



Harestanes West Windfarm

Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)
Report

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Abbreviations

ANCBC	Annan and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company
BT	British Telecom
DGC	Dumfries and Galloway Council
DIO	Defence Infrastructure Organisation
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FLS	Forestry and Land Scotland
GWh	Gigawatts
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
JRC	Joint Radio Company
m	Metres
MW	Megawatts
NGR	National Grid Reference
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
NTS	Non-technical Summary
PAC	Pre-application Consultation Report
PIEs	Public Information Events
RSK	RSK Environment
UK	United Kingdom
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds



SPR	ScottishPower Renewables
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SUW	Southern Upland Way

1. Introduction

1.1. Overview

1. This Report constitutes a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report which describes the consultation measures undertaken by ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Ltd (hereafter 'the Applicant') for the Harestanes West Windfarm (hereafter 'the proposed Development'), the feedback received and any resultant modifications to the proposed Development.
2. The Applicant recognises that it is very important to ensure that communities in the vicinity of any development are afforded appropriate and meaningful opportunities to comment on the proposals before they are finalised in accordance with regulations and good practice guidance.

1.2. The Proposed Development

3. The proposed Development would be located within the Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC) administrative area, situated north-west of the Village of Ae and north of Dumfries. The centre of the turbine area is at National Grid Reference (NGR) NX 95993 91814.). The exact location of the proposed site is shown on **Figure 1.1** of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
4. The Site (the area within the Application Boundary) lies wholly within the administrative boundary of DGC. Access to the Site will be provided from the A701 public road at the existing Harestanes Windfarm access point to the east of Ae Village (**Figure 1.2** of the EIA Report).
5. The proposed Development would comprise the optimum renewables technologies at the time and comprises 12 three-bladed horizontal axis wind turbines up to 220 metres (m) tip height, with a rated output of around 84 megawatts (MW) or around 186 gigawatts (GWh) of electricity annually, enough to power the equivalent of 47,596 homes¹. The final proposed layout is shown on **Figure 3.1** of the EIA Report.

1.3. The Applicant

6. Harestanes West Windfarm is being proposed by ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Ltd (SPR).
7. 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 only produces 100% green electricity – focusing on wind energy, smart grids and driving the change to a cleaner, electric future. The company has committed to investing over £8m every working day to make this happen, and to speed 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

¹ Calculations from the Scottish Government Renewable electricity output and energy conversion calculator's website: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/renewable-and-conversion-calculators/> [accessed September 2024]



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.

8. With over 40 operational windfarms, ScottishPower Renewables manages all its sites through its world leading Control Centre at Whitelee Windfarm, near Glasgow.
9. The proposed Development is a result of SPR's partnership with Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), where SPR was awarded exclusive rights to investigate the feasibility of onshore renewable energy projects within the National Forest Estate in the west of Scotland.
10. SPR is already well established in the west of Scotland and currently owns and operates four onshore windfarms in the Dumfries & Galloway region (Kilgallioch, Harestanes, Ewe Hill and Wether Hill). SPR currently operate in excess of 3 GW of windfarm generating capacity in Scotland.

1.4. Consultation Guidance and Legislation

11. The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 apply applications for planning permission across Scotland and set out various criteria that are to be used to differentiate planning applications by development types and to define developments as either National, Major or Local developments. That differentiation is used to ensure that applications are dealt with in an appropriate way to their scale and complexity, allowing decisions to be taken at the most appropriate level.
12. Proposals for renewable energy developments such as the proposed Development, with a potential electrical capacity greater than 50 MW, are subject to the consenting procedures set out in Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (the Electricity Act) and applications are made directly to the Scottish Ministers and are treated as a "National Development" under National Planning Policy Framework 4.
13. There is no statutory obligation to consult the public under the terms of the Electricity Act application process. Nevertheless, the Applicant has applied the principles of the consultation process recommended for 'major' and 'national' planning applications as set out in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, circular 3:2013-Development Management Procedures and the Energy Consents Unit's (ECU's) Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (2022). This enables the local community and all those with an interest in the proposals a clear opportunity to provide comment and feedback on the proposals.

1.5. Report Structure

14. Following this introductory Section, the remainder of this Report comprises the following Sections:
 - Section 2: Consultation Measures
 - Describes the different types of consultation undertaken for the proposed Development.



- Section 3: Public Information Events
 - Describes the consultation process undertaken for the Public Information Events (PIEs) from June 2023 to October 2024, and provides results of the feedback received.
 - Section 4: Consultations
 - Describes how the consultation process has influenced the design of the proposed Development.
 - Section 5: Appendices
 - Contains copies of the press adverts, posters, leaflets and other information used for public consultation undertaken for the proposed Development.
15. The content of PAC Reports prepared for Section 36 applications such as Harestanes West Windfarm are covered in Table 1 of the ECU's Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (2022). This advises that the contents should contain the following information:
- *“the dates on which and places where public events were held;*
 - *a description of any additional steps taken by the applicant to consult with members of the public regarding the development;*
 - *a list of bodies, groups and organisations who were consulted by the applicant and a description of how they were consulted;*
 - *a description of any materials sent to consultees and materials provided to those attending public events;*
 - *copies of any visual presentation shown or displayed at a public event, and photographs of any display boards or models at public events;*
 - *confirmation as to whether consultees and attendees at public events were informed that pre-application consultation does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to the Scottish Ministers;*
 - *a summary of the written responses to consultations and views raised at public events, including an indication of the number of written responses received and the number of persons who attended the public events;*
 - *an explanation of how the applicant took account of views raised during the pre-application consultation process; and*
 - *an explanation of how members of the public were given feedback on the applicant's consideration of the views raised during the pre-application consultation process.”*
16. The Applicant has complied with the above on the content of the PAC Report as far as is reasonably practicable.

2. Consultation Measures

17. **Table 2.1** provides an overview of the stages of consultation undertaken for the proposed Development.

Table 2.1: Stages of Consultation Undertaken for the proposed Development.

Consultation Activity	Details	Steps Undertaken by the Applicant
Pre-Application Consultation	<p>The applicant is expected to hold at two public consultation events prior to submitting the application. The final public event should be held at least 14 days after the first public event.</p> <p>The public events are to give members of the public the opportunity to make comments to the applicant as regards the proposed development.</p>	<p>Face-to-face Public Information Events (PIEs) were undertaken in two rounds. The first round was held as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 21st June 2023 at Auldgirth Community Hall, DG2 0XG, 2.30pm – 7.30pm; and Thursday 22nd June 2023 at Dalwinston Village Hall, DG2 0XY, 10.30am – 4.00pm <p>For the first round, members of the public were given the opportunity to provide feedback via the online feedback forum, email or letter up to 20th July 2023.</p> <p>The second round was held as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 10th September 2024 at Closeburn Village Hall, Closeburn, Thornhill DG3 5HR, 2:00pm – 7:00pm Wednesday 11th September 2024 at Ae Primary School, Ae Village, Dumfries DG1 1RG, 10.30am – 5:00pm <p>For the first round, members of the public were given the opportunity to provide feedback via the online feedback forum, email or letter up to 10th October 2024.</p>
Notice of the pre-application consultation events	<p>At least seven days before holding a public event, the applicant should publish on the applicant's website and in a local newspaper circulating in the locality in which the proposed development is situated a notice containing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a description of, and the location of, the proposed development; 	<p>For the first round of public consultation, an information leaflet was distributed to the 500 residences nearest to the turbine area, introducing the proposed Development and inviting the public to participate in upcoming PIEs.</p> <p>Details of the first round of PIEs were advertised locally in the</p>



Consultation Activity	Details	Steps Undertaken by the Applicant
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • details as to where further information may be obtained concerning the proposed development; • the date and place of the public event; • a statement explaining how, and by when, persons wishing to make comments to the applicant relating to the proposal may do so; and • a statement that comments made to the applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers and if the applicant submits an application there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the Scottish Ministers. 	<p>Dumfries Courier, Annandale Herald, Moffat News, Annandale Observer and Galloway Gazette from Monday 12th to Friday 16th June 2023.</p> <p>For the second round of public consultation, an information leaflet was distributed to 2,600 residences within 10 km to the turbine area.</p> <p>Details of the second round of PIEs were advertised locally in the Dumfries Courier, Annandale Herald, Moffat News, Annandale Observer and Galloway Gazette from Monday 26th to Friday 30th August 2024.</p>
<p>Details of the pre-application consultation events</p>	<p>The applicant should provide the following details at the public event and publish these details on the applicant's website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a description of the development to be carried out; • a plan showing the outline of the site at which the development is to be carried out and sufficient to identify that site; and • details as to how the applicant may be contacted and corresponded with. 	<p>Information about the proposed Development and the public consultation arrangements were included on the Applicant's dedicated website for the proposed Development, alongside an online feedback form.</p>
<p>Content of public event and pre-application consultation report</p>	<p>The applicant is expected to prepare a pre-application consultation ("PAC Report") setting out what has been done to accord with the guidance set out above. The PAC Report should be submitted with the application.</p> <p>The PAC Report should contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the dates on which and places where events were held; 	<p>As outlined in this table, the dates and additional steps taken by the consultant to consult with members of the public have been referenced.</p> <p>Organisations were contacted as part of the scoping process. These organisations were invited to provide feedback on the scope of the assessment of environmental impacts.</p> <p>Following design freeze, the Applicant submitted a Gatecheck</p>



Consultation Activity	Details	Steps Undertaken by the Applicant
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a description of any additional steps taken by the applicant to consult with members of the public regarding the development • a list of bodies, groups and organisations who were consulted by the applicant and a description of how they were consulted; • a description of any materials sent to consultees and materials provided to those attending public events; • confirmation as to whether consultees and attendees at public events were informed that pre-application consultation does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to the Scottish Ministers; • a summary of the written responses to consultations and views raised a public events, including an indication of the number of written responses received and the number of persons who attended the public events; • an explanation of how the applicant took account of views raised during the pre-application consultation process; and • an explanation of how members of the public were given feedback on the applicant's considerations of the views raised during the pre-application consultation process. 	<p>Report to the Energy Consents Unit.</p> <p>Further details of the issues raised and the Applicant's response to each issue is provided in the EIA Report.</p> <p>The public notices and information leaflets distributed for the public events stated: <i>"Please note that this notice does not relate to an application and that any comments made on the proposals to SPR at this stage are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. When an application is subsequently submitted, normal publicity will be undertaken at that time and you will have the opportunity to make a formal representation then."</i></p>

2.1. Scoping

18. The Applicant issued a request for scoping to the ECU and a scoping opinion was received from the ECU on March 2023. The response was analysed, relevant points taken forward and used to inform the assessment process and develop the design.
19. The following consultees were contacted as part of the Scoping exercise:
 - Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC);
 - Historic Environment Scotland (HES);
 - NatureScot;
 - Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA);
 - Energy Consents Unit (ECU);
 - Airwaves Solutions (Motorola); and
 - British Telecom (BT);
 - Civil Aviation Authority (CAA);
 - Crown Estate Scotland;
 - Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO);
 - Fisheries Management Scotland;
 - Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere;
 - Galloway Fisheries Trust;
 - Glasgow Airport;
 - Glasgow Prestwick Airport;
 - John Muir Trust;
 - Joint Radio Company (JRC);
 - Marine Scotland;
 - MET Office;
 - Ministry of Defence;
 - Mountaineering Scotland;
 - NATS;
 - Nith District Salmon Fishery Board;
 - Nuclear Safety Directorate (HSE) / Office for Nuclear Regulation;
 - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB);
 - Scottish Forestry;



- Scottish Water;
 - Scottish Wild Land Group;
 - Scottish Wildlife Trust;
 - Scotways;
 - The British Horse Society Scotland;
 - The Coal Authority;
 - The River Annan Trust and District Salmon Fishery Board;
 - Transport Scotland;
 - Visit Scotland;
 - West of Scotland Archaeology Service;
 - Woodland Trust;
 - Ae Community Council;
 - Auldgirth and District Community Council;
 - Closeburn Community Council;
 - Johnstonebridge Community Council;
 - Keir Community Council;
 - Kirkmahoe Community Council;
 - Kirkmichael Community Council;
 - Lochmaben and District Community Council; and
 - Tinwald Parish Community Council;
20. Consultation responses received as part of the Scoping process have been considered in the EIA and the issues raised are reported in **Chapter 6** of the EIA Report.
21. Further consultation was conducted to further refine the scope and assess the finalised layout with the following consultees:
- NatureScot;
 - SEPA;
 - HES; and
 - DGC.

2.2. Community Council Consultation and Local Councillors

2.2.1. Outgoing Communication

22. The Applicant has kept eight Community Councils local to the proposed Development informed on project progress since the Scoping exercise in March 2023. The Applicant notes that due to an administrative error, Closeburn Community Council did not receive an email invitation to the second round of PIEs in September 2024, but were made aware through other advertising efforts and attended. Ae Community Council was not active when the consultation was undertaken for the Scoping exercise in March 2023 or the first round of public consultation was undertaken in June 2023, but was consulted for the public consultation events August 2024.

23. The Applicant sent emails to the following Community Councils and Ward 8 (Lochar) local councillors regarding PIEs in June 2023 and August 2024 (see example emails to the community councils and local councillors in **Appendix 4**):

- Closeburn Community Council (note, no email was issued in August 2024);
- Kirkmichael Community Council;
- Tinwald Parish Community Council;
- Kirkmahoe Community Council;
- Auldgirth and District Community Council;
- Ae Community Council;
- Lochmaben and District Community Council;
- Keir Community Council;
- Linda Dorward;
- Ivor Hyslop;
- Maureen Johnstone; and
- Tracy Little.

2.2.2. Incoming Communication

24. Following the advertising of the Public Information Event in June 2023, the Applicant received feedback from members of the local community of Ae noting that Ae Community Council was not active and was arranging elections, and that further public consultation events ought to be held in the village of Ae. It received an initial response from Oliver Mundell MSP noting the public consultation events were due to take place.

25. Following the advertising of the Public Information Event in September 2024, the Applicant received an email from Closeburn Community Council, confirming that they would be attending the Public Information Event on 10th September 2024, and requesting we provide the following:



- Photomontages of the windfarm as viewed from Closeburn village and other points in the Nithsdale and Annandale valleys;
 - Details regarding community benefit; and
 - Details regarding community investment.
26. The Applicant also received engagement from Ae Community Council, who assisted in the booking of Ae Primary School as a venue for the September 2024 Public Information Event, and confirmed that they would attend on 11th September 2024.
27. No other responses were received from community councillors or local councillors in relation to the PIEs.

2.3. Consultation with Other Organisations

28. Engagement with other organisations has been undertaken from the Scoping stage onwards. Following design freeze, the Applicant submitted a Gatecheck Report to the Energy Consents Unit that was cascaded to Historic Environment Scotland, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, NatureScot and Dumfries and Galloway Council as well as other consultees.
29. Further details of the issues raised and the Applicant's response to each issue is provided as a tabulated summary in **Volume 4 Technical Appendix 6.1 - Consultation Matrix** of the EIA Report.

2.4. Public Information Events

30. As summarised above in **Table 2.1** and below in **Section 3**, two rounds of public information events (PIEs) were held for the proposed Development.
31. The first Public Information Events (held June 2023) allowed local residents to view the initial wind turbine layout and ask any questions specific to the proposed Development. The second PIEs (held September 2024) provided local residents with an update on the progress of the proposed Development, another opportunity to review the information, the chance to view the refined final layout and to submit further feedback or queries.
32. Each PIE contained exhibition boards that visitors could browse. These are presented in **Appendix 2** and **Appendix 3** of this document.
33. Members of the public were also invited to view wirelines from locations of their choice via ReSoft WindFarm© software.

2.5. Website and Email

34. A dedicated project website was set up for the proposed Development prior to the first round of public information events and has been maintained and publicly available for the duration of the project to date.
35. It is available here:
https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/harestanes_west_windfarm.aspx
36. A dedicated project email address has also been made available for the same duration:
HarestanesWestWindfarm@scottishpower.com

3. Public Information Events

37. Face-to-face PIEs were hosted on the 21st and 22nd June 2023 and 10th and 11th September 2024.

3.1. Notification

38. As detailed in **Table 2.1** above, the PIEs were advertised in several ways, to help ensure as many local residents as possible were made aware of the proposed Development in good time to enable them to take part and discuss their views with others. The notices for the first round of public exhibitions were issued from the 12th to 16th June 2023, and for the second round from 26th to 30th August 2024.

3.1.1. Newspaper and Online Adverts

39. The ECU's Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 requires that a notice is published in a local newspaper a minimum of seven days before holding a public event. As the guidance suggest the public notice should contain:

- a description of, and the location of, the proposed Development;
- details as to where further information may be obtained concerning the proposed Development;
- the date and place of the public event;
- a statement explaining how, and by when, persons wishing to make comments to the prospective applicant relating to the proposal may do so; and
- a statement that comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the planning authority and if the prospective applicant submits an application there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the planning authority.

40. Public notices, containing all information required above, was placed in both printed and online versions of each of the following in the week before the events took place:

- Dumfries Courier;
- Annandale Herald;
- Moffat News;
- Annandale Observer; and
- Galloway Gazette.

41. For the first round of public consultation, the public were able to submit questions or views via the online feedback form, email or letter up to 20th July 2023. A copy of the notice is contained in **Appendix 2**.



42. For the second round of public consultation, the public were able to submit questions or views via the online feedback form, email or letter up to 10th October 2024. A copy of the notice is contained in **Appendix 3**.

3.1.2. Community Councillors and Local Councillors

43. As noted in **Section 2.2.1**, emails and digital leaflets were distributed to local community councils (excluding Closeburn in 2024, due to an administrative error) and four local councillors, to notify them of the PIEs in June 2023 and August 2024 (see **Appendix 4**). Despite not receiving an email invitation, a representative of Closeburn Community Council was made aware of the PIEs through other advertising means and attended the PIE in Closeburn in September 2024. The recipients were invited to distribute the leaflets because of their local knowledge and connections with relevant stakeholders. A copy of the digital leaflets issued in can be viewed in **Appendix 2 and Appendix 3**.

3.1.3. Other Bodies

44. For the second round of public consultation undertaken in September 2024, further engagement was undertaken with various identified bodies as identified in **Table 3.1** below.

Table 3.1 Summary of further engagement undertaken for the second round of public consultation.

Organisation	Engagement undertaken
Annadale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company (ANCBC)	The Applicant contacted the ANCBC in advance of the second round of public consultation, requesting if they could also share this with local community.
Southern Upland Way (SUW) Rangers	The Applicant contacted the SUW Rangers in advance of the second round of public consultation.
Local Community Councils	The Applicant contacted as identified above in advance of the second round of public consultation.
Martin Page, Forestry and Land Scotland	The Applicant contacted in advance of the second round of public consultation requesting if they could also share this with local community.
Dumfries District Ramblers	The Applicant contacted the Dumfries District Rambles group in advance of the second round of public consultation. https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/ramblers-groups/dumfries-district-group#contact
Annan Online	The Applicant contacted the Annan Online in advance of the second round of public consultation info@annan.org.uk https://www.annan.org.uk/walking-group/reports/annan_wg119.html

3.1.4. Residents

45. For the first round, in advance of the PIE, the Applicant distributed leaflets to 500 residents nearest to the turbines area. A copy of the leaflet is available in **Appendix 2**.
46. For the second round of public consultation, an information leaflet was distributed to 2,600 residences within 10 km to the turbine area. A copy is available in **Appendix 3**. The leaflets set out the purpose of the public events, provided details of the events, provided a description of the proposed Development and background on the proposals.

3.2. Information Available at PIEs

47. Copies of the Drawings and Plans that were available and on display at the PIEs are contained within **Appendix 2** for the first round and **Appendix 3** for the second round. The information presented included:
- a Site overview;
 - a location plan for the proposed Development;
 - details about the Environmental Impact Assessment process and survey work;
 - details of community benefit; and
 - information and facts about wind energy in general.
48. For the second round, four photomontage visualisations were also available for the public to view and assess the likely visual effect from key viewpoints. For both rounds, members of the public were also invited to view wirelines from locations of their choice via ReSoft WindFarm© software.

3.3. Consultation Feedback

49. The National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) notes that throughout the planning system, opportunities exist for everyone to engage in the development decisions, with consultations design to meet the communication needs of the people.

3.3.1. First Round of Public Consultation

50. A total of two responses via email to the initial round of public consultation undertaken in June and July 2023 were received.
51. A total of 13 members of the public attended the first round of PIEs on 21st and 22nd June 2023.
52. According to website traffic, there were 176 people visits to the Harestanes West PIE website, over the period between June and July 2023.

Table 3.2: Summary of feedback received from the June and July 2023 round of public consultation

Topic	Feedback
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that no venue in the village of Ae had been selected for the first round of public information events held in June 2023. The Applicant committed to holding a public information event in Ae for the second round. • Interest from Closeburn Community Council in meeting the Applicant's Community Fund team. Applicant arranged a meeting held in autumn 2023.
Employment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest expressed in becoming an approved supplier to ScottishPower Renewables. The Applicant engaged with its procurement team.
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about landscape and residential visual amenity from a property close to the Site.
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about noise relating to a property close to the Site



3.3.2. Second Round of Public Consultation

53. Reflecting on the level of engagement for the first round of public consultation, for the second round, the Applicant increased the area and number of properties that received a leaflet. A total of 72 responses via post and email to the second round of public consultation undertaken in September and October 2024 were received.
54. A total of 44 members of the public attended the second round of PIEs on 10th and 11th September 2024.
55. According to website traffic, there were 173 visits to the Harestanes West PIE website, over the period between September and October 2024.

Table 3.3: Summary of feedback received from the September and October 2024 round of public consultation

Topic	Feedback
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern about construction and operation vehicles taking shortcuts through local roads and local disruption. Applicant responded to confirm heavy goods vehicles and abnormal indivisible loads would not be accessing the Site except from the A701 via operational Harestanes Windfarm. <p>Concern about construction vehicles and risk to walkers, cyclists, horse riders and drivers. Applicant responded to confirm improvements to the existing tracks form part of the proposed Development, that safety measures will be put in place, and temporary diversions to footpaths adopted where possible.</p>
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern about lack of benefit for locals. Applicant responded to summarise its commitments to community benefit associated with the proposed Development. Concern about economic impact to community and businesses. Applicant responded to highlight supply chain opportunities, and that a socio-economic impact assessment would be provided with the application for consent. Ideas put forward for how community benefit might be best spent or distributed. Applicant responded to acknowledge the ideas presented. Concern about impacts on health and wellbeing. The Applicant responded that the EIA Report would consider factors relevant to human health such as noise, traffic and transportation and residential amenity. Concern about impact on property values. Concern about the timing of the public consultation being too close to when the application for consent was to be submitted. Applicant explained that a first round had been held in June 2023.
Hydrology, peat and soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern about lack of information about soils in the information presented in the public information events. The Applicant responded to say full details will be available in the EIA Report. <p>Concern about impact on water supplies. The Applicant responded to say full details will be available in the EIA Report.</p>
Landscape and Visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern about the size and scale of the turbines, and cumulative effects. Applicant responded that turbine locations are carefully chosen to balance landscape, engineering constraints, turbine efficiency and other environmental considerations.

Topic	Feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned that it was difficult to understand the scale of the turbines from the information provided relative to operational windfarms nearby. The Applicant responded that visitors to the events were provided with the opportunity to view what the turbines would look like as wirelines from locations of their choice, with wirelines for the turbines for nearby operational windfarms, and that visualisations will be provided as part of the EIA Report when the application is submitted. Concern about aviation lighting and dark skies. Applicant responded that a reduced lighting scheme has been approved by the Civil Aviation Authority including for reduced lighting intensity during clear atmospheric conditions.
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern about impacts on tourism. Applicant responded to state it was committed to providing recreational enhancements as part of the proposed Development, and that a socio-economic impact assessment would be provided with the application for consent.
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern raised about noise impacts. Applicant responded that full details will be included in the EIA Report.
Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern about impacts on red squirrels and rare birds. Applicant responded that a thorough assessment of impacts on ecology had been undertaken and would be presented in the EIA Report.
Shadow Flicker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern about shadow flicker. Applicant responded that full details will be included in the EIA Report.
Aviation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern about impacts to low-flying aircraft. Applicant responded that consideration of impacts to aircraft will be included in the EIA Report.
Renewables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views expressed that onshore wind turbines are not efficient, and other renewable energy technologies should be developed instead. Applicant responded that it is developing a diverse portfolio of both onshore and offshore wind farms and is actively exploring multiple technologies to meet net zero targets. Responses that the respondents were supportive of renewable energy and this was a benefit from the proposed Development. Applicant acknowledged the feedback received.
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response that the project would help the environment to become more eco-friendly. Applicant acknowledged the feedback received.

4. Conclusion

56. The Applicant have undertaken an extensive consultation process with statutory and non-statutory consultees and the local community. The consultation feedback received has been considered in the EIA and iterative design processes.

57. All of the topics and questions raised through the consultation have been addressed in the EIA Report for the proposed Development.

58. The key design objectives for the proposed Development were as follows:



- to maximise the amount of renewable energy that could be generated on the Site;
 - to consider environmental effects arising from the proposed Development;
 - to minimise potentially significant environmental effects where feasible, to factors including:
 - Landscape and Visual;
 - Ecology and Biodiversity;
 - Ornithology;
 - Hydrology, Hydrogeology and soils;
 - Archaeology and Cultural Heritage;
 - Access, Traffic and Transport;
 - Noise;
 - Other issues including forestry, telecommunications, shadow flicker and aviation; and
 - to maximise the socio-economic benefits that could accrue from the proposed Development.
59. Up to 220 m turbines were considered on the Site in Scoping. Following information obtained from extensive feedback received at the 2023/24 PIEs, as well as information provided by the local community, the final layout reduced six of the turbines to 200 m. Furthermore, the number of wind turbines being proposed was reduced from 13 to 12. More details of the design activities undertaken is presented in **Chapter 2: Site Description and Design Evolution**.

4.1. Publication of the EIA Report

60. The Applicant has a duty to undertake statutory publication of the EIA Report in accordance with Part 5 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and the Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990.
61. A notice will be published as follows:
- on the Applicant's project website;
 - in the Edinburgh Gazette;
 - in The Herald;
 - in the Dumfries Courier;
 - in the Annandale Herald & Moffat News; and
 - in the Annandale Observer/Galloway Gazette
62. In addition to the formal notification of the application the Applicant has:



- made available a Non-technical Summary (NTS) of the EIA Report to the local community;
- made available free of charge further copies of the Non-Technical Summary of the EIA Report;
- maintained a dedicated email address (https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/harestanes_west_windfarm.aspx) to receive comments relating to the proposed Development; and
- maintained ongoing contact with local residents and Community Councils at their request.



Appendix 1: Copy of Introductory Leaflet June 2023



Harestanes West Windfarm

Public Consultation Leaflet



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Why are we contacting you?

ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) is investigating the potential for a renewable energy development located approximately 13 km north of Dumfries. The proposed Development is to the west of the adjacent operational Harestanes Windfarm and the proposed Harestanes South Windfarm. This project is a result of SPR's partnership with Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), where SPR have rights to investigate the feasibility of onshore renewables projects within the National Forest Estate in South West Scotland. The site is owned by FLS.

The proposed Development will consist of up to approximately 13 wind turbines with up to 220 m height from ground to blade tip. The total generating capacity of the turbines is anticipated to be approximately 78 megawatts (MW); enough power to supply 52,574 homes.¹

Early consultation is key to the way we develop our projects, and throughout the development process we will ensure local communities and stakeholders are given the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposal and are kept informed of project progress.

SPR is keen that you can continue to find out more about the project and how it is progressing. To provide the opportunity to ask any questions you may have or to make comment on the proposal, we are inviting you to our public information events:

Wednesday 21 June 2023
Auldgirth Community Hall, DG2 0XG
2.30 – 7.30pm

Thursday 22 June 2023
Dalwinston Village Hall, DG2 0XY
10.30am – 4pm

¹ BEIS: Sub-National Electricity and Gas Consumption Statistics, Dec 2022 (based on average UK household consumption of 3509kWh/yr)

Who are we?

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 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 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.

ScottishPower Renewables in South West Scotland

SPR has been working alongside communities across the UK for nearly two decades. To date, ScottishPower Renewables has voluntarily awarded over £13 million in community benefit funding to Dumfries and Galloway communities through our existing projects, and over £55 million to communities in the UK as a whole.

As a responsible developer of renewable energy, SPR is keen for the communities surrounding this project to benefit. SPR are working with Forestry and Land Scotland and is seeking local community groups to engage with to develop innovative community benefit options.

With established sites nearby, SPR has a history of working positively with communities within the region. SPR is keen to ensure employment and the business skills required to maximise economic benefits can be delivered locally to ensure those who live near our sites benefit as much as possible.

Drivers for renewable energy

The UK government, the Scottish Government and Dumfries and Galloway Council have all 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 Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 at the latest. Scotland will also have to reduce emissions by at least 75% by 2030 and 90% by 2040. These are currently the most ambitious statutory targets in the world. Scotland's Climate Change Plan 2018–2032, which sets out the road map for achieving those targets, has set the goal of 50% of Scotland's energy needs to be met by renewable energy by 2030.

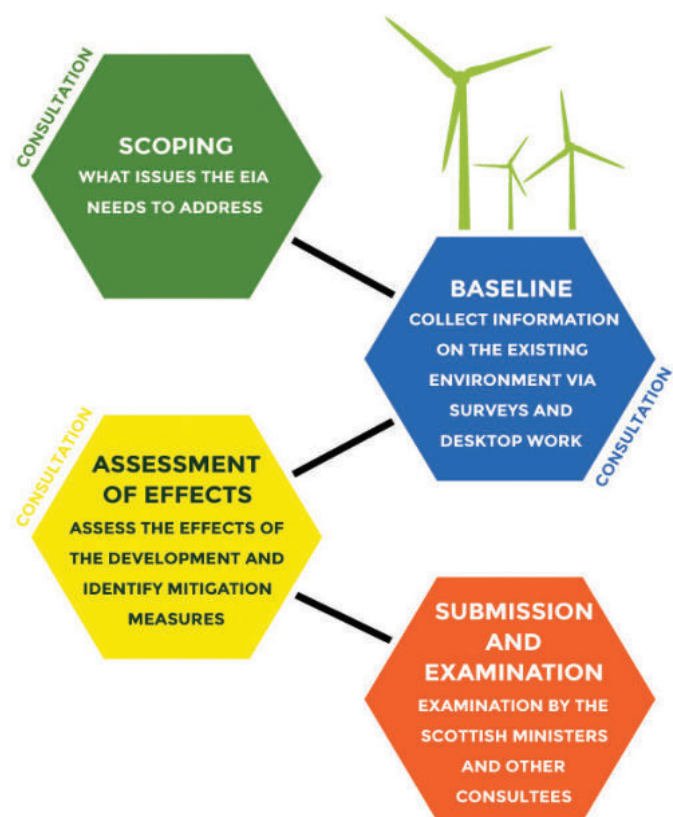
Powering your community

SPR is committed to being a responsible developer of renewable energy and strives to be a good neighbour in all areas of its work. We encourage 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 we progress with the Harestanes West Windfarm, we will engage with communities, stakeholders and Dumfries and Galloway Council to understand how benefits could be delivered to best meet the needs of the local area, should the proposed Development be consented.

Environmental Impact Assessment and design

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for the proposed Development, and this will be informed by the consultation responses that SPR receives from stakeholders to the direct scoping exercise that is currently under way. These scoping responses will confirm the environmental aspects that are to be assessed.

In July 2020 and March 2021, SPR installed two temporary Meteorological Masts in the South West of the proposed site. This has been used to gather data on wind conditions at the site. SPR have also been undertaking a considerable number of surveys to establish environmental baseline data for the site. This information has helped to inform the design and development of the proposed layout.



Next steps

We will use the findings from environmental surveys, technical studies and consultation feedback to continue to shape the design of the proposed Development ahead of submitting an application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, which we anticipate will be in early 2024.

CONTACT

If you require more information on the proposed Development, have a query or wish to provide feedback, please contact us direct.

WEBSITE:

www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/harestanes_west_windfarm.aspx

PROJECT E-MAIL:

HarestanesWestWindfarm@scottishpower.com

POST:

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



Appendix 2: Copy of Public Information Event 21st June 2023 Materials

Welcome

to the public consultation event for
the Harestanes West Windfarm



Harestanes West is a ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) project.

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

At SPR, we are committed to developing renewable energy responsibly. We strive to be a good neighbour in all aspects of our work and are committed to Dumfries and Galloway and the surrounding area, and to maximising the opportunities for local communities to benefit from our projects. We aim to find the best balance of constraints; to

confirm that no impact resulting from our developments is unacceptable; and to demonstrate that the benefits of our projects are of real value, wide-reaching and shared with the community.

ScottishPower Renewables' History in Dumfries and Galloway

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

A detailed map showing the location of the development is shown below.



Harestanes West Windfarm



Site description

The Harestanes West site is in land owned by Forestry and Land Scotland (formerly Forestry Commission Scotland), on land forming part of the Forest of Ae commercial forestry plantation in Dumfries and Galloway. The site boundary is located around 1.3km from the village of Ae, 2.5km to the nearest proposed turbine, and approximately 13 km north of Dumfries.

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

The proposed development

Harestanes West will consist of about 13 wind turbines that will be up to 220m high to blade tip; battery storage and supporting infrastructure, such as site access tracks; a control room; and an electricity substation. SPR will also investigate the potential for electric car charging facilities.

Construction and access

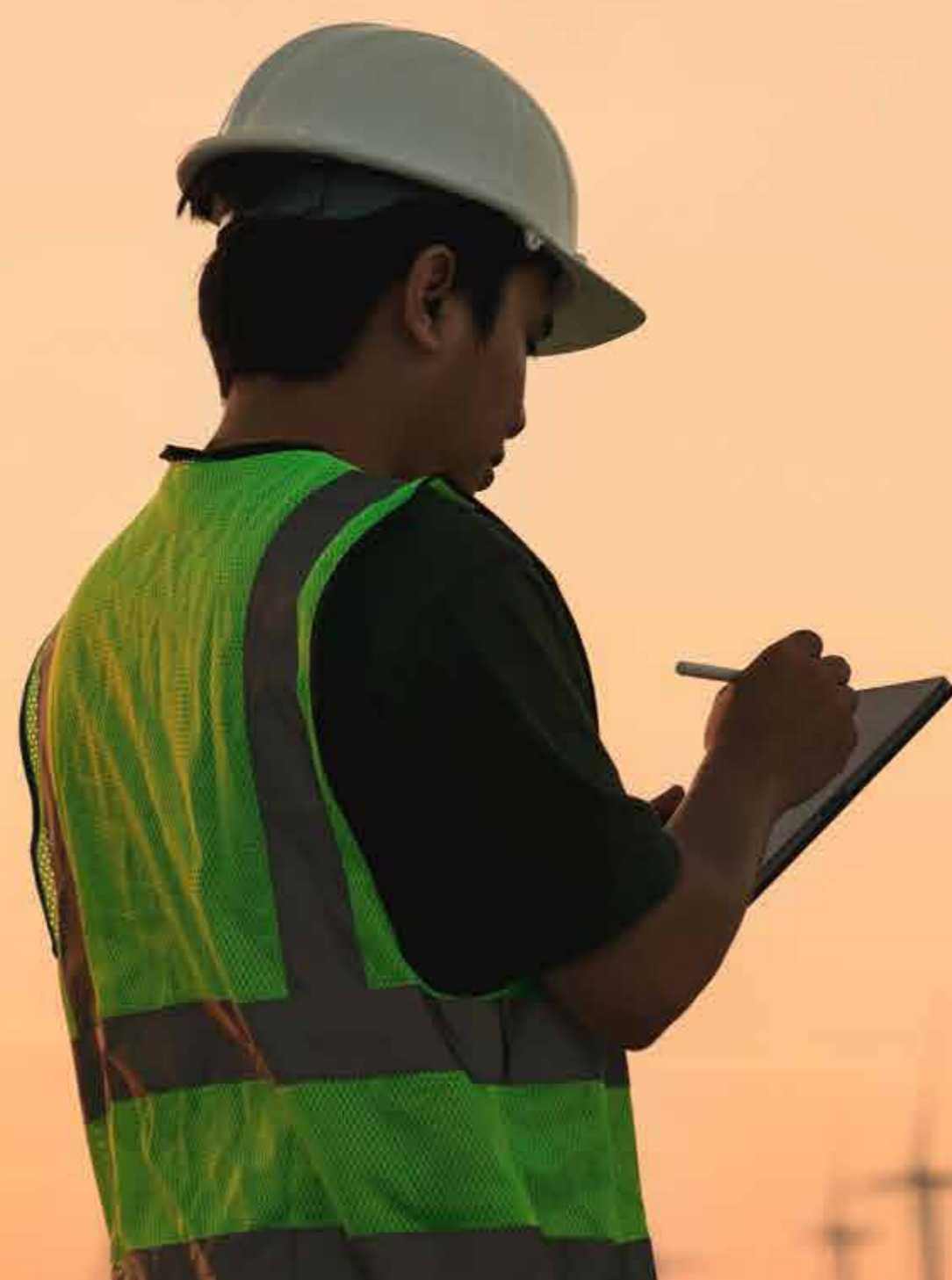
Harestanes West is around 4.5 km east of the A76 and the A701 lies approximately 5 km to the south-east, which connects to a minor road that then runs north through the village of Ae and north to south through the centre of the Site.

Access to the site for construction is anticipated to be accessed from the existing access junction on the A701 used for the existing Harestanes Windfarm. All traffic would then access Harestanes West via the existing windfarm and forestry tracks. These existing tracks would be upgraded as part of the construction works for Harestanes West.

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

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

Environmental Impact Assessment



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

This study will be included in the environmental assessment report that will form part of the formal application for consent to be submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit.

The environmental impact assessment process includes

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

• Detailed studies for the following disciplines:

- Landscape and visual impact assessment
- Cultural heritage and archaeology
- Ecology and ornithology
- Geology, hydrogeology, hydrology and peat
- Noise and vibration
- Traffic and transportation
- Aviation and radar
- Telecommunications and electromagnetic interference
- The economy and tourism.

Landscape and visual impact



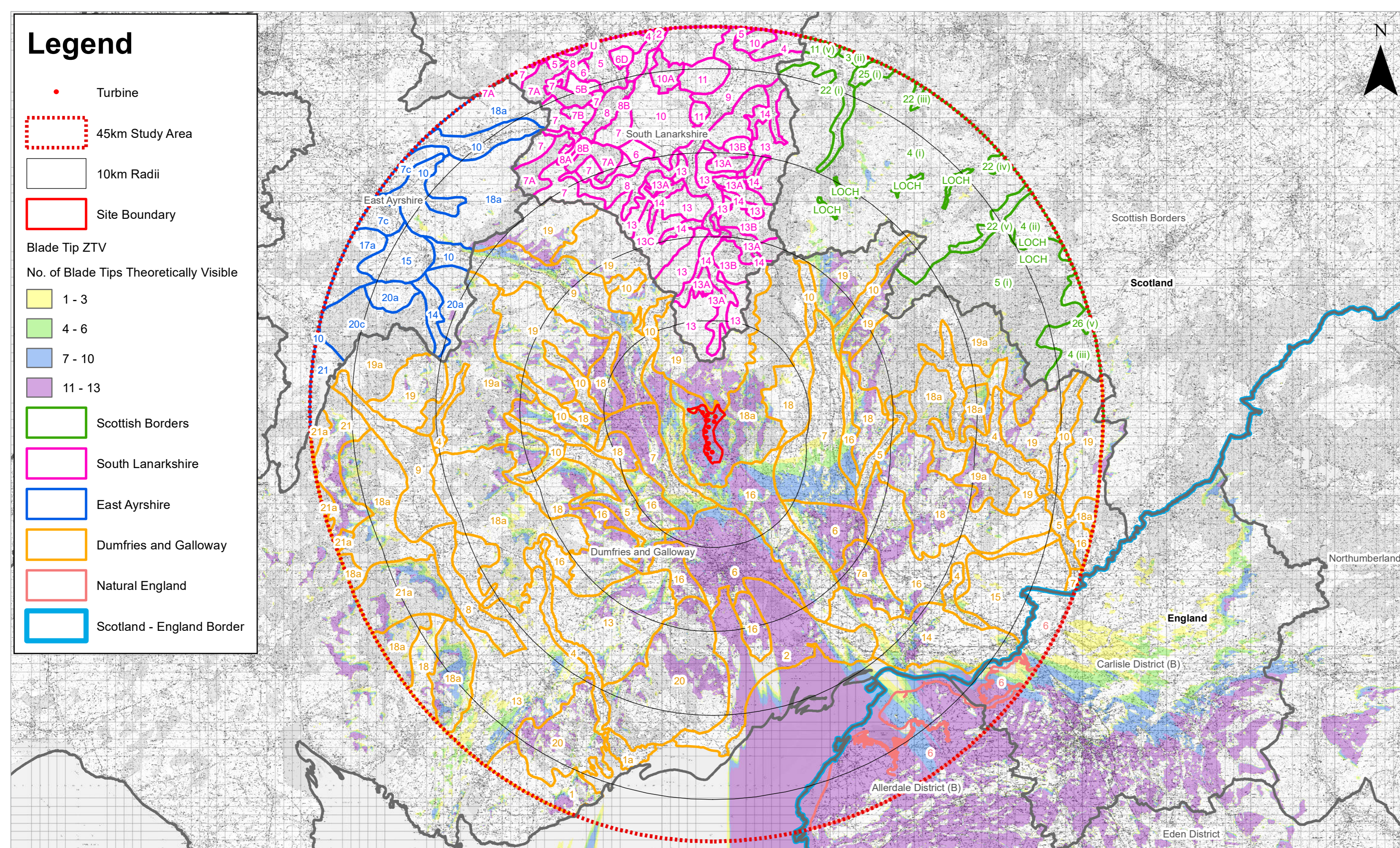
A landscape and visual impact assessment will establish the potential effects of Harestanes West on the surrounding landscape and visual amenity. The study area will extend to 45 km from the outermost turbines.

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

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

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

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



Cultural heritage and archaeology

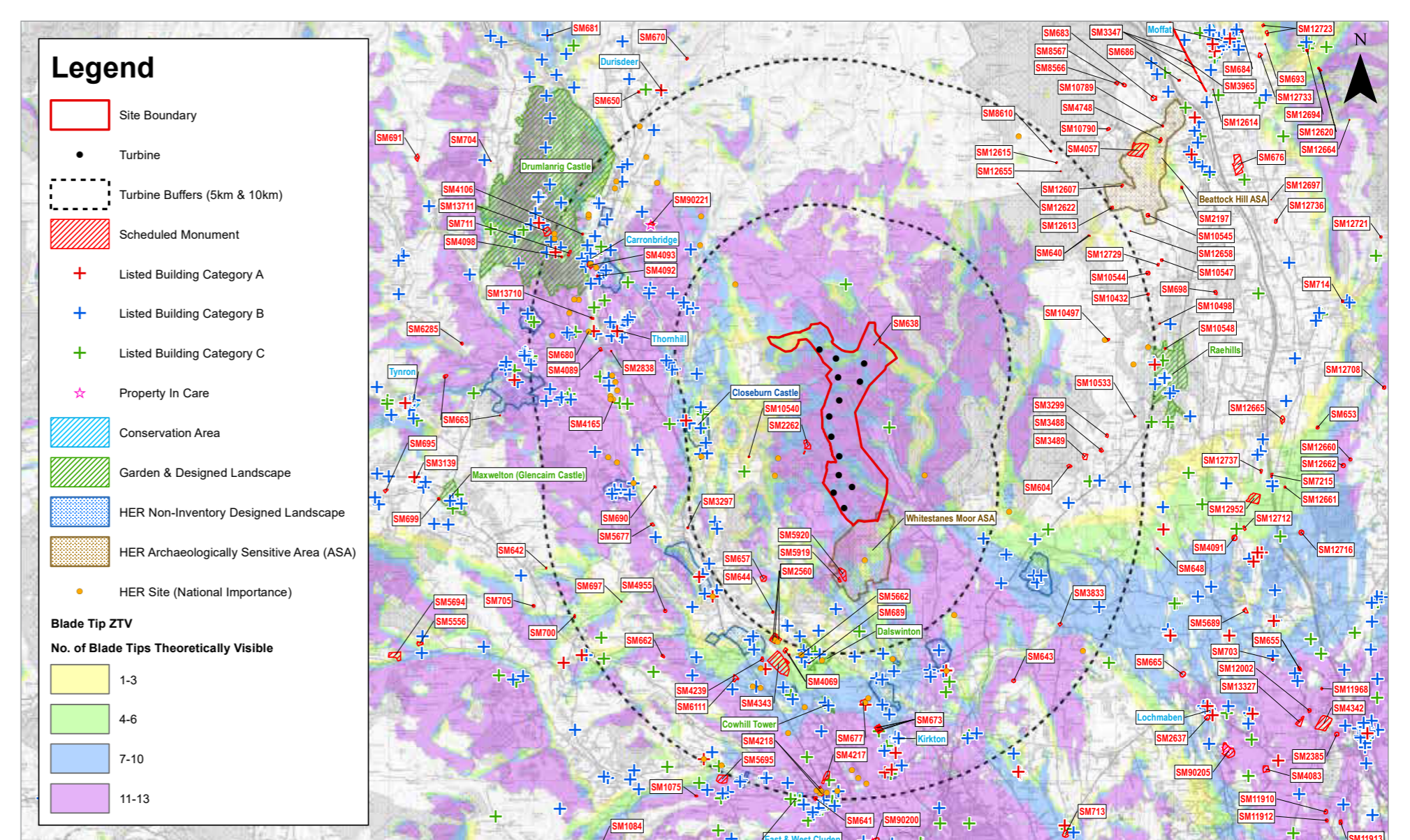
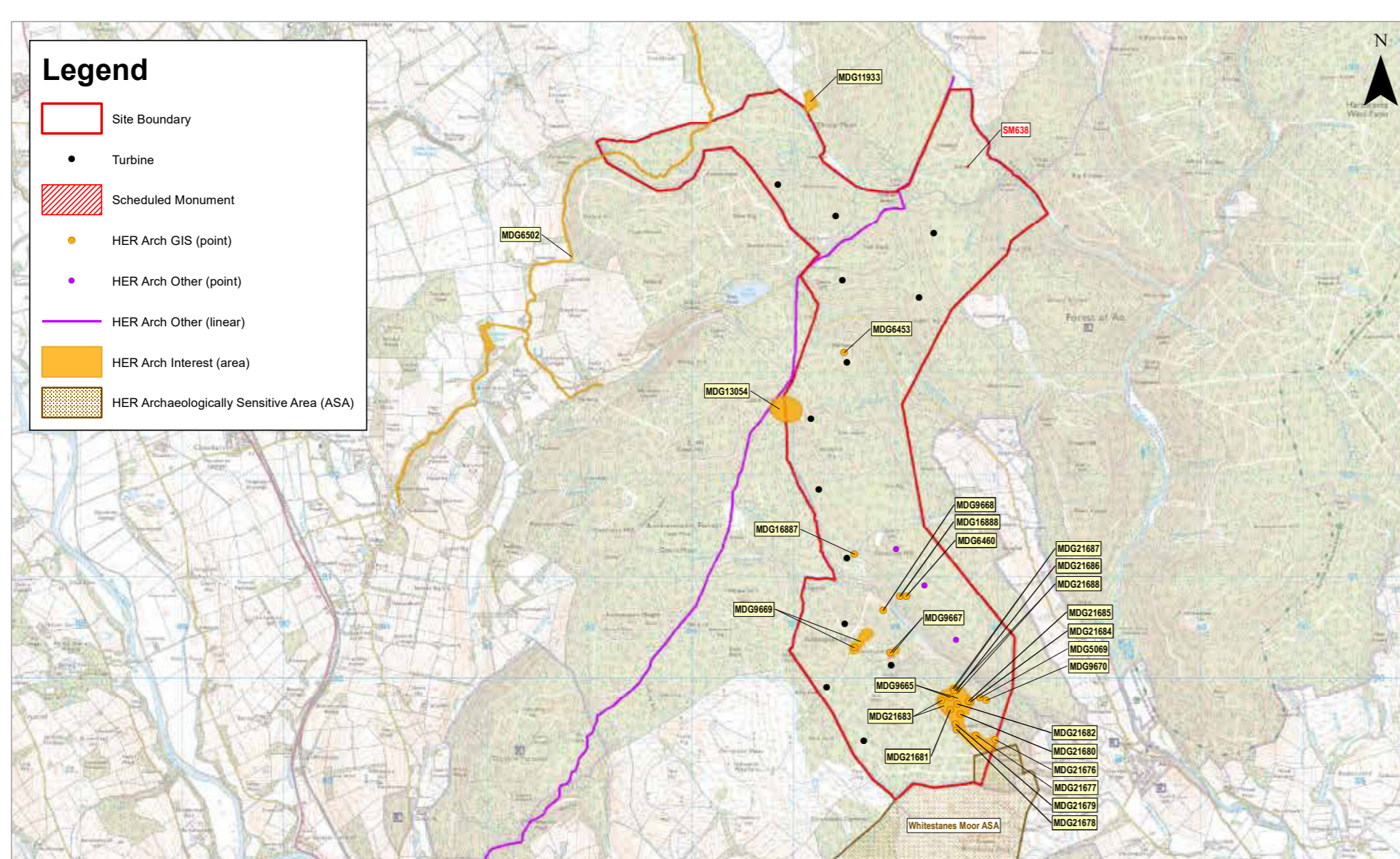


The potential effects of Harestanes West on the historic environment of the site and its surroundings, including cultural heritage and archaeology, will be assessed.

At an early stage of the project, the known cultural heritage sites will be identified and assessed. A map showing the known heritage sites located close by is available (below left) and one showing sites further away is available (below right). Adjustments to the design and

layout of the project will be made to avoid affecting these sites where practicable.

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



Ecology and ornithology



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

The north-western part of the Harestanes West site overlaps with the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve, an area of over 5,200 km² of southwest Scotland. There will be no renewable energy development infrastructure on the Harestanes West site within the biosphere reserve. There are no other protected areas within the Harestanes West site – the nearest protected area is the Black Loch Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), located 2.4km to the south-east.

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

A programme of ecological and ornithological surveys has started. The results will inform the design of Harestanes West to reduce the potential impacts on ecology and birds. Where impacts are unavoidable, a programme of

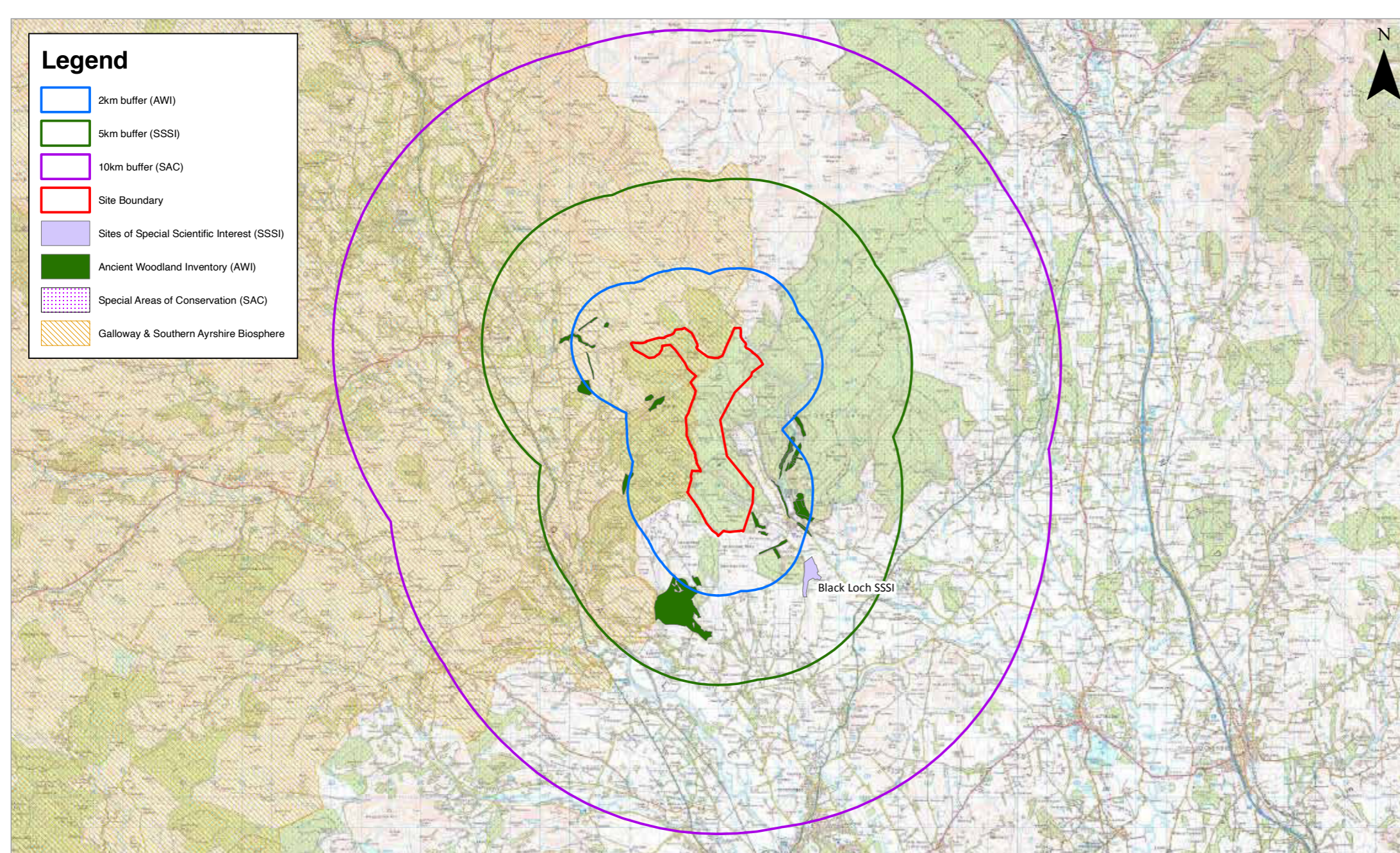
mitigation measures will be agreed before construction to reduce the effects on wildlife.

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

Ecology and ornithology surveys

The surveys include

- A Phase 1 habitat survey
- A National Vegetation Classification survey
- Terrestrial mammal surveys
- Bat surveys
- Fish habitat surveys
- Bird surveys, including vantage point surveys to identify the use of the site and its wider surroundings by sensitive bird populations.



The local community



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

Community benefit

Through our established presence in Dumfries and Galloway, we have to-date, contributed over £13.3 million in community benefit and committed in the region of £55 million to local communities across the operational lifetime of our windfarms. These funds contribute to a variety of groups and organisations to assist them in delivering local projects which they have identified as having benefit to those living, working or visiting the surrounding area.

SPR's approach to community benefit is to empower local communities to decide how they want the community benefit to be spent. This has resulted in a wide diversity of projects, including the improvement of local amenities and community groups such as the extension of the Moniaive Playcare Nursery, provision of new equipment to Moffat Mountain Rescue Team and donations to the Dumfries Pipe Band.

Harestanes West would establish a community benefit arrangement with local communities. This package of benefits is likely to include a community benefit fund and an option for community investment in line with existing guidance.

We welcome feedback from the local community on community benefit structures.

Local employment opportunities

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

We also recognise the major benefits of local investment.

Through community benefit funding, we ensure that renewable energy boosts the local economy and creates opportunities for local people.

Community shareholding

At SPR we are committed to the concept of shared ownership with the local community and would be interested in discussing this in greater detail, should there be any local interest in this process.

What's next?



We are presenting this information as one of the early steps in the consultation process. We welcome your feedback on our initial proposals to help us refine the details of Harestanes West.

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

You can view more detailed information and ask questions via our website: www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/harestanes_west_windfarm

These contacts can also be used for requests for any further information, submitting comments or asking questions on the proposed Development at any time.

Email:

HarestanesWestWindfarm@Scottishpower.com

Post:

[Harestanes West Windfarm Project Team](#)
[Scottish Power Renewables](#)
[9th Floor](#)
[Scottish Power Headquarters](#)
[320 St Vincent Street](#)
[Glasgow](#)
[G2 5AD](#)

THANK YOU.

Harestanes West Windfarm

Public Information Event

ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) invites you to participate in its Public Consultation on the draft proposals for the Harestanes West Windfarm.

ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) is investigating the potential for a renewable energy development located approximately 13 km north of Dumfries. The proposed Development is to the west of the adjacent operational Harestanes Windfarm and the proposed Harestanes South Windfarm. This project is a result of SPR's partnership with Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), where SPR have rights to investigate the feasibility of onshore renewables projects within the National Forest Estate in South West Scotland. The site is owned by FLS.

The proposed Development will consist of up to approximately 13 wind turbines with up to 220m height from ground to blade tip. The total generating capacity of the turbines is anticipated to be approximately 78 megawatts (MW); enough power to supply 52,574 homes.

Early consultation is key to developing our projects and, throughout the development process, we ensure local communities and stakeholders are given the opportunity to provide feedback and are kept informed of project progress.

SPR is keen that you can continue to find out more about the project and how it is progressing. To provide the opportunity to ask any questions you may have or to make comment on the proposal, we are inviting you to our public information events to be held:

Wednesday 21 June 2023

Auldgirth Community Hall, DG2 0XG

2.30 – 7.30pm

Thursday 22 June 2023

Dalwinston Village Hall, DG2 0XY

10.30am – 4pm

www.scottishpowerrenewables.com

The consultation website will include a link to a feedback form through which comments and questions, as well as any requests for further information, can be submitted directly to the Project Team:

www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/harestanes_west_windfarm.aspx

Alternatively, you may contact the Project Team by emailing

HarestanesWestWindfarm@scottishpower.com

or writing to

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

If you have any questions or wish to make comments on the proposal, we request that these are submitted via the online feedback form, email or letter by 20 July 2023.

Please note that this notice does not relate to an application and that any comments made on the proposals to SPR at this stage are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. If an application is subsequently submitted, normal publicity will be undertaken at that time and you will have the opportunity to make a formal representation then.

¹ BEIS: Sub-National Electricity and Gas Consumption Statistics, Dec 2022 (based on average UK household consumption of 3509kWh/yr)

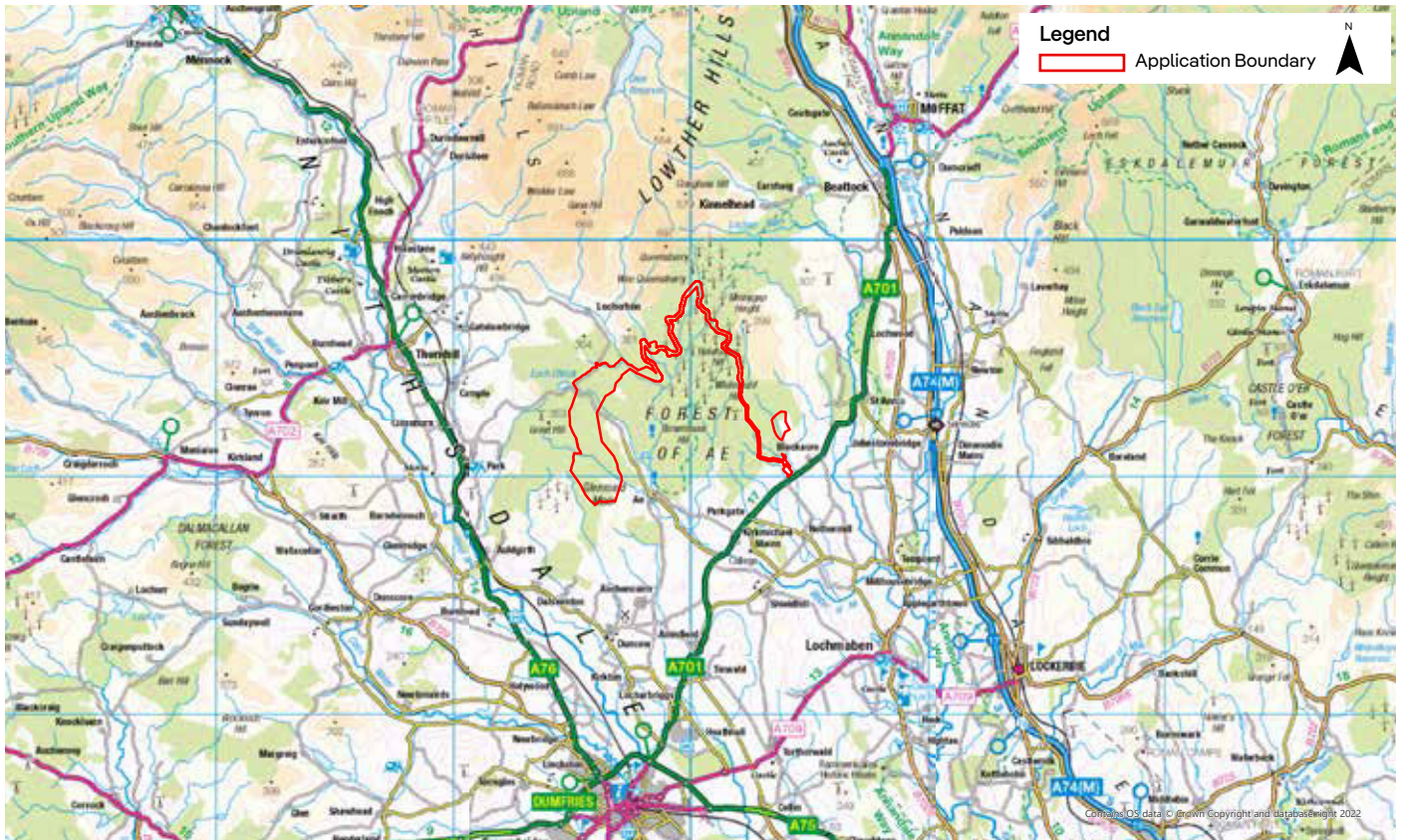


SCOTTISHPOWER
RENEWABLES



Appendix 3: Copy of 2024 Leaflet and Public Information Event 10th and 11th September 2024 Materials

Harestanes West Windfarm Public Consultation Leaflet



Why are we contacting you?

ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) invites you to participate in our public consultation for Harestanes West Windfarm. The proposed Development is to the west of the adjacent operational Harestanes Windfarm and the proposed Harestanes South Windfarm Extension. This project is a result of SPR's partnership with Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), where SPR have rights to investigate the feasibility of onshore renewables projects within the National Forest Estate in South West Scotland.

The proposed development will consist of up to approximately 12 wind turbines, with a maximum tip height of 220m. The total generating capacity of the turbines is anticipated to be approximately 84 megawatts (MW); enough power to supply more than 47,500 homes.¹

We ensure local communities and stakeholders are given the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposal and are kept informed of project progress.

SPR is keen for you to continue to find out how the project has progressed. To give you the opportunity to ask questions or provide feedback on the proposal, we invite you to our public information events to be held:

Tuesday 10 September 2024

Closeburn Village Hall, Closeburn, Thornhill DG3 5HR
2 – 7pm

Wednesday 11 September 2024

Ae Primary School, Ae Village, Dumfries DG1 1RG
10.30am – 5pm

¹ Scottish Government renewable electricity output calculator <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/statistics/2019/01/energy-in-scotland-online-tools/documents/renewable-electricity-output-calculator/renewable-electricity-output-calculator/govscot%3Adocument/ Renewable%2Belectricity%2Boutput%2Bcalculator%2B-%2BScotland.xlsx>

Who are we?

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 only produces 100% green electricity – focusing on wind energy, smart grids and driving the change to a cleaner, electric future. The company is investing 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 for everyone.

We are at the forefront of the development of the renewables industry through pioneering ideas, forward thinking and outstanding innovation. 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.

We are committed to ongoing consultation with the local community in the development of our projects and throughout the development process, to ensure local stakeholders are given the opportunity to provide feedback and are kept informed of project progress.

ScottishPower Renewables in South West Scotland

SPR has been working alongside communities across the UK for nearly two decades. To date, ScottishPower Renewables has awarded over £16 million in community benefit funding to Dumfries and Galloway communities through our existing projects, and over £64 million to communities in the UK as a whole.

As a responsible developer of renewable energy, SPR is keen for the communities surrounding this project to benefit. SPR are working with Forestry and Land Scotland and is seeking local community groups to engage with to develop innovative community benefit options.

With established sites nearby, SPR has a history of working positively with communities within the region. SPR is keen to ensure employment and the business skills required to maximise economic benefits can be delivered locally to ensure those who live near our sites benefit as much as possible.

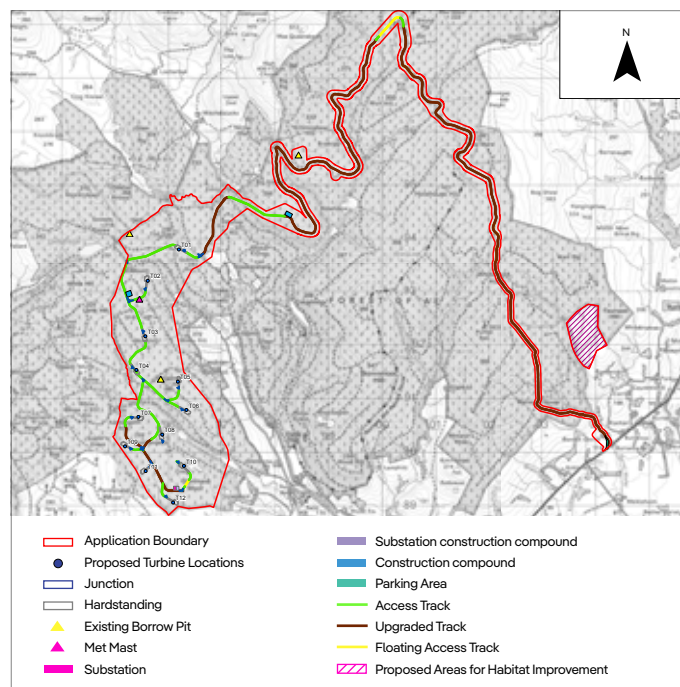
Drivers for renewable energy

The UK government, the Scottish Government and Dumfries and Galloway Council have all 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 Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 at the latest. Scotland will also have to reduce emissions by at least 75% by 2030 and 90% by 2040. These are currently the most ambitious statutory targets in the world. Scotland's Climate Change Plan 2018–2032, which sets out the road map for achieving those targets, has set the goal of 50% of Scotland's energy needs to be met by renewable energy by 2030.

Powering your community

SPR is committed to being a responsible developer of renewable energy and strives to be a good neighbour in all areas of its work. We encourage 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 we progress with the Harestanes West Windfarm, we will engage with communities, stakeholders and Dumfries and Galloway Council to understand how benefits could be delivered

to best meet the needs of the local area, should the proposed development be consented.



Environmental Impact Assessment and design

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is being prepared for the proposed development, informed by the consultation responses SPR received from stakeholders during the scoping exercises conducted in 2023 and early 2024. These scoping responses confirmed the environmental aspects to be assessed.

In July 2020 and March 2021, SPR installed two temporary meteorological masts in the southwest of the proposed site to gather data on wind conditions. SPR has been diligently collaborating with our consultants to complete all required environmental surveys. This effort has enabled us to collect essential baseline data for the site, which has been pivotal in informing the EIA and contributing to the design and development of the proposed layout.

Next steps

SPR intends to submit an application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, which we anticipate will be completed by the end of 2024.

Contact

If you require more information on the proposed Development, have a query or wish to provide feedback, please contact us direct.

Website:

www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/harestanes_west_windfarm.aspx

Project E-Mail:

HarestanesWestWindfarm@scottishpower.com

Post:

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

Welcome to the Harestanes West Windfarm Public Exhibition

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

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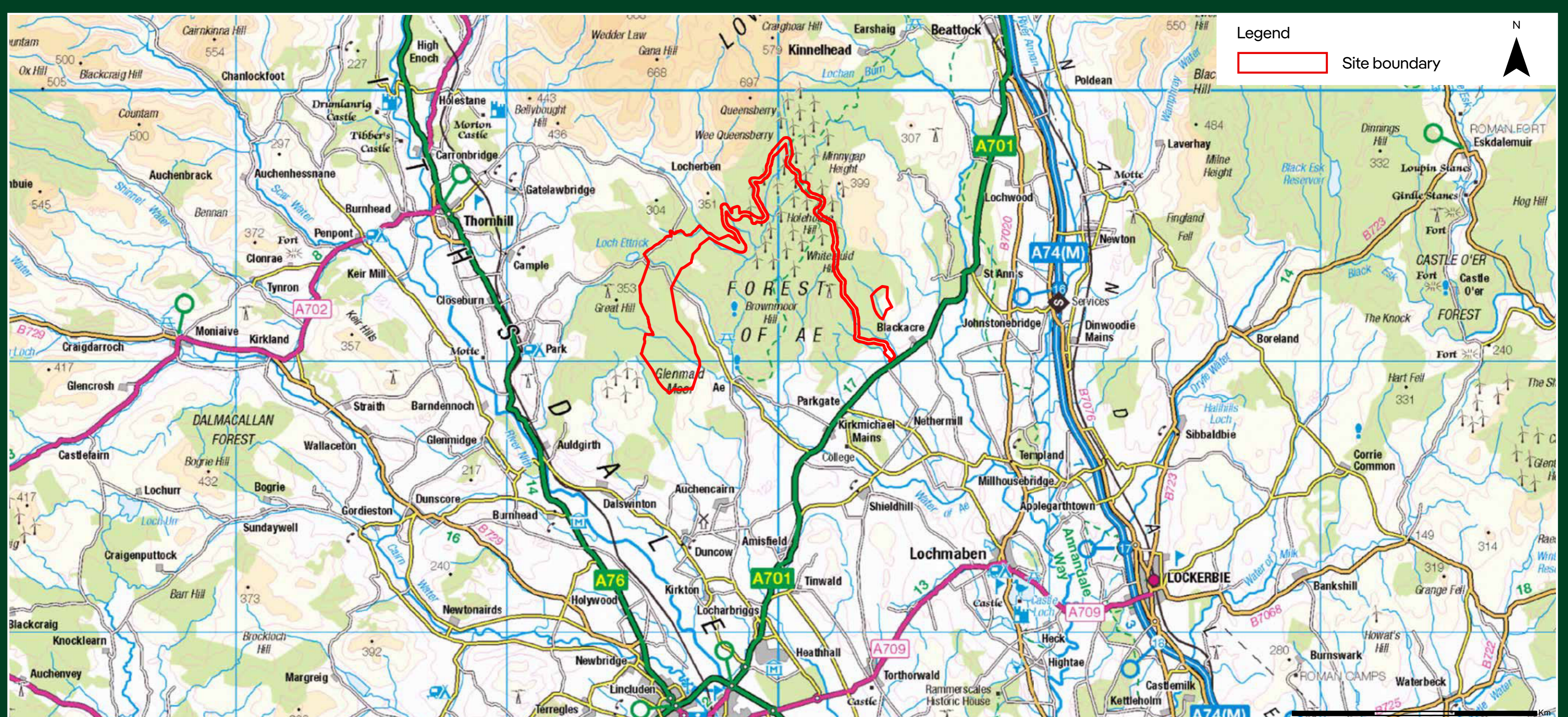
ScottishPower Renewables believes in effective and meaningful consultation and we aim to engage as early as possible with the local community and key stakeholders to facilitate constructive consultation. This allows any areas of concern to be identified along with benefits and opportunities, which we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

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

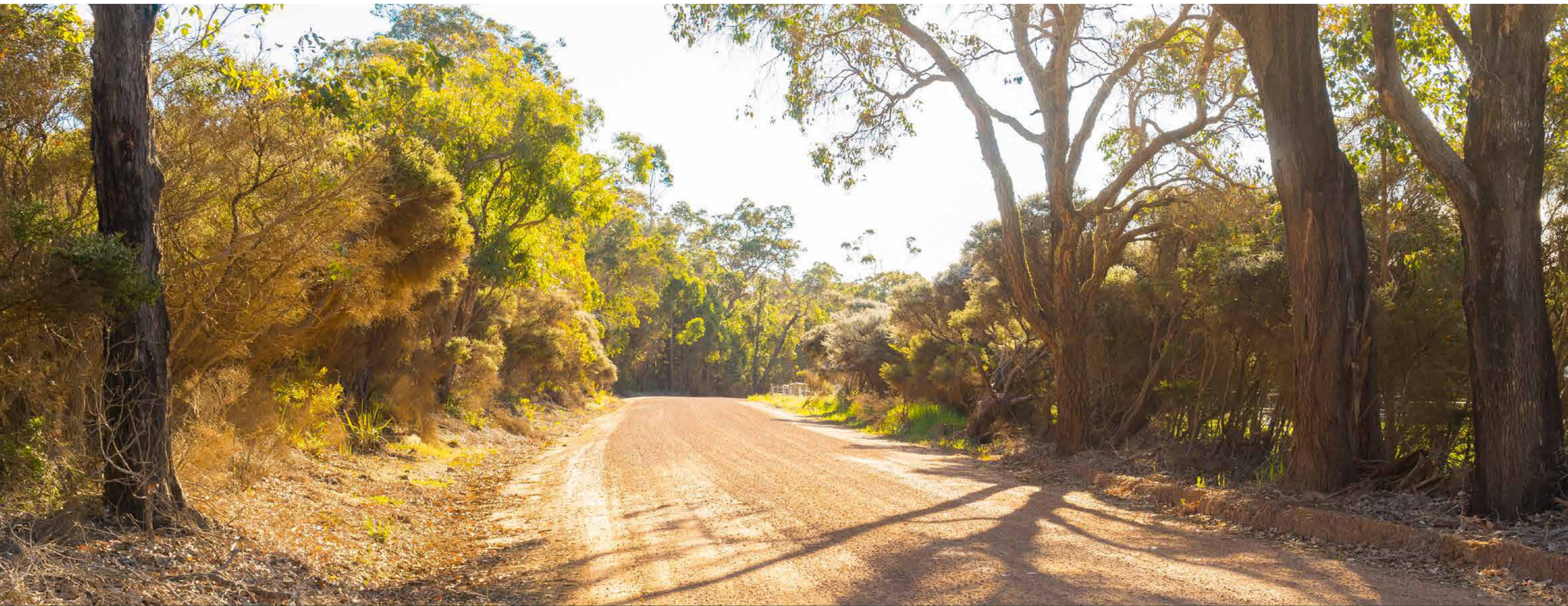
ScottishPower Renewables' History in Dumfries and Galloway

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

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



Harestanes West Windfarm



Site Description

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

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

Proposed Development

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

Construction and Access

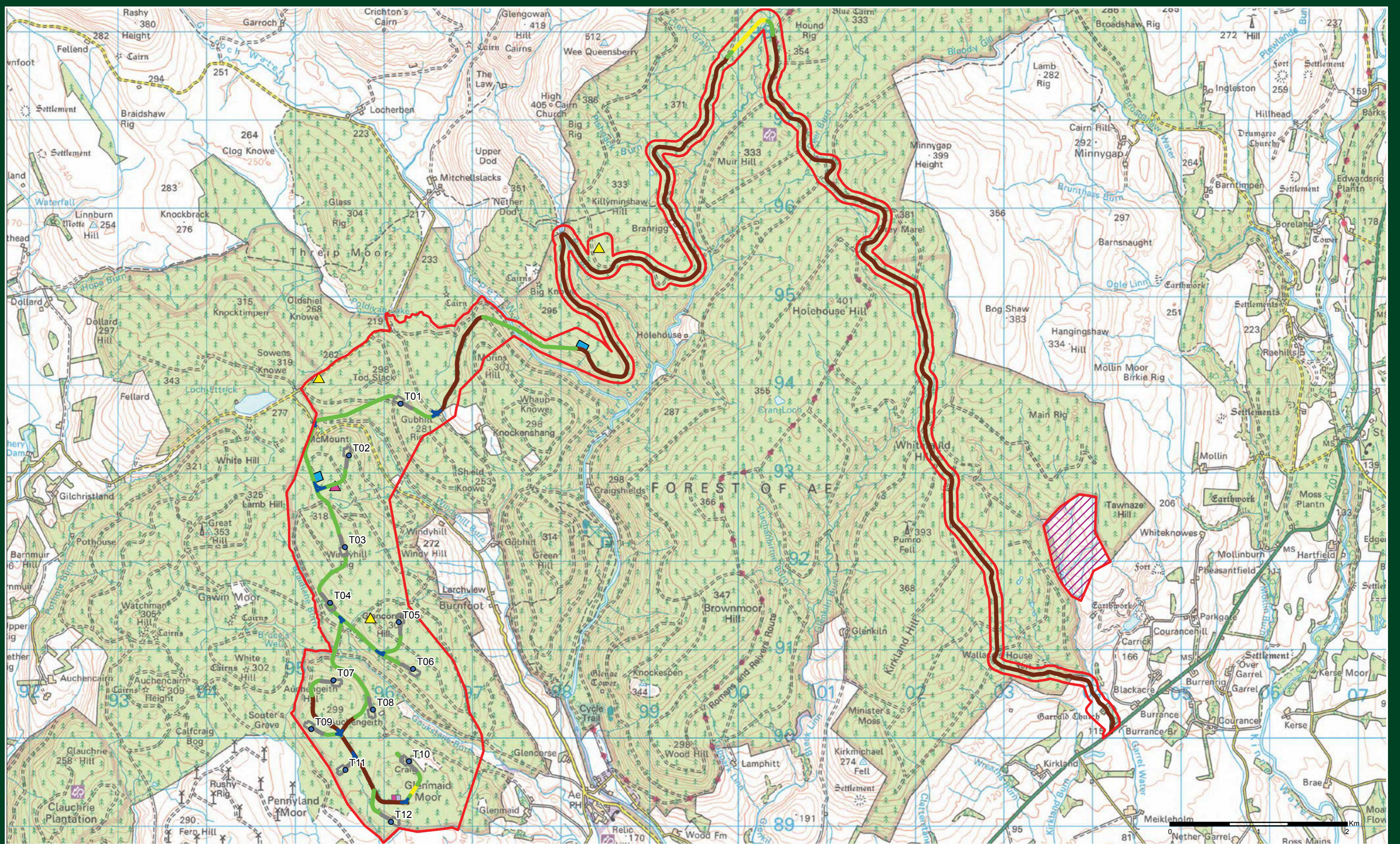
Harestanes West Windfarm is around 4.5 km east of the A76 and the A701 lies approximately 5 km to the south-east, which connects to a minor road that then runs north through the village of Ae and north to south through the centre of the Site.

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

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

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

The Proposed Layout



Legend

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



Environmental Impact Assessment



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Landscape and Visual Impact



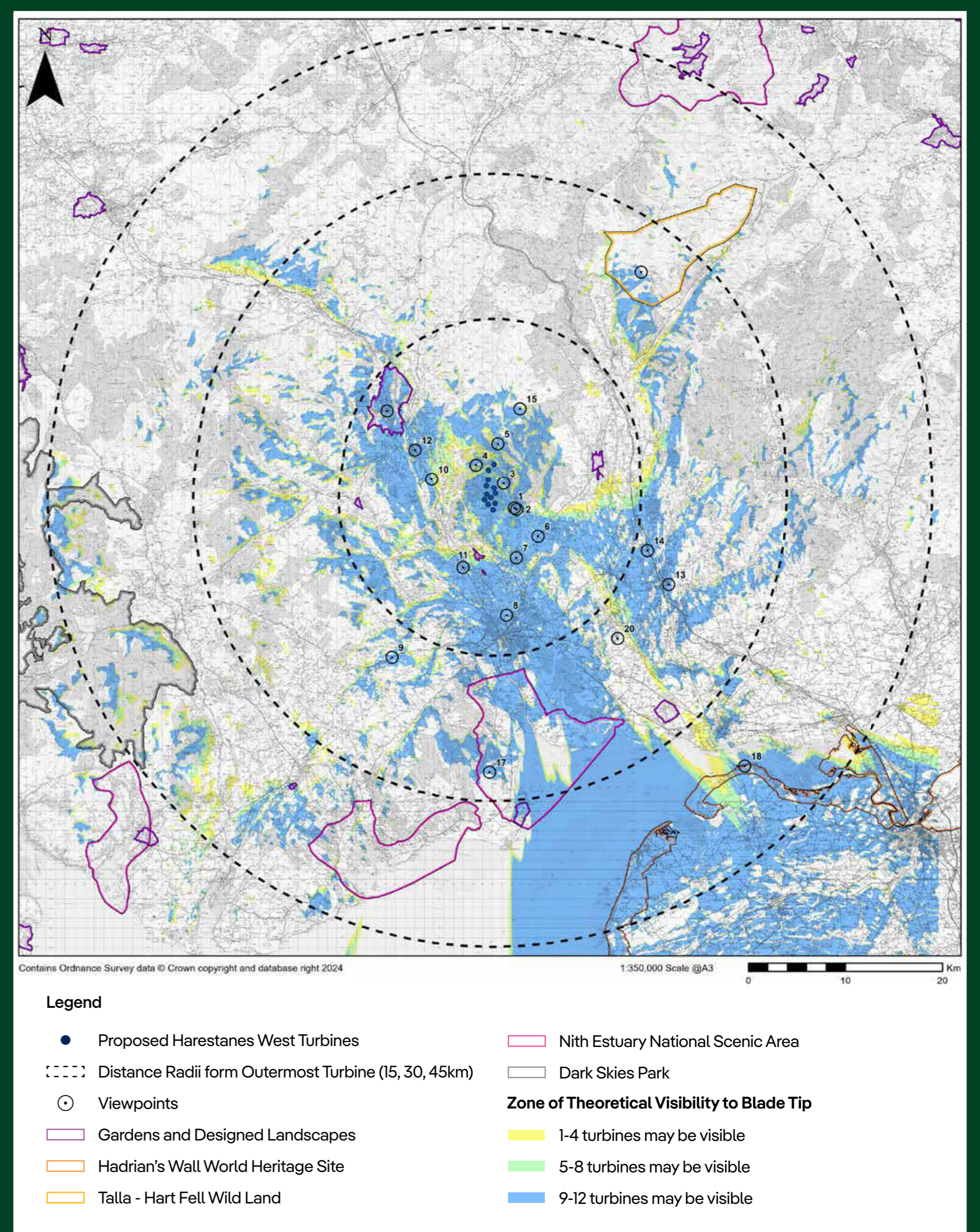
A landscape and visual impact assessment will establish the potential effects of Harestanes West Windfarm on the surrounding landscape and visual amenity. The study area will extend to 45 km from the outermost turbines.

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

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

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

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



Photomontages



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



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

Photomontages



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



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

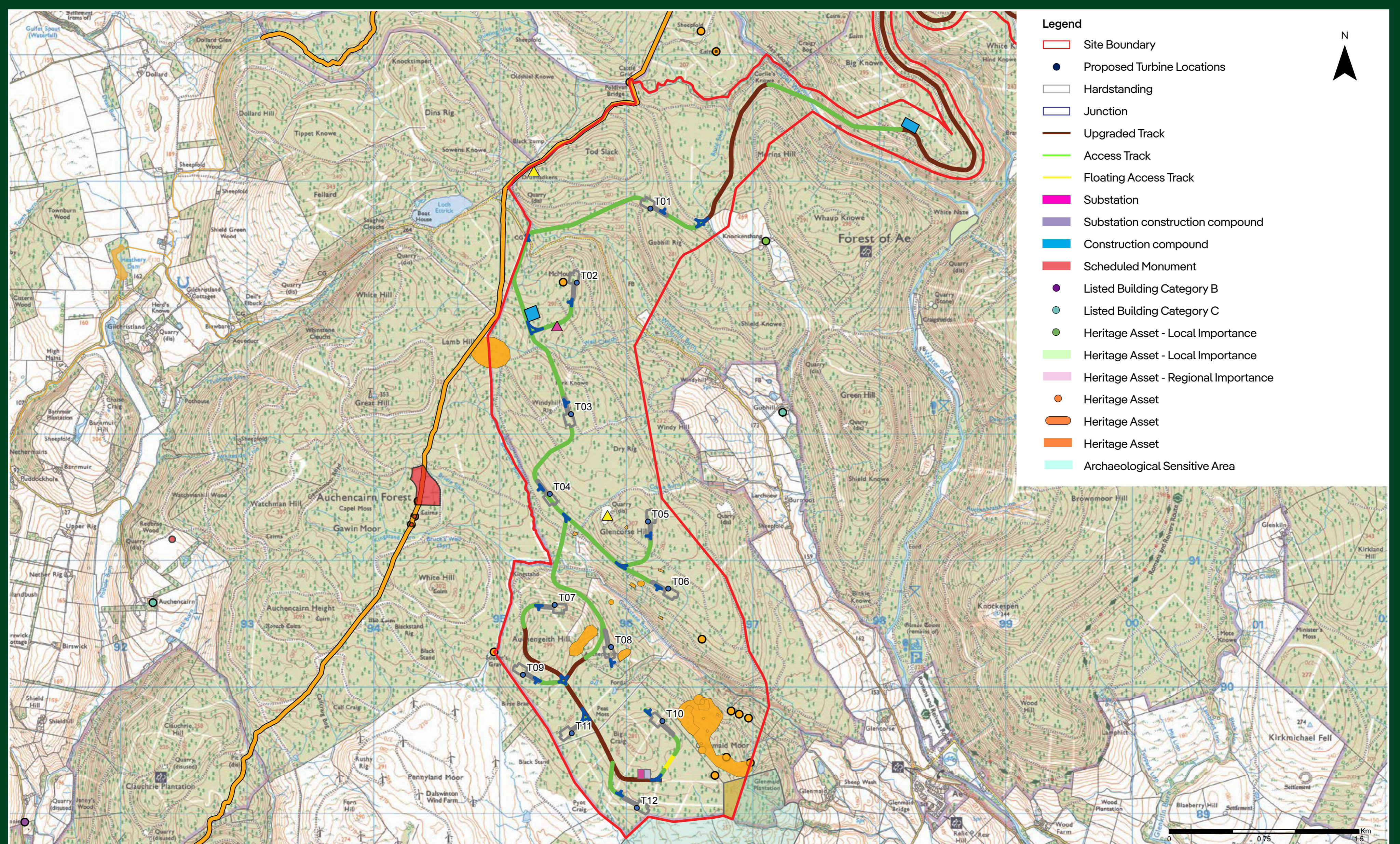
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology



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

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

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



Ecology and Ornithology



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

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

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

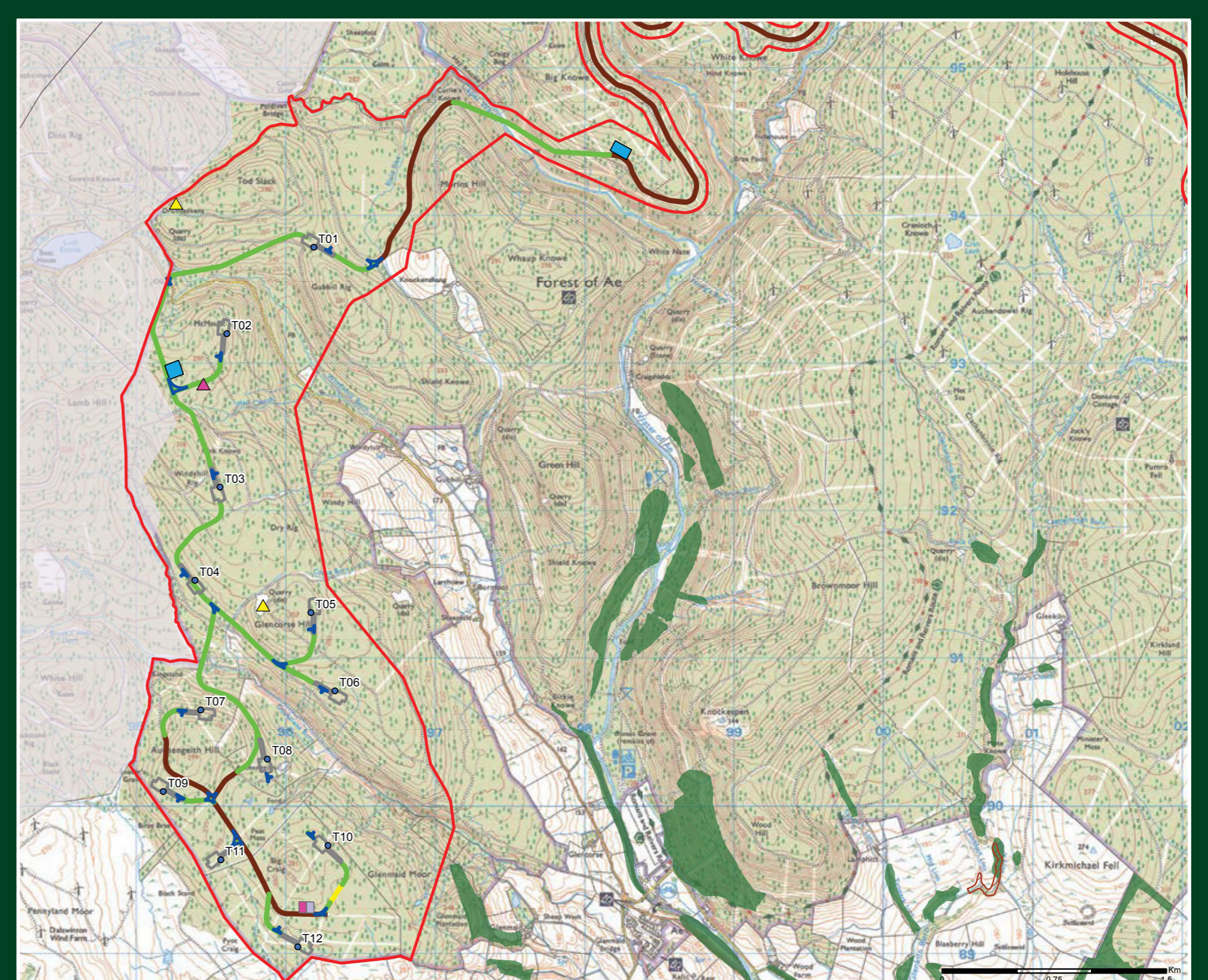
A programme of ecological and ornithological surveys is nearing completion. The results have informed the design of Harestanes West Windfarm to reduce the potential impacts on ecology and birds. Where impacts are unavoidable, a programme of mitigation measures will be agreed before construction to reduce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

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

Ecology and Ornithology surveys

The surveys include:

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

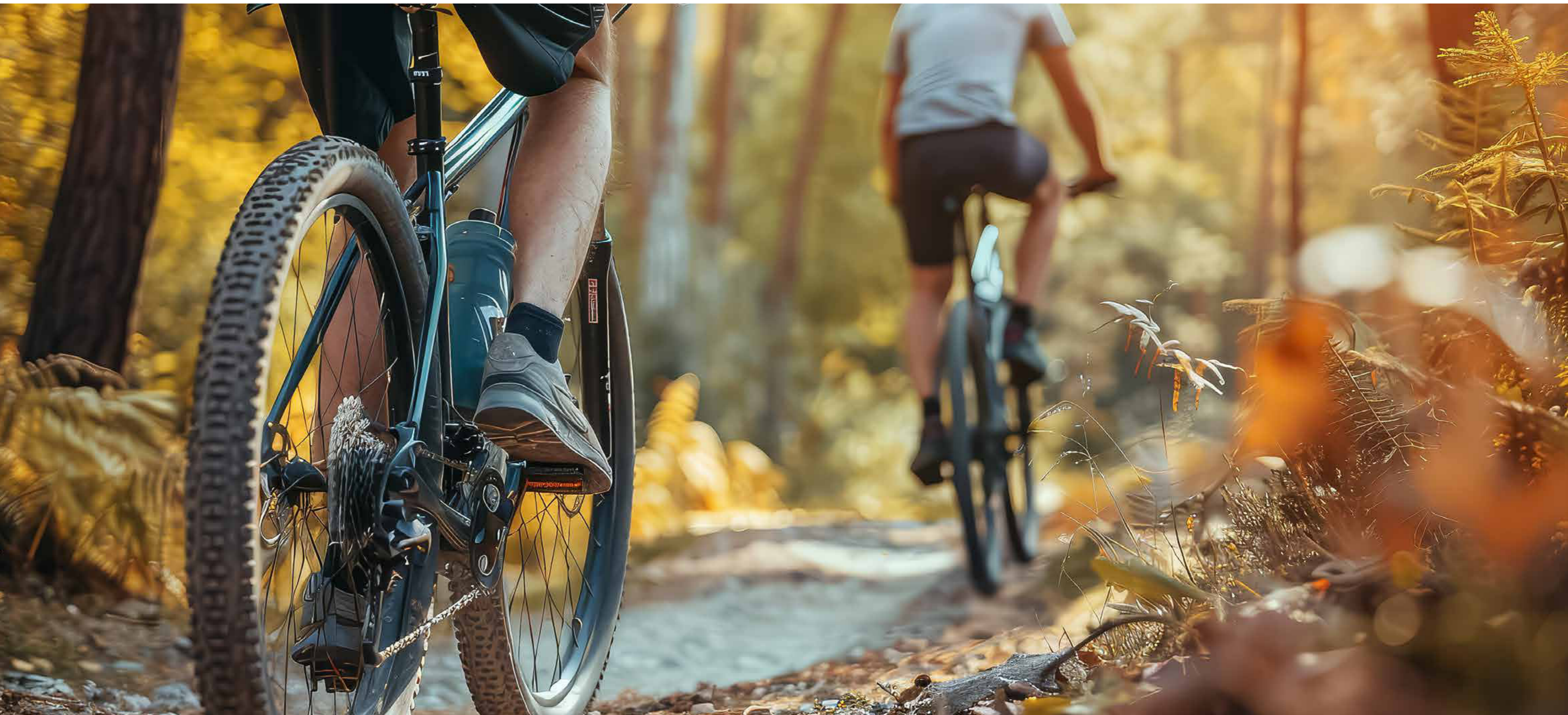


Legend

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



Community Benefit



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

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

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

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

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

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

Local Employment Opportunities

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

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

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

What Next?



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

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

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

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

Email:

harestaneswestwindfarm@scottishpower.com

Post:

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



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

Thank you



Harestanes West Windfarm Public Information Event



ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) invites you to participate in its Public Consultation on our proposals for the Harestanes West Windfarm.

The proposed development is to the west of Harestanes Windfarm and the proposed Harestanes South Windfarm. This project is a result of SPR's partnership with Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), where SPR has rights to investigate the feasibility of onshore renewables projects within the National Forest Estate in South West Scotland.

The proposed development will consist of up to 12 wind turbines. The total generating capacity of the turbines is anticipated to be approximately 84 megawatts (MW); enough power to supply more than 47,500 homes.¹

We ensure local communities and stakeholders are given the opportunity to provide feedback and are kept informed of project progress.

SPR is keen that you can continue to find out more about the project and how it has progressed. To provide the opportunity to ask any questions you may have or to make comment on the proposal, we are inviting you to our public information events to be held:

Tuesday 10 September 2024

Closeburn Village Hall, Closeburn, Thornhill DG3 5HR
2 – 7pm

Wednesday 11 September 2024

Ae Primary School, Ae Village, Dumfries DG1 1RG
10.30am – 5pm

The consultation website will include a link to a feedback form through which comments and questions, as well as any requests for further information, can be submitted directly to the Project Team:

www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/harestanes_west_windfarm.aspx

Alternatively, you may contact the Project Team by emailing HarestanesWestWindfarm@scottishpower.com

or writing to

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

If you have any questions or wish to make comments on the proposal, we request that these are submitted via the online feedback form, email or letter by 10 October 2024.

Please note that this notice does not relate to an application and that any comments made on the proposals to SPR at this stage are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. When an application is subsequently submitted, normal publicity will be undertaken at that time and you will have the opportunity to make a formal representation then.

¹ From the Scottish Government online renewable electricity calculator



Appendix 4: Copy of Example Email to Community Councils and Local Councillors

[REDACTED]

From: harestanes west windfarm mailbox <harestaneswestwindfarm@scottishpower.com >
Sent: 12 June 2023 11:46
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Harestanes West Public Information Event
Attachments: Harestanes West Leaflet.pdf; [REDACTED] Community Council - June 2023.pdf

[REDACTED]

Please find attached an invite letter to the two Public Information Days (PID) ScottishPower Renewables are hosting for the proposed Harestanes West Windfarm development.

These will be taking place on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd June in Auldgirth and Dalswinton. We will be opening the venue 30 minutes early to host an exclusive session for local councillors and community councils which will give you the chance to meet the project team and ask any questions. For further information in regards to the PID and the development itself please see attached letter and leaflet.

We hope you can attend and look forward to meeting you.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

PRINCIPAL PARTNER FOR COP26

Internal Use

[REDACTED]

From: harestanes west windfarm mailbox <harestaneswestwindfarm@scottishpower.com >
Sent: 29 August 2024 10:37
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Harestanes West Windfarm - Public Information Events - 10th and 11th September
Attachments: 28.08.24 SPR Harestanes_West_Leaflet_.pdf

Dear [REDACTED]

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the Project Manager for the proposed Harestanes West Windfarm.

As part of the development and consultation process, we are hosting the Public Information Events across two days in separate locations in the local area to reach out to as many members of the local community as possible. Please find attached a leaflet detailing the second round of Public Information Events ScottishPower Renewables are hosting for the proposed Harestanes West Windfarm, which can be shared with members.

The details of the events are as follows:

Tuesday 10 September 2024

Closeburn Village Hall,
Closeburn,
Thornhill
DG3 5HR
2:00 – 7:00pm

Wednesday 11 September 2024

Ae Primary School,
Ae Village,
Dumfries
DG1 1RG
10.30am – 5:00pm

We would like to invite you to these events to hear any comments and answer any queries you may have regarding the proposed development. If you would prefer a one-on-one discussion prior to the event opening to the public, please inform us and we can arrange to have a discussion up to 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the event.

Any information presented at the in-person Public Information Events will be made available online on our project webpage where local residents can also provide feedback by submitting our online feedback form. This will be available in the Public Information Event section of our webpage at: [Harestanes West Windfarm - ScottishPower Renewables](https://www.scottishpower.co.uk/harestanes-west-windfarm).

We hope you can attend and look forward to meeting you.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]