeting to be held virtually on 17 June 2020
	Virtual meeting held 17 June 2020 (see Appendix A for presentation). Attended by the Applicant and WSP's Project Managers, Ae Community Council Chair and Vice Chair. Agenda was based upon discussion topics requested by Ae CC, and included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reason for project location - Project timescales - Project design - Community benefit - Other topics (such as access routes) - Communication and consultation (including request for follow up meeting). - Next steps 	Provided meeting minutes 1 July 2020 noting the points discussed and agreed outcomes (see Appendix A) Also provided the latest design layout, which removed turbines from western part of the site and so removed visibility of turbines from Ae. Provided feedback form for distribution to members of the community who may not have access to email. Proposed next meeting held week commencing 20 July 2020.
	Email from the Applicant 10 July 2020 providing latest design iteration with bike trails overlaid, as requested by Ae CC in the 17 June meeting. Also provided a transparent wireline to indicate the turbine positions as hidden by topography.	Thanked for the materials and provided location where a wireline was requested at the meeting
	Emails from the Applicant 16 July – 29 July 2020. Proposed 5 August for next meeting and provided requested wireline from the picnic area in Ae	Thanked for providing drawings and requested further date for meeting
	Email from the Applicant 13 August 2020. Requested discussion topics for the meeting or outline agenda so that availability of appropriate project team members can be checked.	No reply received
	Email from the Applicant 26 August 2020 providing a letter (see Appendix A) and leaflet giving an update on activities and to notify of the Virtual Public Information Event	No reply received
Auldgirth & District CC	Email from the Applicant 21 April 2020 providing a letter (see Appendix A) which introduced the proposal to investigate the potential to extend the operational Harestanes Windfarm	No reply received
	Email from the Applicant 22 April 2020 providing a letter which gives an update of the activities relating to the Proposed Development	No reply received
	Email from the Applicant 27 May 2020 advising of the circulation of the Public Consultation Leaflet, a copy of which was attached. Welcomed opportunity for further discussion with the CC.	Email reply 28 May 2020 advising that Auldgirth and District CC has been automatically dissolved. the Applicant replied asking if it is the intension of the CC to

Community Council	Correspondence	Response/Outcome
		reconvene at a later date, but no reply was received.
Keir CC	Various emails between Keir CC and the Applicant between 31 May 2020 – 8 June 2020, noting the community council's interest, requesting to be consulted at all stages and requesting a plan showing visibility of the Proposed Development from Nithsdale	Email reply from the Applicant requesting clarity on what area within Nithsdale is of interest and provided a wireline to illustrate the visibility.
	Email from the Applicant 26 August 2020 providing a letter and leaflet giving an update on activities and to notify of the Virtual Public Consultation Event.	No reply received
Kirkmichael CC	Email from the Applicant 21 April 2020 providing a letter (see Appendix A) which introduced the proposal to investigate the potential to extend the operational Harestanes Windfarm	No reply received
	Email from the Applicant 22 April 2020 providing a letter which gives an update of the activities relating to the Proposed Development.	Email reply from Kirkmichael CC advising no objections to the extension of the windfarm and are supportive of green energy in the area.
	Email from the Applicant 27 May 2020 advising of the circulation of the Public Consultation Leaflet, a copy of which was attached. Welcomed opportunity for further discussion with the CC.	Email reply from Kirkmichael CC asking where the possible 15 turbines will be situated, as some local residents are concerned that the site area boundary is close to the community.
	the Applicant replied via email 18 th August 2020 following Kirkmichael CC's consultation response, providing the latest turbine layout and provided a wireline from Nethermill and Parkgate, advised that the grave site noted from surveys will be included in the environmental assessment and advised of the upcoming virtual public information event.	No reply received
	Email from the Applicant 26 August 2020 providing a letter and leaflet giving an update on activities and to notify of the Virtual Public Consultation Event.	No reply received.
Lochmaben CC	Email from Lochmaben CC responding to Public Consultation Leaflet stating community has benefitted from funding provided through Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company to which current Harestanes Windfarm contributes. However, comment was made regarding the number of developments and increased size of turbines in the region. Notes that despite COVID-19 restrictions, it is important that the Applicant fully explains the project and provide further detail than that provided in the Public Consultation Leaflet, including what effect the construction will have on outdoor pursuits, how the proposed turbines compare with the existing.	The Applicant replied via email responding to the points raised by Lochmaben CC and advised that further consultation event will be held, and provided the project website link.
	Email from the Applicant 26 August 2020 providing a letter and leaflet giving an update on activities and to notify of the Virtual Public Consultation Event.	No reply received

Community Council	Correspondence	Response/Outcome
Closeburn CC	Email from the Applicant 21 April 2020 providing a letter (see Appendix A) which introduced the proposal to investigate the potential to extend the operational Harestanes Windfarm	No reply received
Johnstone Bridge CC	Email from the Applicant 22 April 2020 providing a letter which gives an update of the activities relating to the Proposed Development.	
Kirkmahoe CC	Email from the Applicant 27 May 2020 advising of the circulation of the Public Consultation Leaflet, a copy of which was attached. Welcomed opportunity for further discussion with the CC	
Tinwald Parish Council	Email from the Applicant 26 August 2020 providing a letter and leaflet giving an update on activities and to notify of the Virtual Public Consultation Event	

Table 2.2 Summary of consultation with Community Councils

2.6 Public Consultation

21. The Applicant has also engaged directly with local residents and communities via various forms of public consultation, undertaken principally in two stages; a public consultation leaflet described in **Section 3.1** and a Virtual Public Information Event described in **Section 3.2** below.

3 Public Consultation

22. As mentioned in **Section 1.1**, the form of public consultation undertaken has been heavily influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic and the temporary Scottish Government guidance during this period, which prevented traditional face-to-face events held in the community from taking place.
23. The Applicant hosts a webpage dedicated to the Proposed Development to allow people to view details about the project including information on the location, site, development, benefits and EIA. During the consultation period a feedback form was provided on this project webpage, to allow interested members of the public to provide comment or ask questions.
24. The Applicant also provided a dedicated email address for the project. This email address was provided on the project webpage and on the public consultation material:

HarestanesSouthWindfarm@scottishpower.com.

3.1 Public Information Event 1

25. A Public Consultation Leaflet (see **Appendix B: Public Consultation Leaflet**) was distributed to all recorded addresses within a 10km radius of the Site. Leaflets were sent on Friday 22 May 2020 to residential addresses and a follow up distribution to commercial addresses was sent on Monday 16 June 2020. The combined total number of leaflets distributed was 7,182. The leaflet was also emailed directly to the Community Councils set out in **Section 2.4** and welcomed further discussions.
26. The leaflet introduced the project and set out the current status of the design and how the remaining work including the EIA will influence this. The leaflet also provided information on the Applicant, including who SPR are, other SPR windfarms in the area and how the Applicant supports community initiatives.
27. The leaflet prompted feedback and provided various contact details to enable this, including links to the project website, the project email address, telephone number and a postal address.

28. A total of 16 responses were received. A summary of the points raised in the response and how the Applicant responded are presented in Error! Reference source not found. below.

Subject	Comment received	The Applicant's Response
General	Why have I received this leaflet?	The Applicant is preparing a proposal to extend the operational Harestanes Windfarm and want to engage with the local communities and residents to receive feedback.
	Awareness of the proposal and when and where further information will be available	With COVID-19 restrictions, it is unlikely that the Applicant will be able to hold physical face-to-face events. However, Public information events in digital form will be held in August or September this year. Local communities will be advised on timings and details of these events.
	Request to be included in any further consultations and meetings	Will be sure to keep informed of any future communications
	Did not receive the leaflet	The Applicant will review the address data. Attached a digital version of the leaflet and provided link to the project website
	Request for design information – number of turbines, height of turbines	Scoping report has been submitted with has a 15 turbine layout with tip height up to 200m. Environmental assessments and consultation will shape the design including turbine numbers.
	Timescales for stages mentioned in the leaflet	The Applicant are looking to submit a planning application at the end of this year.
	What is the height of the existing turbines?	125m to blade tip
	Supportive of increasing renewable energy generation/onshore wind capacity	Noted and appreciated for the support
	Given coronavirus restrictions, what is the status of the project with regards to consultation, scoping and planning process.	Provided details of the Virtual Public Information Event, information leaflet circulation and advertisement, which was also enclosed in the leaflet
	What is the expected operational life of the extension?	The Applicant is proposing to submit a planning application to the Scottish Government for a consent in perpetuity with this it would not be our intention to decommission the site at a later date.
Landscape and visual	Potential visibility of the windfarm from Ae	The Applicant are working with an independent landscape architect to assess the visual impact. Visual consideration is key to the iterative design process. The Applicant is happy to share the view points from Ae as part of the consultation.
	The leaflet states studies have been undertaken from viewpoints – please provide an image of what the view will look like	The Applicant responded by providing wireline images.
	The design of the operational Harestanes Windfarm is well sited and limits views	Noted and ensured that the same design process and considerations will be used in the proposal.
Socio-economics and tourism	Local business owner concerned that extending the windfarm will impact on	The Applicant is very mindful of the sensitivities of the recreational centre and are in discussions with landowners Forest and Land Scotland. The Applicant has worked closely with Forest and Land

Subject	Comment received	The Applicant's Response
	the bike trails which could impact their business	Scotland during the construction of the operational Harestanes Windfarm to improve and create new trails. Additionally, the Applicant provides £50,000 every year of the operational life of the existing Harestanes Windfarm to Forest and Land Scotland to help facilitate recreational improvements.
	What would the effects on the outdoor pursuit activities be during construction?	A Recreation and Access Plan would be developed as part of the pre-construction documentation to allow construction and recreation activities to operate in tandem safely.
Forestry	Site is within an area capable of growing a diverse species of trees	The Applicant is working closely with an independent forestry consultant and landowners Forest and Land Scotland to inform a forest design plan, consideration will be given to diversification of tree species as part of this.
Hydrology, hydrogeology geology and soils	We have a private water supply from springs both within and adjacent to the site boundary. How would these be assessed?	The Private Water Supplies locations will be evaluated based on their position relative to the Site. The assessment will be desktop only, there will be no groundwater monitoring or boreholes. Following this, a questionnaire will be sent out to gather information on private water supplies to support the assessment.
Ecology and ornithology	Concerns over risk of injury or death of raptors	The Applicant are working closely with an independent environmental consultant who are surveying and assessing ornithological activity to understand the potential impact to birds.

Table 3.1 Summary of comments and responses following the Public Consultation Leaflet

3.2 Public Information Event 2

3.2.1 Date and format

29. A virtual Public Information Event was held between 31 August 2020 and 25 September 2020.
30. A dedicated 'portal' was set up for the Virtual Public Information Event, which was accessed either via the project's webpage on the Applicant's website or directly via:

https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/harestanes_south_windfarm_extension_public_information_event.aspx
31. The Virtual Public Information Event comprised of a series of webpages designed to appear in a similar way to traditional banners that would be used at a conventional face-to-face consultation event, so as to be a familiar format to the public. **Image 1** below shows the appearance of the homepage of the Virtual Public Information Event.



Onshore Wind

Home > Onshore Wind > Scotland > Windfarms in Development > Harestanes South Windfarm Extension > Harestanes South Windfarm Extension - P...

HARESTANES SOUTH WINDFARM EXTENSION - PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENT

Public Information Event

In May, we contacted you to introduce our proposal to extend the operational Harestanes Windfarm, located in the Forest of Ae, north of Dumfries. We have undertaken environmental surveys of the site to inform the windfarm design and we welcome your feedback on our more detailed proposal.

Please click on each of the banners in the photograph below to navigate through the exhibition pages. You will be able to send feedback to the project team by clicking on the last banner.



Quick Links

Image 1 Homepage of the Virtual Public Information Event

3.2.2 Consultation material

32. Owing to the design having progressed further, the Virtual Public Information Event presented an update to the information presented for Public Information Event 1. The following key information, amongst others, which was presented across the six clickable banners (see **Appendix C**) navigated via the page shown in **Image 1**:
- § Site Boundary Plan;
 - § Proposed Development layout plan;
 - § Zone of theoretical visibility plan;
 - § Four photomontages;
 - § Site design considerations;
 - § Summary of the development and EIA process;
 - § A summary of the environmental assessment work undertaken and the findings, presented by each key topic;
 - § Information on community benefits of the Proposed Development, including employment opportunities and opportunities for local businesses; and
 - § A feedback form (see **Appendix D**: Virtual Public Information Day Feedback Form).
33. The feedback form also allowed members of the public to request a direct discussion with a member of the project team.

3.2.3 Advertisement of event

Leaflet

34. A subsequent Public Consultation Leaflet (see **Appendix E**: Virtual Public Information Day Leaflet) was sent on 20 August 2020 to the same 7,182 recipients as for Public Information Event 1 described in **Section 3**. It should be noted that although the leaflet advertised the Public Consultation Event as finishing on the 7 September, it was subsequently decided to extend the event to the 25 September in line with the temporary Scottish Government's guidance⁶ and this was stated on the on-line material and the September newspaper advertisements (described below).
35. The leaflets provided information on the purpose of the Virtual Public Information Event, how and when it can be accessed and a summary of the changes to the project since the previous public consultation. Project team contact details were also provided in the event that a member of the public required any of the documents contained within the Public Consultation Event to be emailed or posted.

Newspapers

36. A full-page print advertisement was published in the following newspapers (see **Appendix F**: Newspaper print advertisements) to publicise the event:
- § Galloway Gazette – 21 August 2020
 - § Annandale Herald & Moffat News – 3 September 2020
 - § Annandale Observer – 4 September 2020
 - § Dumfries Courier – 4 September 2020
37. In addition to the printed newspaper adverts, the following digital adverts were also placed on the newspaper's websites (see **Appendix G**: Newspaper digital advertisements):
- § Galloway Gazette - www.gallowaygazette.co.uk – Homepage advertising campaign between 23 August 2020 and 6 September 2020.
 - § DNG24⁷ - <https://www.dng24.co.uk/> - in-page advert placement between 31 August 2020 – 11 September 2020.

Local Councillor and Member of Parliament email

38. The Applicant directly emailed eight Local Councillors (see **Appendix H**: Local Councillor emails), three constituency Members of Parliament and seven Members of Scottish Parliament for South Scotland on the 26 August notifying them of the Virtual Public Information Event, provided a copy of the Public Consultation Leaflet and provided a letter which gave an update on the Proposed Development.

3.2.4 Virtual Public Information Event attendance and feedback

39. A total of 319 people visited the Virtual Public Information Event, with a total of 1,447 page views. Comments and feedback from the public were accepted throughout the duration of the event. A total of 14 responses were received. Although welcomed and prompted in the feedback form, there were no requests made for a discussion via a direct call with the project during the Virtual Public Consultation Event.

⁶ Coronavirus (COVID-19): planning guidance on pre-application consultations for public events. Scottish Government. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-planning-guidance-on-pre-application-consultations-for-public-events/>

⁷ Publishing company and collective website for the Dumfries Courier, Annandale Observer and Annandale Herald & Moffat News publications

40. A summary of the comments received across all methods from the Virtual Public Information Event is shown in **Table 3.2** below.

Subject	Comment Received	The Applicant's response
Advertisement	Galloway Gazette newspaper is generally circulated further west in the region. Recommend advertising in the Dumfries and Galloway Standard or Annandale Herald.	Additional advertisement included in the Annandale Herald, Moffat News, Annandale Observer and Dumfries Courier (see Section 3.2.3)
Design	The 68 turbines of the existing Harestanes Windfarm are well positioned in the landscape. Concerns that the proposed extension will cause visual impact around Parkgate, Town Foot, Town Head and Ae Valley. Why can the new turbines not be accommodated in the existing site. Are Dumfries and Galloway Council in support of the Proposed Development?	In order to understand and minimize the potential impacts we are working closely with an independent landscape architect to shape the design and mitigate where possible effects on the surrounding area. In order to increase the number of turbines we would need to increase the overall footprint of the existing windfarm. The current operational scheme is configured in such a way that minimises impacts to the environment but maximises generating capacity and is considered an optimal design within the current footprint, incorporating additional turbines within the same footprint would compromise this. Dumfries and Galloway Council are one of our key consultees, we continue to engage with them throughout the development process through to submission of application and beyond.
Offering business services	Local business owner offering services to the Proposed Development.	The Applicant will look to enable opportunities for local companies, and advise the construction team to hold 'meet the contractor' events prior to construction. Also provided information of the Virtual Public Information Event and welcomed any comments on the proposals
Visibility of turbines	Have seen the consultation material but unsure whether the new turbines will be visible from the property.	Provided wirelines from the resident's location to demonstrate theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
	Request confirmation of the visual impact from the resident's property. Further email asked for clarity on the provided wireline.	Provided wirelines from the resident's location to demonstrate theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development. Further email provided clarity on the provided wireline.
Community benefits	Wish to see each household within a reasonable distance of the windfarm see direct benefit. For example, grants to households for energy efficiency or renewable energy generation schemes such as ground source heat pumps. Also suggestion for community funding to go to Garwald graveyard and Church. Also desire for community funding to be used to improve existing local recreational routes and develop new routes.	As part of the EIA, a landscape and visual assessment and socio-economic assessment are being undertaken which will identify impacts and will look to understand where the Applicant can add value to the local community. The Applicant is working with Forest and Land Scotland, as was the case during construction of the operational Harestanes Windfarm, which provides £50,000 every operational year to Forest and Land Scotland to help facilitate recreational improvements. Suggestions provided are welcomed.

Subject	Comment Received	The Applicant's response
	Request for Mill Loch Park to benefit from community compensation, as it will be in line of sight and the equipment is dated.	As part of the EIA, a socio-economic review of effects is being undertaken. The suggestion for funding is welcomed.
Visualisation and site photograph	Request to provide visualisation and site photograph, as a surveyor was seen photographing near to the property.	Photograph taken from the mentioned site was for reference and will not be published. However, a wireline from the property location was provided.
Virtual Public Information Event	Thank you for a clear briefing.	Thank you for the feedback.
Other windfarms	Does the illustrative map include representation of other windfarms not owned by SPR.	Any existing turbines that are visible in the illustrative map on the leaflet you received are indicative only as part of the Ordnance Survey Map of the area. Detailed maps of the site and proposed layout will be available to view as part of our Virtual Public Information Event.

Table 3.2 Summary of comments received and responses during the Virtual Public Information Event

4 Refinements to the Proposed Development

41. Matters raised by members of the public during the pre-application consultation have been responded to through email correspondence or through the assessments presented within the EIA Report. Where possible and appropriate the Applicant has sought to adjust or amend the design to take into consideration comments received.

4.1.1 Visual impacts from Ae

42. Comments were received from members of the public and Ae CC which expressed concern regarding the potential visibility of the Proposed Development's turbines from Ae.
43. Given the proximity of this location to the Site, the Landscape and Visual assessment considered Ae as a key sensitive receptor from the outset and the comments received were further factored into the assessment and iterative design process. Ae was therefore selected as one of the viewpoints included in the Landscape and Visual assessment.
44. Following the first design workshop and initial landscape and visual assessment work, the 15 turbine Scoping Layout was reduced to a nine turbine layout which included the removal of turbines to the west of the site which had visual implications for Ae and turbines which encroached on the outer slopes of the site and proximity to local residents.

4.1.2 Cultural Heritage

45. The Cultural Heritage assessment identified a grave site to the north west of the site. The proximity of Turbine 7 to the grave site was raised as a comment by Kirkmichael CC in their Scoping Opinion response.
46. Turbine 7 was moved to the east, to provide a suitable off-set to the grave site and maintain its forest clearing setting. The borrow pit search area near to Turbine 7 was also moved to the east of the existing quarry to avoid the grave site.

4.1.3 Community Benefit

47. Comments were received from members of the public and local community expressing a desire for the Proposed Development to have a positive benefit upon the local community.
48. The Applicant is committed to sharing the benefits from its operational windfarms with local communities and has made substantial investment in south west Scotland. Through its established presence in Dumfries and Galloway, ScottishPower Renewables has to-date contributed over £7,800,000 in community benefits. The Applicant is committed to offering a package of community benefits to local communities. For the Proposed Development, the Applicant would hold discussions with local stakeholders to decide which communities would be appropriate to participate in any community benefits offered. It is expected that any community benefit funds could provide a long-term revenue which could be used to support community projects. Local communities would have the flexibility to choose how the money is spent and prioritise it on the things which matter most to them.
49. In addition to the community benefits fund, the local community could also have an opportunity to invest in the Proposed Development through participation in a community investment scheme. The Applicant would hold discussions with local stakeholders to decide which communities would be appropriate to participate in any opportunity to invest should they choose to do so. The Applicant is committed to keeping local communities informed as the project progresses and, in line with Scottish Government guidance, would provide information in a timely manner so the communities are able to fully assess the opportunity.
50. The Applicant is proposing to implement enhancements in addition to the Proposed Development. One of these proposed enhancements includes a commitment to provide electric bikes for rental and electric vehicle charging points in the Ae Forest carpark subject to agreement.
51. Further enhancement measures are currently being considered by the Applicant and include, for example:
- § Promoting new electric bike routes within Forest of Ae, subject to agreement;
 - § Promoting family friendly / beginner biking routes or horse-riding routes around the proposed windfarm using existing and upgraded forest tracks;
 - § Providing a shelter with tools for bike maintenance and a place to shelter / picnic within the windfarm;
 - § Providing information boards regarding the Proposed Development and, and
 - § Support for the employment of seasonal ranger to assist with the management of core footpaths in the area.

4.1.4 Recreational use of the Site

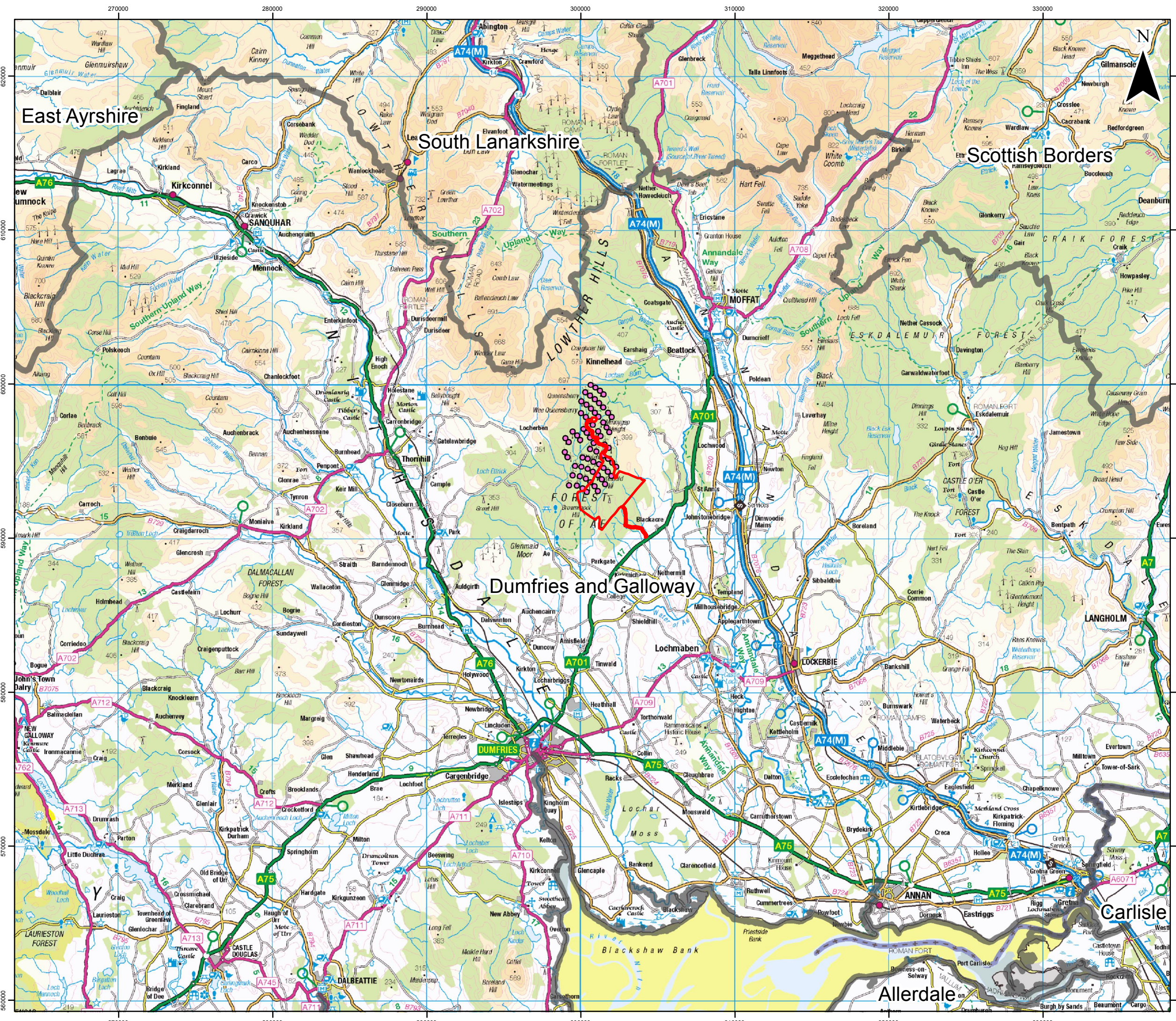
52. Several consultation responses raised comments over the potential for the Proposed Development to affect the recreational assets of the Romans and Reivers core path and the 7Stanes Mountain bike trails.
53. These assets were identified and considered from the outset and buffers placed around each. The removal of the turbines at the west of the Site in the Refined Turbine Layout provided increased distance from the turbines to the mountain bike trails, while the final design turbine locations maintain an appropriate buffer from the core path. Existing forest tracks that would be used as an access track for the construction works would be upgraded as part of the Proposed Development. The conditions of these tracks would therefore be improved as part of the Proposed Development.

5 Conclusion

54. Although not a statutory requirement for a Section 36 application, in line with best practice for the consenting process of a major application a programme of pre-application community consultation has been undertaken by the Applicant. This consultation process has been heavily influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, which prevented traditional face-to-face consultation events held in the community from taking place. Instead, in line with the Scottish Governments temporary guidance during the pandemic, the Applicant has undertaken public consultation via a Public Consultation Leaflet and a Virtual Public Information Event, to ensure that members of the communities near to the Proposed Development are fully aware of the proposals and to provide the opportunity for them to give feedback and for relevant comments to be considered in the EIA and iterative design process.

55. The Applicant will continue to liaise with the local community during the Section 36 application process and the construction and operational stages of the Proposed Development.
56. Once the application for Section 36 consent is submitted, the electronic copies of the EIA Report will be available to view at the following locations:
- The Applicant's website for the project;
https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/harestanes_south_windfarm_extension.aspx
 - The ECU's website; <http://www.energyconsents.scot/>.
57. A public notice will also be placed in the following newspapers, to notify the public that the Applicant has submitted the application for consent:
- Edinburgh Gazette;
 - Annandale Herald & Moffat News;
 - Annandale Observer; and
 - Dumfries Courier

Figures



Legend

- Application Boundary
- Local Authority Area
- Operational Harestanes Windfarm Turbine

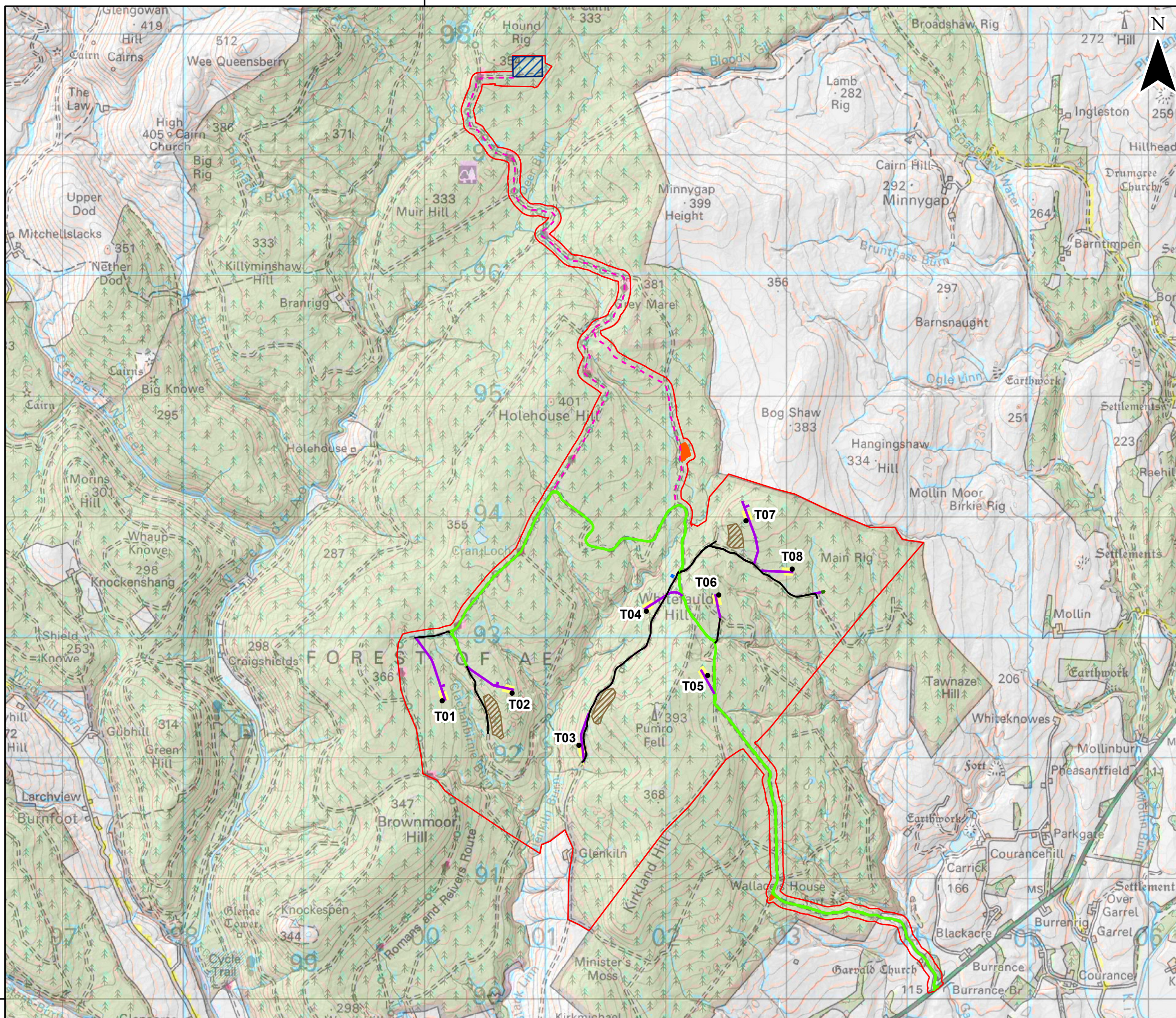
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Rev	Date	By	Comment
B	10/11/2020	VK	Second Issue.
A	10/03/2020	CE	First Issue.



Harestanes South Windfarm Extension
 Figure 1.1: Site Location

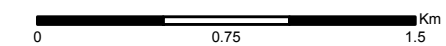
Drg No	HARESTANES_WSP_I_023
Rev	B
Date	10/11/2020
Scale	1:230,000 @ A3



Legend

- Application Boundary
- Proposed Turbine Location
- Proposed Crane Pad
- Proposed Control Building
- Proposed Met Mast
- Proposed Borrow Pit Search Area
- Operational Harestanes Access – To be Upgraded
- Proposed New Access Track
- Existing Forestry Track - To be Upgraded
- Cable Route
- Existing Construction Compound / Hardstanding
- Existing Substation

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Rev	Date	By	Comment
A	13/09/2020	VK	First Issue.



Harestanes South Windfarm Extension
Figure 1.2: Site Layout Plan

Drg No	HARESTANES_WSP_I_183
Rev	A
Date	16/11/2020
Scale	1:30,000 @ A3

Appendix A: Community Council Correspondence



21/04/2020

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Harestanes South Windfarm Extension, Dumfries and Galloway

I am writing to inform you of our proposal to investigate the potential for an extension to the operational Harestanes Windfarm within the Forest of Ae on the National Forest Estate, north-east of the village of Ae in Dumfries and Galloway. The area we are investigating has been shown on the enclosed plan. We are in the early stages of development and we wanted to provide an update on the activities ScottishPower Renewables have been undertaking in relation to this proposal.

At present we are investigating the potential for around 15 wind turbines to be installed on the site with tip heights of up to 200m, the design however is still in the early stages. We have been undertaking ornithological surveys since September 2019. In order to understand bird activity in the area, these surveys will continue until September 2020. We will also be undertaking a range of other environmental surveys throughout the course of this year to fully understand the potential for an extension to Harestanes Windfarm.

In February 2020, we were granted planning permission to install 3 meteorological masts to the south and west of Harestanes Windfarm, these are programmed to be installed this year and will allow us to further understand the wind resource on site.

The operational Harestanes Windfarm was constructed in 2014 and can generate up to 136MW of clean, green, renewable energy. By extending the windfarm we can utilise existing infrastructure while increasing the overall generating capacity. This will help us meet our increasing demand for clean energy, will assist in meeting Scottish Government targets for renewable energy and a low carbon economy, and will provide increased energy security.

As part of the development process we have submitted a Scoping Report to the Scottish Government. As your Community Council is on the list of consultees, you will receive a copy of the report and be asked to provide a response to it; we will use this response to inform the scope of an Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposal.



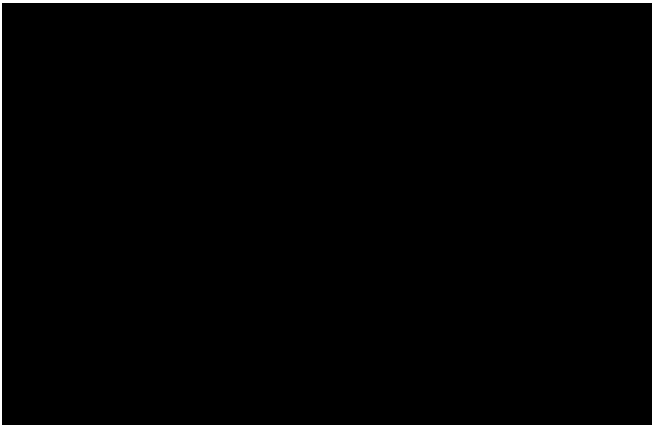
We are committed to engaging with local communities and keeping you updated in relation to our development activities at this site, we will continue to engage with you throughout the course of the development phase and beyond. If you would like any further information, we would request you send enquiries to the project mailbox noted below:

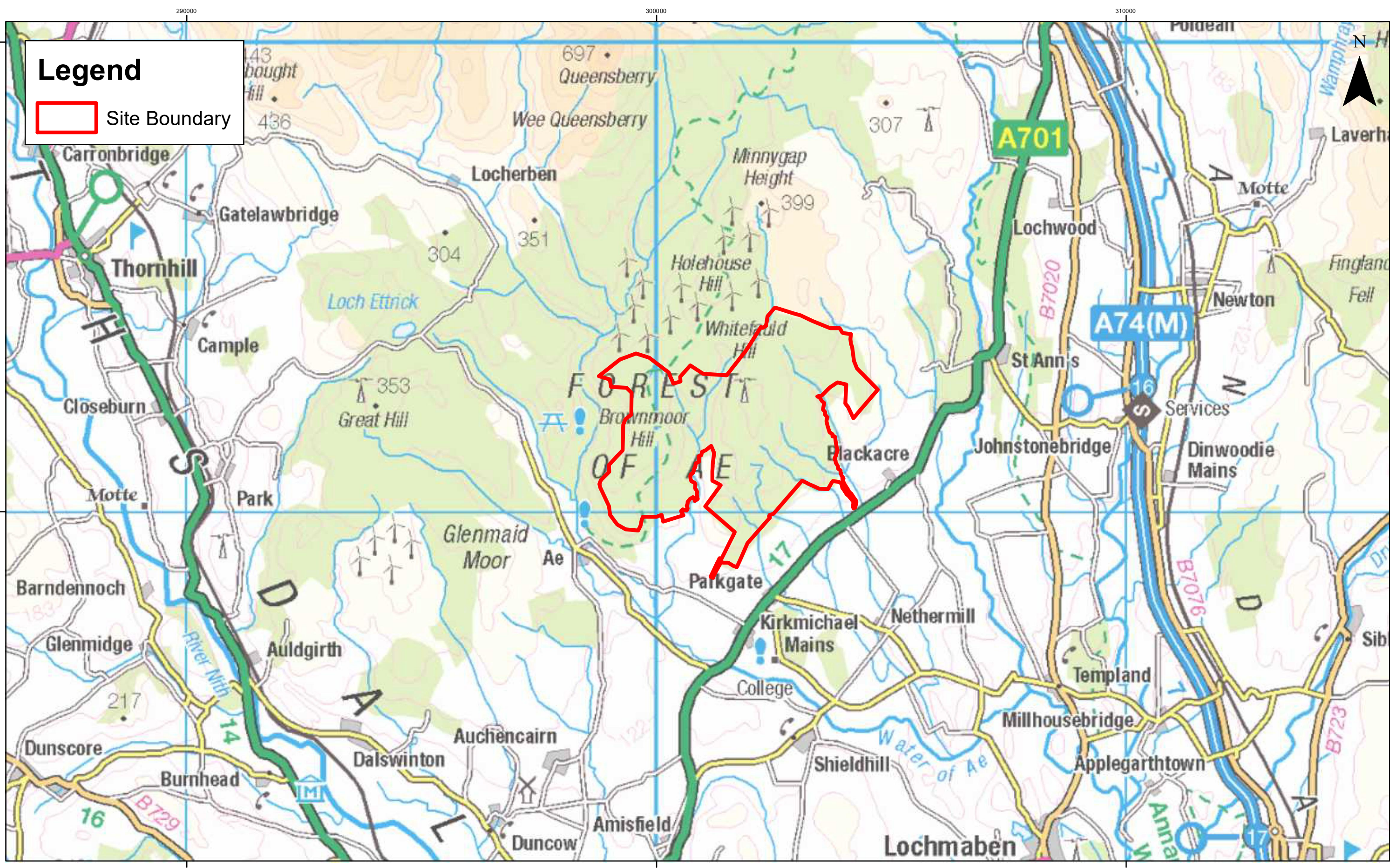
HarestanesSouthWindfarm@scottishpower.com

You can also view more details of our proposals and the scoping documents at:

<http://cms.scottishpowerrenewables.com/harestanessouthwindfarmextension>

Yours sincerely,





Legend

Site Boundary



Rev	Date	By	Comment
A	04/04/20	DD	First Issue.

1:75,000
Scale @ A3

0 1.25 2.5 Km

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Harestanes South
Site Location

Drg No	HSTS-I-010	
Rev	A	Datum: OSGB36
Date	04/04/20	Projection: TM
Figure	1	



[REDACTED]
Community Council

26/08/2020

Dear [REDACTED],

ScottishPower Renewables Virtual Public Information Event for Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal

I refer to the above and write to provide an update on the current status of the Harestanes South Windfarm Extension and to inform you that ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) are launching a Virtual Public Information Event.

Following your request to be kept updated on the projects status, we have sought to reduce the number of turbines from 15 to 8 with the view to minimising impacts on recreational areas and overall turbine visibility. SPR have sought to develop the design layout of the proposed extension and are in the process of completing an Environmental Impact Assessment that includes both environmental and technical surveys such as peat probing, cultural heritage, bird and bat surveys. In July we installed a Meteorological Mast. SPR will collect data from this mast over the next 1-2 years to produce a comprehensive wind yield model for the extension site.

Due to the Government guidance issued because of the COVID-19 pandemic, face-to-face consultation is unfortunately not possible at present and may not be permitted for the foreseeable future. SPR is committed to undertaking meaningful and wide-reaching consultation and is therefore hosting a Virtual Public Information Event that is due to launch **on the 31 August 2020**. The event will identify how the design of the proposals has evolved to take on board public and consultee feedback as well as the findings of the environmental studies and assessments that have been completed. The event can be accessed using the following link via the project website.

www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/harestanessouth

In addition to the Virtual Public Information Event, we will continue to keep you updated in relation to our development activities at this site and continue to engage with you throughout the course of the development phase and beyond. If you would like further information on the proposals at this stage I would be very grateful if you could email the project mailbox at:

HarestanesSouthWindfarm@scottishpower.com

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Project Manager - Harestanes South Windfarm Extension

From: Harestanes South Windfarm
Sent: 26 August 2020 17:34
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal
Attachments: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Leaflet - August 2020.pdf;
Harestanes South Windfarm Extension - Ae CC Letter - August 20.pdf

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing to you in relation to the status of the Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal.

I have enclosed a letter which gives an update on the activities ScottishPower Renewables have been undertaking in relation to the proposal and to notify you that we are launching a Virtual Public Information Event on the 31 August 2020.

Please also see a leaflet enclosed that provides further information regarding the Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal.

If you have any queries in relation to the attached please do not hesitate to contact myself on the project email address noted below.

[REDACTED]

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Onshore Project Development Team
9th Floor ScottishPower House, 320 St Vincent St, Glasgow, G2 5AD



Before printing this message, make sure it's necessary.

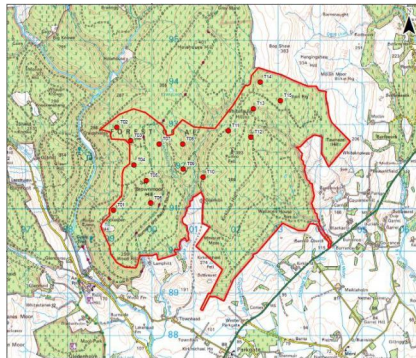
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Harestanes South Windfarm Extension

Scottish Power Renewables

- SPR is part of ScottishPower, 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 has become the first major UK utility to completely switch from the generation of fossil fuels to renewables. As a result, SPR are now investing more in the development of UK renewable sources, such as wind, solar and grid storage systems including batteries. In 2019 the company invested £4m every working day to make this happen.
- We currently own and operate four windfarms in D&G (Wether Hill, Harestanes, Ewe Hill and Kilgallioch). We have contributed over £7m in community benefits with in the region and have committed to £30m of community investment during the operational lifetime of these windfarms.
- We constructed 8 onshore windfarms in south-west Scotland in 2016 and 2017, at a total investment of £1.6 billion.

Harestanes South Windfarm Extension



- A Scoping Report was submitted to the Scottish Government in April.
- Scoping Layout 15 no. turbines - 200m to blade tip
- Range of environmental surveys underway and continuing throughout the year to inform windfarm design.
- We are now going through an iterative design process
- Section 36 Application programmed for submission to Scottish Government in December 2020

Agenda

NOTES OF MEETING

VENUE: Teams Meeting

DATE OF MEETING: 17/06/2020

PURPOSE OF MEETING: To introduce and give an overview of the proposals for an extension to Harestanes Windfarm.

Attended:

██████████ (SPR)	██████████ (WSP)	██████████ – Board Member 1 (Ae 1)
██████████ - Board Member 2 (Ae 2)		

Additional Circulation

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Item	Description	Action	Date
1.0	Introductions		
1.1	██████████ (ScottishPower Renewables Development Project Manager) ██████████ (WSP EIA Project Manager) ██████████ (Ae Community Council Chair) ██████████ (Ae Community Council Vice Chair).		
1.2	SPR – gave an overview of ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) and the proposed project.		
2.0	Reasons for Location		
2.1	SPR - As an extension site, it would use the existing Harestanes Windfarm access and grid connection, we would look to make best use of the existing infrastructure from the operational site to minimise impacts on the environment. We also gained good experience from the design and build of the operational Harestanes Windfarm. The site to the south of the operational site is being progressed as the land is owned by FLS who are the current landowner of the operational scheme. Ae 2 queried if this this area was being considered against other development prospects. SPR advised that this is one of a number of development opportunities that SPR are currently progressing across the country.		

NOTES OF MEETING

Item	Description	Action	Date
3.0	Timescales		
3.1	<p>Ae 1 queried the timescales for the proposed development.</p> <p>SPR advised that should a consent be granted it is likely we would like to start construction in late 2022/ 2023, this would last around 18months.</p> <p>SPR would seek to achieve a consent in perpetuity although this would need to be agreed with the Scottish Government.</p>		
4.0	Design		
4.1	<p>Ae 1/Ae 2 advised on the importance of the nearby recreational facility and that they would prefer to have no turbine visibility from Ae.</p> <p>SPR advised that we are moving through an iterative design process and that an initial design workshop had looked to reduce visual impacts on Ae and also move turbines away from the recreational area. This was based on landscape and visual receptors and feedback received following circulation of the consultation leaflet in May.</p> <p>Action: SPR to forward a revised turbine layout in a couple of weeks overlain by the mountain biking trails/ core path to provide perspective and revised wirelines.</p> <p>Action: Ae CC to provide a location of a viewpoint used at the Ae trails on a bridge and a wireline from this location is requested.</p> <p>[Note: wirelines are bare earth and do not include forestry]</p>		
6.0	Community Benefit		
6.1	<p>Ae 1 queried if a community benefit package would be available as part of the proposal.</p> <p>SPR advised a community benefit package will be available for this development although it is too early to advise what shape this will take. The operational scheme contributes around £300k per year to the Annandale & Nithsdale Community Benefit Company (ANCBC).</p> <p>Ae 2 queried if the community benefit package would be in line with Scottish Government requirements.</p> <p>SPR advised the Scottish Government has a guidance document with a suggested amount</p>		

NOTES OF MEETING

Item	Description	Action	Date
	Ae 2 advised the ANCBC fund is well managed but thought it would be beneficial if some funds came directly to affected community councils. At present only £2k per year goes directly to Community Councils.		
7.0	Other Topics		
7.1	Query regarding the forestry and construction access routes. These would be subject to a Construction Traffic Management Plan and would use agreed routes, likely to be the A701 via the existing operational windfarm access and not through Ae village. Assessment is being prepared at present and confirmation of the routes would follow. We are keen to minimise impact on the Village and trail centre at this location.		
7.2	Queried noise levels from wind farms; at what point would you be able to hear it? WSP advised that a noise assessment would be carried out as part of the EIA as noise levels are dependent on a number of factors, such as existing noise levels and topographic screening as well as distance.		
8.0	Communications/Consultation		
8.1	Ae CC requested a follow-up meeting with an additional two members of the community council. SPR agreed and advised he would also invite someone from our community liaison team.		
8.2	Ae CC suggested ways to help get information to the residents not all of which would have access to the internet. Ae CC offered to post information to residents; or use the school to display material for residents to take a look, or put up posters. SPR can e-mail information to Ae CC who have facilities for printing and making information available to the village. Or if SPR can produce materials and post, Ae CC would set it up for viewing.		
9.0	Next Steps		
9.1	SPR to issue revised turbine layout.		
9.2	Suggestion for next meeting week commencing the 20 th of July.		

Auldgirth and District Community Council

On Wed, 27 May 2020 at 10:28, Harestanes South Windfarm

[REDACTED] wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Following our letter dated 21/04/20 I am writing to advise of a leaflet we are circulating to properties located within 10km of the site boundary of our proposed development project, Harestanes South Windfarm Extension. The leaflet which I have enclosed within this email gives background on ScottishPower Renewables and also information on the development process that will be followed through 2020 as we worked towards submitting a planning application to the Scottish Government at the end of this year.

We are committed to engaging with local community councils and would welcome any discussions you may wish to have with ourselves throughout the course of development process and beyond. We appreciate that with current movement restrictions and social distancing requirements face to face discussions are not suitable at this time but we are happy to facilitate meaningful discussion over phone, email or Microsoft teams platforms.

Kind Regards, [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Onshore Project Development

[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 April 2020 12:06
To: Harestanes South Windfarm
Subject: EXTERNAL: Re: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you following my letter to Auldgirth and District Community Council in November 2019 regarding the installation of Meteorological Masts within the Ae Forest.

I have enclosed a letter which gives an update on the activities ScottishPower Renewables have been undertaking in relation to the Proposed Development Harestanes South Windfarm Extension.

If you have any queries in relation to the attached please do not hesitate to contact myself on the project email address noted below.

[REDACTED]

Kind Regards, [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Onshore Project Development

[REDACTED]



Before printing this message, make sure it's necessary.

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Closeburn Community Council

From: Harestanes South Windfarm [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 April 2020 12:06
To: Subject: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you following my letter to Closeburn Community Council in November 2019 regarding the installation of Meteorological Masts within the Ae Forest.

I have enclosed a letter which gives an update on the activities ScottishPower Renewables have been undertaking in relation to the Proposed Development Harestanes South Windfarm Extension.

If you have any queries in relation to the attached please do not hesitate to contact myself on the project email address noted below.

[REDACTED]

Kind Regards, [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Onshore Project Development

[REDACTED]



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Internal Use

From: Harestanes South Windfarm [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 May 2020 10:32
To: Subject: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension

Dear [REDACTED],

Following our letter dated 21/04/20 I am writing to advise of a leaflet we are circulating to properties located within 10km of the site boundary of our proposed development project, Harestanes South Windfarm Extension. The leaflet which I have enclosed within this email gives background on ScottishPower Renewables and also information on the development process that will be followed through 2020 as we worked towards submitting a planning application to the Scottish Government at the end of this year.

We are committed to engaging with local community councils and would welcome any discussions you may wish to have with ourselves throughout the course of development process and beyond. We appreciate that with current movement restrictions and social distancing requirements face to face discussions are not suitable at this time but we are happy to facilitate meaningful discussion over phone, email or Microsoft teams platforms.

Kind Regards, [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Onshore Project Development

[REDACTED]



Before printing this message, make sure it's necessary.

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Internal

Johnstone Community Council

From: Harestanes South Windfarm
Sent: 26 August 2020 17:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal
Attachments: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Leaflet - August 2020.pdf;
Harestanes South Windfarm Extension - Johnstone CC Letter -
August 20.pdf

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing to you in relation to the status of the Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal.

I have enclosed a letter which gives an update on the activities ScottishPower Renewables have been undertaking in relation to the proposal and to notify you that we are launching a Virtual Public Information Event on the 31 August 2020.

Please also see a leaflet enclosed that provides further information regarding the Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal.

If you have any queries in relation to the attached please do not hesitate to contact myself on the project email address noted below.

[REDACTED]

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Onshore Project Development Team
9th Floor ScottishPower House, 320 St Vincent St, Glasgow, G2 5AD



Before printing this message, make sure it's necessary.

The environment is in our hands

From: Harestanes South Windfarm [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 May 2020 10:25
To: Subject: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension

Dear [REDACTED],

Following our letter dated 21/04/20 I am writing to advise of a leaflet we are circulating to properties located within 10km of the site boundary of our proposed development project, Harestanes South Windfarm Extension. The leaflet which I have enclosed within this email gives background on ScottishPower Renewables and also information on the development process that will be followed through 2020 as we worked towards submitting a planning application to the Scottish Government at the end of this year.

We are committed to engaging with local community councils and would welcome any discussions you may wish to have with ourselves throughout the course of development process and beyond. We appreciate that with current movement restrictions and social distancing requirements face to face discussions are not suitable at this time but we are happy to facilitate meaningful discussion over phone, email or Microsoft teams etc.

Kind Regards, [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Onshore Project Development
[REDACTED]



Before printing this message, make sure it's necessary.

The environment is in our hands

Internal Use

From: Harestanes South Windfarm [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Sent: 22 April 2020 12:06

To: Subject: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing to you in relation to a proposal to extend the operational Harestanes Windfarm.

I have enclosed a letter which gives an update on the activities ScottishPower Renewables have been undertaking in relation to the Proposed Development Harestanes South Windfarm Extension.

If you have any queries in relation to the attached please do not hesitate to contact myself on the project email address noted below.

[REDACTED]

Kind Regards, [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Onshore Project Development
[REDACTED]



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Internal Use

Keir Community Council

From: Harestanes South Windfarm
Sent: 26 August 2020 17:33
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal
Attachments: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Leaflet - August 2020.pdf;
Harestanes South Windfarm Extension - Keir CC Letter - August 20.pdf

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing to you in relation to the status of the Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal.

I have enclosed a letter which gives an update on the activities ScottishPower Renewables have been undertaking in relation to the proposal and to notify you that we are launching a Virtual Public Information Event on the 31 August 2020.

Please also see a leaflet enclosed that provides further information regarding the Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal.

If you have any queries in relation to the attached please do not hesitate to contact myself on the project email address noted below.

[REDACTED]

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Onshore Project Development Team
9th Floor ScottishPower House, 320 St Vincent St, Glasgow, G2 5AD



Before printing this message, make sure it's necessary.

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Kirkmahoe Community Council

From: Harestanes South Windfarm
Sent: 26 August 2020 17:44
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal
Attachments: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Leaflet - August 2020.pdf;
Harestanes South Windfarm Extension - Kirkmahoe CC Letter -
August 20.pdf

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing to you in relation to the status of the Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal.

I have enclosed a letter which gives an update on the activities ScottishPower Renewables have been undertaking in relation to the proposal and to notify you that we are launching a Virtual Public Information Event on the 31 August 2020.

Please also see a leaflet enclosed that provides further information regarding the Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal.

If you have any queries in relation to the attached please do not hesitate to contact myself on the project email address noted below.

[REDACTED]

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Onshore Project Development Team
9th Floor ScottishPower House, 320 St Vincent St, Glasgow, G2 5AD



Before printing this message, make sure it's necessary.

The environment is in our hands

From: Harestanes South Windfarm [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 May 2020 10:29
To: Subject: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension

Dear [REDACTED],

Following our letter dated 21/04/20 I am writing to advise of a leaflet we are circulating to properties located within 10km of the site boundary of our proposed development project, Harestanes South Windfarm Extension. The leaflet which I have enclosed within this email gives background on ScottishPower Renewables and also information on the development process that will be followed through 2020 as we worked towards submitting a planning application to the Scottish Government at the end of this year.

We are committed to engaging with local community councils and would welcome any discussions you may wish to have with ourselves throughout the course of development process and beyond. We appreciate that with current movement restrictions and social distancing requirements face to face discussions are not suitable at this time but we are happy to facilitate meaningful discussion over phone, email or Microsoft teams platforms.

Kind Regards, [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Onshore Project Development

[REDACTED]



Before printing this message, make sure it's necessary.

The environment is in our hands

Internal Use

From: Harestanes South Windfarm [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 April 2020 12:06
To: Subject: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing to you following my letter to Kirkmahoe Community Council in November 2019 regarding the installation of Meteorological Masts within the Ae Forest.

I have enclosed a letter which gives an update on the activities ScottishPower Renewables have been undertaking in relation to the Proposed Development Harestanes South Windfarm Extension.

If you have any queries in relation to the attached please do not hesitate to contact myself on the project email address noted below.

[REDACTED]

Kind Regards, [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Onshore Project Development

[REDACTED]



Before printing this message, make sure it's necessary.

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Internal Us

Kirkmichael Community Council

From: Harestanes South Windfarm
Sent: 26 August 2020 17:41
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal
Attachments: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Leaflet - August 2020.pdf;
Harestanes South Windfarm Extension - Kirkmichael CC Letter -
August 20.pdf

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing to you in relation to the status of the Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal.

I have enclosed a letter which gives an update on the activities ScottishPower Renewables have been undertaking in relation to the proposal and to notify you that we are launching a Virtual Public Information Event on the 31 August 2020.

Please also see a leaflet enclosed that provides further information regarding the Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal.

If you have any queries in relation to the attached please do not hesitate to contact myself on the project email address noted below.

[REDACTED]

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Onshore Project Development Team
9th Floor ScottishPower House, 320 St Vincent St, Glasgow, G2 5AD



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From: Harestanes South Windfarm
Sent: 18 August 2020 17:06
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Following submission of a Scoping Report for the Harestanes South Windfarm Extension proposal to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU), we have received your consultation response on behalf of the Kirkmichael Community Council. Thank you for taking the time to consider our proposals and also offer comment.

Since our initial 15 turbine scoping layout was submitted to the ECU in April we have been working through an iterative design process that has evolved following surveys, desk based studies and also feedback from the consultation leaflet that was circulated to local residents and businesses in April of this year. At present we are assessing a reduced 8 turbine layout, I have attached this latest layout for information.

Viewpoints Query – Nethermill and Parkgate

As per your request we have produced additional viewpoints of the proposed site from Parkgate and Nethermill based on the most recent turbine layout.

Please see attached documents 'Nethermill Viewpoint' and 'Parkgate Viewpoint' – please note that these viewpoints demonstrate the bare earth model and do not factor in trees, bushes and existing structures such as walls and buildings.

Cultural Heritage Query – Grave Site

The grave site was noted during one of our surveys of the site, this area and its surroundings are forming part of our Environmental Impact Assessment.

Appendix A Query – Map of proposed site

As noted above we have included the latest turbine layout this corresponds to the viewpoints figures also attached

We are launching a Virtual Public Information Event at the end of August where we will present the findings of our assessment to date and also the latest layout proposal. Further information regarding the event will be sent to you shortly.

We appreciate face to face meetings are not possible at the moment but if you would like any further information on the proposals at this stage or for me to arrange a call with yourself please let me know.

Kind Regards

[Redacted]



[Redacted]

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Internal Use

From: Harestanes South Windfarm [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 May 2020 10:32
To: Subject: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension

Dear [REDACTED]

Following our letter dated 21/04/20 I am writing to advise of a leaflet we are circulating to properties located within 10km of the site boundary of our proposed development project, Harestanes South Windfarm Extension. The leaflet which I have enclosed within this email gives background on ScottishPower Renewables and also information on the development process that will be followed through 2020 as we worked towards submitting a planning application to the Scottish Government at the end of this year.

We are committed to engaging with local community councils and would welcome any discussions you may wish to have with ourselves throughout the course of development process and beyond. We appreciate that with current movement restrictions and social distancing requirements face to face discussions are not suitable at this time but we are happy to facilitate meaningful discussion over phone, email or Microsoft teams platforms.

Kind Regards [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Onshore Project Development

[REDACTED]



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Internal Use

From: Harestanes South Windfarm [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 April 2020 12:06
To: Subject: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you following my letter to Kirkmichael Community Council in November 2019 regarding the installation of Meteorological Masts within the Ae Forest.

I have enclosed a letter which gives an update on the activities ScottishPower Renewables have been undertaking in relation to the Proposed Development Harestanes South Windfarm Extension.

If you have any queries in relation to the attached please do not hesitate to contact myself on the project email address noted below.

[REDACTED]

Kind Regards, [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Onshore Project Development

[REDACTED]



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Lochmaben and District Community Council

From: Harestanes South Windfarm
Sent: 26 August 2020 17:36
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal
Attachments: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Leaflet - August 2020.pdf;
Harestanes South Windfarm Extension - Lochmaben & District CC
Letter - August 20.pdf

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing to you in relation to the status of the Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal.

I have enclosed a letter which gives an update on the activities ScottishPower Renewables have been undertaking in relation to the proposal and to notify you that we are launching a Virtual Public Information Event on the 31 August 2020.

Please also see a leaflet enclosed that provides further information regarding the Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal.

If you have any queries in relation to the attached please do not hesitate to contact myself on the project email address noted below.

[REDACTED]

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Onshore Project Development Team
9th Floor ScottishPower House, 320 St Vincent St, Glasgow, G2 5AD



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Tinwald Parish Community Council

From: Harestanes South Windfarm
Sent: 26 August 2020 17:39
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal
Attachments: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Leaflet - August 2020.pdf;
Harestanes South Windfarm Extension - Tinwald Parish CC - August 20.pdf

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing to you in relation to the status of the Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal.

I have enclosed a letter which gives an update on the activities ScottishPower Renewables have been undertaking in relation to the proposal and to notify you that we are launching a Virtual Public Information Event on the 31 August 2020.

Please also see a leaflet enclosed that provides further information regarding the Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Proposal.

If you have any queries in relation to the attached please do not hesitate to contact myself on the project email address noted below.

[REDACTED]

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Onshore Project Development Team
9th Floor ScottishPower House, 320 St Vincent St, Glasgow, G2 5AD



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From: Harestanes South Windfarm [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 May 2020 10:30
To: Subject: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension

Dear [REDACTED],

Following our letter dated 21/04/20 I am writing to advise of a leaflet we are circulating to properties located within 10km of the site boundary of our proposed development project, Harestanes South Windfarm Extension. The leaflet which I have enclosed within this email gives background on ScottishPower Renewables and also information on the development process that will be followed through 2020 as we worked towards submitting a planning application to the Scottish Government at the end of this year.

We are committed to engaging with local community councils and would welcome any discussions you may wish to have with ourselves throughout the course of development process and beyond. We appreciate that with current movement restrictions and social distancing requirements face to face discussions are not suitable at this time but we are happy to facilitate meaningful discussion over phone, email or Microsoft teams platforms.

Kind Regards, [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Onshore Project Development

[REDACTED]



Before printing this message, make sure it's necessary.

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Internal Use

From: Harestanes South Windfarm [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 April 2020 12:06
To: Subject: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing to you following my letter to Tinwald Parish Community Council in November 2019 regarding the installation of Meteorological Masts within the Ae Forest.

I have enclosed a letter which gives an update on the activities ScottishPower Renewables have been undertaking in relation to the Proposed Development Harestanes South Windfarm Extension.

If you have any queries in relation to the attached please do not hesitate to contact myself on the project email address noted below.

[REDACTED]

Kind Regards, [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Onshore Project Development

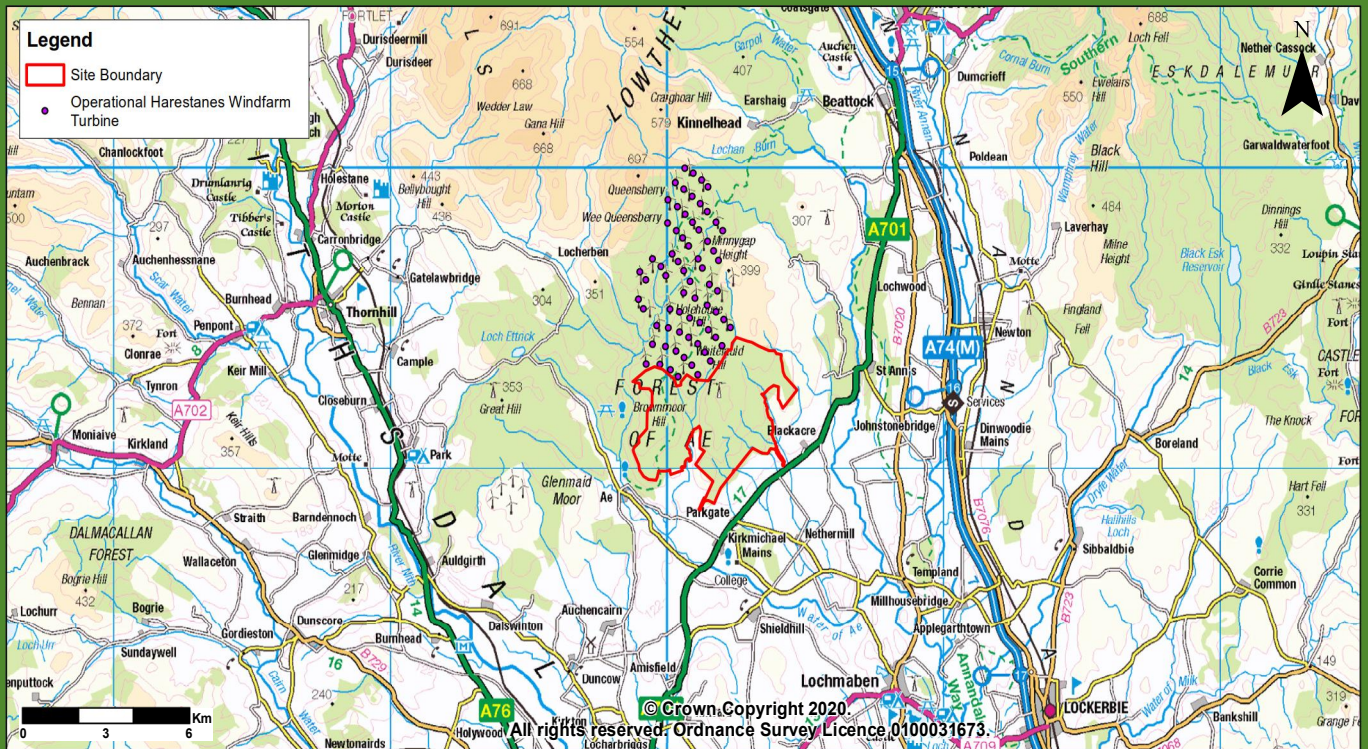
[REDACTED]



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Appendix B: Public Consultation Leaflet



Harestanes South Windfarm Extension

Public Consultation Leaflet

Why are we contacting you?

ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) is sending you this leaflet to introduce our proposal for an extension to the operational Harestanes Windfarm within the Forest of Ae on the National Forest Estate, north-east of the village of Ae in Dumfries and Galloway. The area SPR is investigating has been shown on the plan above.

At present we are investigating the potential to extend the operational Harestanes Windfarm by up to 15 wind turbines with tip heights of up to 200m, the design is still in the early stages.

The operational Harestanes Windfarm was completed in 2014 and can generate up to 136MW of clean, green, renewable energy. By extending the windfarm SPR can utilise existing infrastructure while increasing the overall generating capacity. This will help meet the increasing demand for clean energy, will assist in meeting Scottish Government targets for renewable energy and will provide increased energy security.

The design will be shaped by the results of ongoing environmental and technical studies. We will also give careful consideration to how this proposal fits within the existing landscape, considering its visibility from key viewpoints in the surrounding area and how it 'fits' with surrounding windfarms in the area.

Early consultation is key to the way SPR develops projects. We believe in open consultation and welcome your feedback to inform the design process. You can contact the project team in a variety of ways noted in the contact section on the next page.

Who are we?

SPR is a 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* 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.

SPR 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, SPR manages all its sites through its world leading Control Centre at Whitelee Windfarm, near Glasgow.

Did you know?

To date, SPR's operational windfarms have contributed more than £36 million of support towards community initiatives across the UK, with our existing local windfarms (Ewe Hill, Harestanes, Wether Hill, Glen App and Kilgallioch) contributing over £7m of support to Dumfries and Galloway communities.

Our ambitious growth plans include expansion of our existing onshore wind portfolio, investment in new large scale solar deployment and innovative grid storage systems including batteries.

With established sites nearby, SPR has a history of working positively with local communities within the region. We are keen to further encourage opportunities for local employment and harnessing local skills required to maximise economic benefits delivered locally and ensure those who live near our sites benefit.

Drivers for renewable energy

The UK Government and the Scottish Government have both declared a 'climate emergency' and are committed to ensuring that an increased proportion of electricity is generated from renewable energy sources in order to meet carbon emission targets. The Scottish Climate Change Bill (2018) introduces a target of net-zero gas emissions by 2045 at the latest, with Scotland becoming carbon neutral by 2040. Scotland will also have to reduce emissions by 56% by 2020, 70% by 2030 and 90% by 2040. These are currently the most ambitious statutory targets in the world.

Powering your community

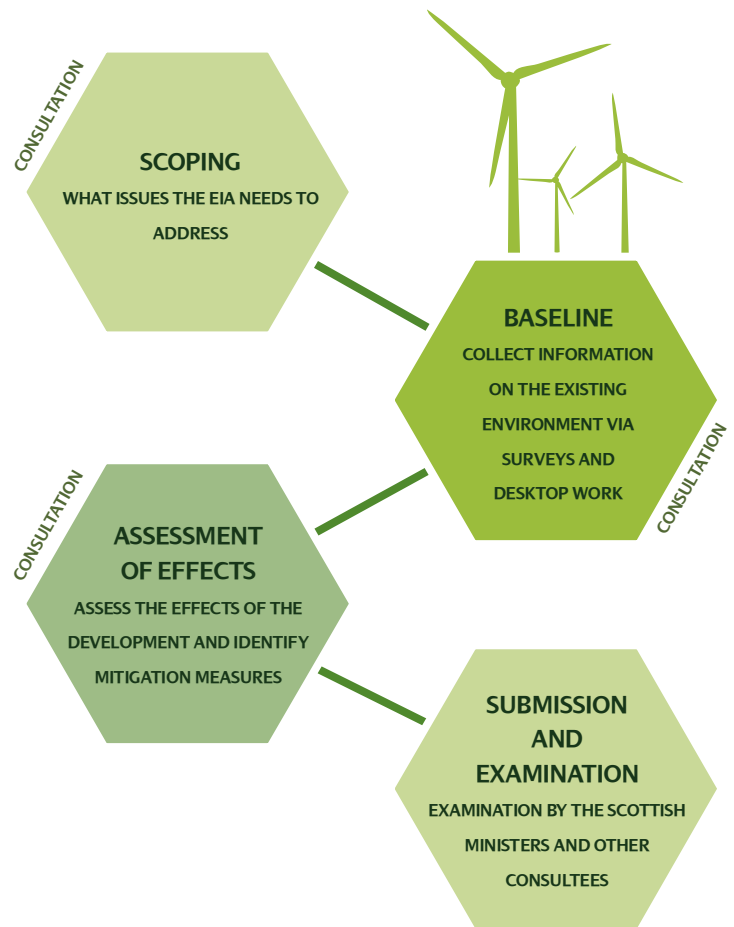
SPR encourages as many people as possible to get involved in, and to learn more about, our projects, particularly in understanding the local economic and social benefits our developments can create.

As the development of Harestanes South Windfarm Extension progresses we will continue to engage with communities, stakeholders and Dumfries and Galloway Council to determine how benefits could be delivered to best meet the needs of the local area, should the proposed development be consented. We recognise the challenges the COVID-19 global pandemic presents in undertaking face to face meetings and public events. We will continue to welcome open and meaningful dialogue with individuals and communities in relation to our projects and will strive to keep you informed during this difficult time.

Environmental Impact Assessment

An Environmental Impact Assessment is required for the proposed development and will be informed by a request to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit for a Scoping Opinion. This will confirm the environmental aspects that are to be assessed.

We have been undertaking ornithological surveys in the vicinity of the site since September 2019. We will also be undertaking a range of further environmental surveys throughout the course of this year (when possible in line with government guidance) to ensure that all relevant environmental factors are considered in the design and that the potential environmental effects are fully understood and avoided or mitigated. A summary of the key stages of the process is provided in the diagram on the right.



Next Steps

We will use consultation feedback and findings from environmental surveys and technical studies to shape the design of the proposed development ahead of submitting an application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, which we anticipate to be by the end of 2020.

CONTACT

WEBPAGE:

www.scottishpowerrenewables.com

PROJECT E-MAIL:

HarestanesSouthWindfarm@scottishpower.com

TELEPHONE:

0141 614 9067

POSTAL ADDRESS:

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