



A specialist energy consultancy

EIA Report – Volume 1 – Non-Technical Summary

Hawkwood Onshore Wind Project

Wilson Renewables IV LLP

15746-051
01 August 2024

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE



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Executive Summary

This document is a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) supporting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and consequential Report (EIA Report) that has been undertaken and produced on behalf of Wilson Renewables IV LLP (Wilson Renewables/the Applicant) to accompany a proposed renewable energy development consisting of 5 Wind Turbine Generators (WTG's) with an installed generating capacity of up to 33 megawatts (MW) (6.6 MW per WTG), associated access(es) and infrastructure (the Proposed Development) and has an approximate centre point of National Grid Reference (NGR) NS 68623 37606, (centred location); wholly within the administrative boundary of South Lanarkshire Council (SLC/the Council).

The Proposed Development is submitted for consideration by SLC under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

The EIA Report comprises the following documents:

- Volume 1 – EIA Report, NTS (this document).
- Volume 2 – EIA Report, comprising 15 chapters with Technical Assessments.
- Volume 3 – EIA Report, LVIA supporting figures and visualisations.
- Volume 4 – EIA Report, general supporting information and all other technical assessments' supporting figures and Technical Appendices.
- Volume 5 – Glossary.

In addition to the above, the application is accompanied by a Planning Statement (document reference: 15746-011), a Design and Access Statement (document reference: 15746-012), a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report (document reference: 15746-013), a suite of drawings and figures (Figures referenced: 15746-057 – 15746-073) and a Flood Risk Assessment Note (document reference: NT16227-TN-001).

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APPENDICES

Appendix A – Site Location Plan and Site Layout Plan

1 Purpose of the EIA Report

1.1 Introduction

TNEI Services UK Limited (TNEI) were appointed by Wilson Renewables IV LLP (the Applicant) to assess the environmental effects of 5 Wind Turbine Generators (WTG's) with associated vehicular access and infrastructure in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations 2017).

The EIA process is reported in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report), which describes the methods used to assess the beneficial and adverse environmental impacts predicted to result from the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. Where appropriate, it also sets out mitigation measures designed to prevent, reduce and, if possible, offset any significant adverse environmental impacts. An assessment of residual effects, those expected to remain following implementation of mitigation measures, is also presented. This document is intended to present a summary of the findings of the EIA Report in non-technical language.

1.2 Layout and Format of the EIA Report

Table 1.1 below provides an outline of the layout of the EIA Report submitted as part of the planning application for the Proposed Development.

Table 1.1 EIA Report Layout and Contents

| EIAR Volume and Chapter | Title | Summary Note |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Vol 1 | Non-Technical Summary (this document) | A summary of findings from the EIA Report in a plain English, non-technical format. |
| Vol 2, Ch 1 | Project Introduction | An introductory chapter providing contextual information on the legislative context of the EIA Report, the layout, form and content of the report and other key information. |
| Vol 2, Ch 2 | Project Background | A chapter providing the background information to the Hawkwood onshore Wind Project, the Site, and pre-application activities undertaken. |
| Vol 2, Ch 3 | Project Description | Detailed description of the Project and its various phases of development, operation and decommissioning. |
| Vol 2, Ch 4 | Approach to Preparing the EIA Report | A detailed explanation of the methodology adopted for the EIA and carried through the various Technical Assessments contained within Volume 2. |
| Vol 2, Ch 5 | Planning and Energy Policy | A detailed review of relevant adopted and emerging Energy, Planning and Environmental policy to set the consenting context for the Proposed Development. |

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Vol 2, Ch 6 | Landscape and Visual | The assessment takes account of the current best practice and guidance for LVIA and considers the Landscape and Visual effects arising from the short-term and long-term presence of the Proposed Development. |
| Vol 2, Ch 7 | Ecology | The Chapter presents a detailed assessment of the potential effects of the construction and operation of the Proposed Development on non-avian ecology and nature conservation features, utilising the findings of a range of ecology surveys undertaken in 2022. |
| Vol 2, Ch 8 | Ornithology | The Chapter presents the potential effects of the construction and operation of the Proposed Development on avian nature conservation features, utilising the results of ornithological surveys undertaken between 2021 and 2023 and informed by relevant ornithological legislation and policy. |
| Vol 2, Ch 9 | Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology | The Chapter covers the predicted hydrological, hydrogeological, geological effects of the Proposed Development on the Site and near vicinity during construction and operation. |
| Vol 2, Ch 10 | Noise | The Chapter presents the findings and recommendations of the operational noise assessment and construction noise assessment, detailing the methodology of both assessments and the predicted noise effects caused by the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. |
| Vol 2, Ch 11 | Forestry | The Chapter considers the likely significant effects of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development on forests and woodland. Forestry related legislation and policies have been identified, with the Proposed Development assessed against this legislation and guidance. |
| Vol 2, Ch 12 | Cultural Heritage | The Chapter details the potential effects of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage assets against the identified cultural heritage baseline, details the significance of any predicted effects and mitigation and the methodologies employed throughout the assessment. |

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Vol 2, Ch 13 | Traffic and Transport | The Chapter sets out the baseline conditions for the potential effects of the Proposed Development on the surrounding transport network. Legislation and guidance specific to Highways and Transportation has also been included against which the assess the Proposed Development’s predicted effects against these. |
| Vol 2, Ch 14 | Socio-economic, Tourism and Recreation | The Chapter considers the potential socio-economic, recreational, and touristic effects of the Proposed Development, including a consideration of existing land uses within the Site, local tourism activity, employment generation, and any indirect economic effects from the Proposed Development. |
| Vol 2, Ch 15 | Other Matters | This Chapter considers the potential effects of the Proposed Development on the remaining environmental topics which were scoped out of the EIA thus which do not require an individual chapter nor a full assessment as part of the EIA. Assessment of the Proposed Development in relation to shadow flicker, climate change and carbon balance, aviation, radio and telecommunications, air quality, population and human health, and accidents and natural disasters, is presented in this Chapter. |
| Vol 3 | Landscape and Visual Technical Appendices | Supporting Technical Appendices to the LVIA chapter including Figures, Visualisations, Viewpoints and a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA). |
| Vol 4 | Technical Appendices and Supporting Figures for all other Impact Assessments | Supporting Technical Appendices and Figures by Topic for all other Topics of the EIA Report excluding the LVIA. |
| Vol 5 | Glossary | A master glossary of terms for the EIA Report as a whole document. |

1.3 EIA Screening and Scoping

1.3.1 Screening

Screening is the process which is used to establish the requirement for EIA under the relevant EIA Regulations. Note, Screening is optional and may be skipped where it is assured that EIA will be required from outset (such is the case with the Proposed Development).

The Applicant opted not to formally screen the Proposed Development under Regulation 6 of the EIA Regulations 2017 as it was deemed to constitute an EIA development under Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations 2017. In the absence of Screening, the Applicant proceeded directly to Scoping.

1.3.2 Scoping

Scoping is the process by which the Applicant seeks to establish the ‘scope’ of the EIA through the undertaking of consultation with the consenting authority (in this case, SLC) and relevant stakeholders/consultees. Scoping includes consideration of key responses and how these should be addressed within the EIA. The output of the Scoping process is a written document by the consenting authority known as a Scoping Opinion, which is used as the basis for informing the scope of the EIA.

The Applicant wrote to SLC on the 9th of June 2022 to formally request a Scoping Opinion on the Proposed Development (document reference 15256-006). In response, a Scoping Opinion was issued by SLC on the 2nd of September 2022 (ref: P/22/0904). Table 1.2 below provides a summary of the conclusions within SLC’s written statement contained within Scoping Opinion as well as details of how these key topic areas have been addressed within the EIA Report.

For the avoidance of doubt, at the time of the Scoping Request submission, the Proposed Development layout and scale differed from the finalised layout which has been subject to this EIA. The Scoping layout comprised 6 WTGs all with tip heights of up to 250 m. The Proposed Development layout which has been subject to this EIA comprises 5 WTGs, one with a tip height of up to 180 m and four with tip heights of up to 200 m. Further detail on the design evolution of the Project can be found within the submitted Design Statement (document reference 15746-012).

Table 1.2 Summary of Written Statement by Topic

| Topic | Summary from Written Statement | Cross-Reference within EIA Report |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Landscape and Visual | <p>The scope of the LVIA is considered acceptable, noting the 13 no. proposed assessment viewpoints. The cumulative assessment of any LVIA should be maintained as up to date as possible prior to submission as this local area is receiving a lot of interest for potential wind farm developments, and therefore the cumulative assessment will be an important part of the LVIA.</p> | <p>Considered within the assessment undertaken and reported within Volume 2, Chapter 6 of the EIA Report. Consultation with SLC has been undertaken with any further consultation with Nature Scot to be engaged by SLC.</p> |
| Cultural Heritage | <p>It was advised that the walkover survey should encompass the entire prospective development area, with the aim of identifying any previously unrecorded historic features that may be visible, to ensure that these can be considered in the impact assessment process.</p> <p>It was advised that the following consultees should be consulted:</p> <p>The West of Scotland Archaeological Service (WoSAS) Historic Environment Record);</p> <p>The National Record of the Historic Environment (‘Canmore’);</p> <p>Historic Environment Scotland’s (HES) databases of listed buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments,</p> | <p>Considered within the assessment undertaken and reported within Volume 2, Chapter 12 of the EIA Report. Consultation with HES has been undertaken regarding the adopted methodology for setting assessments. Any further consultation with HES will be engaged by SLC.</p> |

| Topic | Summary from Written Statement | Cross-Reference within EIA Report |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <p>battlefields, and monuments proposed for scheduling;</p> <p>The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland;</p> <p>Relevant Local and Structure Plans;</p> <p>The National Collection of Aerial Photography;</p> <p>LiDAR coverages available on the Scottish Remote Sensing Portal;</p> <p>Ordnance Survey map coverage from 1850 onwards, and any other readily available early cartographic sources held at the National Library of Scotland Map Library;</p> <p>Bibliographic references and early parish accounts;</p> <p>Council Archives; and</p> <p>Locally held private archives.</p> <p>Furthermore, due to the large total of non-designated and designated assets identified within 15 km of the Site, the Applicant would need to consider how to identify those most sensitive to impacts as a result of the Proposed Development. It was emphasised that non-designated assets should not be assumed to have a lesser significance than designated assets.</p> <p>SLC have assumed that the layout of the Proposed Development would be altered to reduce direct impacts of construction on any assets identified within the Site itself.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures proposed by the Applicant, including appointing an appropriately qualified archaeologist to undertake trial trenching or to carry out a watching brief during construction, are generally agreed with by SLC. However, SLC have also suggested that additional fieldwork may be required, in the case that the Proposed Development results in the removal of a visible feature which may have previously appeared to be of limited significance based on a surface inspection alone. Fieldwork may also need to be undertaken to address the impact of the Proposed Development on sub surface archaeological material.</p> <p>SLC stated that it would be necessary to consider impacts on assets beyond 5 km and that this could be done by adopting a more nuanced approach with the ZTV analysis.</p> | |

| Topic | Summary from Written Statement | Cross-Reference within EIA Report |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>Lastly, it was recommended that that cumulative impacts should be assessed utilising cumulative visualisations.</p> | |
| Ecology and Ornithology | <p>Failure to address significant impacts on the Muirkirk and North Lowther Special Protection Area (SPA) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and carbon-rich soil, deep peat and priority peatland habitat may result in an objection from NatureScot.</p> <p>An assessment of the direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Development on these features should therefore be undertaken, covering any impact on the areas’ qualifying interests, conservation objectives and site management statements of the respective protected area, as well as a consideration of cumulative impacts.</p> <p>A Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA) will be required for the Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands SPA and appended to the EIA Report.</p> <p>Consideration of species not included in the SPA component of the assessment must be included in the SSSI component of the assessment.</p> <p>Consideration must also be given to potential direct and indirect effects of construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development in relation to the notified habitat features of the Muirkirk Uplands SSSI.</p> <p>An Outline Habitat Management Plan (OHMP) should be produced alongside the EIA Report in accordance with NatureScot’s guidance on <i>“Planning for development: What to consider and include in Habitat Management Plans”</i>. This plan should also tie in with other habitat restoration proposals for adjacent sites, such as bog habitats.</p> | <p>All considerations detailed within SLC’s response have been addressed within the assessments undertaken and reported within Volume 2, Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 of the EIA Report. An OHMP is provided as Technical Appendix 7.4 in Volume 4c of the EIA.</p> <p>Consultation with NatureScot has been undertaken regarding the survey requirements and assessment methodology. Any further consultation with NatureScot will be engaged by SLC.</p> |
| Peatland | <p>It is advised that a figure(s) is produced, illustrating site infrastructure overlain onto peat depth and NVC maps.</p> <p>It is also advised that the proposed peat depth surveys should be used to inform the Peat Management Plan and Peat Landslide Risk Assessment.</p> <p>If impacts on nationally important Class 1 and/or Class 2 peatland are identified, then it is advised to mitigate impacts, such as through siting and design.</p> <p>The Proposed Development must assess the likely effects on CO₂ emissions from the disturbance of peat. This should demonstrate the following:</p> | <p>All considerations detailed within SLC’s response have been addressed within the assessments undertaken and reported within Volume 2, Chapter 9 of the EIA Report and in the in the supporting Technical Appendices and Figures available in Volume 4e of the EIA. Consultation with SEPA and NatureScot has been undertaken regarding the Proposed</p> |

| Topic | Summary from Written Statement | Cross-Reference within EIA Report |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>How the layout has been designed to minimise disturbance; and</p> <p>Outline the mitigation measures to avoid significant drying or oxidation of peat.</p> <p>This should comprise the following:</p> <p>Detailed map of peat depths; and</p> <p>Table detailing the quantities of peat for excavation.</p> | <p>Development’s design. Any further consultation will be engaged by SLC.</p> |
| <p>Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology</p> | <p>Several key issues were stated to be addressed within the EIA, including the requirement for a map and assessment of engineering works within and near water, as well as the impact on GWDTEs and groundwater abstractions.</p> <p>It is also required to provide a peat depth survey and table detailing proposals for re-use.</p> <p>A map and site layout of borrow pits is required, as well as a Borrow Pit Site Management Plan of pollution prevention measures.</p> <p>A schedule of mitigation and pollution prevention measures is required.</p> <p>Further, a map layout of proposed waste and surface water drainage, and water abstractions is required.</p> <p>Lastly, a decommissioning statement is required.</p> | <p>All considerations detailed within SLC’s response have been addressed within the assessments undertaken and reported within Volume 2, Chapter 9 of the EIA Report and in the supporting Technical Appendices and Figures available in Volume 4e of the EIA. Consultation with SEPA and NatureScot has been undertaken regarding the Proposed Development’s design. Any further consultation will be engaged by SLC.</p> |
| <p>Traffic and Transport</p> | <p>SLC acknowledge that proposed grid connection is currently unknown but will be considered within the EIA process. It is therefore advised by the Council’s Roads Service for early discussions to take place in regard to cable routing.</p> | <p>An explanation that the grid connection for the Proposed Development does not form part of the Application is provided in Volume 2, Chapter 3 of the EIA Report.</p> |
| <p>Access</p> | <p>A series of requirements were listed to be included within the Transport Assessment, including an assessment of baseline traffic; a construction route plan; a swept path analysis (SPA) for all vehicle types, a monthly construction programme; assessment of impact on walking and cycling routes; details of proposed site access off the B743; and details of any overrun areas to the existing road based on the SPA.</p> | <p>All requirements detailed by SLC with regard to access have been included within the Transport Assessment detailed within Volume 2, Chapter 13 of the EIA Report.</p> |
| <p>Visibility</p> | <p>SLC stated that the site access on the B743 should be subject to visibility splays of 9 m x 215 m in both directions. However, this could be reduced if the</p> | <p>Appropriate visibility splays have been identified and are detailed within Volume,</p> |

| Topic | Summary from Written Statement | Cross-Reference within EIA Report |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>Applicant could demonstrate that vehicle speeds are slower</p> <p>Visibility splays should be measured from the centreline of the proposed access and the visibility envelope should be clearly marked on the site layout to identify any obstructions.</p> <p>The Applicant may need to demonstrate how splays can be achieved with the consideration of physical characteristics such as walls or hedges.</p> | Chapter 13 of the EIA Report. |
| Drainage | It is expected that any works associated with the formation of the site accesses off the B743 will be designed to mitigate surface water runoff onto the public road. | The measures for mitigating surface water runoff as a result of the Proposed Development is detailed within Volume 2, Chapter 9 of the EIA Report. |
| Other | <p>The Applicant needs to arrange for wheel washing facilities / road cleaning during construction.</p> <p>A Traffic Management Plan is required to be produced to demonstrate that all vehicles can access the Site in a forward gear; turning area(s) are provided; and an appropriate level of parking is provided during construction.</p> <p>The Applicant is also required to undertake a roads dilapidation survey of the access route and will be responsible for repairing any damage to the road as a result of construction activities.</p> | All requirements detailed by SLC have been covered within Volume 2, Chapter 13 of the EIA Report. |
| Noise and Vibration | The scope of the noise assessment was considered acceptable by SLC. | The noise assessment and reporting can be found within Volume 2, Chapter 10 of the EIA Report. |
| Infrastructure, Aviation and Telecommunications | <p>SLC state that Glasgow Prestwick Airport and Glasgow Airport should be scoped into the assessment.</p> <p>Concerns were raised by NATS and the MOD with regard to safeguarding areas and low flying areas.</p> | All points have been addressed within Volume, Chapter 15 of the EIA Report. |

1.4 Availability of the EIA Report

Table 1.3 Summary of Requirements to Distribute the EIA Report

| Requirement | Regulation | Note |
|-------------|------------|------|
|-------------|------------|------|

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Requirement for Notices</p> | <p>21 of the EIA Regulations 2017, Section 14(3) of the EIA Regulations 2017, Section 36A of the Planning Act, and Section 22 and Schedule 4 of the DMR.</p> | <p>Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations 2017 requires that an application for Planning Permission under Section 32 of the Planning Act must include the publication of a notice stating the times and places at which either an EIAR or additional information to be included in an EIAR may be inspected by members of the public.</p> <p>Section 14(3) of the EIA Regulations 2017 requires the EIAR to be advertised on the application website (https://www.wilsonrenewables.com/hawkwood).</p> <p>Section 36A of the Planning Act and Section 22 and Schedule 4 of the DMP require the application to be published on the Weekly List of Planning Applications (www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/44/planning_applications_and_decisions) and be advertised in local and national press by SLC via The Edinburgh Gazette and East Kilbride News.</p> |
| <p>Requirement for the submission of hard copies of the EIAR to the Local Planning Authority</p> | <p>22(3) and 25(1) of the EIA Regulations 2017</p> | <p>Regulation 22(3) of the EIA Regulations requires a developer to submit hard copies of an EIA Report to the planning authority.</p> <p>Regulation 25(1) of the EIA Regulations places a requirement upon a developer to make available an EIA Report, on submission of an EIA application, for physical inspection at a named place. A hard copy of this EIA Report is available for inspection at the following location:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">East Kilbride Library The Olympia Shopping Centre East Kilbride South Lanarkshire G74 1PG</p> |

1.4.1 Alternative Arrangements

The Applicant recognises the need to present the findings of the EIA Report as a matter of public record and in the interests of public engagement and transparency has also sought to make the EIA Report available in digital format. A copy of the EIA Report is available on SLC’s ePlanning website which can be accessed via the following link:

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200218/planning_for_householders/1633/view_planning_applications

The Applicant has also published a copy of the Volume 1 NTS on the project website which can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.wilsonrenewables.com/hawkwood>

1.4.1.1 Request for Physical and Digital Copies of the EIA Report

A digital copy of the Application can be requested via USB Stick or DVD at a charge of £20 and copies of this document (the NTS) can be provided free of charge via email. Hard copies of the Application may be obtained at a reasonable charge reflecting the cost of making the Application available. The charge for obtaining a physical copy of the EIA Report is £900 inclusive of VAT. To request a copy of the application submission, including the EIA Reports, either on a USB Stick or DVD or via hard copy, please contact TNEI at the following:

Chris Pepper (Head of Environment and Consents)
Email: chris.pepper@tneigroup.com
Tel: +44(0)141 739 9739
Address: 7th Floor, 80 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5UB

1.5 Representations

Any representation in respect of the Application should be submitted to SLC using the information provided in Table 1.4 below. When contacting SLC the Planning Application Reference Number (obtained via the SLC ePlanning website) should be provided. Any representations submitted via the SLC inbox will receive an acknowledgement from SLC directly.

Table 1.4 Key Contact Information for Representations

| Contact Method | Contact Information |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| South Lanarkshire Council | |
| Address | Planning and Regulatory Services Community and Enterprise Resources South Lanarkshire Council Council Offices Floor 6 Almada Street Hamilton South Lanarkshire ML3 0AA |
| Email | Planning@southlanarkshire.gov.uk |
| Website | www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk |
| ePlanning website | https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200218/planning_for_householders/1633/view_planning_applications |

Representations should be received by SLC not later than the date of 21 days from the last published notice of the Application and all representations should be dated, specifying the project name and reference number and shall include full details of the sender (name, return email, and postal addresses). Representations received after the 21-days period may still be considered by SLC at its discretion.

2 Site Location, Description and Selection

2.1 Site Location

The Site, as defined by the EIA site boundary is located within an area of open moorland approximately 6.11 km south-west of Strathaven and approximately 1.23 km east of Dungavel. The Site has an approximate centre point of NGR NS 68623 37606 and covers an area of approximately 224.2 hectares (ha).

A copy of the Site Location Plan, is provided within Appendix A.

2.2 Key Components of the Proposed Development – Locations

The main infrastructure components of the Proposed Development assessed under the EIA Regulations 2017 and considered within the EIA Report are located as shown in Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1 Infrastructure Component Locations

| Component | Note | NGR (centred location) |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| WTG T1 | Wind turbine with associated hardstanding area and gravity base foundations | NS 68523 37176 |
| WTG T2 | Wind turbine with associated hardstanding area and gravity base foundations | NS 68037 37347 |
| WTG T3 | Wind turbine with associated hardstanding area and gravity base foundations | NS 68679 37834 |
| WTG T4 | Wind turbine with associated hardstanding area and gravity base foundations | NS 69148 37315 |
| WTG T5 | Wind turbine with associated hardstanding area and gravity base foundations | NS 69254 37922 |
| Access Tracks | A network of new access tracks is proposed throughout the Site. A length of access track already exists at the entrance to the site which will require upgrading (widening) and resurfacing in order to ensure it is suitable to facilitate WTG deliveries. | Several Locations |
| Substation Compound | Proposed substation compound will house a single storey control building (containing <i>inter alia</i> a 33 kV substation and associated internal electrical HV equipment, operations and welfare facilities for the maintenance personnel) and vehicle parking spaces. | NS 67564 27589 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Temporary Construction Compound (TCC) | Proposed TCC will be built near to the Site entrance to facilitate the formation and construction of the primary access track which will lead down into the main Site area and to the internal network of access tracks from the site entrance. | NS 66581 38285 |
| Site Compound | Proposed Site Compound with an approximate measurement of 50 m x 100 m which will comprise an area of hardstanding offering space for the storage and laydown of plant, parking, site offices and associated staff welfare during construction. | NS 67707 37506 |
| Onside Borrow Pit Search Area | Proposed to eradicate the need to bring aggregate from external sources to Site. | NS 67896 37312 |
| Underground Grid Connection | Proposed Network of Underground Cables laid in trenches approximately 1-2 m in width and 1 m in depth. | Several Locations |

A copy of the Site Layout Plan, is provided within Appendix A.

2.3 Site Characteristics

The Site is located within an area of open moorland. Several watercourses drain away from the site including; Feeshie Burn which runs through the southeast of the Site; a tributary of Feeshie Burn runs out of the Site to the northeast; Dykes Burn which flows from approximately 186 m northwest of WTG T2 away from the Site and runs parallel to the main access track into the Site; and another small watercourse that cross the main access track into the Site in a north-south alignment, approximately 750 m east of the B743 public highway. The Site and surrounding areas comprise a series of broadly rounded hills encompassing upland grass rides and marshland. There are no residential properties located within the Site, however Burnside Farm lies adjacent to the portion of the Site boundary which is included to allow for the construction of the Site access track.

2.4 Site Selection

The Applicant’s site selection process has been designed to identify a site which provides the most financially and technically viable option whilst being the least environmentally impactful and thereby standing the best opportunity to gain consent. The Applicant has selected this Site to achieve this. In doing so, the Site principally allows for the best opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to Scotland’s national targets for renewable energy generation and further the aims of NPF4 in the provision of renewable energy infrastructure as a direct contributor to reducing carbon emissions and achieve Net Zero.

The Applicant is committed to avoiding the development of renewable energy infrastructure in areas where there would be an unacceptable effect on designated sites and where suitable mitigation cannot be achieved. The Applicant is also committed to not considering sites that have an unacceptable effect on landscape character or amenity of National Parks and National Scenic Areas, and special consideration is attributed to internationally and nationally important species and habitats in the wider area.

The following factors have led to the selection of this Site for the Proposed Development:

- There is a commercially viable grid connection;

- There is high annual mean wind speed across the Site;
- The Proposed Development is located in proximity to and in an area where wind farms are already operating;
- The Site is sufficiently removed from the nearest residential properties and settlements;
and
- The Site benefits from good access to an existing road network which has proven capable of supporting the delivery of WTG's and associated infrastructure through the construction of other comparable developments.

3 The Proposed Development

3.1 Summary of Proposals

3.1.1 Introduction

This Section of the NTS provides a brief outline of each of the key components which form the Proposed Development and that are the subject of the EIA. It is however not designed to offer a technical explanation of the Proposed Development and its components. Further detailed information on these components and their locations is available and should be viewed by reading the associated Planning Statement for the application (document reference 15746-011).

A copy of the Site Layout Plan, is provided within Appendix A.

3.1.2 Site Access

Construction traffic will approach the Site from both the north (from Strathaven) travelling down the B743 and from the south (from Muirkirk) travelling up the B743, before exiting via a new bellmouth access junction off the B743 to the Site. While a junction off the B743 already exists, it would need to be upgraded to ensure visibility when entering and egressing the Site and thus to safely facilitate the construction of the Proposed Development.

3.1.2.1 New Access Tracks

A network of new access tracks has been included within the design of the Proposed Development, accounting for relevant environmental considerations and constraints. This network of internal access tracks comprises a main spine track travelling from the southwest concern to the northeast corner of the Site. A series of tracks branch off the main spine track to the individual turbines. There are also a number of turning heads and passing places along the length of the internal access tracks so as to allow vehicles to safely manoeuvre and navigate around the Site. The Proposed Development has been carefully designed to align the main access track into Site with the existing access track at the Site entrance in order to reduce the volume of land take required for the Proposed Development and therefore to reduce its overall environmental impact. The network of access tracks across the Site has also been developed based on the existing Site topography so as to reduce the requirement for cutting as far as possible.

3.1.3 Wind Turbine Infrastructure

A candidate WTG has been selected for the purposes of this EIA as the Siemens – SG 6.6 – 155. The typical elevations and a depiction of the main components for the Siemens – SG 6.6 – 155 can be found in Volume 4b of the EIA, Figure 3.10. Based on the candidate selected, the WTGs proposed have a rotor diameter of 155 m and an installed electrical capacity of up to 6.6 MW, resulting in an anticipated projected output of up to 33 MW.

3.1.4 Associated Infrastructure

Each WTG will be constructed on a gravity-base reinforced concrete foundation, that would require approximately 1400 m³ of concrete and 120 tonnes of steel reinforcement however, the exact amount of which will be subject to a detailed design process prior to construction commencing. The construction area within approximately 1 m of the tower base would be restored using the retained topsoil after the WTGs have been installed.

Each WTG will also require a 33 kV transformer with internal switchgear in order to increase their electrical voltage. These will either sit internally within the WTG tower or externally at the WTG base

within a stand-alone kiosk. Whether the equipment sits internally or externally will be subject to the final WTG manufacturer's design.

Underground electrical cabling will be laid in trenches of approximately 1-2 m in width and 1 m in depth and will follow the direction of the onsite access tracks wherever possible in order to minimise the Proposed Development's footprint. The network of cables will link the WTG transformers to the onsite substation which will in turn connect into the electricity network.

An area of hardstanding – measuring at approximately 72 m x 30 m – will be constructed adjacent to each of the WTG foundations in order to accommodate two cranes and thus facilitate the erection of the WTGS. The areas of hardstanding will be composed of compacted rock (with layers of geotextile as required), will be sufficiently level and will have an appropriate load-bearing capacity to enable safe crane operation.

In addition to WTG hardstanding areas, four auxiliary pads – measuring at approximately 20 m x 12 m – will be required for crane assembly and two blade laydown fingers – measuring at approximately 30 m x 5 m each – would be required to site the WTG blades and WTG components before WTG erection. These smaller areas of hardstanding will be temporary and used during construction only.

3.1.5 Substation Compound

The substation compound will be located 546 m west of WTG T2 at approximately NGR: NS 67565 37589, expecting to house a singly-story control building, a 33 kV substation and associated internal electrical HV equipment, operations and welfare facilities for the maintenance personnel, and vehicle parking spaces. The substation control compound will be contained within security fencing of up to 3 m in height.

3.1.6 Construction Specific Infrastructure and Requirements

The following sections provide a summary of construction specific requirements for the Proposed Development.

3.1.6.1 Temporary Construction Compound

A Temporary Construction Compound (TCC) will be built to facilitate the formation and construction of the primary access track which will lead to the main Site area and other internal access tracks. It will measure approximately 2,883 m² and will be located near the site entrance off the B743. The location of the TCC can be seen on the Site Layout Plan in Volume 4b, Figure 3.9. The TCC will remain in situ for the duration of the construction of the Proposed Development but will not be utilised for main construction activities after the access track into the main Site Compound (refer to Section 3.1.6.2 below) has been constructed. After the after the access track into the main Site Compound has been constructed the TCC will only be used in the case of a need for additional parking or storing WTG components.

3.1.6.2 Site Compound

The Site Compound will be constructed after the primary access track from the TCC has been constructed. It will measure approximately 50 m x 100 m and will be located approximately 313 m west of T2. The location can be seen on the Site Layout Plan in Volume 4b, Figure 3.1. The Site Compound will comprise an area of hardstanding which offers space for site offices, staff welfare areas, parking spaces, storage and laydown areas for plant, tool and other material, laydown areas and storage for turbine components and an area bunded appropriately to store fuels and oil tanks. The Site Compound is temporary for the duration of construction activities and will be removed post-construction.

3.1.6.3 Onsite Borrow Pit

One onsite borrow pit (BP) is proposed as part of the Proposed Development to eradicate the need to bring aggregate to the Site from external sources. The location of the BP search area has been influenced by onsite environmental constraints to minimise environmental disturbance. The exact location and material required from the BP will be determined after full ground investigation works and testing have been undertaken. The location of the BP search area can be found in the Site Layout Plan in Volume 4b, Figure 3.1 and details of an indicative BP layout is provided in Volume 4b Figure 3.17.

3.1.7 Elements Indicated but Outwith the Scope of the EIA Report

3.1.7.1 Grid Connection

The final grid connection does not form part of the application, nor this EIA. Any future consent to connect the Proposed Development to the national grid will be sought by the relevant owner/operator of the local distribution network, Scottish Power Transmission (SPT).

For the avoidance of doubt, the Applicant has secured a grid connection offer for 34 MW which the Proposed Development would use to connect into the national electrical grid once it enters its operational phase.

3.2 Project Programme

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Development are expected to last approximately 12 months, which involves 10 months for the indicative programme of works followed by 2 months of testing and commissioning. The Indicative Construction Programme commencing Q1 2029 is outlined in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Outline Construction Programme

| Activity | Projected Timeframe |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Site Mobilisation | Month 1 |
| Timber Extraction | Month 1 |
| Construction Compound Construction | Month 2 |
| Sub-Station Compound Construction | Months 3-6 |
| Site Access, Track and Hardstanding Formation and Construction | Months 1-7 |
| Foundations | Months 4 – 9 |
| Cabling | Months 7 – 10 |
| Turbine Delivery and Installation | Months 7 – 11 |
| Turbine Testing and Commissioning | Months 10 – 12 |
| Completion and Operation | Month 12 |

3.2.1 Management of Construction Activities

3.2.1.1 Construction Environmental Management Plan

It is proposed that the management of all construction activities on site would be informed through the production of a detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which would be prepared and adopted prior to the onset of construction activities on site. The CEMP would be produced in line with best practice guidelines and in consultation with the Local Planning Authority (LPA), the LPA's Environmental Health Officer (EHO) and other identified stakeholders. As with the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP), it is anticipated that the requirement for a CEMP would form a condition of consent.

An preliminary or outline CEMP (oCEMP) has been prepared as part of the EIA and can be found within Volume 4b, Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline Construction Management Plan.

Combined, the CTMP and CEMP would form the primary management and reporting tools for all on-site construction activities.

3.2.2 Construction Traffic and Access

Volume 2, Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport of the EIA Report details the breakdown of the Construction Traffic Timeline, with estimated traffic numbers throughout individual periods of the Construction process. Vehicular access to the Site will be provided from the B743 via an existing track which will be upgraded as part of the Proposed Development and a network of new and upgraded tracks within the Site will provide access to the WTG locations.

Increases in traffic levels associated with the construction phase of the Proposed Development are temporary in nature and can be accommodated by the existing road network within the study area. Good practice construction measures will ensure efficient transportation of construction materials and co-ordination with other wind farms under construction within the same timescales as the Proposed Development to minimise disruption to the local area.

3.3 Operational Phase

Consent is being sought for the Proposed Development for 30 years (from the date of full commissioning). With development of this type, increasing the operational period allows the costs of renewable energy to be reduced and maximises the contribution that the Proposed Development can make towards climate change and renewable energy targets. Furthermore, there are no current statutory or legislative limits to the duration of consent for renewable energy development proposals.

3.4 Decommissioning Phase

Decommissioning of components and infrastructure will take account of the environmental legislation and technology available at the time of decommissioning. While it is noted that consent is sought for and operational period of 30 years from the date of commissioning, when a component, or section of, reaches the end of its individual operational lifespan it is anticipated that replacement works would occur on a like for like basis. Where necessary, notice will be given to the LPA and EHO in advance of commencement of decommissioning works, with all necessary licenses or permits being acquired. This will be in line with the Project Decommissioning Plan to ensure any works are timed to minimise environmental impact.

4 The EIA Process

4.1 Introduction

This section of the NTS provides a brief general summary of the EIA Process and the methodology by which Impact Assessment occurs within the context of an EIA. Included is explanatory text on the consultation process undertaken specifically in relation to the Proposed Development.

4.2 EIA Process and Methodology

4.2.1 EIA Process

EIA is the process undertaken to identify and evaluate the likely significant effects of a proposed development on the environment and to identify measures to mitigate or manage any significant adverse effects. The assessment must be carried out following consultation with statutory consultees, other interested bodies and members of the public. The purpose of identifying significant effects is to ensure decision makers are able to make an informed judgement on a proposal. Where one or more significant effects are identified, it does not automatically follow that a proposal should be refused.

The EIA Report has been prepared following a systematic approach to EIA and project design.

The process of identifying environmental effects is both iterative and cyclical, running in tandem with the iterative design process. The key elements in EIA are outlined below in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Key Stages of the EIA Process

| Step | Summary |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Screening | Used to establish the requirement for EIA under the relevant EIA Regulations. Note, Screening is optional and may be skipped where it is assured that EIA will be required from outset. |
| Scoping | Establishing the scope of the EIA and undertaking consultation, including consideration of responses and how these should be addressed. |
| Environmental Assessment | The undertaking of technical environmental assessments, including baseline studies, input to the design process and identification of potential significant environmental effects. |
| Reporting | Preparation of the EIA Report which presents the findings of the technical environmental assessments and draws conclusions as to the predicted environmental impact of the scheme factoring any mitigation measures required to offset or negate significant environmental effects. |
| Submission and Assessment | Submission of the applications alongside the EIA Report, including publicity of the submitted EIA findings. |

The above table is not designed to provide an exhaustive list of the various steps undertaken within the EIA process, but rather give an overall non-technical explanation of key steps.

4.2.2 EIA Methodology

All assessments contained within the EIA Report have been undertaken based on the Site and relevant study areas related to the Proposed Development. All the topic assessments presented in the EIA Report have been undertaken on the basis of a common understanding of the nature of the Proposed Development, as described within Volume 2, Chapter 3: Project Description. Each topic area includes the assessment of likely significant effects, predicted and undertaken by competent experts with relevant specialist skills, drawing on their experience of working on other development projects, good practice in EIA and on relevant published information. The magnitude of any impact has been assessed against the identified baseline environmental conditions identified through associated data collection and collated through various methods.

Each of the technical disciplines within the EIA follow the above methodology, however there are minor variations to the approach depending on the topic-specific requirements.

4.2.3 Consultation

Consultation between the Applicant, the wider project team and both statutory and non-statutory consultees has been ongoing throughout the pre-application process. Details of consultation responses received as part of scoping are included within Volume 2, Chapter 4: Approach to Preparing the EIA Report. Proactive consultation enabled the technical specialists undertaking the EIA to suitably refine their approaches to undertaking their technical assessments and their survey methodologies. Consultation also allowed consultees to offer views and advice on different design configurations throughout the EIA process.

4.2.3.1 Stakeholder Consultation

Prior to the submission of this Application, consultation has been undertaken with the LPA, and statutory and non-statutory consultees. Table 4.2 lists the dates of all consultation between TNEI, the Applicant, NatureScot (previously Scottish Natural Heritage) (NS), SEPA, Historic Environment Scotland (HES), Glasgow Airport, Glasgow Prestwick Airport, Scottish Forestry, West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) and the LPA undertaken to date.

Table 4.2 Summary of Stakeholder Consultation

| Date | Name | Summary |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 24 th February 2023 | SLC | Email correspondence issuing a letter and graphics to SLC to seek confirmation of Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) parameters and viewpoint locations. |
| 8 th August 2023 | SLC | Email correspondence with SLC to seek clarification of any changes to SLC's original scoping response. |
| 14 th March 2024 | SLC | A virtual meeting was held with SLC to provide them with a general update on project progress and to provide them with anticipated timescales for the submission of the forthcoming planning application. |
| 11 th September – 11 th October 2023 | Scottish Forestry | Email correspondence with Scottish Forestry to seek advice on the requirement for a forestry chapter in the EIA Report since the baseline had changed since the original scoping response was issued by SLC. |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February – April 2024 | SEPA | Email correspondence with SEPA to seek comments on the Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology aspects of the current infrastructure design of the Proposed Development. |
| April – May 2024 | HES | Email correspondence with HES regarding draft ZTVs, wirelines and visualisations of the Proposed Development, as well as text noting the adopted methodology for the setting assessment, which were all provided to HES for commentary. |
| 10 th August 2023 | HES | Email correspondence with HES to seek clarification of any changes to HES' original scoping response. |
| 3 rd March 2023 | West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) | Email correspondence with WoSAS regarding a request for HER data and setting assessment methodology. |
| 1 st April 2022 | NatureScot | A meeting was held to discuss the Proposed Development with NatureScot, prior to the submission of the Screening request. |
| 20 th September 2022 | NatureScot | A meeting was held to discuss the Proposed Development with specific regard to Ornithology. |
| 15 th March 2023 | NatureScot | A follow-up meeting to the meeting held on 20 th September 2022 was held to further discuss the Proposed Development with specific regard to ornithological surveys being undertaken for the Proposed Development. |
| 28 th March 2024 | NatureScot | A meeting was held to discuss the current infrastructure layout of the Proposed Development with specific regard to impacts on Ecology, Ornithology and peat. |
| June 2023 – July 2024 | Glasgow Airport | Email and telephone correspondence regarding changes to the number and configuration of the WTGs since scoping and the resultant further assessments and/or mitigation needed. |
| June 2023 – July 2024 | Glasgow Prestwick Airport | Email and telephone correspondence regarding changes to the number and configuration of the WTGs since scoping and the resultant further assessments and/or mitigation needed. |

4.2.3.2 Public Consultation

The Applicant consulted the members of the public, the local community, community councils and locally elected officials through public consultation events, leaflet distribution, correspondence via email and implementation of a project specific website.

The statutory requirement for a PAC is defined within Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (the DMR), which entails that a PAC Report is to be submitted along with any planning application which constitutes a 'major'

development under the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 (the Hierarchy of Developments Regulations).

Regulation 7 of the DMR dictates that so as to sufficiently engage the public on the Proposed Development, the Applicant is to hold at least two public events, publish in the local newspaper, and consult with every Community Council whose area is within or adjoins the Site.

A PAC Report (document reference: 15746-013) which provides a summary of the public consultation activities has been prepared and can be viewed alongside the Application.

5 Energy and Planning Policy

5.1 Summary of Policy Requirements

For the purpose of determination under the relevant statutory powers, the Proposed Development comprises components which are deemed to consist of electricity generating stations and their ancillary infrastructure (i.e., the WTG's) and have an installed capacity of up to 33 MW. This therefore requires consent from SLC under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

Since its adoption in February 2023, the 4th iteration of the National Planning Framework for Scotland (NPF4) has become the primary material consideration in the assessment of all developments within Scotland. NPF4 represents a step change in how planning policy is implemented in Scotland focussing decisions to be taken within a primarily national policy context, rather than a local centric policy context. the adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) (in this case the South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2, adopted December 2020 (SLLDP2)) is not afforded primacy in the determination of the application, although it remains a significant material consideration.

A summary of relevant international, UK-wide and Scottish energy policy has been referenced within the EIA Report. The Proposed Development relates to the generation of electricity from renewable energy sources (in this case onshore wind) and comes as a direct response to national planning and energy policy objectives. Furthermore, the Proposed Development would contribute to the attainment of carbon emissions reduction, renewable energy and electricity targets at both the Scottish and UK levels. Detailed reference to the energy policy context for the Full Planning Permission application is provided in the corresponding Planning Statement (document reference 15746-011).

National planning policy and guidance has been reviewed as part of the EIA process including NPF4, relevant Circulars and Planning Advice Notes. This can be viewed within Volume 2, Chapter 5: Planning and Energy Policy and Legislation of the EIA Report.

The statutory LPD (SLLDP2) relevant to the Proposed Development has also been taken into account. This comprises the following documents:

- The South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2, April 2021;
- SLLDP2 Supplementary Guidance 1, Sustainable Development and Climate Change;
- SLLDP2 Supplementary Guidance 2, Green Belt and Rural Area; and
- SLLDP2 Supplementary Guidance 9, Natural and Historic Environment.

Consideration has been given to the relevant policies contained within the LDP during the design of the Proposed Development. The policies most relevant are considered to provide guidance on the main issues the LPA will consider when acting as the decision-maker for the Full Planning Permission application.

6 Summary of EIA Report – Technical Assessments

6.1 Introduction

The following Section has been written to detail a summary of the findings of each Chapter included within Volume 2 of the EIA Report, in addition to supporting technical appendices and figures associated with each Chapter of the EIA Report. Each section below provides a summary of the predicted effects the Proposed Development, as predicted by each individual discipline.

6.2 Topic Specific Summaries

Table 6.1 provides a non-technical summary of the findings of the EIA Report split by individual topic.

Table 6.1 Non-technical Summary of EIA Report Findings per Topic

| Topic | Summary |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Landscape and Visual | <p>The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) can be viewed in full within Volume 2, Chapter 6 of the EIA Report. Corresponding Technical Appendices, Baseline Figures, Visualisations and Viewpoints to the LVIA are contained within Volume 3. The assessment considers the Landscape and Visual effects occurring from the short-term and long-term presence of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The purpose of the LVIA is to identify and determine the potential effects on the character of the surrounding landscape and its features; the individuals and/or groups of people who have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development, and; the overall pleasantness of the views that these individuals enjoy of their surroundings as a result of the construction, operation and decommissioning works required to facilitate the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The assessment concludes that the Proposed Development would result in significant effects on the local landscape, and significant visual impacts on users of a short stretch of the B743. However, the Proposed Development would typically be viewed in the context of the existing Dungavel and Kype Muir wind farms, and such significant effects are typically inevitable due to the size of the Proposed Development and typically prominent locations. Since the surrounding context of the Proposed Development comprises a medium sensitivity area with a number of designations, rolling hills and a landscape character that is increasingly characterised as a wind farm landscape, it is believed that the landscape could accommodate the Proposed Development without having unacceptable levels of harmful effects on the overall landscape setting or visual amenity experienced across the study area.</p> |
| Ecology | <p>The Ecology Impact Assessment (EcIA) can be viewed in full within Volume 2, Chapter 7 of the EIA Report. Corresponding Technical Appendices to the EcIA are contained within Volume 4. The purpose of the EcIA is to detail the anticipated potential effects of the Proposed Development on sensitive sites, habitats, and other features related to all relevant ecological species other than birds (which are considered in Chapter 8). Surveys were carried out to determine the relevant ecology in accordance with the best practice methodologies at the time of commissioning.</p> |

| Topic | Summary |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>The EclA has determined that the Proposed Development is not expected to have any direct or indirect impacts on designated sites during construction or operation.</p> <p>The EclA has assessed the potential effects of the Proposed Development on Habitats and Flora, Otter, Badger, Reptiles and Fisheries. Operational impacts would be limited to the potential for bats to hit WTGs; however these impacts are not significant. No operational phase impacts on habitats or non-bat protected species are anticipated. However, before mitigation is put in place, a significant impact has been identified on bats during construction, as well as on certain habitats (including montane blanket bog).</p> <p>An OHMP has been produced in line with the recommendations of the EclA to illustrate opportunities for further ecological enhancement to deliver biodiversity benefits wherever possible. In particular, enhancements will reduce the overall impacts of the Proposed Development after mitigation and will help to deliver an improvement to the biodiversity on Site (as per the requirements of NPF4). The intention is for the finalised (post-consent) Habitat Management Plan (HMP) to be an organic, live document that will be modified after consent is granted and before construction, and potentially during construction and post-construction if required.</p> <p>It is intended that the HMP will be part of a wider strategy of positive conservation management being implemented across Avondale in response to other HMPs associated with wind farms within the surrounding area. The EclA concluded that there will be no significant adverse effects of the Proposed Development after mitigation and enhancement measures (including those contained within the oHMP) are realised.</p> |
| Ornithology | <p>The Ornithological Impact Assessment (OIA) can be viewed in full within Volume 2, Chapter 8 of the EIA Report. Corresponding Technical Appendices to the OIA are contained within Volume 4.</p> <p>Collision risk modelling (CRM) for Target Species recorded during onsite surveys is provided which is a theoretical assessment focussing solely on the potential for species associated with the SPA to be impacted by flying into the Proposed Development's WTGs.</p> <p>The assessment provides a summary of the methodologies adopted and a description of the findings and the relevant information to be taken through to the OIA. As the Proposed Development covers a range of potential turbine sizes, the modelling contained within the technical assessment is presented as a worst-case scenario, in accordance with best practice methodologies at the time of commissioning. The OIA found that the risk of collision was insignificant for both golden plover and migratory pink-footed goose. The OIA also found that no adverse effect on the integrity of the Muirkirk and North Lowther SPA would arise as a result of the Proposed Development.</p> |
| Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology | <p>The Hydrological Assessment can be viewed in full within Volume 2, Chapter 9 of the EIA Report. Corresponding Technical Appendices to the Hydrological Assessment are contained within Volume 4. The assessment covers the potential hydrological, hydrogeological and geological impacts of the Proposed Development on the Site and the nearby area. The assessment covers the risk of sedimentation and erosion, pollution, alteration of natural drainage patterns, flood risk and alteration of the geological environment through the disturbance</p> |

| Topic | Summary |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>of peat. The assessment methodology is based on a relevant technical guidance (including but not limited to guidance produced by IEMA, SNH and SEPA).</p> <p>The majority of the Site sits on top of peat deposits. A key consideration in the site layout design was therefore the avoidance of areas of deep peat where possible. Only one watercourse crossing will be required as part of the Proposed Development. No nearby designations are considered to be hydrologically connected to the Site and have therefore not been considered within the Chapter. Sensitive receptors identified and assessed for significance of effects are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface watercourses and waterbodies including Dykes Burn and The Avon Water; • Watercourses in the western section of the Site, as this area is situated within a surface water Drinking Water Protected Area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential private water supplies; • Water dependent habitats; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peat. <p>Prior to the implementation of mitigation and good practice measures, some significant effects would occur (including increased sediment loads in rivers and streams and the disturbance of peat). Operational effects were scoped out of the assessment as these are expected to be substantially less than effects observed during the construction period. Effects during decommissioning are predicted to be similar to that of the construction period.</p> <p>Construction has the potential to make peat unstable and therefore a Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment has been completed (refer to TA 9.4) which found that of 14 identified potential landslide source locations, only one (Zone 6) has a considered significance of minor/moderate. Additional mitigation will be required to deal with this.</p> <p>Sensitivity for peat disturbance is considered to be Low to Medium as much of the main infrastructure is not located on peat or is on peat <1m in depth. Furthermore, all of the peatland associated with the infrastructure, except for a small section of floated track, is considered to be modified and the best quality peatland has been avoided by design. All excavated peat is therefore considered to be modified.</p> <p>A total volume of 74,765 m³ of peat will be extracted in relation to the Proposed Development and is detailed within the Outline Peat Management Plan (OPMP) in TA 9.3. Prior to mitigation the significance of effects for peat disturbance is considered to be Minor to Moderate. The total volume of peat predicted to be excavated does not exceed the intended peat reuse volume, so no excess peat will need to be disposed offsite. In addition to the peat reuse, restoration works of further peat erosion areas are proposed as part of the OHMP (TA 7.4) to offset some of the adverse effects on peatland.</p> <p>Following the implementation of appropriate mitigation, construction effects on peat resource are predicted to reduce to Minor and subsequently not significant. Construction effects on Dykes Burn and on peat slide risk would also be reduced resulting in a Minor effect and therefore no longer significant. There are no significant residual operational effects, nor are there significant cumulative effects during construction.</p> |
| Noise | <p>The Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) can be viewed in full within Volume 2, Chapter 10 of the EIA Report. Corresponding Technical Appendices to the NIA are contained within Volume 4. A NIA was carried out to predict the potential</p> |

| Topic | Summary |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>effects of the Proposed Development on identified sensitive noise receptors as a result of the operation of the Proposed Development, in the form of an Operational Noise Report. Another NIA was carried out to predict the potential effects of the Proposed Development on identified sensitive noise receptors as a result of the construction of the Proposed Development, in the form of a Construction Noise Report.</p> <p>The operational noise assessment uses good practice to determine the appropriate noise limits at places which are considered as sensitive to noise impacts (for example, residences). The operational noise assessment also uses good practice to predict the likely effects by determining whether noise emission at noise sensitive receptors will meet the Total ETSU-R-97 Noise Limits, and finally derives Site Specific Noise Limits for the Proposed Development and undertakes predictions against those limits.</p> <p>Should consent be granted for the Proposed Development it would be appropriate to include a set of noise related planning conditions which detail the noise limits applicable to the Proposed Development. A set of suggested planning conditions have been included within Annex 6 of the Operational Noise Assessment.</p> |
| Forestry | <p>The Forestry Impact Assessment can be viewed in full within Volume 2, Chapter 11 of the EIA Report. Corresponding Technical Appendices to the Forestry Impact Assessment are contained within Volume 4. The Chapter considers the likely significant effects of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development on relevant forestry and woodland . A list of forestry related legislation and policies considered within the Forestry Impact Assessment are listed within Section 11.5 of Volume 2, Chapter 11 of the EIA Report. The Criteria for the assessment of effects on forestry are based against the standards set in UK Forestry Standards (UKFS) and the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy (CoWRP)and the implementation guidance.</p> <p>As a result of the construction of the Proposed Development, there would be a net loss of 1.37 ha of forestry. In order to comply with the criteria of the Scottish Government's CoWRP, off-site compensatory planting would be required. The Applicant is committed to providing appropriate compensatory planting and the extent, location and composition of this planting will be agreed with Scottish Forestry. This will take into account any revision to the felling or restocking plans prior to operation. This Chapter concluded that the extent of the felling or the potential environmental impact of this felling would not be significant.</p> |
| Cultural Heritage | <p>The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) can be viewed in full within Volume 2, Chapter 12 of the EIA Report. Corresponding Technical Appendices to the HIA are contained within Volume 4. A description of the current cultural heritage baseline related to the Proposed Development, the potential effects on cultural heritage that may occur, the significance of any predicted effects and mitigation that will be undertaken to minimise and/or offset predicted impacts is provided. Main items of legislation, policies and guidance documents specifically related to cultural heritage have been assessed within the Chapter.</p> <p>The desk-based study for the area beyond the Site Boundary consisted of the identification of designated cultural heritage assets, including Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Inventory Historic Battlefields and Inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes within 30 km of the</p> |



| Topic | Summary |
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| | <p>Site Boundary. Following consideration of the likely levels of setting effects at such long distances the study area was refined to 10 km from the Site. Following the desk study a site survey examined the Site on the ground and recorded the current condition and extent of previously identified cultural heritage assets, recorded any new assets and assessed the Site for potential to hold buried archaeological remains.</p> <p>Effects on the setting of cultural heritage assets identified were all visual in nature. No non-visual setting effects are predicted. Of the 138 designated assets within 10 km of the Site Boundary 25 were shown to have no visibility of the Proposed Development (Volume 4h Figure 12.2) and they did not form part of a group of assets that may have resulted in their setting being impacted despite the specific assets themselves not being inter-visible with the Proposed Development. Through the design process the layout of the Proposed Development has avoided direct impacts on Asset 4 however direct effects were predicted on three known assets. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be slight adverse as only a very small portion of the assets will be disturbed, meaning the significance of effect will be negligible. These types of assets are also frequently found within the area.</p> <p>Cumulative effects on cultural heritage assets relative to this assessment will relate to setting and be visual in nature however, no non-visual cumulative setting effects or other types of cumulative effects were identified. Potential direct effects on buried assets which have not yet been discovered are possible during construction and the significance of this effect is currently unknown. Should buried archaeology be uncovered that cannot be avoided, further measures beyond the recommended mitigation will be required to offset any direct impact.</p> |
| <p>Traffic and Transport</p> | <p>The Transport Impact Assessment (TIA) can be viewed in full within Volume 2, Chapter 13 of the EIA Report. Corresponding Technical Appendices to the TIA are contained within Volume 4. The chapter assesses the potential effects of the Proposed Development on the existing transport network and on sensitive receptors as a result of the Proposed Development’s construction, operation and decommissioning. It sets out the baseline conditions for the transport network around the Proposed Development before going on to identify the potential environmental effects that could arise as a result of increased traffic. The traffic levels are then identified, and an assessment of effects is undertaken with mitigation proposed where required.</p> <p>The study area for the assessment of traffic and transport has been identified using the assessment thresholds within the relevant guidelines and has been based on the access point to the Site and the proposed road routes to the access point. To determine appropriate access routes, detailed consideration and assessment of the surrounding road network has been undertaken and the location of nearby sensitive receptors has been considered.</p> <p>In undertaking the assessment, consultation responses received during the Scoping process were considered.</p> <p>A comprehensive desk-based study was undertaken to fully understand the surrounding road network and likely routes to Site for the transport of materials and personnel. It was determined that vehicular access to the Site will be provided from the B743 via an existing track which will be upgraded as a part of the Proposed Development. The Chapter concludes that no significant effects are predicted on increased traffic as a result of the Proposed Development. The assessment also concludes that no significant cumulative effects are predicted</p> |

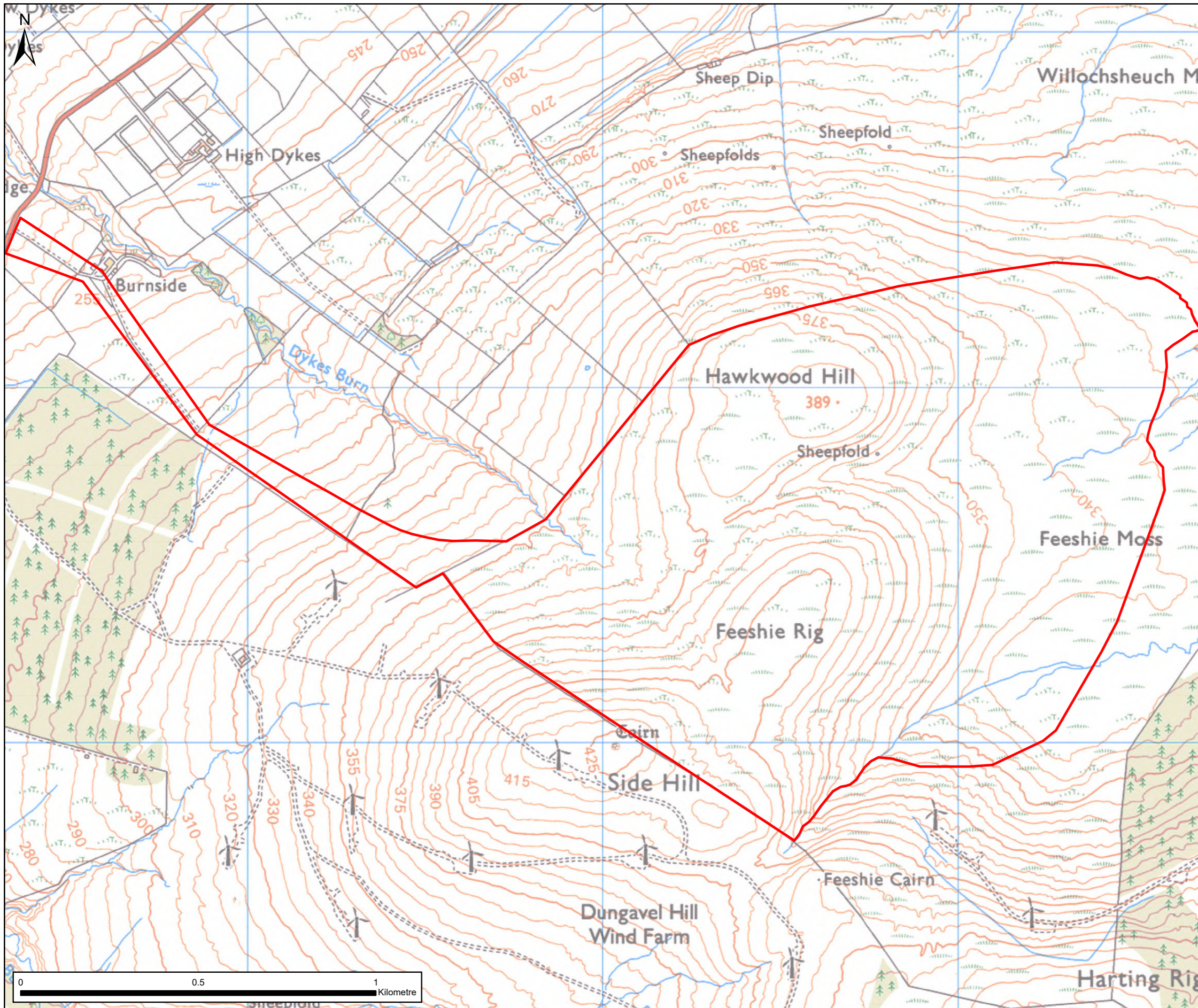


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| | <p>during construction of the Proposed Development. Implementation of a CTMP as a good practice construction measure will ensure efficient transportation of construction materials and co-ordination with other wind farms under construction within the same timescales as the Proposed Development to minimise disruption to the local area. It is noted that increases in traffic levels associated with the construction phase of the Proposed Development are temporary in nature and can be accommodated by the existing road network within the Study Area.</p> |
| <p>Socio-economic, Tourism and Recreation</p> | <p>The Socio-economic Impact Assessment can be viewed in full within Volume 2, Chapter 14 of the EIA Report. Corresponding Technical Appendices to the Socio-economic Impact Assessment are contained within Volume 4. The Chapter considers the potential socio-economic, recreational, and touristic effects of the Proposed Development, including a consideration of existing land uses within the Site, local tourism activity, employment generation, and any indirect economic effects from the Proposed Development. The Chapter assesses the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development on the baseline socio-economic situation of the Site surroundings, nearest settlements, and Nationwide targets. This includes SLC and nationally in Scotland with consideration also given where relevant to likely significant environmental effects in relation to tourism and recreation both within, and in close proximity to, the Site and the wider area, along with public safety issues.</p> <p>The following effects were considered to be potentially significant in relation to socio-economic, tourism and recreation and land use at the scoping stage and have been assessed in full within Volume 2, Chapter 14 of the EIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on employment (direct, indirect and induced job creation) and economy. • Effects on tourism (likely effects on tourism destinations and activities). • Effects on recreational activities and assets. <p>In summary, the Proposed Development would result in a likely beneficial significant economic effect at a ward level during construction and as a result of the community benefit fund (during operation). Residual economic effects during operation and decommissioning would be beneficial, but not significant at a regional and national level. The Proposed Development would not result in any adverse significant effects on identified tourism attractions/receptors or on recreational routes (on top of those identified in the landscape and visual impact assessment). Significant recreational effects are, however, predicted on the entirety of the wider path network for Glengavel Reservoir. Health effects as a result of the Proposed Development would not result in a significant environmental effect at a ward, Council, or national level.</p> |
| <p>Other Matters</p> | <p>All other matters covered within the EIA can be viewed in full within Volume 2, Chapter 15 of the EIA Report. This considers the potential effects of the Proposed Development on any other remaining environmental topics which were either scoped out of the EIA or do not require an individual chapter nor a full assessment. These topics are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shadow Flicker; • Climate Change and Carbon Balance; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aviation; • Radio and Telecommunications; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality; |

| Topic | Summary |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and Human Health; and • Accidents and Natural Disasters. <p>An explanation of why all of the aforementioned environmental topics were scoped out of the full assessment in this EIA has been provided. Chapter 15 also presents the findings to date of the assessment of likely effects of the Proposed Development with regard to the environmental topics listed above.</p> <p>Shadow Flicker was not removed from the scope until design freeze, where the layout had undergone considerable changes to the point where there were no residential properties located within the recommended minimum distance between a WTG and residential property. Shadow Flicker is therefore not considered further within the EIA Report.</p> <p>In terms of aviation, the key consideration is safety. The Applicant is therefore still undergoing the consultation process with relevant aviation consultees to determine the most appropriate mitigation measures to ensure that the Proposed Development does not generate unacceptable impacts on aviation operations.</p> <p>In terms of Radio and Telecommunications, it was expected that further information would be obtained during consultation, however no consultation responses from relevant consultees were provided as part of SLC’s Scoping response and therefore further consideration of this item was scoped out of the EIA as it could be assumed that no significant impacts on such matters would arise as a result of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>With regard to air quality, it was concluded that effects from construction on air quality will be localised, short term, intermittent and controllable through the implementation of good practice measures. In terms of climate change and carbon balance, the Applicant is currently undergoing an assessment to provide further information on such matters upon completion of these works.</p> |



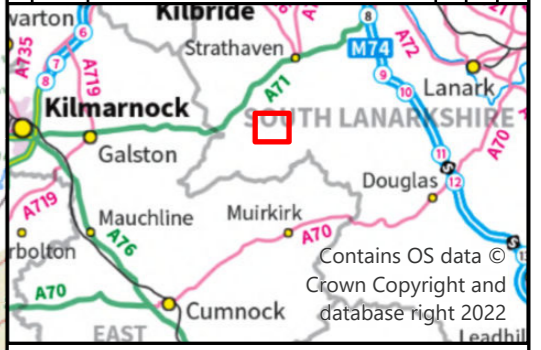
Appendix A – Site Location Plan and Site Layout Plan



NOTES

Red Line Boundary

| Rev | Date | Amendment Details | Drwn | Chkd | App'd |
|-----|----------|-------------------|------|------|-------|
| 00 | 23/07/24 | First Issue | JCM | CP | CP |



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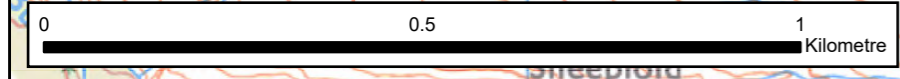


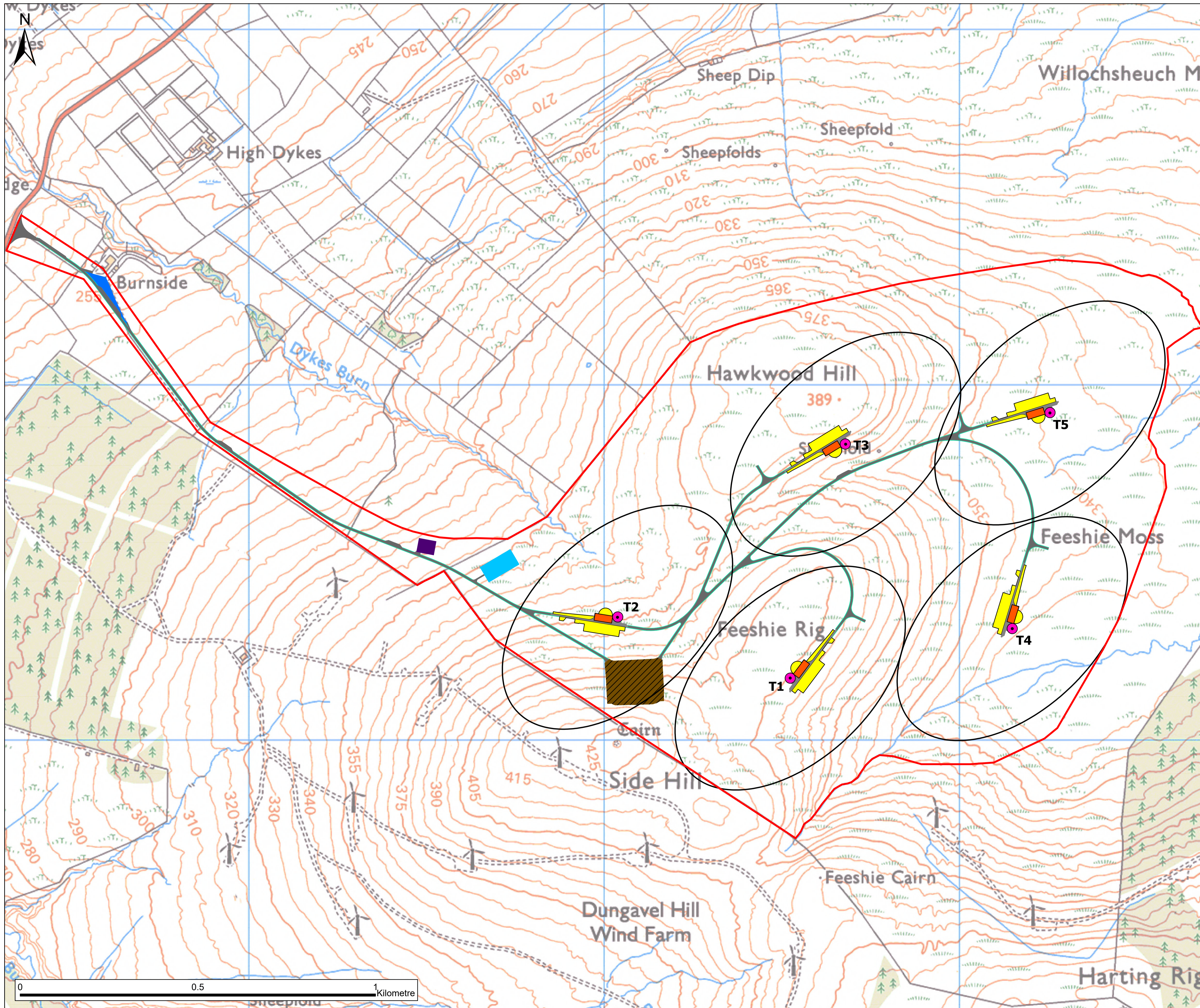
Client: **FOR PLANNING**

Project Title: **HAWKWOOD WIND FARM**

Drawing Title: **Figure 2.1: Site Location Plan**

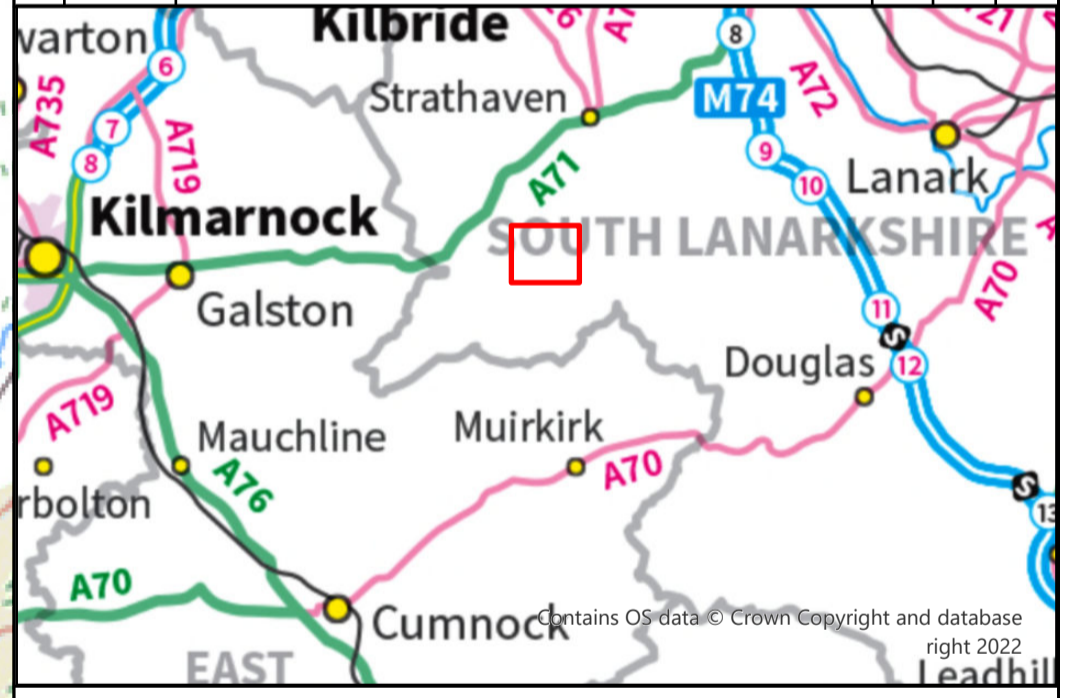
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| A3 | 23/07/2024 | 23/07/2024 | 23/07/2024 | 23/07/2024 |
| Drawing Number | 15746-057 | | | Revision |
| | | | | 0 |





- NOTES**
- Red Line Boundary
 - Turbine Bases
 - Turbine Ellipses
 - Borrow Pit Search Area
 - Temporary Turbine Hardstanding Areas
 - Track Shoulders
 - Crane Pad Hardstanding - Permanent
 - Network of Onsite Access Tracks
 - Substation Control Compound
 - Site Compound (Temporary)
 - Temporary Construction Compound

| Rev. | Date | First Issue | Amendment Details | | |
|------|----------|-------------|-------------------|------|-------|
| 00 | 23/07/24 | First Issue | JCM | CP | CP |
| | | | Dr'n | Chkd | App'd |



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| Client | | | | | |
| Drawing Status | FOR PLANNING | | | | |
| Project Title | HAWKWOOD WIND FARM | | | | |
| Drawing Title | Figure 3.1: Site Layout Plan | | | | |
| Scale | 1:5,000 | Designed | Drawn | Checked | Approved |
| Original Size | A1 | Date | Date | Date | Date |
| Drawing Number | 15746-058 | | | | Revision |
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