





Longcroft Wind Farm

Pre-Application Consultation Report

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1 Introduction

1.1.1 This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report outlines how RES ('the applicant') has engaged and communicated with the local community to inform them about Longcroft Wind Farm, hereinafter referred to as the 'proposed development', located on land adjacent to the existing Fallago Rig Wind Farm, near Lauder, Scottish Borders. It explains how and when the community was consulted before the planning application was submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit and how this consultation has shaped the proposed development.

1.2 Project Description

1.2.1 The applicant seeks permission from the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit to construct a wind farm with an installed capacity of up to 125.4MW (subject to final wind turbine procurement) comprising 19 wind turbines and associated infrastructure at the site adjacent to the existing Fallago Rig Wind Farm, near Lauder, Scottish Borders. It is also proposed to construct a battery energy storage system of up to 50MW storage capacity within the proposed development. The application has been prepared in accordance with the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended) (EIA regulations).

1.2.2 The wind turbines will have a maximum height of up to 220m to the highest point of the blade tip. The proposed development includes a number of ancillary elements, including:

- up to 19 three-bladed horizontal axis wind turbines of up to 220m tip height.
- at each wind turbine, associated low to medium voltage transformers and related switchgear;
- wind turbine foundations;
- hardstand areas for erection cranes at each wind turbine location;
- a network of access tracks including passing bays, watercourse crossings, turning heads and site entrance from the public road;
- borrow pits (dependent on availability of stone on site);
- a substation compound containing electrical infrastructure, control building, welfare facilities and a communications mast;
- a battery energy storage system (BESS) compound;
- a transfer station;
- a network of buried electrical cables;

- temporary construction compounds, working areas and laydown areas; and
- habitat management and biodiversity enhancement.

1.3 Our approach to community consultation

- 1.3.1 Whilst pre-application consultation for applications under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 is voluntary, the applicant has followed the guidance for pre-application public consultation and engagement for such application as set out in the Scottish Government's (2022) **Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989**¹.
- 1.3.2 As set out in these regulations, the minimum consultation activity states that an applicant must consult with community councils and hold a public event. The applicant believes that meaningful and constructive consultation requires a more detailed approach and in undertaking the consultation for the proposed development, the applicant has gone above and beyond the minimum statutory requirement.
- 1.3.3 The proposed development sits within the Lauderdale Community Council area and directly adjacent to Oxton & Channelkirk Community Council area. Consequently these two community council areas have been the main focus for consultation.
- 1.3.4 At all stages of the pre-application consultation process the applicant has clearly set out the purpose of consultation and emphasised that comments made to RES are not representations to the determining authority (and that there would be an opportunity for representations to be made to the determining authority once a planning application was submitted).

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2022/02/good-practice-guidance-applications-under-sections-36-37-electricity-act-1989/documents/energy-consents-unit-good-practice-guidance-applications-under-section-36-37-electricity-act-1989-february-2022/energy-consents-unit-good-practice-guidance-applications-under-section-36-37-electricity-act-1989-february-2022/govscot%3Adocument/energy-consents-unit-good-practice-guidance-applications-under-section-36-37-electricity-act-1989-february-2022.pdf>

2 Consultation

2.1 Preparation

2.1.1 Prior to undertaking formal public consultation, the applicant undertook desk-based research to identify key stakeholders located within the vicinity of the proposed development. Those identified included:

- Elected members in Scottish Borders local authority areas;
- Elected member for the Scottish Parliament constituency;
- Elected member for the UK Parliament constituency;
- Community council areas within and adjacent to the site of the proposed development; and
- Local residents.

2.2 Introducing the proposed development - Scoping (14 March 2023)

2.2.1 On 14 March 2023, letters were sent to key stakeholders, including 9 properties within 2km of the turbine development area, to inform them of the applicant's plans to explore a wind farm on land adjacent to the existing Fallago Rig Wind Farm.

2.2.2 The letter confirmed that the early design comprised 24 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of 220m. The letter also explained that, following initial site feasibility work, a Scoping Report had been submitted that week to the Scottish Government seeking feedback on the proposed scope of environmental assessment work; a link to a digital copy of the Scoping Report on the Applicant's project website at www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk was included. The letter also provided some information about onshore wind, community benefit, and next steps - including the fact that the Applicant was planning public exhibition events in the next couple of months.

2.2.3 The letter was signed by Gavin Shirley, the Development Project Manager at RES and offered an opportunity to discuss the proposal with the host community council. Please see a copy of the letter at Appendix A.

2.2.4 The Scoping Report was received by the Energy Consents Unit on 10 March 2023 and published on 17 March 2023.

2.3 Advertising the first round of public exhibitions (May 2023)

- 2.3.1 The first round of public exhibitions were advertised in the Southern Reporter (11 May 2023) and the Border Telegraph (17 May 2023). A copy of the advertisement can be found at Appendix B.
- 2.3.2 A newsletter was also distributed to 1,300 properties within a 7km radius of the site on 11 May 2023. The newsletter advised that views were being sought on an updated 21-turbine layout, provided information about the public exhibitions and explained how to provide feedback on a comments form, either at the events or online via the project website.
- 2.3.3 On 10 May 2023, letters were emailed to key stakeholders along with an electronic copy of the newsletter and advert to use as a poster for display.
- 2.3.4 A copy of the newsletter and stakeholder letter can be found at Appendix C.

2.4 First round of public exhibitions (23 - 24 May 2023)

- 2.4.1 Two public exhibitions were held in relation to the proposed development taking place at:
- Oxton War Memorial Hall, Oxton (23 May 2023); and
 - Lauder Public Hall (24 May 2023).
- 2.4.2 The public exhibitions provided the following information:
- an introduction to RES and the consultation;
 - a rationale for the need for onshore renewable energy development;
 - an overview of the proposed development (including site location, preliminary wind turbine layout, generation capacity etc);
 - an update on EIA survey work and constraints known to date;
 - an indicative wind turbine component delivery route;
 - tailored community benefits package and supply chain opportunities; and
 - next steps and how to comment on the proposal.
- 2.4.3 In addition, photomontages of the proposed development were shown alongside the existing view and the wire frame.
- 2.4.4 A comments form was also available for people to leave feedback on the updated design of the proposed development and provide their thoughts on potential uses of the community benefits package such as RES' Local

Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS). 36 completed comments forms were received, see section 3 for analysis of question responses.

- 2.4.5 Copies of the exhibition material can be found at Appendix D.
- 2.4.6 31 individuals attended the Oxton event and 40 individuals attended the Lauder event.
- 2.4.7 Copies of all material presented at the public exhibitions was also made available on the project website at www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk from 23 May 2023.

2.5 Other community engagement

- 2.5.1 On 30 August 2023 James Cameron, Senior Development Project Manager at RES and new main point of contact for the proposed development, and Sam Mayes, Stakeholder Engagement Manager, hosted a meeting including members of Lauderdale Community Council and Oxton & Channelkirk Community Council to review feedback from the public exhibitions in May 2023, provide an update on the proposed development and to discuss community benefit.
- 2.5.2 In addition to the activities outlined above, the applicant received and responded to enquiries from 8 local residents, via email.

2.6 Advertising the second round of public exhibitions (September 2023)

- 2.6.1 The second round of public exhibitions were advertised via in the Southern Reporter (14 September 2023) and the Border Telegraph (20 September 2023). A copy of the advertisement can be found at Appendix E.
- 2.6.2 A newsletter was also distributed to 1,300 properties within a 7km radius of the site on 12 September 2023. The newsletter advised that an updated 19-turbine layout would be presented at a final suite of public exhibitions, and that feedback could be submitted in writing on a comments form either at the events or online via the project website.
- 2.6.3 On 13 September 2023, letters were emailed to key stakeholders along with an electronic copy of the newsletter and advert to use as a poster for display. The letter was signed by James Cameron, Senior Development Project Manager at RES.
- 2.6.4 A copy of the newsletter and stakeholder letter can be found at Appendix F.

2.6.5 The applicant also sent an email to those who had ticked the relevant box on the comments form from the first round of public exhibitions, confirming that they would like to be added to the mailing list and kept up to date with the proposed development.

2.7 Second round of public exhibitions (25 - 26 September 2023)

2.7.1 Two public exhibitions were held in relation to the proposed development taking place at:

- Lauder Public Hall (25 September 2023); and
- Oxton War Memorial Hall, Oxton (26 September 2023).

2.7.2 The second round of public exhibitions followed design refinement of the proposed development, as a result of technical and environmental surveys and assessments and feedback from stakeholders and the local community.

2.7.3 The public exhibitions provided the following additional or updated information:

- how the proposal had changed since the first round of public exhibitions in May 2023;
- completed or ongoing survey work and constraints known to date;
- an infrastructure layout of the proposed development including access route from the public road;
- a wind turbine component delivery route;
- private water supplies;
- predicted preliminary acoustic footprint;
- grid connection;
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS); and
- community benefit package and ideas submitted to date.

2.7.4 In addition, updated photomontages of the proposed development were shown alongside the existing view and the wire frame.

2.7.5 A comments form was also available for people to leave feedback on the updated design of the proposed development. 12 completed comments forms were received, see section 3 for analysis of question responses.

2.7.6 Also available at the public exhibitions was a detailed 'Report on feedback' which summarised the feedback received from the May 2023 public exhibitions and consultation and highlighted any changes that the

applicant had made to the proposed development in responses to the feedback.

2.7.7 Copies of the exhibition material, including the ‘Report on feedback’ can be found at Appendix G.

2.7.8 27 individuals attended the Lauder event and 18 individuals attended the Oxton event.

2.7.9 Copies of all material presented at the public exhibitions was also made available on the project website at www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk from 25 September 2023.

2.8 Ongoing community engagement

2.8.1 In response to queries raised, the applicant has corresponded with 11 local residents to date (i.e. the time between the proposed development first entering the public domain and up to submission). The applicant will continue to respond to any queries received in relation to the project from the local community, stakeholders and statutory consultees throughout the determination process.

2.8.2 It is the intention of the applicant to be available to attend forthcoming community council meetings following submission of the planning application to answer any further questions the community may have.

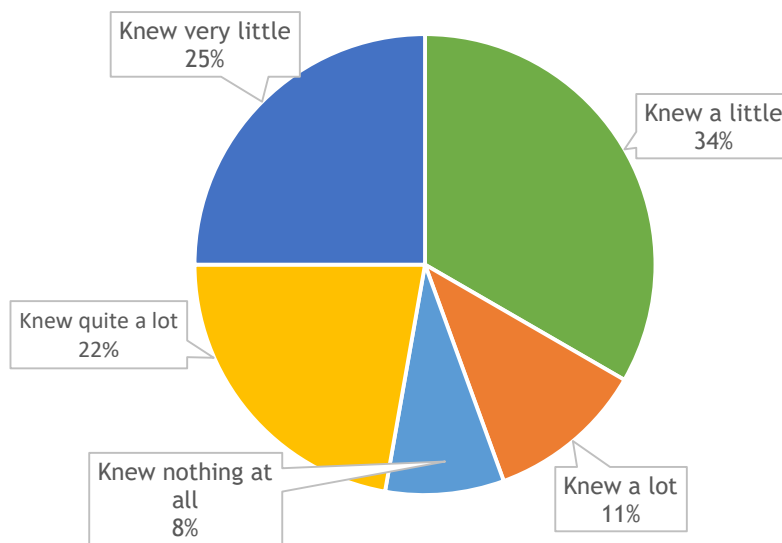
3 Consultation feedback

3.1 Comments forms and analysis of answers

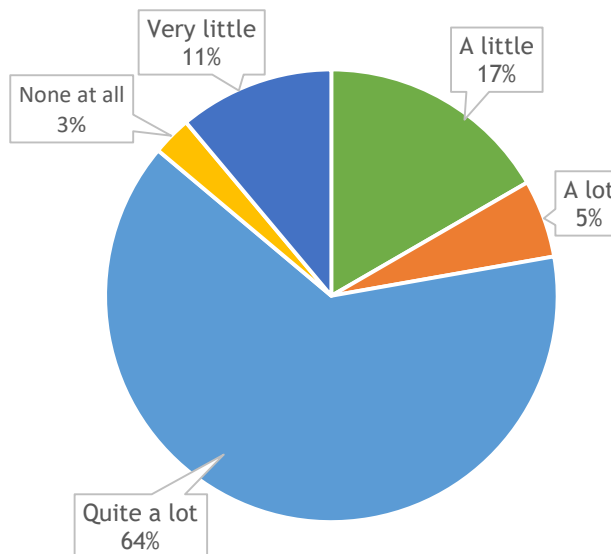
3.1.1 Results from first round of public exhibitions (May 2023)

3.1.2 A comments form was used at the first round of public exhibitions (Appendix D). The responses to the project and industry-specific multiple choice questions on the comments form have been analysed as follows:

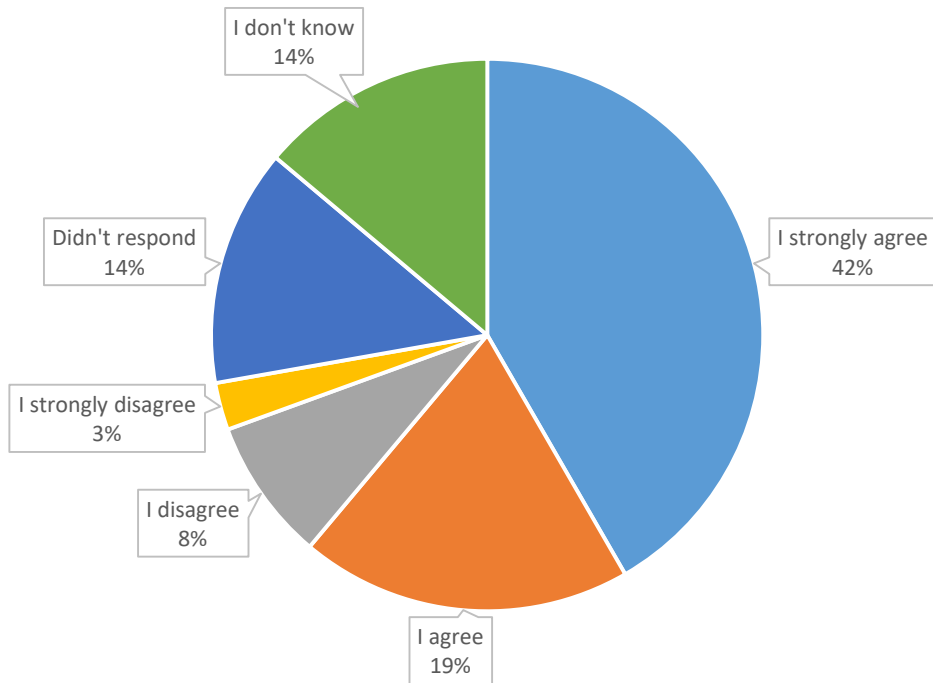
Question 1.4 - Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the Longcroft Wind Farm proposal?



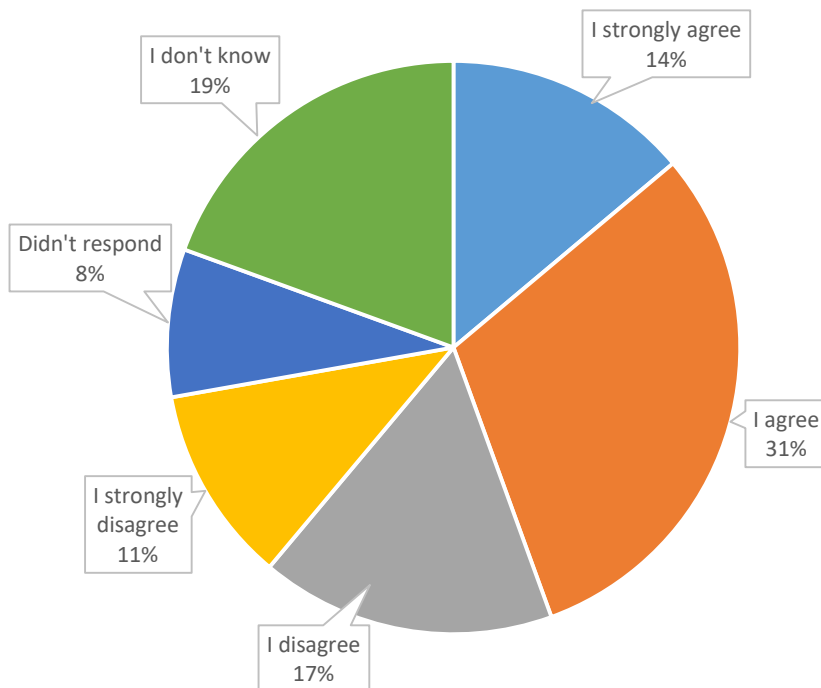
Question 1.5 - Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your knowledge of the Longcroft Wind Farm proposal?



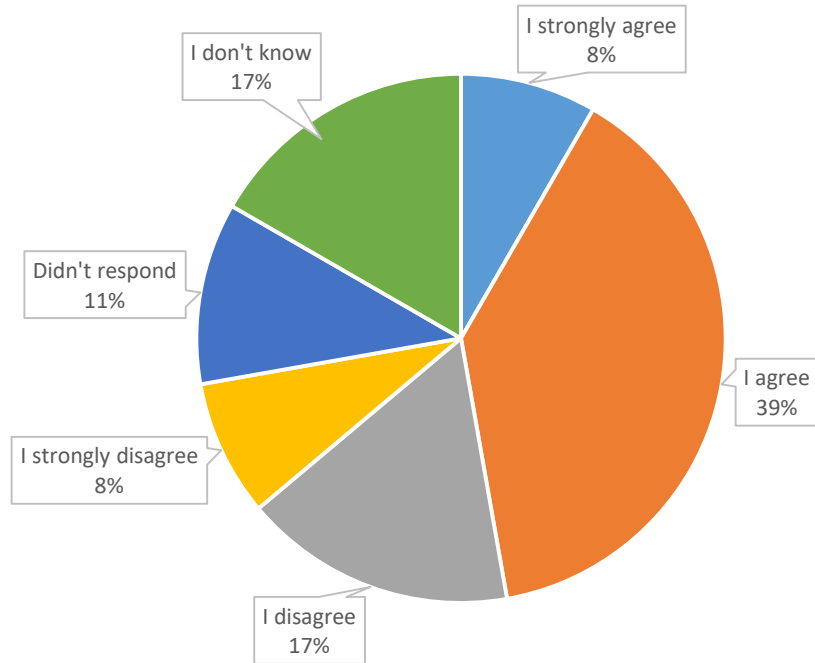
Question 2.1 - Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?



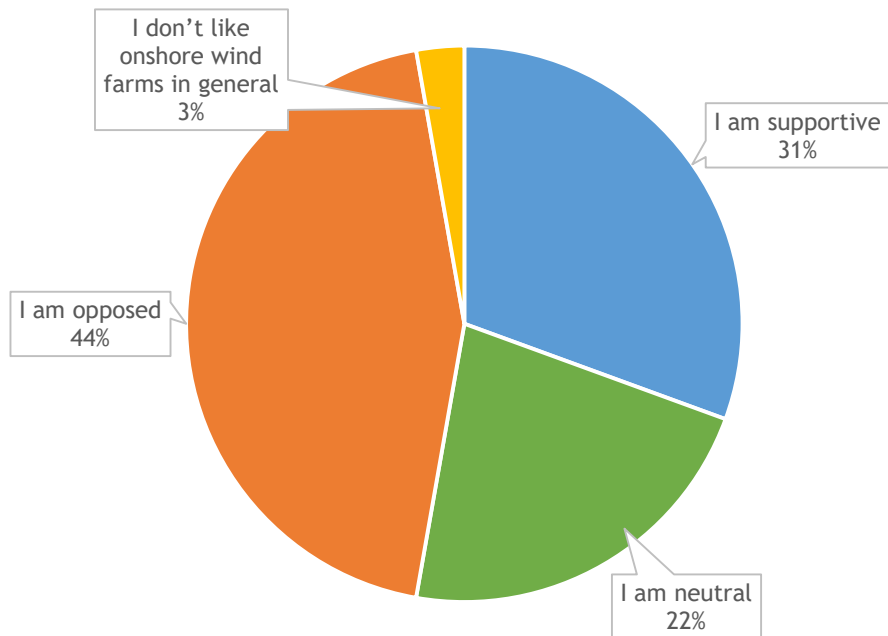
Question 2.2 - Do you agree that we need to develop onshore wind farms to support greater energy independence and security of supply for the UK?



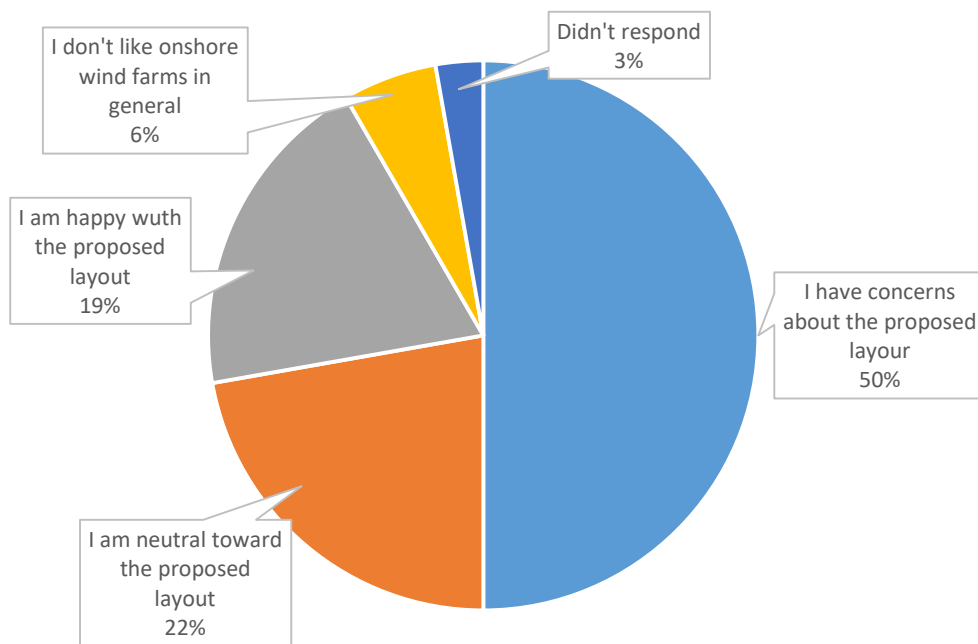
Question 2.3 - Do you agree that we need to develop onshore wind farms to help reduce energy bills?



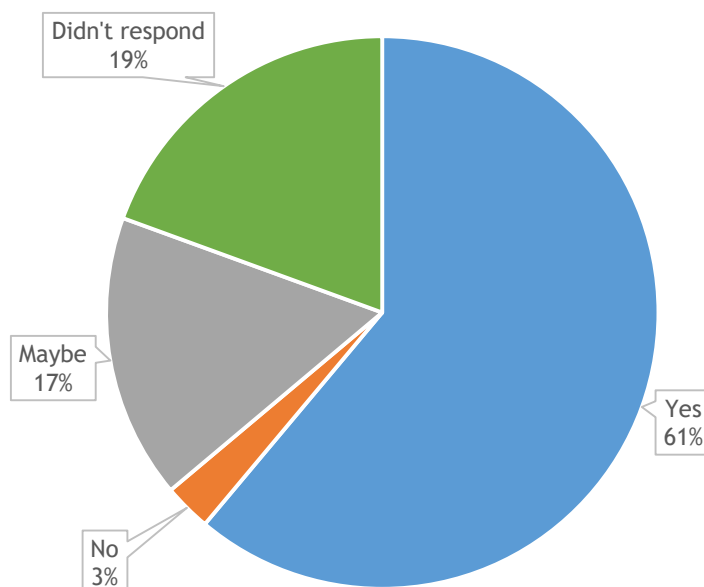
Question 3.1 - What's your attitude to the proposal for a wind farm in this location?



Question 3.2 - If the wind farm went ahead, as currently designed, what do you think about the turbine and infrastructure layout?



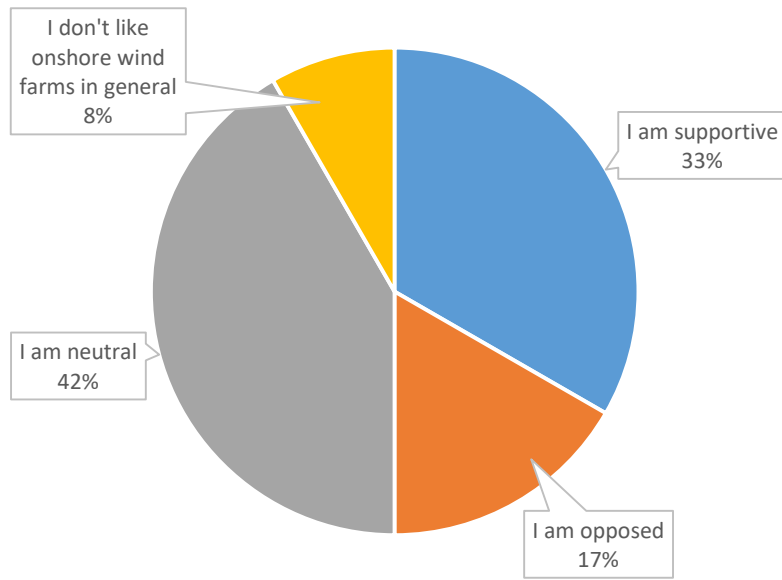
Question 4.4 - Is [LEDS] something you think should form part of the tailored community benefits package for Longcroft Wind Farm?



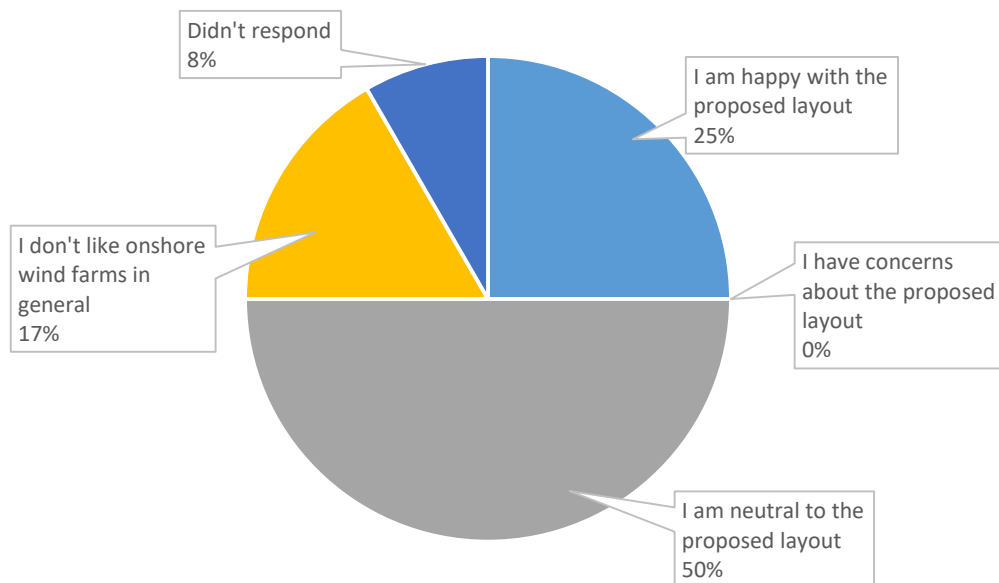
3.1.3 Results from second round of public exhibitions (September 2023)

3.1.4 A comments form was used at the second round of public exhibitions (Appendix G). The responses to the multiple choice questions on the comments form relating to the updated design of the proposed development have been analysed as follows:

Question 2.1 - What's your attitude to the updated proposal for Longcroft Wind Farm?



Question 2.2 - If the project went ahead what do you think about the updated turbine/infrastructure layout?



3.2 Summary of answers

First round of public exhibitions (May 2023)

- 3.2.1 69% of visitors who completed a comments form at the first round of public exhibitions in May 2023 stated that they felt their understanding of the proposed development had increased ‘quite a lot’ (64%) or ‘a lot’ (5%). 3% felt their understanding had not increased at all.
- 3.2.2 61% of visitors who completed a comments form at the first round of public exhibitions strongly agreed (42%) or agreed (19%) that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change.
- 3.2.3 41% of visitors who completed a comments form at the first round of public exhibitions were happy with (22%) or neutral towards (19%) the layout of the proposed development. 50% had concerns regarding the indicative turbine layout.

Second round of public exhibitions (September 2023)

- 3.2.4 75% of visitors who completed a comments form at the second round of public exhibitions were happy with (25%) or neutral towards (50%) the updated turbine/infrastructure layout of the proposed development. 8% didn’t respond to the question and 17% stated they didn’t like onshore wind farms in general. No one selected the option that expressed concern.

4 Outcomes and responses

4.1 Summary of topics raised

4.1.1 All feedback received during the consultation periods following both rounds of public exhibitions has been considered by the applicant throughout the design iteration and pre-application stages of the proposed development. A summary of feedback, issues and concerns raised, together with the applicant’s response to each can be found in the table below.

Summary of comments received	The applicant’s response
Cumulative Impact	
<p>“This area has enough wind farms, from my property I see three different wind farms already!”</p> <p>“These hills are already blighted by windmills.”</p> <p>““Yes but we already have 2 wind farms in the area. Why more?””</p> <p>“I am concerned about the cumulative effect of Longcroft alongside Ditcher Law, as well as existing wind farms in the area.”</p>	<p>The Scottish Government is committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 at the latest and have also set two interim targets to reduce emissions by 75% by 2030 and by 90% by 2040.</p> <p>The transition to net zero means that our demand for green electricity will increase substantially over the course of the next decade. This means that a consistently higher rate of onshore wind, and other renewables capacity, will be required year on year.</p> <p>We appreciate not everyone is in favour of wind farms, however, we are seeing strong support for onshore wind in Scotland, including reforming the planning system to enable more wind farms to be built, particularly in the face of the climate change and energy security challenges that we face today.</p> <p>Cumulative impact with other wind farms in the area has been assessed and the proposed development designed in a way that minimises any adverse cumulative effects. Further information can be found in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report</p>
Landscape and Visual Impact	
<p>“Reduce height of turbines - we don't want to see them.”</p> <p>“Your turbines are far too big - a blight on the landscape & cumulative impact is already immense in Scottish Borders.”</p> <p>“Less visually intrusive sources of alternative energy generation would be more appropriate.”</p>	<p>Following the results of site surveys and assessments, and feedback from the community, the number of wind turbines has been reduced from 25 (at Scoping) to 19.</p> <p>Furthermore, each wind turbine location has moved to varying degrees to refine the design and minimise impacts wherever possible.</p> <p>Wind turbine technology has advanced considerably in recent years, meaning that wind turbines are now taller and more efficient which enables them to generate a significantly greater amount of electricity per wind turbine.</p>

Summary of comments received	The applicant's response
<p>“We do not want to see turbines at our houses or in the village - reposition and reduce height of turbines.”</p> <p>“Too tall, light pollution, noise pollution, visual impact on area, disruption to local community, impact to tourism.”</p>	<p>Modern taller wind turbines provide more electricity, which helps address the climate emergency, cost of living crisis, and security of energy supply. The 220m tall wind turbines proposed would allow for far greater benefits in terms of renewable electricity generation per wind turbine than smaller turbines would.</p> <p>A full Landscape and Visual Assessment has been undertaken to help assess the design and wind turbine layout. The final location of the wind turbines has taken account of the local topography and views of the site from the surrounding area. From the studies we have undertaken and the professional advice we have received, we believe that the current wind turbine locations and heights proposed are appropriate for a wind farm at this location.</p> <p>As the wind turbines are over 150m, aviation lighting will be required. There are various technologies being deployed for consented wind farms across Scotland that have wind turbines above 150m to reduce their impact. In some circumstances, not all turbines within a wind farm are required to be lit.</p> <p>These include the ability to turn on the aviation lights only when aircraft are approaching the wind farm. In addition, the direction of the lights reduces residential impacts as it is directed towards aircraft and not towards the ground to properties.</p> <p>A reduced visible aviation lighting scheme has been agreed with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for the proposed development. The reduced scheme means that not every perimeter wind turbine needs to be lit and no tower lights are required provided an infrared scheme is agreed with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO).</p> <p>Further information regarding the Landscape and Visual Assessment and lighting assessment can be found in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.</p>

Noise

<p>“I feel the wind turbines are placed too near to residential houses and that noise will be a consideration.”</p> <p>“Noise vs night time baseline - should be less.”</p>	<p>Wind farm noise in many circumstances may be inaudible or effectively ‘masked’ by the background noise already present in the surrounding environment. We take care to ensure noise levels from wind turbines are within recommended limits and comply with planning policy.</p> <p>A detailed assessment has been carried out to consider the potential effects of noise associated with the construction and operation of the proposed development. The noise assessment also takes into account potential cumulative noise effects from the other operational wind farms as well as wind farms in planning.</p>
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Summary of comments received	The applicant's response
	Further information can be found in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report .
Need for Renewables	
<p>“We need a diverse mix of energy sources.”</p> <p>“What is wrong with hydro?”</p> <p>“Not sure of the impact on climate change across the planet. I wonder if offshore would be better than onshore. I think energy companies themselves could reduce the cost of energy for the consumers.”</p> <p>“Renewables - 100% agree but think this area of the Scottish borders has its fair share to generate renewable power.”</p> <p>“In favour of renewables but doubt it will effect climate/energy bills.”</p> <p>“I have concerns that power generated cannot be stored and when it is not required by the National Grid, wind farm companies make far too much profit from turning turbines off.”</p>	<p>We are in a climate emergency, cost of living crisis and also seeking to enhance the security of our energy supply. Onshore wind can address all of these. This is recognised by the Scottish Government’s National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) which was published in February 2023 and provides the national spatial strategy for Scotland. Policy 11 asserts support for onshore wind farms outside of National Parks and National Scenic Areas. The proposed development is outwith such national landscape designations.</p> <p>The 2022 report from the IPCC has stated that many of the impacts of climate change are now simply irreversible. However, the report also says that there remains a small window of opportunity to act to avoid some of the worst impacts predicted.</p> <p>The rapid deployment of onshore wind and other renewables will be central to achieving the Scottish Government’s net zero commitments.</p> <p>Wind is a free and inexhaustible resource which has an important role to play as part of a balanced energy mix. Wind energy enables us to generate our own electricity reducing reliance on imports and is not subject to sudden price fluctuations or the uncertainty of global markets.</p> <p>Onshore wind, alongside other renewable technologies, can generate the cheapest form of new electricity generation which means that onshore wind developments are not only beneficial for the environment but also for the consumer.</p> <p>All renewable technologies have their merits in relation to cost, efficiency, environmental or social benefits. For example, onshore wind can be constructed in 12-14 months (quicker than offshore).</p> <p>Typically, wind farms pay back the carbon within 1-3 years and operate carbon free thereafter. The proposed development also includes a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).</p> <p>Our analysis of comments received from our public exhibitions in May 2023, showed 61% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that generating electricity from renewable sources and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change.</p>

Summary of comments received	The applicant's response
	<p>Scotland currently has almost 9GW of operational onshore wind capacity. In response to the climate emergency the focus on developing more onshore wind within Scotland has only strengthened - with national targets now set for installing 20GW of onshore wind across Scotland by 2030 to help towards meeting Net Zero carbon emissions by 2045.</p> <p>Onshore wind is Scotland's biggest renewables employer and RenewableUK's Onshore Wind Prospectus ² suggests that approximately 17,000 jobs and the equivalent of £27.8bn in GVA could be achieved in Scotland if we are able to deploy an additional 12GW by 2030.</p> <p>Further information regarding energy policy considerations, and a carbon balance assessment, can be found in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.</p>

Ecology and Ornithology

<p>"I have concerns about the proposed tracks, the height of the turbines, the disturbance to the wildlife and the peat infrastructure and the heather moorland."</p> <p>"I've seen red kites and golden eagles. They are great to see. Can only wonder about the impact on them."</p> <p>"Wildlife has not been considered."</p>	<p>Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are a compulsory part of the planning and consenting process for wind farms. The purpose of an EIA is to investigate and mitigate any potential effects of a development on the natural, physical and human environment. Protecting and minimising any potential direct or indirect impacts on local wildlife and their habitats is of utmost importance and we take this responsibility seriously. We look to mitigate any potential effects of the development during construction and operation on the habitats and protected species that are found to be present or active within the site.</p> <p>We have undertaken a number of detailed site environmental surveys including ecology, hydrology, hydrogeology, geology, and gathered extensive information on the site including two years of ornithological data (vantage points, nesting and breeding bird surveys).</p> <p>A full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken to determine the likelihood of any potential impacts on the environment and the results of this are described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.</p>
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Hydrology

<p>"Impact of borrow pits on water environment. Impact on peat ecology and role of peat slides."</p>	<p>The updated design for the proposed development included re-siting of wind turbines to avoid encroaching on watercourse buffers and areas of deep peat. Peat depth surveys and assessments have been undertaken. Peat is not uniform across the site and deeper peat is being avoided. Tracks have been aligned to avoid, as</p>
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² https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.renewableuk.com/resource/resmgr/media/onshore_wind_prospectus_fina.pdf

Summary of comments received	The applicant's response
	<p>much as possible, crossing of watercourses, services and areas of deeper peat.</p> <p>A hydrology assessment has been carried out as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment and the results presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.</p>
Grid	
<p>“Is there a grid offtake with sufficient capacity?”</p> <p>“I would need more detailed information about the grid interconnections. How are national grid proposing to tie in all of the proposed sites?”</p> <p>“The national grid cannot cope at present time - cancel the project.”</p>	<p>We have been advised by the Transmission Owner (TO) that the proposed wind farm will connect to the National Grid via a 132kV connection into Gala North, a new substation near Galashiels.</p> <p>The grid network operators are currently upgrading the grid infrastructure in the country and the applicant will be required to pay transmission connection charges to National Grid during operation of the wind farm for the grid connection.</p> <p>We have accepted a grid offer from the TO, in this case Scottish Power Transmission (SPT).</p>
Access	
<p>“Delivery of the turbines could be quite disruptive and I would want to understand more about how the delivery would be managed to minimise traffic disruption on the A68.”</p> <p>“There have been many accidents /road closures and deaths nearby, this concerns myself and other locals who live nearby.”</p>	<p>We have undertaken a detailed swept path analysis of the wind turbine delivery route to ensure wind turbine components can be delivered safely to site.</p> <p>The wind turbine components for the proposed development are likely to arrive at the Port of Rosyth before transportation to the site via the A68. Once components have reached the A697, it is proposed that a blade lifting trailer will be used to travel north along the A697 and right onto the D124 to the site entrance near Longcroft Farm. The site entrance has been carefully designed with appropriate visibility splays to meet strict safety requirements.</p> <p>We are also in consultation with Scottish Borders Council's roads department as well as the emergency services and other relevant consultees. Should the proposal be consented, a detailed Traffic Management Plan would be developed to mitigate potential impacts on road users and ensure road safety.</p> <p>With any project of this nature there will be a temporary increase in traffic in order to facilitate the construction process; this increase will be minimised where possible during peak commuting periods, and any impacts kept to a minimum, through appropriate traffic management measures such as careful timing of deliveries.</p> <p>Wherever reasonably practicable we will use materials available on site and source construction materials locally, to minimise traffic movements.</p>

Summary of comments received	The applicant's response
	Further information can be found in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report
Local Benefits	
<p>“LEDS please!”</p> <p>“Each household in the catchment of the site should benefit, as well as the communities.”</p> <p>“Whole of Scotland, probably UK will benefit from more renewable energy generation. Only fair the "hosts" should see some tangible direct benefits.”</p> <p>“It seems right that local residents - and businesses - should benefit as they will have to deal with the upheaval during construction.”</p> <p>“I would like some investment into the local schools playing facilities to promote outdoor learning in school.”</p> <p>“Flexibility (as time period very long)”</p> <p>“How about "free" electricity for local churches, Scout Hall in Lauder and any other Non-Council community enterprises in the area.”</p> <p>“New colourful Christmas lights in Lauder.”</p> <p>“Poverty alleviation/support for vulnerable people and families.”</p> <p>“Benefit should be focussed on those adversely impacted in proportion to adverse impacts, not on community council boundaries. ”</p> <p>“It would be good to employ local workers in the delivery of the project.”</p>	<p>As we transition to a net-zero future, reducing the impacts of climate change both locally and globally, our priority is to deliver clean, green electricity at the lowest cost for consumers.</p> <p>The proposed development, if consented, is expected to deliver approximately £5.3 million of inward investment into the local area in the form of jobs, employment, and use of local services during the development, construction and first year of operation. This will provide a vital economic boost, creating skilled, sustainable jobs and helping to drive a cleaner and more resilient economy.</p> <p>Furthermore, if consented, we estimate the proposed development would deliver around £1.3 million in business rates every year during operation, supporting vital local services for local residents.</p> <p>We propose to create additional benefit from the scheme through a community benefit package. We will continue to work with the local community to gain feedback on their priorities and deliver projects that will help to secure long-term economic, social and environmental benefits.</p> <p>This approach will deliver a tailored package of benefits that are aligned with the local communities’ priorities. We are proposing that the package of additional benefits will be worth £5,000 per MW (or equivalent) of installed capacity per annum. This package could include RES’ unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS), which seeks to deliver direct and tangible benefits to people living and working closest to RES’ operational wind farms, something that has received significant interest from the community.</p> <p>Our unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) was developed in response to research and feedback from local communities around RES’ operational wind farms. LEDS offers an annual discount to the electricity bills of those properties closest to a participating wind farm and there is no need to change energy provider. The scheme would be open to all residential, business and community buildings with an electricity meter (including schools, places of worship and village halls) within the eligible area.</p> <p>It is important to note that voluntary community benefits are not a material planning consideration and</p>

Summary of comments received	The applicant's response
	are unable to be used to support any activity that is the statutory obligation of Government, local authorities and agencies thereof.

5 Summary

5.1 Key points

- 5.1.1 The applicant has fulfilled and exceeded the minimum statutory consultation activity, including documenting and reporting on the consultation activities undertaken.
- 5.1.2 The applicant engaged early with the local community, and over an extended period of time, to facilitate a constructive consultation process; this has helped the applicant to understand and address concerns, where possible, as design of the proposed development has progressed.
- 5.1.3 The applicant responded directly to any enquiries received throughout the pre-application phase and offered to meet with local residents or key stakeholders who had questions or concerns about the proposed development.
- 5.1.4 The first round of public exhibitions were held in two locations expanding the 'net' in relation to those given the opportunity to engage on the proposed development.
- 5.1.5 The second round of public exhibitions were held to present the updated design of the proposed development to the community and stakeholders. This gave a further opportunity for comment.
- 5.1.6 All of the information presented at both rounds of public exhibitions was also available to view on the project website, from the day of the first event.
- 5.1.7 Both rounds of public exhibitions were prominently publicised and the applicant is grateful to everyone who took the time to attend the events and provide feedback on the proposed development during the respective consultation periods. The feedback received has been carefully logged, analysed, and summarised within this PAC Report. In addition, a detailed summary of the feedback received during the May 2023 consultation and the applicant's response to key themes raised was included in the 'Report

- on feedback’ which was made available at the September 2023 public exhibitions and online (Appendix G).
- 5.1.8 Analysis from the comments forms has shown that those who attended the first round of public exhibitions in May 2023 felt better informed about the proposals further to their attendance at the respective events. 69% of respondents felt they had increased their understanding of the proposed development either ‘a lot’ or ‘quite a lot’.
- 5.1.9 The feedback received following the second round of public exhibitions in September 2023 demonstrated that 75% of visitors who completed a comments form were happy or neutral towards the updated layout of the proposed development.
- 5.1.10 As an experienced wind farm developer, the applicant has listened to the feedback from the local community and considered this in relation to the design of the proposed development.
- 5.1.11 The applicant is committed to being a good neighbour and will build on this pre-application consultation. The applicant has an ‘open door’ policy which means that anyone can contact them about the proposed development at any stage and they will respond in a timely manner. The Senior Development Project Manager’s contact details have been made available for this purpose, via exchange of information at the public exhibitions, the project newsletters and project website.
- 5.1.12 The project website (www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk) will be updated regularly to enable people to keep up to date with the latest news about the proposed development as it progresses.
- 5.1.13 Once the planning application documentation have been validated by the Energy Consents Unit, the applicant will write to political representatives, community organisations and local residents, to provide them with the planning reference number and information on how they can submit a formal representation, should they wish to do so.
- 5.1.14 It is the intention of the applicant to be available to attend forthcoming community council meetings following submission of the planning application to answer any further questions the community may have.

Appendix A - Stakeholder and near neighbour scoping letter



Mrs A Hogarth
Secretary to Lauderdale Community Council
Sent by email to: _____ and _____

14 March 2023

Dear Mrs Hogarth,

RE: Longcroft Wind Farm proposal

I am writing to inform Lauderdale Community Council, that [RES](#) is in the early stages of exploring a renewable electricity generating station including wind farm and battery proposal located approximately 9km north of Lauder in the Scottish Borders, which sits wholly within your council boundary. We have also written to Lammermuir Community Council, Oxton and Channelkirk Community Council and Gifford Community Council whose boundaries lies close to the site, in addition to local ward Councillors, to help raise awareness of the proposal at this early stage.

About RES

[RES](#) is the world's leading independent renewable energy developer with operations across Europe, North America and Asia-Pacific. We grew out of Sir Robert McAlpine, a British family-owned firm with over 140 years of experience in construction and engineering with a proud history in Scotland stretching from the Glenfinnan Viaduct in the Highlands to the Emirates Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow.

We have been at the forefront of wind energy development for over 40 years and developed and/or built more than 23GW of renewable energy capacity worldwide. In the UK alone we are responsible for approximately 10% of the current wind energy capacity. We have developed and/or built 21 wind farms in Scotland with a total generation capacity of 597MW and have recently finished constructing Blary Hill Wind Farm in Argyll and Bute. From our Glasgow office we have been developing, constructing and operating wind farms in Scotland since 1993.

Scoping Report submission

Having undertaken some initial site feasibility work we are now preparing for more detailed environmental and technical site survey work which will be carried out carefully over the next few months to help inform the design. In line with this we have submitted a Scoping Report to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) which sets out and seeks feedback on the proposed scope of environmental assessment work.

The ECU will contact Lauderdale Community Council separately to inform you about the Scoping Report submission as well as the process and timescales for feedback. In the meantime, an electronic copy of the Scoping Report can be viewed on the Longcroft project website at www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk.

Project overview

The Scoping Report includes an early design for the proposed scheme comprising 24 turbines at a tip height of up to 220m, resulting in an overall site generating capacity in excess of 100MW. Turbine technology has advanced considerably in recent years, meaning that turbines are now taller and more efficient which enables them to generate a significantly greater amount of renewable electricity per

turbine. If consented, Longcroft Wind Farm would be capable of generating clean, low-cost renewable electricity for more than 115,000 homes¹ each year (based on the scoping layout).

New onshore wind, together with large scale solar and offshore wind, is the cheapest form of electricity generation². It also increases energy security by reducing reliance on imports and builds our resilience to sudden fossil fuel price fluctuations and the uncertainties of global markets. With the ever-growing threat of climate change and the catastrophic impacts that it could have, as well as the current cost of living crisis and energy security considerations, it is imperative to deliver clean, low-cost, home-grown electricity. This makes developments like Longcroft Wind Farm not just good for the environment, but also the consumer.

We also believe that onshore wind should provide direct, lasting benefits to local communities. RES takes a tailored approach and works directly with the community to understand the local priorities, needs and community projects which the community would like the wind farm to support in the local area. RES is proposing that the package of community benefits from Longcroft Wind Farm will be up to £5,000 per MW (or equivalent) of installed capacity per annum. Consent will be sought for 50 years. The community could therefore potentially benefit from financial investment of approximately twenty five million pounds during the operational period which would create positive social and economic impacts and provide a lasting legacy in the local area.

Next steps

[RES](#) believes in meaningful and effective consultation, and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we can then consider when developing the design.

We will be looking to hold a public exhibition in the next couple of months in order to engage early with the local community and listen to people's feedback and will be in touch shortly with further information. We would also be happy to organise an introductory phone-call or video-call with you (and any other representatives of the Community Council) to discuss the project and answer any initial questions that you may have at this stage, with the view to attending a formal Community Council meeting around (or after) the public exhibition events when we will have more information available on the proposal.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like further information please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Gavin Shirley
Development Project Manager
E gavin.shirley@res-group.com
M +44 7570 812231

¹ The 115,000 homes equivalent figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (using the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy's average load factor for [onshore and offshore] wind of 31.84% and RES' predicted site generation capacity of 156MW) and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,748 kWh (December 2021). Final wind farm capacity will vary depending on the outcome of planning permission and the turbine type selected.

² Electricity Generation Costs - Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, August 2020.



Renewable Energy Systems Limited
Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay
Glasgow G51 1PQ, United Kingdom
+44 (0)1414 045 500 | info@res-group.com

The resident

14 March 2023

Dear Sir or Madam

RE: Longcroft Wind Farm proposal

I am writing to inform you, as a local resident in the area, that RES is in the early stages of exploring a renewable electricity generating station including wind farm and battery located approximately 9km north of Lauder in the Scottish Borders.

About RES

[RES](#) is the world's leading independent renewable energy developer with operations across Europe, North America and Asia-Pacific. We grew out of Sir Robert McAlpine, a British family-owned firm with over 140 years of experience in construction and engineering with a proud history in Scotland stretching from the Glenfinnan Viaduct in the Highlands to the Emirates Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow.

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Project overview

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turbine. If consented, Longcroft Wind Farm would be capable of generating clean, low-cost renewable electricity for more than 115,000 homes¹ each year (based on the scoping layout).

New onshore wind, together with large scale solar and offshore wind, is the cheapest form of electricity generation². It also increases energy security by reducing reliance on imports and builds our resilience to sudden fossil fuel price fluctuations and the uncertainties of global markets. With the ever-growing threat of climate change and the catastrophic impacts that it could have, as well as the current cost of living crisis and energy security considerations, it is imperative to deliver clean, low-cost, home-grown electricity. This makes developments like Longcroft Wind Farm not just good for the environment, but also the consumer.

We also believe that onshore wind should provide direct, lasting benefits to local communities. RES takes a tailored approach and works directly with the community to understand the local priorities, needs and community projects which the community would like the wind farm to support in the local area. RES is proposing that the package of community benefits from Longcroft Wind Farm will be up to £5,000 per MW (or equivalent) of installed capacity per annum. Consent will be sought for 50 years. The community could therefore potentially benefit from financial investment of approximately twenty five million pounds during the operational period which would create positive social and economic impacts and provide a lasting legacy in the local area.

Next steps

RES believes in meaningful and effective consultation, and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we can then consider when developing the design.

We will be looking to hold a public exhibition in the next couple of months in order to engage early with local residents like yourself, as well as the wider community, and listen to people's feedback. Further details will be confirmed in due course.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully



Gavin Shirley
Development Project Manager
E gavin.shirley@res-group.com
M +44 7570 812231

¹ The 115,000 homes equivalent figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (using the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy's average load factor for [onshore and offshore] wind of 31.84% and RES' predicted site generation capacity of 156MW) and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,748 kWh (December 2021). Final wind farm capacity will vary depending on the outcome of planning permission and the turbine type selected.

² Electricity Generation Costs - Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, August 2020.

Appendix B - Public exhibition advert (May 2023)

NEWS



Melrosian Will Owen with right and left-hand-men Douglas Crawford and Robin Sharp. Photo: Douglas Hardie.

Will to lead loved town

by **Kevin Janiak**
 kevin.janiak@nationalworld.com
 Reporter

It's no surprise these days, but this year's Melrosian Will Owen was paraded in front of a cheering crowd on Friday evening.

The new system of the left-hand-men learning the ropes a year before becoming the Melrosian is now bedding in, and Will, who plays rugby and cricket for Melrose, says it's given him extra confidence for the task ahead.

Will, 23, a groundsman at Monksford Estate, said: "It was very helpful last year, getting the chance to learn from Douglas (Crawford) and Ben (Magowan).

"I've spoken to several ex-Melrosians, and it used to be that they were sort of chucked in at the deep end. This way

makes more sense, and I can't wait to get going.

"I play rugby and cricket for this town that I love, so representing it this summer means a lot to me.

"I'm really looking forward to getting back to all the other town's festivals, each of which are unique in their own way, and meeting up with the principals, most of whom I've already met."

Will, who is the first of his family to be chosen as Melrosian, will be supported by his right-hand-man Douglas Crawford and left-hand-man, and therefore next year's Melrosian, Robin Sharp.

Rob Moffat, Festival Chairman, who hosted Friday night's ceremonies at the Corn Exchange, said: "It was a good night on Friday, and it's great to get back into the swing of things after Covid.

"We weren't sure how it

would go having the different system, but I know Will certainly appreciated being a part of things last year, serving his apprenticeship before becoming Melrosian, so I think it's going to work fine."

Friday night also saw the declaration of the town's Festival Queen and her court.

They are: Queen, Olivia Milne; Attendants, Millie Ashman and Hannah Ramsay; Courtier Proclamation, Brodie McLean; Courtier Crown and Sceptre, Rory Wright; Herald, Finlay McLean and Finlay Brown; Train Bearers, Charlotte Allan and Arabella Warwick; Lead Cyclists, Lexi Wright, Patricia Janczuk and Emma Montgomery; Art Competition winner, Florence Monro.

Here's wishing Will, Douglas, Robin and Olivia and her court all the best come Festival Week.

Circus rolls into Galashiels

After a fair few years, the circus is coming back to town as Circus Montini rolls into Galashiels for a series of performances from tonight.

Circus promoter Tony Hopkins from Yorkshire says he's bringing a strong programme of performing artists to the Borders.

He said: "A deliberately down-sized show has been

created to be able to take the show to places that do not often see a circus, but without reducing the quality or quantity of the acts or production.

"Circus Montini brings spectacular entertainment to towns and cities all over the country. It follows in the wheel tracks of those great circuses of the past and is returning to the ethos of taking

a family show to the people, creating a memorable experience on their doorstep.

Artists include a stunning unicyclist from Argentina, break-dancers from Hungary, contortionist Stefany Narballes and clowns such as Petro who has joined the show from Ukraine.

The big tent stays in the Public Park until Sunday.

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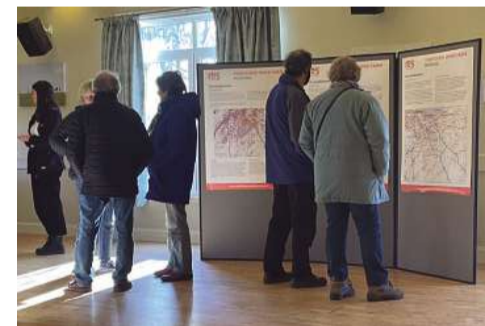


HOUSE OF HEARING

PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS Longcroft Wind Farm Proposal



RES is in the early stages of exploring a potential wind farm and energy storage proposal approximately 9km north of Lauder in the Scottish Borders. Public exhibitions are being held for people to learn more about the project, discuss any questions in person, and provide feedback on the initial design.



Tuesday 23rd May 2023
2pm to 7pm

Oxton War Memorial Hall
 Station Road, Lauder, TD2 6PL

Wednesday 24th May 2023
2pm to 7pm

Lauder Public Hall
 Lauder, TD2 6SR

Anyone wishing to provide feedback to RES on the project can do so in writing by filling out a 'comments form' at the exhibition events or online from the project website at www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk from 23 May 2023 when copies of the exhibition information will be available on the project website for people to view. The closing date for comments is 8 June 2023.

To find out more visit our website or contact Gavin Shirley, Project Manager, on 07570 812231 or at gavin.shirley@res-group.com

Please note that comments to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be submitted.



Philippa Langley. Photo: Dave Hogan

Story of Richard III set to be told at book festival

By John Hislop
Reporter

john.hislop@newsquest.co.uk

ON August 22, 1485, Richard III was killed at Bosworth Field – the last king of England to die in battle.

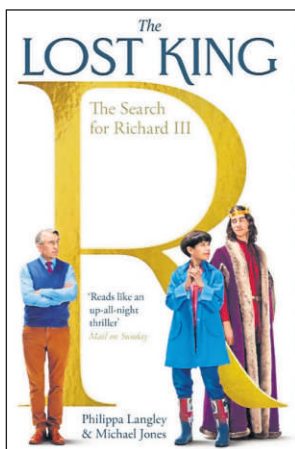
His victorious opponent, Henry Tudor, went on to found one of our most famous ruling dynasties.

Fifty years later, the king's grave was lost and Richard III's reputation buried under a mound of Tudor propaganda.

Author Philippa Langley is coming to the Borders Book Festival to tell the remarkable story of the search for the lost king, leading to the incredible moment when the 500-year-old mystery was solved and his remains were uncovered beneath a car park in Leicester.

The Lost King is the astonishing true story of a woman who refused to be ignored and who took on the country's most eminent historians, forcing them to think again about one of the most controversial kings in England's history.

The book has now been turned in a major film with Sally Hawkins and Steve Coogan.



Langley said: "I'm very excited to be coming to the Borders Book Festival and to be able to tell my story. It was lovely to get an invite.

"I was aware of Shakespeare's play but in the early 1990s I read Paul Murray Kendall's biography of the king which portrayed a completely different person and provided evidence to back it up.

"I travelled to Leicester and spent several years researching Richard's life but that later changes and I started to focus on his death. And that research

led me to the north end of one of three car parks where I had this intuitive experience and felt that I was walking on his grave.

"That happened in the spring of 2004 and it took eight years and a great deal of persuasion before the excavation began in the summer of 2012 and Richard's body was found.

"I then spent the next eight years working with Steve Coogan and the film makers.

"The film is a dramatisation as a documentary would have been four hours long.

"They warned me that it was telescoped, but I'm pleased with it because they picked the main moments and told my story."

One subject that was not covered by the book was the mysterious deaths of the twins in the Tower of London, but that is Philippa's latest research project.

And she promises some 'very exciting' news soon.

Who knows, she could be back at next year's festival.

Philippa Langley will be appearing at the Borders Book Festival, Melrose, on Sunday, June 18 at 3.30pm (tickets £14, concessions £12).

Visit www.bordersbookfestival.org or call the box office on 0131 290 2112.

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PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS
Longcroft Wind Farm Proposal

res
power for good

RES is in the early stages of exploring a potential wind farm and energy storage proposal approximately 9km north of Lauder in the Scottish Borders. Public exhibitions are being held for people to learn more about the project, discuss any questions in person, and provide feedback on the initial design.



<p>Tuesday 23rd May 2023 2pm to 7pm</p> <p>Oxton War Memorial Hall Station Road, Lauder, TD2 6PL</p>	<p>Wednesday 24th May 2023 2pm to 7pm</p> <p>Lauder Public Hall Lauder, TD2 6SR</p>
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Anyone wishing to provide feedback to RES on the project can do so in writing by filling out a 'comments form' at the exhibition events or online from the project website at www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk from 23 May 2023 when copies of the exhibition information will be available on the project website for people to view. The closing date for comments is 8 June 2023.

To find out more visit our website or contact Gavin Shirley, Project Manager, on 07570 812231 or at gavin.shirley@res-group.com

Please note that comments to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be submitted.

Appendix C - Public exhibition newsletter (May 2023)

LONGCROFT WIND FARM PROPOSAL

NEWSLETTER –MAY 2023

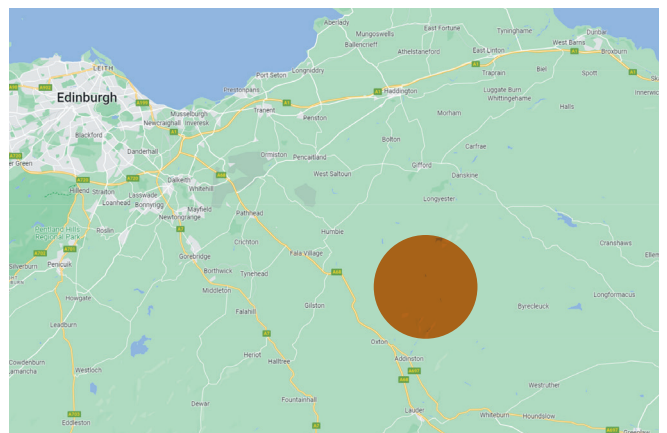


RES is in the early stages of exploring a potential wind farm and energy storage proposal approximately 9km north of Lauder in the Scottish Borders.

Following initial feasibility work on site we submitted a Scoping Report in March 2023 to the Scottish Government, seeking feedback on the scope of proposed environmental survey work.

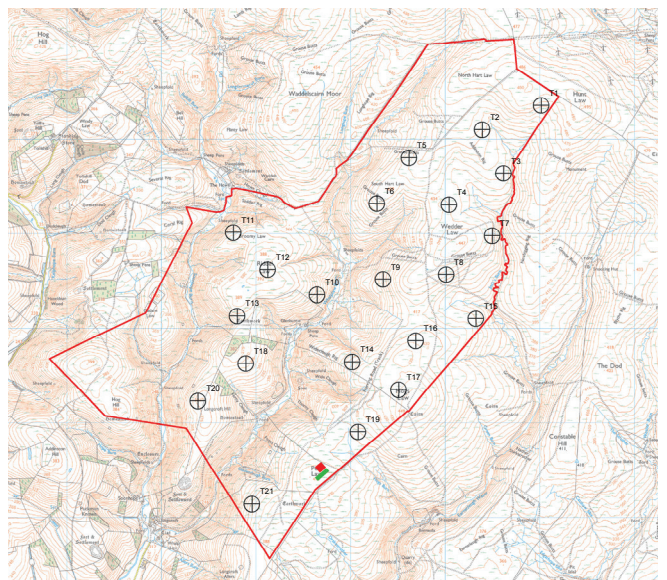
The Scoping Report included an early design layout for the proposed scheme comprising 24 turbines at a tip height of up to 220m, resulting in an overall installed site generating capacity (based on the scoping layout) in excess of 100MW, and a proposed energy storage facility which will help maximise generation capacity and efficiency of the site. We are now seeking your views on our current Longcroft Wind Farm proposal for 21 turbines, in a revised design informed by results from ongoing technical and environmental surveys and in response to consultee feedback to the Scoping Report.

Turbine technology has continued to advance considerably and new onshore wind projects like the proposed Longcroft Wind Farm are amongst the lowest cost forms of generating electricity. These modern, taller turbines generate significantly more electricity which will help to address the climate emergency, cost of living crisis and security of energy supply issues that we currently face. If consented, Longcroft Wind Farm would be capable of generating clean, low-cost renewable electricity for around 110,000¹ homes – helping to play an important role in meeting Scotland’s legally-binding 2045 net zero target.



Approximate location of wind farm site (for illustrative purpose only)

Indicative turbine layout



¹ The 110,000 homes equivalent figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (using the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy’s [BEIS] average load factor for [onshore and offshore] wind of 31.84% and RES’ predicted site generation capacity of 138.6MW) and dividing this by the BEIS annual average electricity figure showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,509 kWh (December 2022). Final wind farm capacity will vary depending on the outcome of planning permission and the turbine type selected.

Public Exhibition

Engaging early with the community

We are holding public exhibitions in the local area to enable people to learn more about the project, discuss any questions with the RES project team, and provide feedback on the initial design.

The exhibitions initiate a consultation period being run by RES to gather written comments on the proposal. Anyone wishing to provide feedback to RES on the project can do so in writing by filling out a 'comments form' at the exhibition events or online at www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk from 23rd May 2023 when copies of the exhibition information will be available on the project website for people to view.

The closing date for comments is 8th June 2023. Please note that comments to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be submitted.

The project is also predicted to deliver approximately £5.8 million² of inward investment to the area as well as a tailored community benefits package in line with local needs and priorities. As such, in addition to gathering people's feedback on the design and layout of the proposal itself we're keen to understand the local priorities, needs and community projects which people would like to see the wind farm support, should it go ahead.

We're also looking to build our knowledge of local skills and capabilities and explore ways of maximising inward investment to the local area from the project, so if you're a local business interested in getting involved in onshore wind projects please come along to the exhibitions and talk to our team.

²The £5.8 million inward investment figure is based on typical spend that RES has seen spent on its projects with local stakeholders, suppliers and service providers in the region of £279,000 per wind turbine during the development, construction and first year of operation.

Tuesday 23rd May 2023

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Oxton War Memorial Hall
Station Road, Lauder, TD2 6PL

Wednesday 24th May 2023

2pm to 7pm

Lauder Public Hall
Lauder, TD2 6SR

About RES

RES, a British company with a proud history in Scotland, is the world's largest independent renewable energy company with operations across Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific. At the forefront of the industry for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 23GW of renewable energy projects worldwide.

Employing over 100 staff in Scotland, RES has the expertise to develop, construct and operate projects of outstanding quality such as Penmanshiel Wind Farm in The Scottish Borders, and works closely with the local supply chain wherever possible.



Gavin Shirley

Development Project Manager

✉ gavin.shirley@res-group.com

☎ 07570 812231

📍 RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ

RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ

If you require information in Braille, large text or audio, please let us know.

Mrs A Hogarth
Secretary to Lauderdale Community Council

Sent by email to: _____ and _____

10 May 2023

Dear Mrs Hogarth,

RE: Longcroft Wind Farm proposal - public exhibitions

Further to my previous letter dated 14 March, I am writing to confirm details of two public exhibition events that RES will be holding in May for our Longcroft Wind Farm proposal.

Public exhibitions

The public exhibition events form part of our pre-application consultation on the Longcroft Wind Farm proposal and will enable people to learn more about the project, discuss any questions that they may have with the project team, and provide feedback on the initial design. They have been carefully organised around hall availability and arranged to run into the evening to make the events accessible to as many people as practicable.

23 May 2023

Oxton War Memorial Hall
Station Road, Lauder, TD2 6PL

2pm to 7pm

24 May 2023

Lauder Public Hall
Lauder, TD2 6SR

2pm to 7pm

The exhibitions are being advertised in The Border Telegraph and The Southern Reporter this week. A digital poster version of the exhibition advert accompanies this letter in case you wish to post it on any of your community social media sites or websites. We can also arrange to send laminated versions of this to you should this be helpful - please let us know if this is the case.

A project newsletter will also be mailed out this week to 1,300 properties in the local area (and to anyone who has got in touch with us and asked to be kept up to date with the proposal) to help raise awareness of the project and upcoming exhibitions. A digital copy of the newsletter accompanies this letter in case this is helpful.

A range of information will be available at the exhibitions, including visualisations which will help to give an impression of what the current site design and layout will look like from different viewpoints in the area.

In addition to seeking people's comments on the proposal itself, we would also like to understand how the wind farm could support local priorities through the delivery of a tailored community benefits package. RES has developed a unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) which has benefited other communities around our wind farms in the past and we're keen to learn if this is also of interest at Longcroft or whether the community has other ideas to help secure long-term economic, social and environmental benefits.

Providing feedback on the proposal

The exhibition events will initiate a consultation period for people to provide written feedback to RES on the proposal. Feedback can be submitted in writing by filling out a 'comments form' at the exhibition events or online at www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk from 23 May when copies of the exhibition information will be available on the project website for people to view. **The closing date for comments is 8 June 2023.**

Please note that comments to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be submitted.

Next steps

The written feedback received from the exhibition events and consultation period, together with key consultee feedback and the findings of the environmental assessment work being undertaken, will be considered as part of the design development over the coming months.

We will also hold a second set of public exhibition events closer to submission of the planning application (currently scheduled for submission in Autumn 2023) to update people on the proposal and present the final design. These events will also refer to the written feedback received from the May 2023 exhibitions and consultation period and explain any changes made to the design in response to this.

We hope that you have found this update helpful. If you have any questions, or would like further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Gavin Shirley
Development Project Manager
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Appendix D - Public exhibition materials (May 2023)

Welcome

About this exhibition

Thank you for taking the time to attend this exhibition. The event focuses on the wind farm and energy storage proposal that we are exploring, approximately 9km north of Lauder in the Scottish Borders.

A range of information is provided as part of this exhibition - including details about the site location, design layout, proposed infrastructure, site constraints, likely turbine delivery route, and environmental considerations.

In addition, we have provided visualisations comprising wirelines and photomontages to help give an impression of what the current site design and layout may look like from a selection of viewpoints in the area.

The exhibition forms part of our pre-application consultation and is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- learn more about the proposal;
- discuss any questions or views with our project team; and
- provide written feedback to RES on the proposal.

Please take time to read the exhibition information provided and talk to our project team about any questions that you may have. Any written consultation feedback submitted to RES will be considered by the project team as the design is developed and refined over the coming months.



Early engagement

RES believes in meaningful and effective consultation, and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we can then consider when developing and refining the design and delivery of the proposal.

We consider pre-application consultation a crucial part of the wind farm development process. This early-stage exhibition is designed to help maximise the potential for consultation feedback to help shape the design.

Commenting on the proposal

The exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments and feedback on the proposal. We are keen to discuss the project with you and answer any questions that you may have, but please note that **formal feedback to RES at this stage needs to be submitted in writing.**

If you would like to provide feedback to RES on the project you can do so by filling out a 'comments form' at the exhibition events or online from the project website at www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk where copies of the exhibition information are also available for people to view. If you have any questions about this, please speak to our project team.

In addition to gathering feedback on the proposal itself and current design, we would also like to understand how the wind farm could support local priorities through the delivery of a tailored community benefits package.

The closing date for feedback to RES is Thursday 8 June 2023.

Please note that comments to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be submitted.

Your feedback matters

Feedback at this early stage has the potential to change and influence the design and improve the overall quality of the planning application from a community perspective.

In addition to confirming any current support, opposition, or neutrality to the proposal at this stage please consider submitting any constructive feedback that you may have regarding the design and delivery of the project as this information has the potential to change and influence the design in a way that is beneficial to the community, should it go ahead.

Next steps and keeping you updated

Any written consultation feedback submitted to RES will be considered by the project team over the coming months as the design is developed and refined, in addition to feedback from key consultees and the findings from the technical and environmental studies that we are undertaking.

We will hold a second set of public exhibition events closer to submission of the planning application (which is currently scheduled in Autumn 2023) to update people on the proposal.

People will have the opportunity to speak to the project team again about the project and provide written feedback to RES. These events will also refer to the written feedback received from the May 2023 exhibitions and consultation period and explain any changes made to the design in response to the feedback.

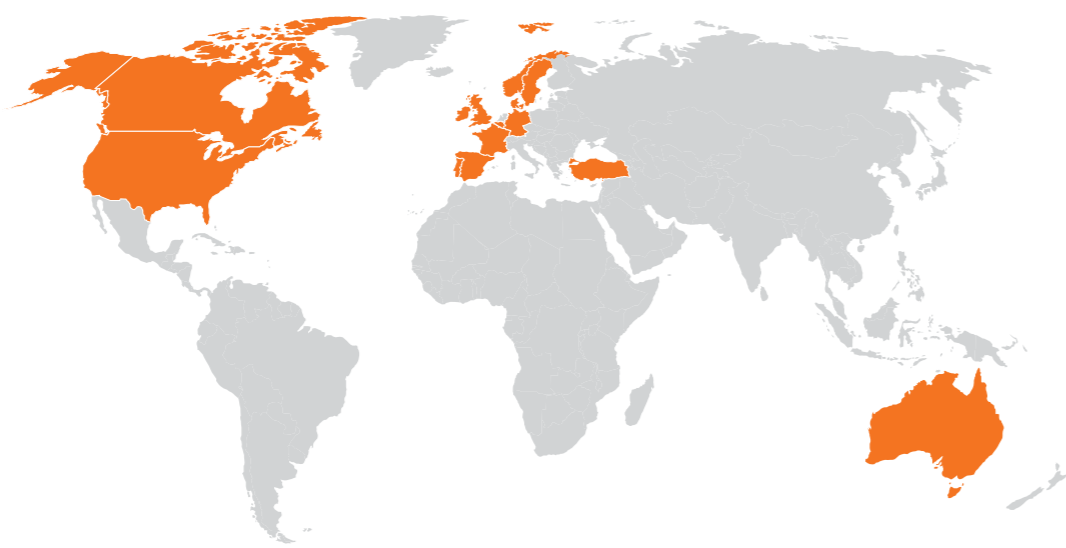
If you would like to be kept up to date with the proposal and informed about the next set of exhibitions, please fill in a comments form with your details or speak to one of our project team at the exhibition. A copy of the key information presented at this exhibition, including an electronic copy of the comments form (which can be filled in online or downloaded), can be found on the Longcroft project website at www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk together with contact details for our project team.

About RES

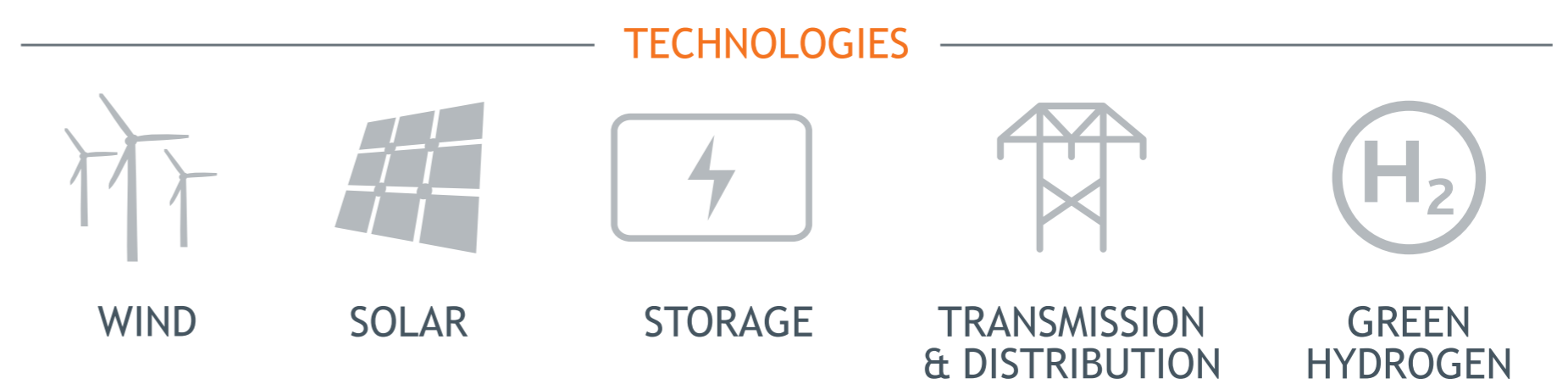
The world's largest independent renewable energy company

RES has been at the forefront of wind energy development for over 40 years and delivered more than 23GW of renewable energy projects worldwide. We employ more than 2,500 passionate people across the globe and are active in 14 countries, working across onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution.

Sustainability lies at the core of our business activity and values, and we have been leading efforts to create a future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy. The 23GW of green energy that we have developed and/or constructed offsets more than 21 million tonnes of carbon every year.



23GW PROJECT PORTFOLIO **12GW** OPERATIONAL ASSETS SUPPORTED
40+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE **2500+** EMPLOYEES



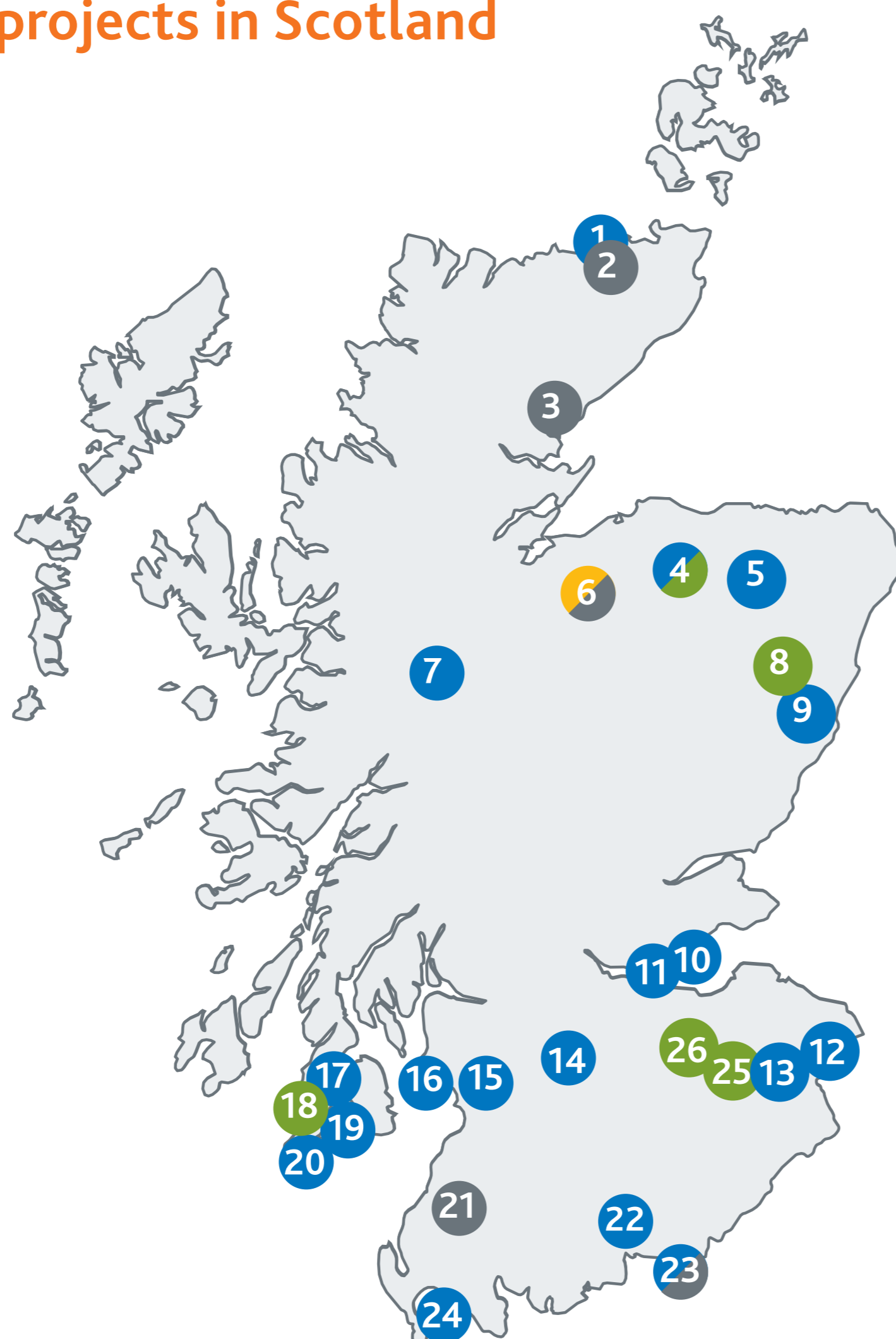
RES in Scotland

RES is a privately-owned company with a proud history in Scotland. We grew out of Sir Robert McAlpine, a British family-owned firm with over 140 years of experience in construction and engineering including the Glenfinnan Viaduct in the Highlands and the Emirates Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow. From our Glasgow office we have been developing, constructing and operating wind farms in Scotland since 1993.

We have developed and/or built 21 wind farms in Scotland, with a total generation capacity of 597MW, and have recently finished constructing Blary Hill Wind Farm in Argyll and Bute. We were also involved in the 14-turbine Penmanshiel Wind Farm near Granthouse, in the Scottish Borders, which we now operate. The project was commissioned in 2016 and delivers a community benefits package which includes RES' Local Electricity Discount Scheme. For further information about RES, visit www.res-group.com.

Onshore wind projects in Scotland

- Development
- In planning
- Consented
- Under construction
- Operational



RES has developed and/or built and/or operates a range of projects across Scotland including:

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Forss I and II | 16 | Kelburn |
| 2 | Cairnmore Hill | 17 | Freasdail |
| 3 | Kintradwell | 18 | Killean |
| 4 | Hill of Towie I and II | 19 | Cour |
| 5 | Glens of Foudland | 20 | Blary Hill |
| 6 | Cairn Duhie (and redesign) | 21 | Scleteuch |
| 7 | Beinneun | 22 | Minnygap |
| 8 | Hill of Fare | 23 | Solwaybank and Bloch |
| 9 | Meikle Carewe | 24 | Glenchamber |
| 10 | Earlseat | 25 | Longcroft |
| 11 | Little Raith | 26 | Torfichen |
| 12 | Penmanshiel | | |
| 13 | Black Hill | | |
| 14 | Tormywheel | | |
| 15 | Neilston | | |

Map updated May 2023

The need for onshore wind

National Development

We are in a climate emergency, nature crisis, cost of living crisis and face issues with security of energy supply. Onshore wind can address all of these. This is recognised by the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) which was published in February 2023. It is Scotland's long term spatial strategy and categorises onshore wind projects with a generating capacity in excess of 50MW as National Development. In principle it supports all forms of renewable energy generation including onshore wind. There are national targets for reaching Net Zero by 2045 and installing 20GW of onshore wind by 2030.

Low-cost electricity

Onshore wind, together with large scale solar, is the cheapest form of electricity generation¹. It can be deployed quickly and delivered at lower costs than offshore wind, hydro, marine technologies, and nuclear. If consented, the Longcroft Wind Farm scheme would be capable of generating enough clean, low-cost renewable electricity for more than 110,000 homes² each year, based on the current design presented at this exhibition. With the rising cost of living and climate change emergency, it is imperative that we deliver electricity efficiently and at lowest cost to the consumer.

Energy security

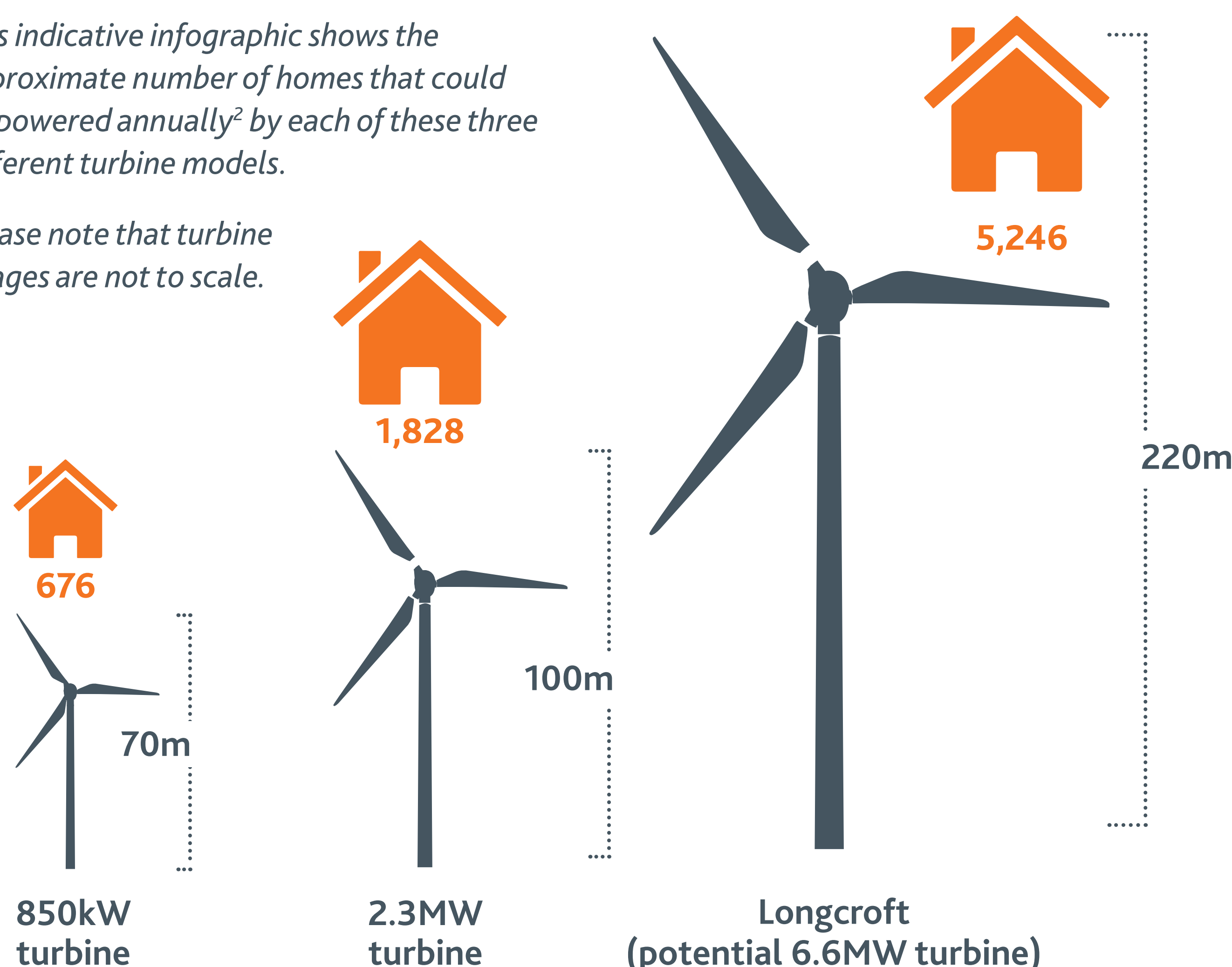
Wind energy is a free and inexhaustible resource which has an important role to play as part of a balanced energy mix. It increases energy security by reducing our reliance on imports and builds our resilience to sudden fossil fuel price fluctuations or the uncertainty of global markets. Advancements in energy storage solutions will also help capture excess energy generation. The current Longcroft Wind Farm proposal also includes a 100MW output battery storage facility to help maximise the efficiency of the site and further contribute to energy security.

Improved performance and output

Turbine technology has advanced considerably in recent years, meaning that turbines are now taller and more efficient which enables them to generate a significantly greater amount of renewable electricity per turbine. Modern taller turbines provide more electricity, which helps address the climate emergency, cost of living crisis, and security of energy supply. The 220m turbines proposed at Longcroft would allow for far greater benefits in terms of renewable electricity generation per turbine than smaller turbines would.

This indicative infographic shows the approximate number of homes that could be powered annually² by each of these three different turbine models.

Please note that turbine images are not to scale.



Hill of Towie Wind Farm, Moray (turbines 100m to blade tip)

Tackling climate change

Whilst temperature and weather patterns have naturally fluctuated throughout history, scientists now agree that there is

“unequivocal evidence that Earth is warming at an unprecedented rate” not seen in the past 10,000 years and that **“human activity is the principal cause.”**³

Rapidly melting ice sheets, accelerated rises in sea levels and ocean warming, longer droughts, more frequent floods, wildfires and tropical storms are just some of the devastating effects of climate change seen across the globe which are affecting humans and other species.

In December 2015, at the Paris COP convention on climate Change, the landmark Paris Agreement was reached. The Agreement aimed to *“strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change”* and set a goal of *“holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognising that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.”*

Net zero carbon targets

A 'climate emergency' was declared by the UK Government and the Scottish Government in 2019. The UK Government has set a legally binding target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 'net zero' by 2050 and the Scottish Government has a net zero target of 2045. Renewables, and specifically onshore wind, will play an important role in helping achieve these targets.

Scotland currently has ~8.4GW of installed onshore wind capacity. The Scottish Government has set a target to secure an additional 8-12GW of installed onshore wind capacity by 2030⁴ in order to help meet the legally-binding net zero target. This is a substantial increase and will require a significant deployment of new onshore wind projects in order to meet this demand for green, low-carbon electricity.

¹ Electricity Generation Costs - Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, August 2020.

² The indicative homes equivalent figures for the site (a conservative estimate of 110,000 homes) and for the three different turbine models shown in the graphic (676 homes, 1,828 homes, and 5,246 homes) have each been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation (based on RES' predicted site generation capacity of 138.6MW, or each turbine's capacity i.e. 850kW/ 2.3MW/ 6.6MW) together with the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's (BEIS) average load factor for (onshore and offshore) wind of 31.84% and dividing this by the BEIS annual average electricity figure (showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,509 kWh [December 2022]). The final wind farm capacity and the turbine models used for Longcroft will vary depending on the outcome of any planning permission and the turbine procurement process.

³ NASA (<https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/>).

⁴ Onshore Wind Policy Statement, Scottish Government, December 2022

Project overview

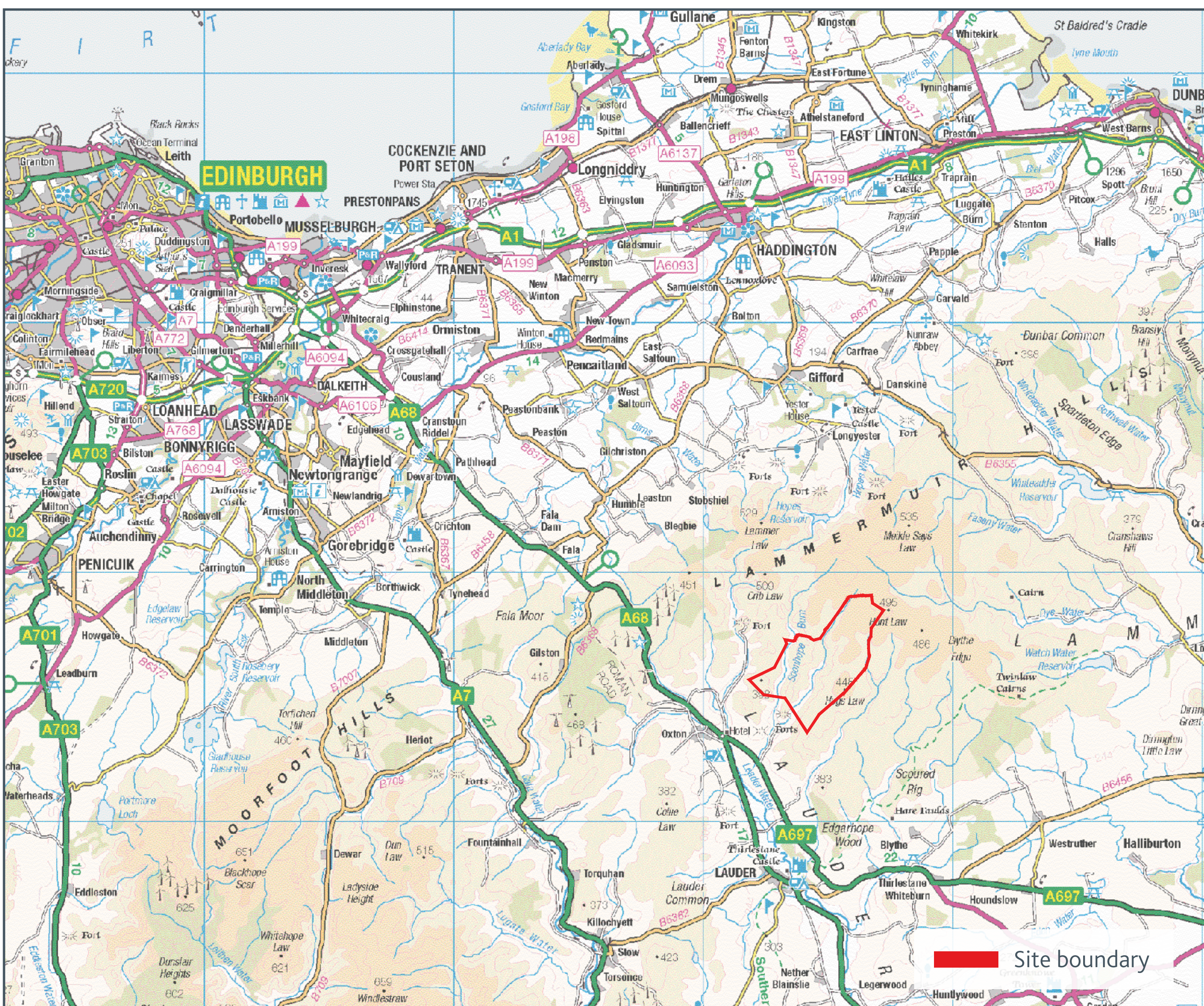
We are seeking your views on our current Longcroft Wind Farm proposal for 21 turbines, in a revised design informed by results from ongoing technical and environmental surveys.

The site

The Longcroft Wind Farm proposal is located approximately 9km north of Lauder in the Scottish Borders.

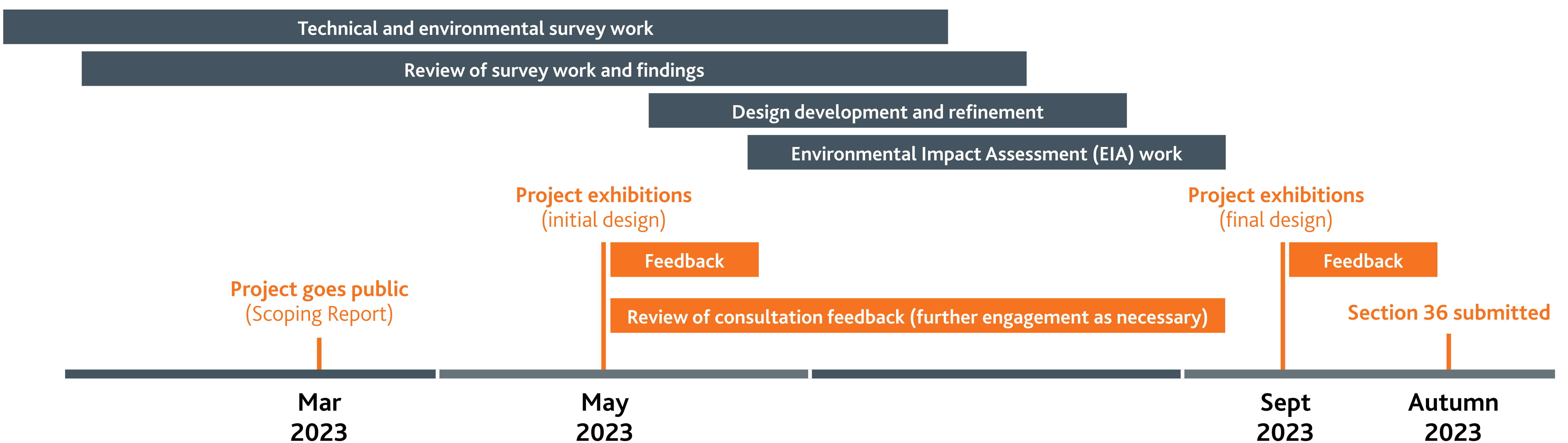
The site primarily comprises heather moorland or rough grassland that is extensively managed for shooting. The site has good wind resource and lies outwith any nationally designated landscape areas.

Site location map



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Indicative timeline



¹ The 110,000 homes equivalent figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (using the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's [BEIS] average load factor for [onshore and offshore] wind of 31.84% and RES' predicted site generation capacity of 138.6MW) and dividing this by the BEIS annual average electricity figure showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,509 kWh (December 2022). Final wind farm capacity will vary depending on the outcome of planning permission and the turbine type selected.

Scoping stage

In March 2023, following initial feasibility work on site, we submitted a Scoping Report to the Scottish Government. The Report sought feedback from the Scottish Government and other consultees (including local Community Councils) on the scope of the proposed environmental survey work.

The Report included an early design layout for the proposed scheme comprising 24 turbines at a turbine tip height of up to 220m, resulting in an overall installed site generating capacity (based on the scoping layout) in excess of 100MW.

A battery storage facility is also proposed with a power output of around 100MW and a storage capacity of around 200MWh to help increase the flexibility and generation opportunities of the site.

Turbine technology has advanced considerably in recent years, meaning that turbines are now taller and more efficient which enables them to generate a significantly greater amount of renewable electricity per turbine. If consented, Longcroft would be capable of generating clean, low-cost renewable electricity for around 110,000¹ homes each year.

Consultee feedback to the Scoping Report continues to be reviewed and any necessary changes made to the proposed scope of environmental work. Technical and environmental surveys will continue to be undertaken over the coming months to inform the design. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be prepared to accompany the application.

Planning submission timescales

The Longcroft Wind Farm proposal will have an installed generating capacity greater than 50MW (megawatts). As such, the application for planning consent will be submitted by RES to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (the Electricity Act) and determined by Scottish Ministers. Scottish Borders Council will be a statutory consultee in the process. We currently expect to submit the Section 36 application around autumn 2023.

In the meantime, we will continue to undertake detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies and surveys. The findings from this EIA work, together with consultation feedback from both this exhibition and key consultees, will be considered as part of the design development.

Design infrastructure

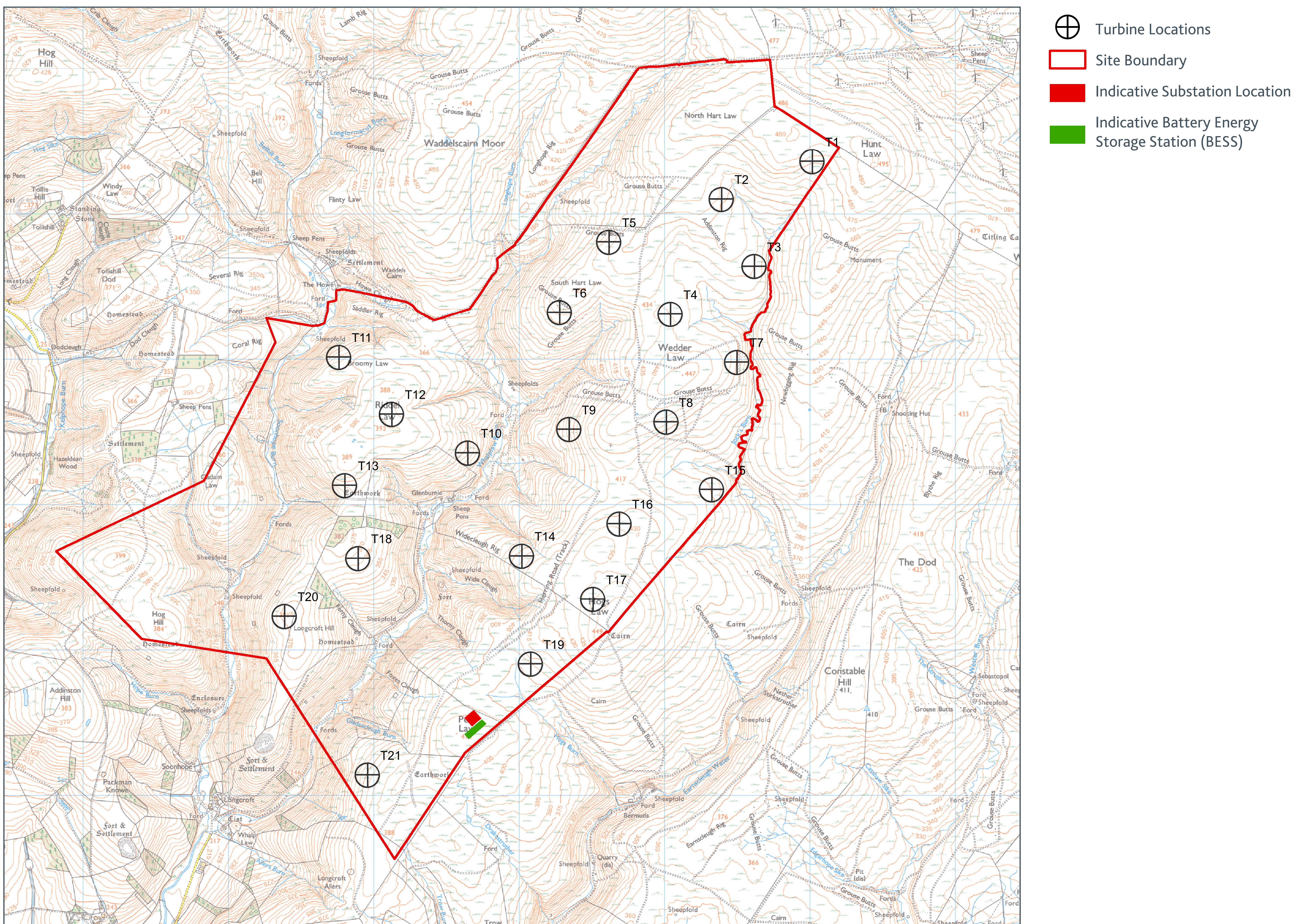
Early design

The drawing below shows the proposed site layout at this early stage of the project. This design is based on the constraints that have been mapped so far and are explained on the 'EIA considerations' boards.

There is a lot of work still to do over the coming months, and the design will be developed and refined during this time in response to both the findings from the technical and environmental survey work as well as consideration of written feedback from key consultees and the local community.

As the design is still at an early stage, any comments that you may have on the infrastructure or layout have the potential to change and influence the design and improve the overall quality of the planning application from a community perspective. Please talk to our project team if you have questions about the design or ideas for ways in which it could be improved in your opinion.

Preliminary site layout



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EIA considerations

Ecology

The non-avian Ecology Impact Assessment will involve a range of studies including habitats, protected species, notable species (e.g. national and European Protected Species) and locally protected species. To date we have undertaken botanical survey work to identify habitats that are of conservation importance or have groundwater dependence. Further habitat and species assessment work will be undertaken over the coming months as the design develops and infrastructure siting is refined.

Ornithology

Avoiding impacts on bird species, wherever possible, is an important factor in the design of the site. Already, we have commissioned over 500 hours of baseline ornithological survey work over the last two years during breeding and non-breeding seasons to build our understanding of the species on site. Surveys have included flight path activity, breeding behaviour, winter walkover surveys, as well as specific black grouse and bird of prey surveys. Some of the key species that we have recorded in the area include golden plover, curlew, red grouse, short-eared owl and merlin, and pink-footed goose migrating over the site in winter. The ongoing survey work will inform the design work and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Shadow flicker

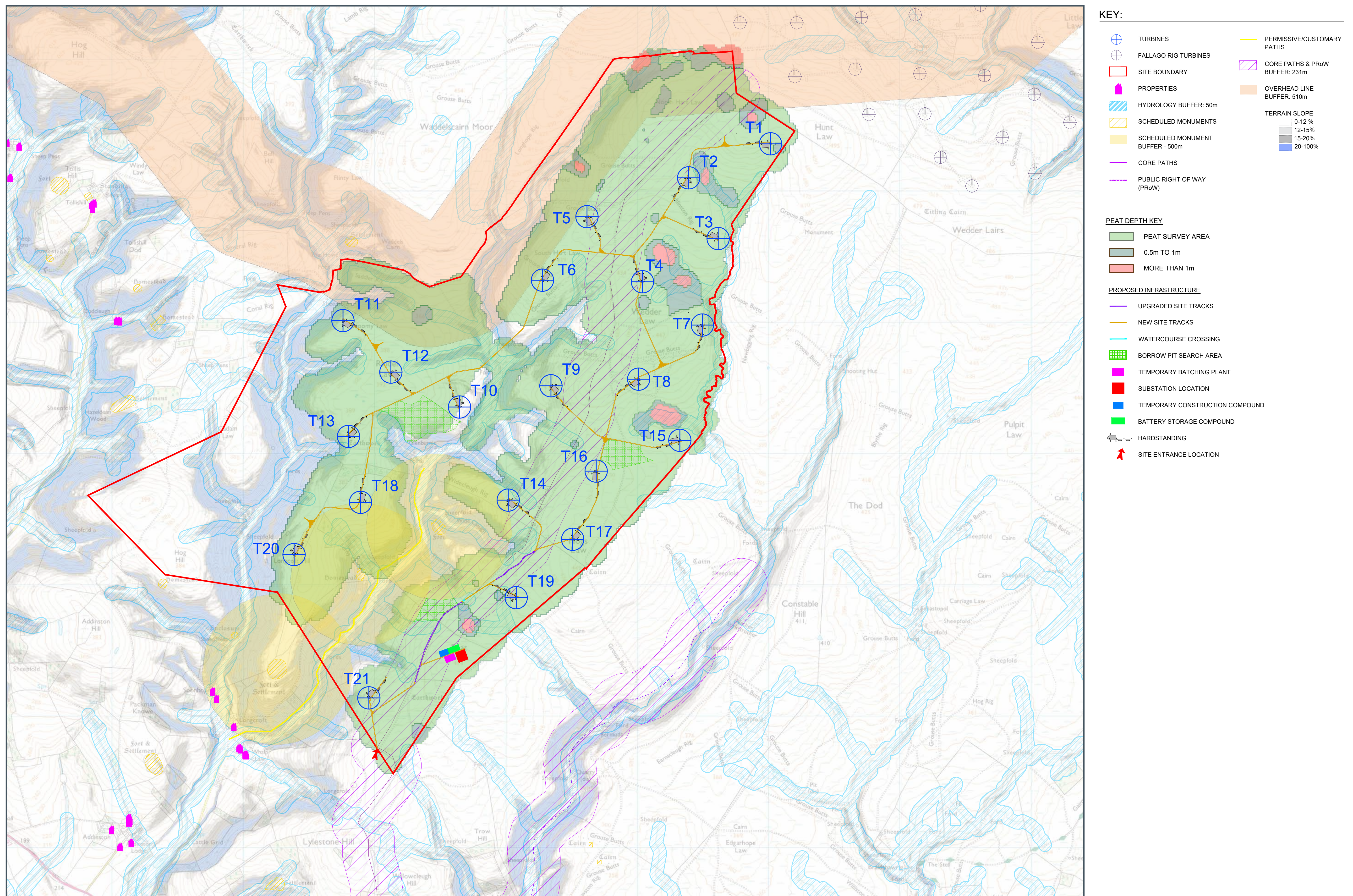
Shadow flicker is a phenomenon where, under certain circumstances of geographical position and time of day, the sun may pass behind the rotors of a wind turbine and cast a shadow over neighbouring properties. When the blades rotate, the shadow flicks on and off. It only occurs inside buildings where the flicker appears through a narrow window opening. The Longcroft Wind Farm proposal is being designed in a way that will minimise any potential for shadow flicker. Shadow flicker can be easily modelled and mitigated in a number of ways (e.g. shadow detection technology on relevant turbines to create a shutdown timetable if necessary).

Peat

Initial peat depth surveys and assessments have been undertaken across the site to inform the early site layout. This work has been carried out in accordance with current Scottish Government and NatureScot good practice guidance on wind farm construction.

The approach to peat will aim to avoid impacts and, where this is not possible, will seek appropriate re-use options to minimise any impacts and facilitate habitat restoration or enhancement where possible.

Constraints map



EIA considerations

Hydrology and hydrogeology

The proposal has the potential to cause changes to the baseline hydrological and hydrogeological conditions on the site, and the receiving water environment, and as such the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will seek to identify sensitive water environment features, assessing potential impacts and proposing mitigation where required.

A number of initial studies and assessments have been carried out to map the Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE), groundwater, water supplies and surface water features, and other potential water environment receptors.

The mapping of private water supplies forms a key part of the hydro and hydrogeological work and further consultation will be undertaken to identify all water supply infrastructure in the vicinity of the proposed development. A Private Water Supply Risk Assessment will also be developed to accompany the planning application. Any construction work close to water supplies is strictly regulated. Please talk to our team if you have any questions regarding your private water supply.

Should any significant impacts be identified as part of the EIA process, appropriate mitigation will be proposed. Mitigation seeks, first, to avoid adverse impacts and, where impacts are unavoidable, to reduce the significance of residual effect to an acceptable level. It also seeks enhancement and compensation, where possible, to provide the best practicable option.

Acoustics

Acoustics is an important consideration and the wind farm will be designed to comply with strict acoustic limits set by Scottish Borders Council should the project be granted consent.

Initial design work has taken account of residential properties in the surrounding area with buffers applied which resulted in the scoping layout presented. Survey work is required to understand the background acoustic levels and assess acoustics in greater detail to inform the iterative design process and EIA.

We will shortly be commissioning a range of background acoustic studies at selected properties in the local area which will be agreed with Scottish Borders Council's Environmental Health Officer.

The surveys will measure the acoustics at different times of the day and night in order to establish a baseline. The results of the background sound survey will inform the setting of the sound emission limits for the operation of the wind farm. The acoustic impact of the wind farm will be modelled, and the output of this modelling work will be presented in the Acoustics chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which will accompany the planning application.

The Acoustics chapter of the EIAR will demonstrate that RES has considered all appropriate measures in the design, construction and operational phases of the wind farm to minimise the acoustic impact. All of the planning documents, including the EIAR, will be available for public viewing and comment as part of the formal consultation period run by the determining authority once the planning application is submitted.

Culture heritage

The 'cultural heritage' of an area comprises archaeological sites, historic buildings, inventoried gardens and designed landscapes, inventoried battlefields and other historic environment features. The 'setting' of an asset within the wider landscape may contribute to its cultural heritage significance. There are two designated heritage assets within the site boundary area but there are a further 20 non-designated heritage assets which have local importance. The monuments within the site are two assets which date to the Iron Age; Glenburnie Fort (SM4473) and Longcroft Hill, Homestead, (SM4480).

The Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment will identify cultural heritage assets that may be subject to significant impacts, both on the site and within 10km of the proposed turbines.

A high-level appraisal has been carried out in relation to Scheduled Monuments; Listed Buildings, Inventoried Gardens and Designated Landscapes; and Inventoried Battlefields which have been identified within the vicinity of the site. These include remains of Addinston Hill Fort (SM362) and Longcroft Fort (SM372) to the south-west. Potential impacts will be assessed and a programme of mitigation proposed where appropriate.



View from Glenburnie Fort looking south down through the site.

Aviation lighting

The turbines proposed for Longcroft are above 150m in height and will therefore require aviation lighting so that the turbines are visible to aircraft. We will be consulting with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Edinburgh Airport, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and any other relevant consultees over the coming months to agree a lighting strategy with them.

It is worth noting that not all turbines are likely to be required to be lit (for example, lighting may just be required on outermost turbines). Furthermore, the (red) aviation lighting is designed to focus the light across and upwards for the attention of aircraft rather than downward to those at ground level.

There are also variations in the intensity of the lighting with lower levels required in good visibility and higher levels required in cloudy or foggy weather. In some instances, infra-red lighting may be possible (which is invisible to the naked eye).

The proposed lighting strategy will be presented in the planning application.

EIA considerations

Aviation and radar

Radar systems can be susceptible to interference from wind turbines as the blade movement can cause intermittent detection by radars within their operating range. This is particularly relevant where there is a line of sight between the radar and the wind turbine development.

RES has undertaken an initial Aviation Assessment to identify any radar infrastructure which may be impacted by the proposed turbines. Further assessment is being carried out to establish any potential impacts of the proposed turbines on the instrument flight procedures of Edinburgh Airport.

Consultation is ongoing with all relevant consultees including the MoD, NATS, Civil Aviation Authority and Edinburgh Airport.

Traffic and transport

An initial Access Study and Swept Paths Analysis (SPA) have been carried out by RES to assess route options and help minimise potential impacts during the delivery of wind turbine components.

The Access Study established a preferred route for deliveries which is shown on the map below. The route involves entry at the Port of Rosyth before transportation to the site via the A68.

We will also be assessing traffic volumes in the local area over the coming months. This work will help us to understand the impact of other project-related traffic (HGVs, site plant, 4x4s), required during the construction phase, and identify ways to minimise disruption on road users. The site access point will also need to be carefully designed with appropriate visibility splays to meet strict safety requirements.

Indicative turbine delivery route



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Maximising the local benefit

A power for good

RES seeks to be a power for good in communities that neighbour our projects by working openly and constructively to ensure tangible local benefits. We believe that onshore wind should provide direct, lasting benefits to local communities and there are a number of ways that this can be achieved.

We take a tailored approach and work directly with the community to understand how the wind farm could support the local area and help to secure long-term economic, social and environmental benefits. This approach will help to deliver a tailored community benefits package that is aligned with the priorities of the local community and could, for instance, provide funding for projects that sit outside the parameters of a traditional application-based fund.

Working with the community

As part of this exhibition and consultation period we are seeking feedback on your ideas for local benefits and priority projects that you would like to see supported or delivered in your community from Longcroft Wind Farm, should it receive consent. Some examples from other communities that we've worked with include:

- Skills development opportunities;
- Improvements to local footpaths and/or signage;
- Funding for local groups and organisations;
- Improved parking facilities at site entrance;
- Apprenticeship schemes with local businesses;
- Business start-up initiatives;
- Improvements to village halls;
- Community defibrillators;
- Electric-car charging points; and
- Discounted electricity bills for residents and businesses within a set distance from the wind farm (find out more below).

Any feedback which may tie into the design is particularly important for us to capture at this early stage so that it can be considered in relation to the development and refinement of the scheme over the coming months.

It is important to note that voluntary community benefits are not a material planning consideration.

Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS)

Our unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) seeks to deliver direct and tangible benefits to people living and working closest to RES' operational wind farms.

Developed in response to research and feedback from local communities around RES' operational wind farms, LEDS offers an annual discount to the electricity bills of those properties closest to a participating RES wind farm. If this is something that you are interested in as a potential part of a tailored community benefits package at Longcroft, please note this in your formal written feedback to RES and let our project team know if you would like more information.



Working with the local supply chain

Some of the most direct and meaningful benefits that can be delivered from a project like this are jobs and employment for local businesses and contractors, in addition to the use of local services and amenities, all of which can generate a significant amount of inward investment within the area.

RES has a strong track record for working with the local supply chain around its projects and in order to maximise the opportunities from the Longcroft Wind Farm proposal we are looking to build our knowledge of the local skills and capabilities within the area.

Kintradwell Wind Farm proposal – case study

RES signed an agreement with Brora-based firm, Edward Mackay Contractor, giving them right of first offer on the civil construction work for our proposed Kintradwell Wind Farm. Should the project receive consent, this commitment will help secure valuable local jobs and employment opportunities for the firm, which currently employs around 100 local staff.



RES partnership with Edward Mackay Contractor, Brora

Liam Mackay, Director at Edward Mackay Contractor, said "All credit to RES for engaging with local businesses and for giving us the opportunity to get stuck into a project on our doorstep, should it proceed. The work that we are looking at is significant and could be a real boost for not only our business but the whole area".

RES is also funding a local apprentice at Edward Mackay Contractor for up to four years. The apprenticeship is providing a young person from the local area with the opportunity to build valuable knowledge and skills on the job whilst also working towards an HNC qualification in civil engineering.

Inward investment

Expenditure in the local economy during the development, construction and operation of wind farms varies from project to project due to various factors including project size, project duration, and the availability of local suppliers. In recent years, RES has seen typical spend with local stakeholders, suppliers and service providers in the region of £279,000 per wind turbine during the development, construction and first year of project operation. In some cases, it has been possible to significantly improve on this number.

The Longcroft Wind Farm proposal is predicted to deliver approximately £5.8 million of inward investment to the area in the form of jobs, employment, and use of local services during the development, construction and first year of operation. In addition, approximately £1.5 million in business rates¹ will be payable each year to Scottish Borders Council during operation (based on the 138.6MW layout).

Some of the services and materials likely to be required are:

- Civil engineering
- Electrical works and cabling
- Plant hire and crane hire
- Environmental surveyors
- Concrete and aggregates
- Groundworks
- Steel fixing
- Labourers
- Fencers
- Accommodation

If you're a local business (or know a local business) interested in getting involved in onshore wind please speak to our project team.

¹The business rates figure of £1.5 million each year has been calculated from the most recent non-domestic rates revaluation in Scotland (2023 Revaluation) and predicted performance of the wind farm.

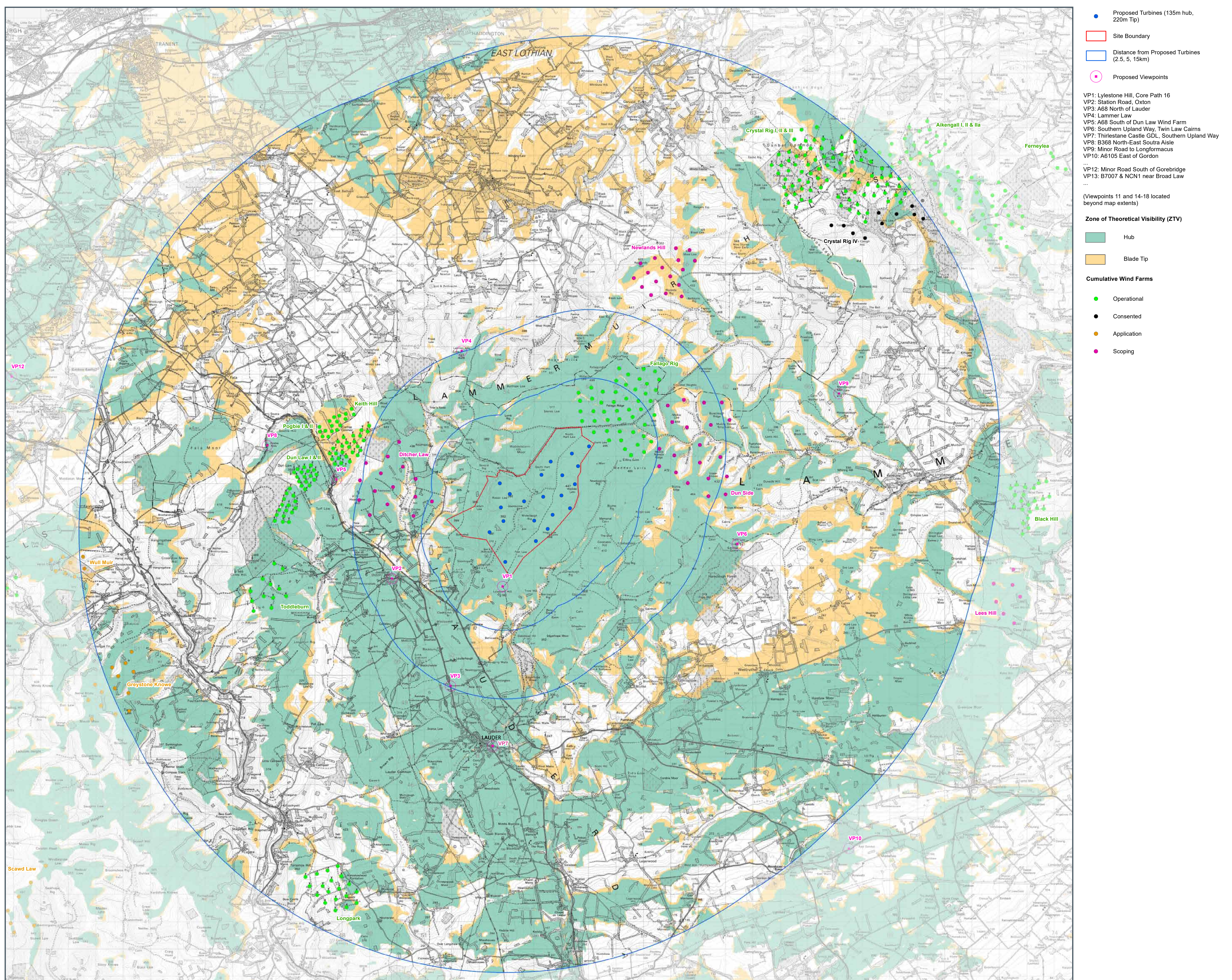
Tip height ZTV (15km) – unscreened

Bare land form visibility

The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) map below illustrates the theoretical extent of where turbines will be visible from within the wider area, assuming 100% visibility and bare landform (without any trees, buildings or obstacles in the view) as per NatureScot guidance. This map serves as a tool to inform the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). Landscape and visual considerations, including effects on residential visual amenity from the closest properties, will be carefully assessed and play a key role in the progression of the design.

Landscape and visual considerations

As upright structures, turbines cause indisputable changes to the landscape within which they sit and assessing whether this impact is 'acceptable' can be challenging. Public opinion on turbine visibility differs, with some people not liking the sight of wind farms in their community and others welcoming them. The visibility indicated on the bare landform ZTV below will be much less extensive in reality. Ultimately, the final decision regarding whether a wind farm's visibility is acceptable or not rests with the determining authority who will assess applications against planning policy.



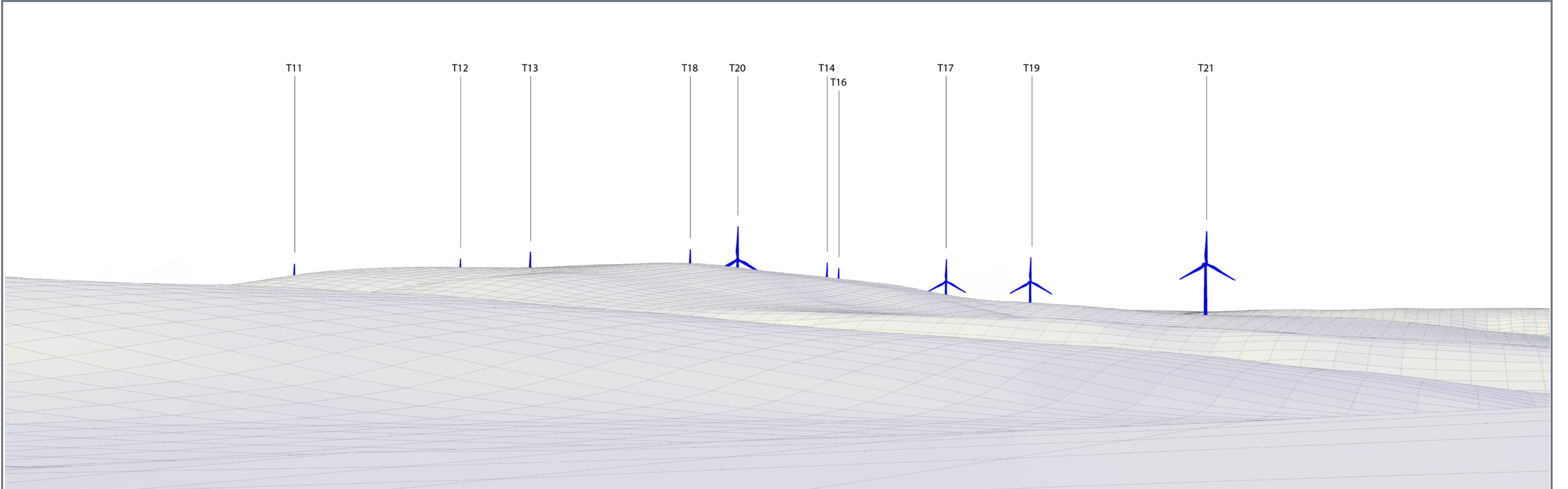
© CROWN COPYRIGHT, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. 2023 LICENCE NUMBER 0100031673

Viewpoint 2 – Station Road, Oxton

EXISTING VIEW



WIRELINE DRAWING



PHOTOMONTAGE OF PROPOSAL



VIEWPOINT INFORMATION

Location 349814, 653531

Altitude 218m AOD

Nearest turbine 3.96km to T20

Bearing to centre of image 66°

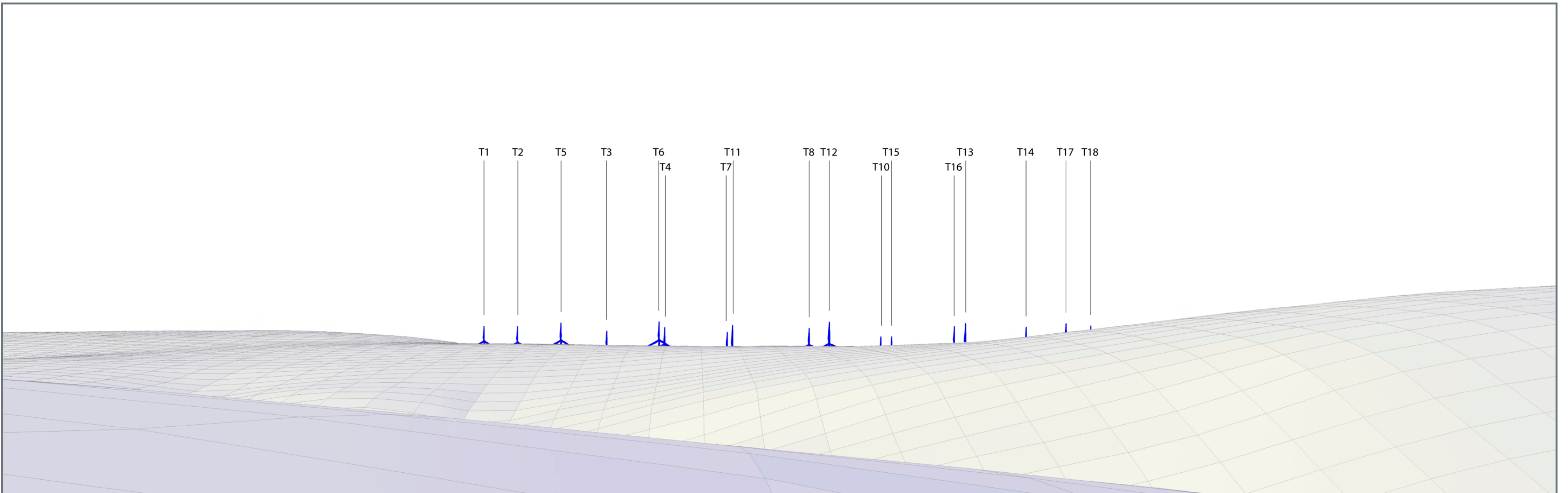
Angle of view 53.5 Degrees

Viewpoint 5 – A68 South of Dun Law Wind Farm

EXISTING VIEW



WIRELINE DRAWING



PHOTOMONTAGE OF PROPOSAL



VIEWPOINT INFORMATION

Location 347788, 657152

Altitude 353m AOD

Nearest turbine 5.92km to T20

Bearing to centre of image 93°

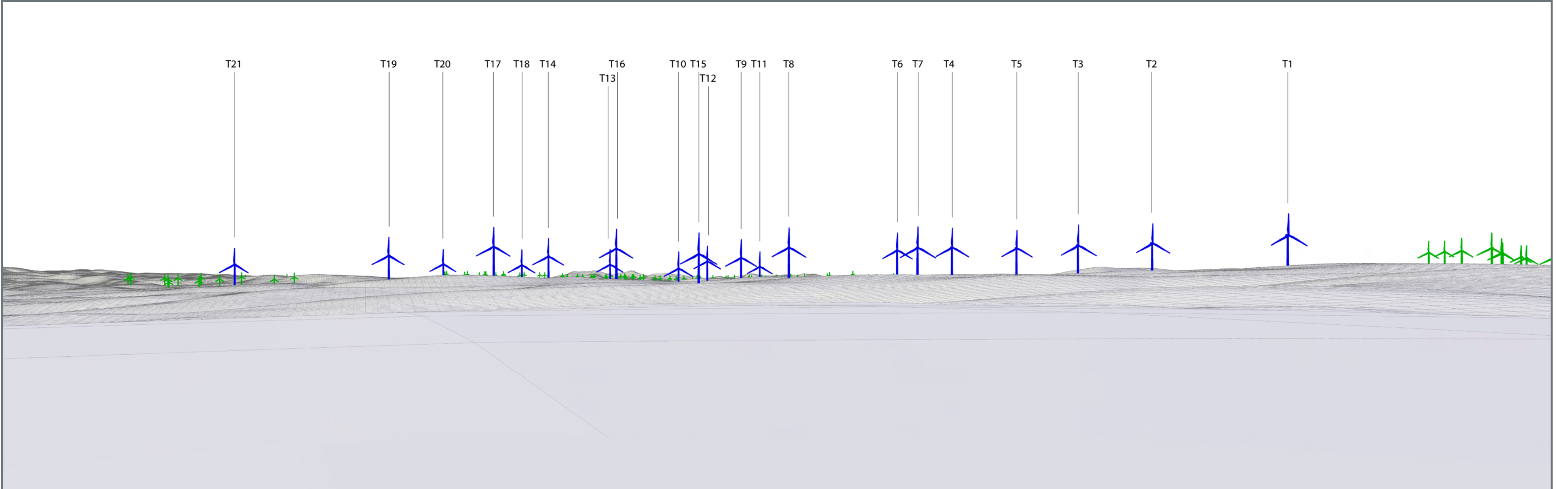
Angle of view 53.5 Degrees

Viewpoint 6 – Southern Upland Way, Twin Law Cairns

EXISTING VIEW



WIRELINE DRAWING



PHOTOMONTAGE OF PROPOSAL



VIEWPOINT INFORMATION

Location 362428, 654796

Altitude 444m AOD

Nearest turbine 6.24km to T15

Bearing to centre of image 285°

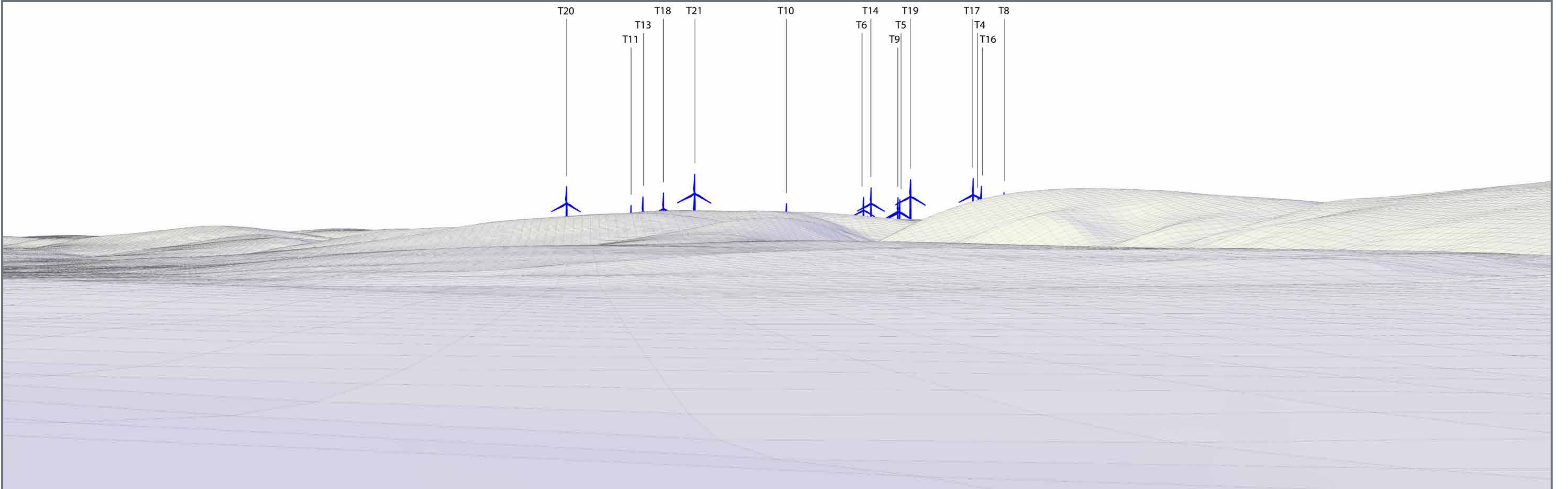
Angle of view 53.5 Degrees

Viewpoint 7 – Thirlestane Castle GDL, Southern Upland Way

EXISTING VIEW



WIRELINE DRAWING



PHOTOMONTAGE OF PROPOSAL



VIEWPOINT INFORMATION

Location 353493, 647417

Altitude 167m AOD

Nearest turbine 6.74km to T21

Bearing to centre of image 7°

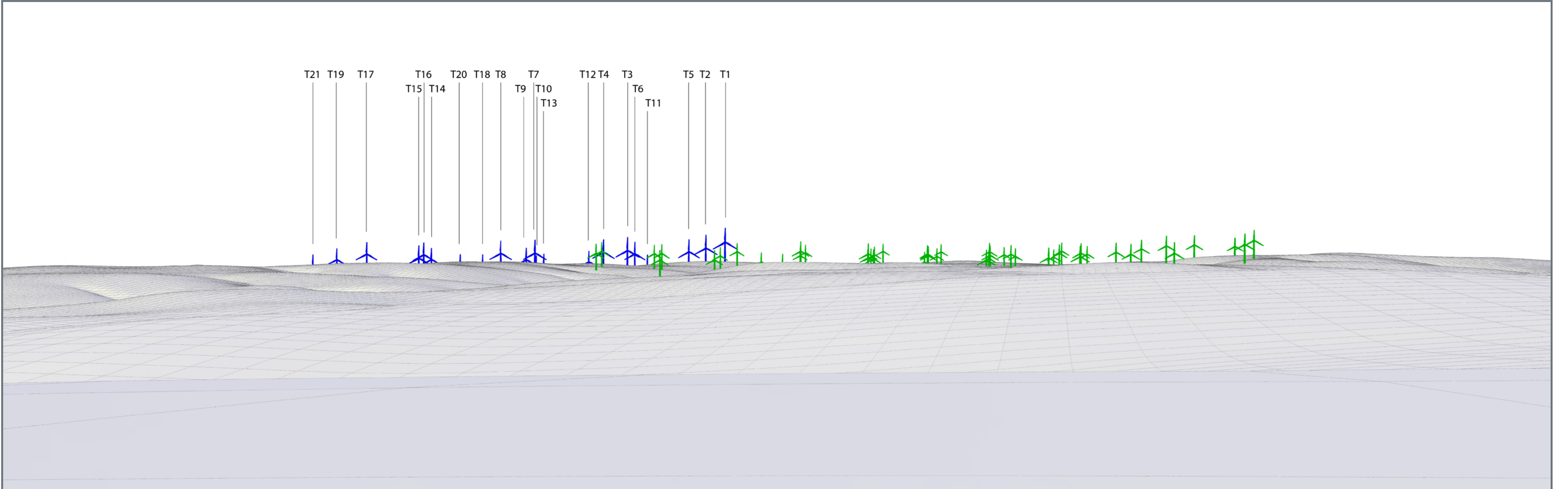
Angle of view 53.5 Degrees

Viewpoint 9 – Minor Road to Longformacus

EXISTING VIEW



WIRELINE DRAWING



VIEWPOINT LOCATION

PHOTOMONTAGE OF PROPOSAL



VIEWPOINT INFORMATION

Location 366139, 660290

Altitude 412m AOD

Nearest turbine 9.33km to T1

Bearing to centre of image 260°

Angle of view 53.5 Degrees

Your feedback counts

RES believes in meaningful and productive consultation, and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we can then consider when developing and refining the design and delivery of the proposal.

We welcome feedback from the local community on our Longcroft Wind Farm proposal. Please provide any feedback that you may have in writing by filling out this comments form. **The closing date for comments to RES at this stage of the design is Thursday 8 June 2023.** Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

Hard copy comments forms can be handed in at the exhibitions or posted back to RES at **Longcroft Wind Farm - Project Team**, Renewable Energy Systems Limited, 3rd Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow G51 1PQ, or scanned and emailed to sam.mayes@res-group.com.

Please note that any comments submitted to RES are not representations to the determining authority (the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit) and that there will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should a planning application for the proposal be submitted.

1. Public exhibition

1.1 How did you find out about this public exhibition?

- Newsletter through the door
- Advert in local newspaper
- Project website (www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk)
- Word of mouth

Other (please specify):

1.2 Which exhibition event did you attend?

- Oxton War Memorial Hall
- Lauder Public Hall
- None - viewed exhibition information on project website only

1.3 What part of the public exhibition did you find most useful?

- Exhibition information boards
- Visualisations (photomontages)
- Ability to ask RES questions

Other (please specify):

1.4 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the Longcroft Wind Farm proposal?

- Knew a lot
- Knew quite a lot
- Knew a little
- Knew very little
- Knew nothing at all

1.5 Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your knowledge of the Longcroft Wind Farm proposal?

A lot

Quite a lot

A little

Very little

None at all

1.6 Do you have any suggestions for ways in which we could have improved our exhibition?

2. Climate change, energy security and renewables

In response to the climate change emergency, the Scottish Government has set a legally-binding target for Scotland to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2045 and to generate 50% of Scotland's overall energy consumption from renewable sources by 2030.

2.1 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?

I strongly agree

I agree

I don't know

I disagree

I strongly disagree

2.2 Do you agree that we need to develop onshore wind farms to support greater energy independence and security of supply for the UK?

I strongly agree

I agree

I don't know

I disagree

I strongly disagree

2.3 Do you agree that we need to develop onshore wind farms to help reduce energy bills?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I don't know
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

2.4 Do you have any further comments regarding the section above?

3. Longcroft Wind Farm proposal - design and layout

Feedback at this early stage has the potential to change and influence the design and improve the overall quality of the planning application from a community perspective.

In addition to confirming any current support, opposition, or neutrality to the proposal at this stage, please consider submitting any constructive feedback that you may have regarding the design and delivery of the project. Such information has the potential to influence the project design.

3.1 What's your attitude to the proposal for a wind farm in this location?

- I am supportive
- I am neutral
- I am opposed
- I don't like onshore wind farms in general

3.2 If the wind farm went ahead, as currently designed, what do you think about the turbine and infrastructure layout?

- I am happy with the proposed layout
- I am neutral towards the proposed layout
- I have concerns about the proposed layout (if so, please note these overleaf)
- I don't like onshore wind farms in general

- 3.3 Do you have any specific comments regarding the proposed design or delivery of the project that you would like us to take into consideration (for example - infrastructure locations including substation, proposed tracks, turbine delivery route)?

4. Local benefit

In addition to the £5.8 million of inward investment that the scheme is predicted to deliver to the area in the form of jobs, employment, and use of local services, we are proposing to deliver additional benefit through a tailored community benefits package that is aligned with the priorities of the local community and follows Scottish Government Guidance.

As such, we are asking for your feedback on the ideas, local priorities, and community projects that you would like to see supported (should Longcroft Wind Farm be consented) so that we can deliver a tailored community benefits package that will help to secure long-term economic, social and environmental benefits for the local area.

We are also interested in your views on RES' unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) which forms part of our tailored community benefits package for some of our other projects and offers an annual discount to the electricity bills of those properties closest to a participating RES wind farm.

- 4.1 Within which Community Council area do you reside?

- 4.2 Community benefit tends to focus on those Community Council areas closest to the proposal which host the site and/or infrastructure. What are your views on this approach for Longcroft?

4.3 What ideas, local priorities, or community projects would you like to see benefitting from Longcroft Wind Farm, should it go ahead (some examples from other communities we've worked with are provided on the 'Maximising the local benefit' exhibition board)?

4.4 RES has developed its unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) which offers an annual discount to the electricity bills of those properties closest to a participating RES wind farm. Is this something you think should form part of the tailored community benefits package for Longcroft Wind Farm?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

5. Your details

Please provide your name and contact details below in order to authenticate this comments form. Providing this information gives context to your feedback, facilitates a better understanding of community views and priorities, and enables us to respond to any questions raised. However, if you are not comfortable providing us with your full contact details nor wish to be kept up to date please include your postcode as a minimum.

Name	
Address	
Postcode	
Email	

If you would like to be kept up to date with the project, please include your email and/or postal address and tick this box:

Your contact details will be treated by RES with the strictest of confidence, in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. We may at times share your contact details, in confidence, with third parties who we employ to help process your comments or update you on the project and by providing your details below you consent to this. You may write to RES at any time to ask that your contact details be removed from our records and from any third parties we work with.

Next steps

Any written consultation feedback submitted to RES will be considered by the project team over the coming months as the design is developed and refined, in addition to feedback from key consultees and the findings from the technical and environmental studies that we are undertaking.

We will hold a second set of public exhibition events closer to submission of the planning application (which is currently scheduled around autumn 2023) to update people on the proposal and present the final design. People will have the opportunity to speak to the project team again about the project and provide written feedback to RES. These events will also refer to the written feedback received from the May 2023 exhibitions and consultation period and explain any changes that have been made to the design in response to the feedback.

Please use the box below if you need space for any further feedback. We can provide an additional sheet of paper if you need another page.

Appendix E - Public exhibition advert (September 2023)

NEWS



All of the show winners. Pics: Rob Gray.



There was tough competition in the Young handlers class.



Youngsters enjoy the three-legged race.

‘Incredible’ show

The sun shone for what turned out to be an ‘incredible’ 101st Yarrow Show.

There were record entries in the various horse categories and an excellent show of sheep.

Attendance was also very good with visitors to the show enjoying a lovely day out in the

sunshine.

There was plenty of entertainment for all the family while Hawick Scout pipe band provided some traditional flavour to the day.

The dog show proved to be popular as always and there was even an RAF flypast as all eyes were on the blue skies

above.

Organisers have expressed thanks to all who attended and supported them, including the regular sponsors, trade stands and crafters who enjoyed a busy day.

A spokesperson said: “We are now looking forward to next year!”



Show president John Davidson and secretary Alison Renwick.

Longcroft Wind Farm Proposal Public Exhibitions - updated design



RES is holding a final suite of public exhibitions to present the updated design for its wind farm and energy storage proposal, Longcroft Wind Farm, located approximately 9km north of Lauder in the Scottish Borders. These events will provide people with an opportunity to review the updated design, speak with the project team, and ask questions.



Monday 25 September 2023

3pm to 8pm

Lauder Public Hall
Lauder, TD2 6SR

Tuesday 26 September 2023

3pm to 8pm

Oxton War Memorial Hall
Station Road, Lauder, TD2 6PL

Anyone wishing to provide feedback and ideas for local benefits to RES can do so in writing by filling out a ‘comments form’ at the events or online from the project website at www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk from Monday 25 September when copies of the exhibition information will be available on the project website for people to view. The closing date for comments is Tuesday 10 October 2023.

Since the May 2023 public exhibitions, RES has been reviewing consultation feedback from the public and key consultees, and undertaking further environmental and technical survey work to inform the design which included turbine numbers being reduced from 21 to 19.

Please note that comments to RES during these exhibitions or subsequent consultation period are not representations to the determining authority (The Scottish Government’s Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should a planning application be submitted.

Enjoy the small moments, mega-dino-hamster stories only happen once



We also provide a unique ENT nurse led wax removal service

- One of the UK’s oldest hearing centres
- Hospital grade equipment in bespoke clinical rooms

Book your free hearing health assessment today by calling us on **01896 314 013**

51 Bank Street, Galashiels
houseofhearing.co.uk f t i n



HOUSE OF HEARING



An adder was spotted in an Innerleithen garden

Venomous snake discovered in garden

A VENOMOUS snake slithering round an Innerleithen High Street garden was caught by a householder and later released at Pirn Quarry. Brunton Hunter issued a warning on Facebook to

others in the town after finding an adder in his garden which has walls on three sides.

Also posting on social media, Darren Laurie said: "Any adders found or caught should be released on the

southern side of the Tweed as the river slows down the migration."

Martin Derek Crutchley said: "They're a bio-marker for healthy ecosystems.

"Lovely creatures and docile unless threatened."

Two pet-friendly care complexes pass inspections

By Paul Kelly
Local democracy reporter
editorial@bordertelegraph.com

TWO pet-friendly supported living complexes in the Borders have passed inspections with flying colours.

Eildon Care and Support West provide combined care at home and housing support services at two developments.

They oversee 37 two-bedroom self-contained flats at Dovecot Court in Peebles and 35 one-bedroom and four two-bedroom self-contained flats at Wilkie Gardens in Galashiels.

A team of on-site staff at both developments supports tenants to maximise their independence through the provision of personalised care and support. This can range from a number of visits each day to emergency on-call only.

A representative of the Care Inspectorate paid a short-notice visit to Dovecot Court on August 29 and to Wilkie Gardens the following day.

The key findings were that



Dovecot Court, Peebles

people felt they were being listened to, that management had a good oversight of each development, that staff were kind and respectful and that there was an active programme of events organised which at times involved the local community.

In evaluating the quality of care the Care Inspectorate uses a six-point scale of which one

is 'unsatisfactory' and six is 'excellent'. The service was rated a scale five 'very good' in four categories – supporting people's well-being, leadership, the staff team, and the care and support planned.

The report says: "People told us the staff team were very kind and respectful and were always there when needed.

"One person described staff as 'very efficient and compassionate'. Some people told us they felt listened to and felt able to talk to staff and management about issues or worries they had. 'They take the time to listen to what you're saying', 'you can talk to them, they don't make you feel embarrassed'.

"Some people were delighted to be able to have their long-loved pets move in with them which had made the transition to extra care housing much easier."

The report highlights the formation of a Friends of Dovecot committee, with regular meetings held throughout the year and events staged and also the establishment of a dementia café at Wilkie Gardens.



Autumn Splendour at Dawyck

Garden open daily from 10am

Autumn Plant Sale

Sun 22 October | 10am-3pm | Free entry



rbge.org.uk/dawyck | Tel 01721 760254

8 miles southwest of Peebles on the B712, Stobo, EH45 9JU

Part of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, a charity registered in Scotland (no SC007983)

Longcroft Wind Farm Proposal Public Exhibitions - updated design



RES is holding a final suite of public exhibitions to present the updated design for its wind farm and energy storage proposal, Longcroft Wind Farm, located approximately 9km north of Lauder in the Scottish Borders. These events will provide people with an opportunity to review the updated design, speak with the project team, and ask questions.



Monday 25 September
3pm to 8pm
Lauder Public Hall
Lauder, TD2 6SR

Tuesday 26 September
3pm to 8pm
Oxton War Memorial Hall
Station Road, Lauder, TD2 6PL

Anyone wishing to provide feedback and ideas for local benefits to RES can do so in writing by filling out a 'comments form' at the events or online at www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk from Monday 25 September when copies of the exhibition information will be available on the project website for people to view. The closing date for comments is Tuesday 10 October 2023.

Since the May 2023 public exhibitions, RES has been reviewing consultation feedback from the public and key consultees, and undertaking further environmental and technical survey work to inform the design which included turbine numbers being reduced from 21 to 19.

Please note that comments to RES during these exhibitions or subsequent consultation period are not representations to the determining authority (The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should a planning application be submitted.

Appendix F - Public exhibition newsletter (September 2023)

Project update

RES is holding a final suite of public exhibitions to present the updated design for its wind farm and energy storage proposal, Longcroft Wind Farm, located approximately 9km north of Lauder in the Scottish Borders.

Public exhibitions

Since the May 2023 public exhibitions and consultation RES has been reviewing the comments received, together with key consultee feedback and further site survey work, and progressing the design.

The updated 19 wind turbine scheme will be presented at our final suite of public exhibitions in late September 2023. These events will provide people with an opportunity to review the updated design, discuss the proposal, and ask the project team any questions.

A range of information will be available at the public exhibitions, including photomontages to help give an impression of what the site could look like from different viewpoints in the area. Members of the project team will also be on hand to discuss the proposal and answer any questions.

These events will also refer to the written feedback received from the May 2023 exhibitions and consultation period and explain any changes made to the design in response to this feedback.



Monday 25 September 2023

3pm to 8pm

Lauder Public Hall
Lauder, TD2 6SR

Tuesday 26 September 2023

3pm to 8pm

Oxton War Memorial Hall
Station Road, Lauder, TD2 6PL

Anyone wishing to provide feedback and ideas for local benefits to RES can do this by filling out a 'comments form' at the exhibition events or online at www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk from Monday 25 September when copies of the exhibition information will be available on the website for people to view.

The closing date for comments on the updated design is Tuesday 10 October 2023.

Comments submitted to RES during these exhibitions or subsequent consultation period are not representations to the determining authority (The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority once the planning application has been submitted.

Based on our current programme we are looking to submit our planning application later in Autumn 2023.

Benefits from the wind farm

Community benefit package

RES is proposing a tailored package of benefits for the community from the Longcroft Wind Farm that would be worth £5,000 per megawatt (or equivalent) of installed capacity per annum.

This package could include RES' unique Local



Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS), something that has received significant interest from the community. LEDS seeks to deliver direct and tangible benefits to people living and

working closest to a participating wind farm through an annual discount to their electricity bills.

We continue to welcome ideas from the community on how the community benefits package could be delivered. The area of benefit will be determined in consultation with locally elected representatives should the project receive consent.

Other benefits

We are in a climate emergency, cost of living crisis, and face issues with security of energy supply. Onshore wind can address all of these.

Onshore wind alongside other renewable technologies can generate the cheapest form of electricity generation, and isn't subject to sudden fossil fuel price fluctuations or the uncertainties of global markets. It is quick to build (12-24 months) and the carbon payback time is usually within 1-3 years.

Longcroft Wind Farm would be capable of generating enough clean, low-cost electricity for around 145,000 homes¹ and reducing carbon emissions by approximately 127,881 tonnes² each year.

The project would also make an important contribution to Scotland's new target of installing 20GW of onshore wind across Scotland by 2030 to help towards meeting our Net Zero carbon emissions by 2045.

Inward investment

The project is predicted to deliver approximately £5.3 million³ of inward investment into the local area in the form of jobs, employment, and use of local services during construction and the first year of operation. Longcroft Wind Farm would also deliver more than £1.3 million⁴ in business rates annually to Scottish Borders Council.

About RES

RES, a privately-owned company with a proud history in Scotland, is the world's largest independent renewable energy company - with operations across Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific.

From our Glasgow office we have been developing, constructing and operating wind farms in Scotland since 1993. We have developed and/or built 21 wind farms in Scotland, with a total generating capacity of 597MW.

At the forefront of the industry for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 23GW of renewable energy projects worldwide. For further information visit www.res-group.com.

Contact us



James Cameron
Senior Development Project Manager

✉ james.cameron@res-group.com
☎ 0788 124 4837

📍 RES, Third Floor
STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ

For more information visit www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk. This newsletter has been designed to keep you up to date with the Longcroft Wind Farm proposal. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact us to let us know. If you require information in Braille, large text or audio, please get in touch with us.

¹ The 145,000 homes equivalent figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (based on RES assessments Longcroft Wind Farm has a predicted capacity factor of 46.4% - based on a 6.6MW [megawatt] candidate turbine) and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,509 kWh (December 2022). Final wind farm capacity will vary depending on the outcome of planning permission and the turbine type selected.

² The carbon emissions reduction figure of 127,881 was calculated using the Scottish Government's Renewable Electricity Output Calculator (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/renewable-and-conversion-calculators/>)

³ The £5.3 million inward investment figure is based on typical spend that RES has seen spent on its projects with local stakeholders, suppliers and service providers in the region of £279,000 per wind turbine during the development, construction and first year of operation.

⁴ The business rates figure of £1.3 million each year has been calculated from the most recent non-domestic rates revaluation in Scotland (2023 Revaluation) and predicted performance of the wind farm.

Mrs A Hogarth
Secretary to Lauderdale Community Council
Sent by email to: _____ and _____

13 September 2023

Dear Mrs Hogarth,

RE: Longcroft Wind Farm proposal - public exhibitions

Further to our previous letter dated 10 May, I am writing to confirm details of two public exhibition events that RES will be holding later in the month for the Longcroft Wind Farm proposal.

Public exhibitions

We are holding a final suite of public exhibitions in late September 2023 in order to present the updated design. These events will provide people with an opportunity to review the updated design, speak with the project team and ask questions.

25 September 2023

Lauder Public Hall
Lauder, TD2 6SR
3pm to 8pm

26 September 2023

Oxton War Memorial Hall
Station Road, Lauder, TD2 6PL
3pm to 8pm

A range of information will be available at the exhibitions, including photomontages to help give an impression of what the site could look like from different viewpoints in the area, and RES staff will be on hand to discuss the proposal and answer any questions that people may have. These exhibition events will also refer to the written feedback received from the May 2023 exhibitions and consultation period and explain any changes made to the design in response to this feedback.

Raising awareness

We have placed adverts in the Southern Reporter and Border Telegraph in order to help raise awareness of the events. A digital poster version of the exhibition advert accompanies this letter in case you wish to post it on any of your community social media sites or websites. We can also arrange to send laminated versions of this advert to you for use as posters on local noticeboards should this be helpful; please let us know.

In addition, a project newsletter has been mailed out this week to 1,300 properties in the local area (and to anyone who has got in touch with us and asked to be kept up to date with the proposal). A digital copy of the newsletter accompanies this letter in case helpful.

Providing feedback on the proposal

Anyone wishing to provide feedback and ideas for local benefits to RES can do so in writing by filling out a 'comments form' at the exhibition events or online at www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk from

Monday 25 September when copies of the exhibition information will be available on the project website for people to view. **The closing date for comments is Tuesday 10 October 2023.**

Comments submitted to RES during these exhibitions or subsequent consultation period are not representations to the determining authority (The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority once a planning application has been submitted.

Next steps

Based on our current programme we are looking to submit our planning application later in autumn 2023. Upon submission, the planning application will be formally advertised. We will also write out to key stakeholders and issue another edition of our project newsletter to local households and anyone else who has asked us to keep them up to date.

Yours sincerely



James Cameron
Senior Development Project Manager
E james.cameron@res-group.com
M +44 7881 244 837

Appendix G - Public exhibition materials (September 2023)

Welcome

Overview

Thank you for taking the time to attend this exhibition. The event presents the updated layout design for our wind farm and energy storage proposal, Longcroft Wind Farm, located approximately 9km north of Lauder in the Scottish Borders.

Since the project first became public in March 2023, we have undertaken an extensive amount of technical and environmental site survey work. We have also considered feedback from a wide range of key consultees on the proposal including local Community Councils and Scottish Borders Council.

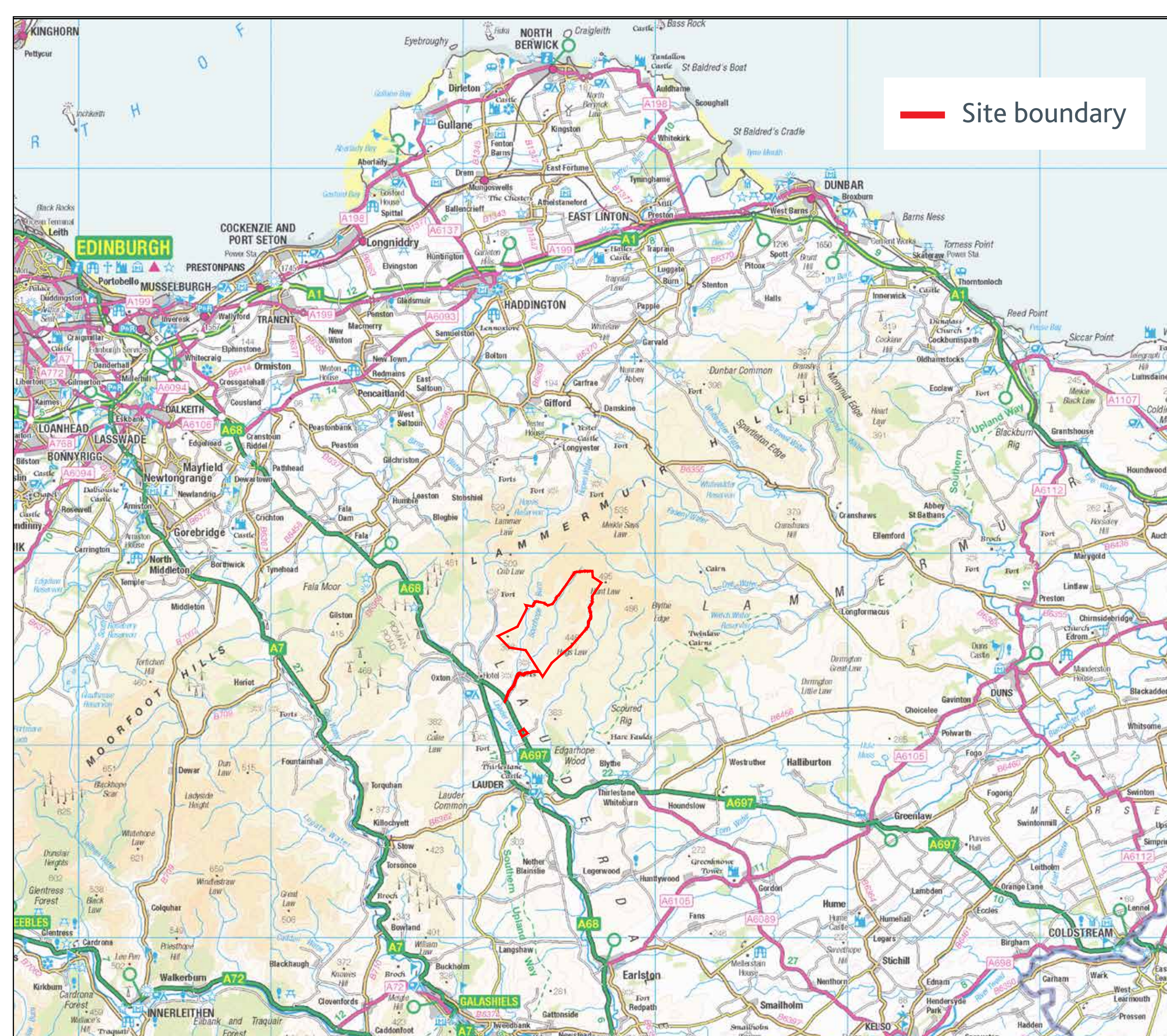
Public exhibition events were held in the local area in May 2023 to engage with people on the proposal and seek feedback on our early scoping design. Those events, held in Lauder and Oxton, together with the subsequent consultation period, generated written feedback from the public for the project team to consider including comments on the following themes:

- Acoustics (predicted sound levels)
- Construction (route to site, peat, private water supplies)
- Community benefit
- Energy (onshore wind, other technologies)
- Environment (wildlife, ecology and ornithology)
- Exhibition (format, staff, communications)
- Infrastructure (battery storage, tracks)
- Landscape and visual (turbine height, site location, cumulative effect)

We are grateful to everyone who provided feedback.

We are now at a stage where most of the site survey work is complete, the updated 19 wind turbine layout design is being refined and finalised, and the Environmental Impact Assessment (an extensive document which will accompany the planning application) is underway.

Site location map



About this exhibition

The purpose of this final suite of public exhibitions is to provide you with an opportunity to review the updated 19 wind turbine layout design, speak with the project team and ask any questions that you may have.

A wide range of project information is available at this exhibition including:

- **Infrastructure design updates** (wind turbines, tracks, battery storage, substation, access route, borrow pits, grid connection)
- **Environmental Impact Assessment considerations** (such as acoustics, cultural heritage, ecology and ornithology, private water supplies, peat, shadow flicker)
- **Visualisations** (photomontages and wirelines) to help give an impression of what the proposal could look like from different viewpoints surrounding the site

This exhibition forms part of our pre-application consultation and, whilst the layout design is almost finalised, this event provides you with an opportunity to submit written feedback again to RES, if you wish, on the updated layout design.

Once the proposal is submitted into planning there will be an opportunity to submit formal comments on the proposal to the determining authority. More information about how to do this is provided on the 'Next steps' board.

As part of these exhibitions, we have produced a 'Report on feedback' which summarises the feedback received from the May 2023 exhibitions and subsequent consultation period and highlights any changes that have been made to the layout design in response to this feedback. Copies of this Report are available as part of the materials presented at this exhibition.

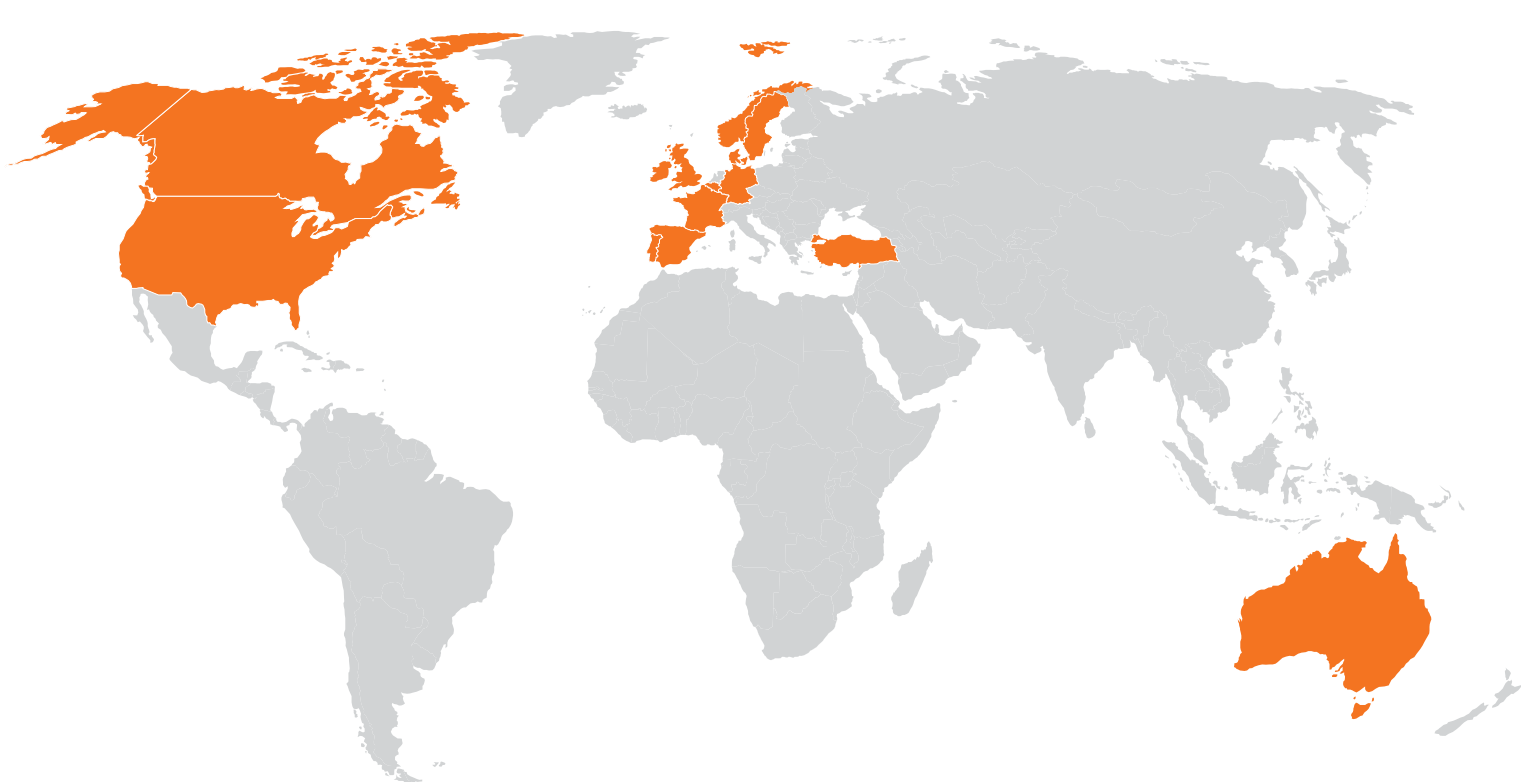


About RES

The world's largest independent renewable energy company

RES has been at the forefront of wind energy development for over 40 years and delivered more than 23GW of renewable energy projects worldwide. We employ more than 2,500 passionate people across the globe and are active in 14 countries, working across onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution.

Sustainability lies at the core of our business activity and values, and we have been leading efforts to create a future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy. The 23GW of green energy that we have developed and/or constructed offsets more than 21 million tonnes of carbon every year.



23GW PROJECT PORTFOLIO

12GW OPERATIONAL ASSETS SUPPORTED

40+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

2500+ EMPLOYEES

ACTIVITIES



DEVELOP



CONSTRUCT



OPERATE

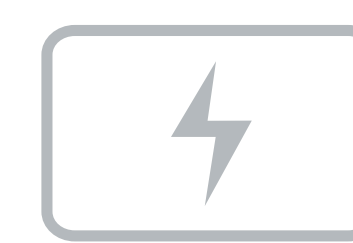
TECHNOLOGIES



WIND



SOLAR



STORAGE



TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION



GREEN HYDROGEN

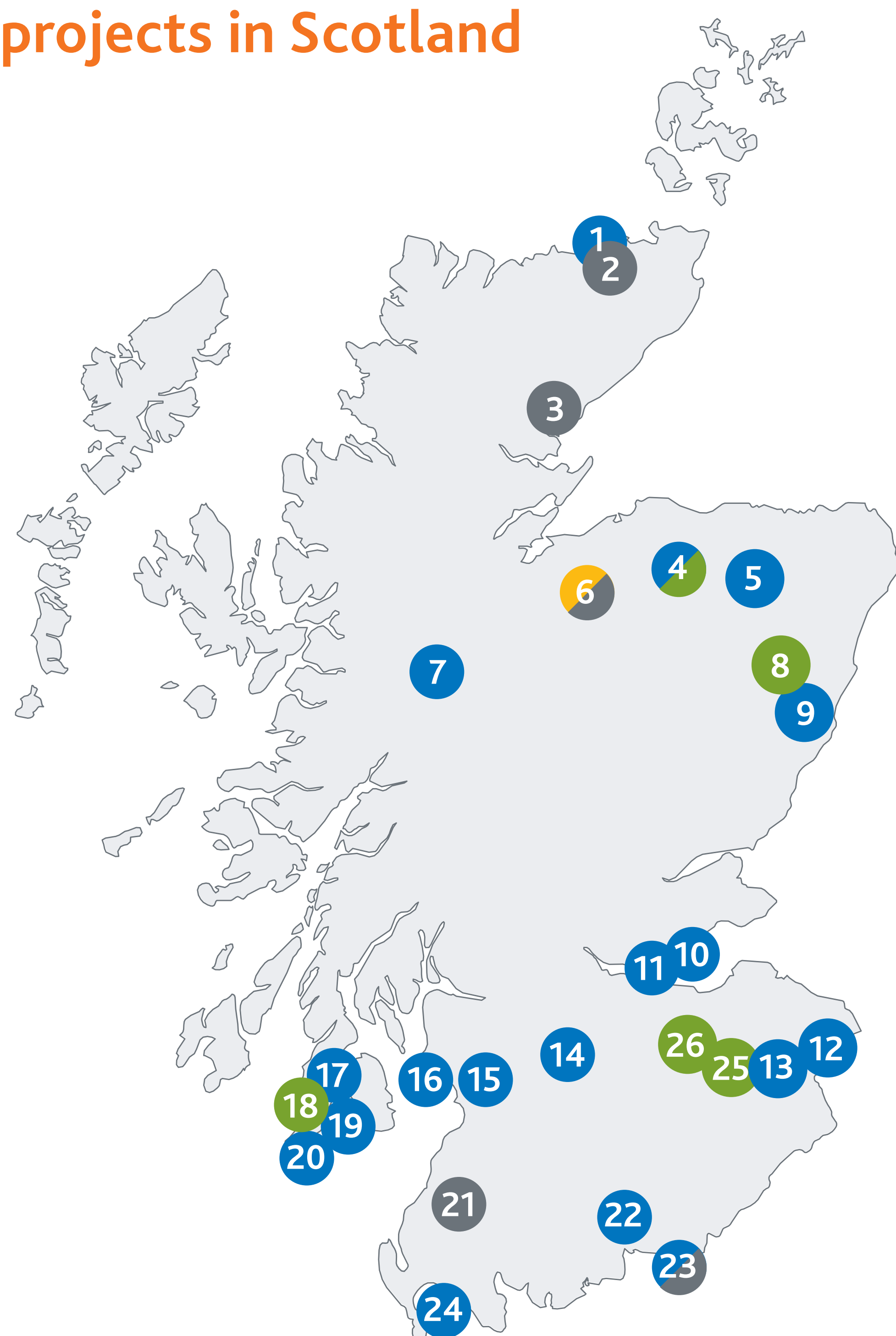
RES in Scotland

RES is a privately-owned company with a proud history in Scotland. We grew out of Sir Robert McAlpine, a British family-owned firm with over 140 years of experience in construction and engineering including the Glenfinnan Viaduct in the Highlands and the Emirates Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow. From our Glasgow office we have been developing, constructing and operating wind farms in Scotland since 1993.

We have developed and/or built 21 wind farms in Scotland, with a total generation capacity of 597MW, and have recently finished constructing Blary Hill Wind Farm in Argyll and Bute. We were also involved in the 14-turbine Penmanshiel Wind Farm near Granthouse, in the Scottish Borders, which we now operate. The project was commissioned in 2016 and delivers a community benefits package which includes RES' Local Electricity Discount Scheme. For further information visit www.res-group.com.

Onshore wind projects in Scotland

- Development
- In planning
- Consented
- Under construction
- Operational



RES has developed and/or built and/or operates a range of projects across Scotland including:

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Forss I and II | 15 | Neilston |
| 2 | Cairnmore Hill | 16 | Kelburn |
| 3 | Kintradwell | 17 | Freasdail |
| 4 | Hill of Towie I and II | 18 | Killean |
| 5 | Glens of Foudland | 19 | Cour |
| 6 | Cairn Duhie (and redesign) | 20 | Blary Hill |
| 7 | Beinneun | 21 | Scleteuch |
| 8 | Hill of Fare | 22 | Minygap |
| 9 | Meikle Carewe | 23 | Solwaybank and Bloch |
| 10 | Earlseat | 24 | Glenchamber |
| 11 | Little Raith | 25 | Longcroft |
| 12 | Penmanshiel | 26 | Torfichen |
| 13 | Black Hill | | |
| 14 | Tormywheel | | |

Map updated May 2023

The need for onshore wind

National Development

We are in a climate emergency, cost of living crisis and also seeking to enhance the security of our energy supply. Onshore wind can address all of these. This is recognised by the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)¹ which was published in February 2023.

NPF4 is Scotland's long term spatial planning strategy and categorises onshore wind projects with a generating capacity in excess of 50MW as National Development. In principle it supports all forms of renewable energy generation including onshore wind.

Net zero carbon targets

A 'climate emergency' was declared by the UK Government and the Scottish Government in 2019. The UK Government has set a legally binding target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 'net zero' by 2050 and the Scottish Government has a net zero target of 2045¹. Renewables, and specifically onshore wind, will play an important role in helping achieve these targets.

Scotland currently has almost 9GW of operational onshore wind capacity. The Scottish Government has a target of achieving 20GW of installed onshore wind capacity across Scotland by 2030² in order to help meet the legally-binding 2045 net zero carbon emissions target. This is a substantial increase and will require a significant deployment of new onshore wind projects in order to meet this demand for green, low-carbon electricity.

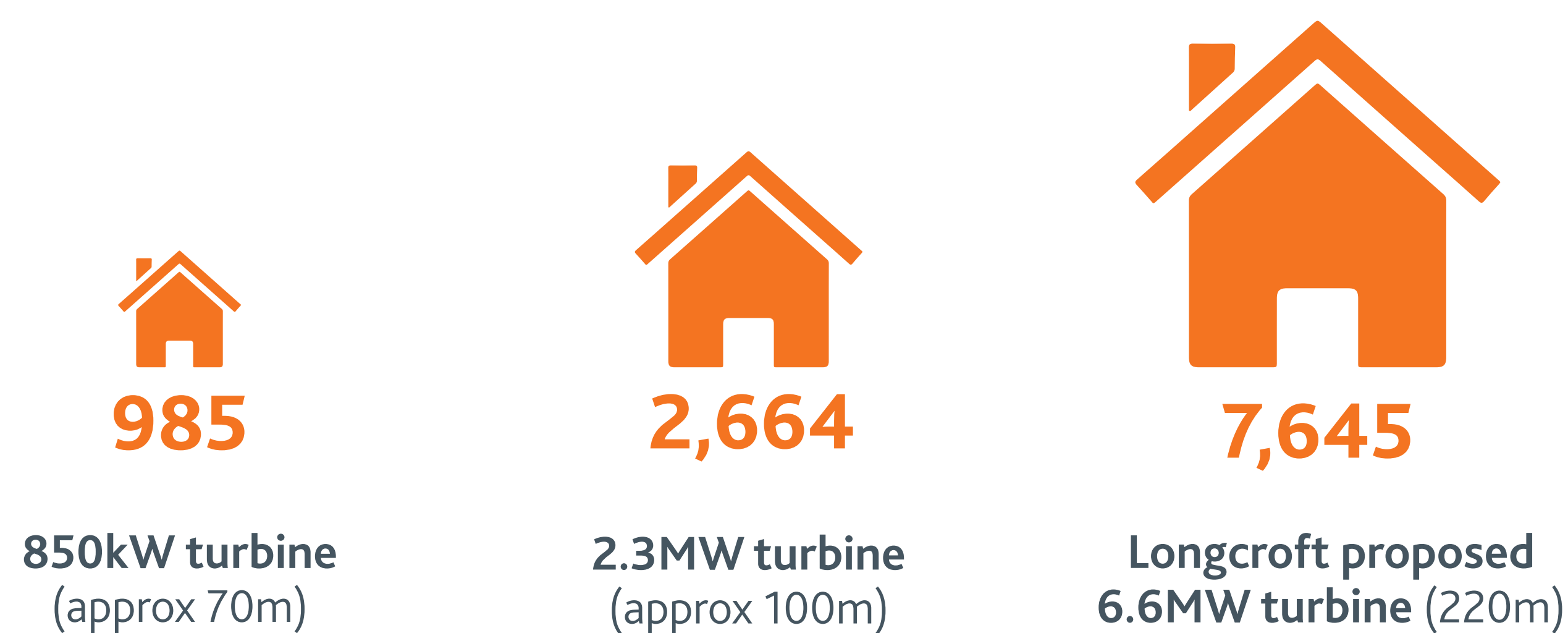
Improved performance and output

Wind turbine technology has advanced considerably in recent years, meaning that wind turbines are now taller and more efficient which enables them to generate a significantly greater amount of electricity per wind turbine.

Modern taller wind turbines provide more electricity, which helps address the climate emergency, cost of living crisis, and security of energy supply. The 220m tall wind turbines proposed at Longcroft Wind Farm would allow for far greater benefits in terms of renewable electricity generation per wind turbine than smaller turbines would.

This indicative infographic shows the approximate number of homes that could be powered annually³ by each of the three different turbine models.

Please note that images are not to scale.



Low-cost electricity

Onshore wind, alongside other renewable energy technologies, can generate the cheapest form of new electricity generation. If consented, Longcroft Wind Farm would be capable of generating enough clean, low-cost renewable electricity for approximately 145,000 homes³ based on the current design presented at this exhibition. With the rising cost of living and climate change emergency, it is imperative that we deliver electricity efficiently and at lowest cost to the consumer.



Energy security

Wind energy is a free and inexhaustible resource which has an important role to play as part of a balanced energy mix. It increases energy security by reducing our reliance on imports and is not subject to sudden price fluctuations or the uncertainty of global markets. It is also quick to build (12-24 months), and the carbon payback time is usually within 1-3 years. Advancements in energy storage solutions will also help capture excess electricity generation. The current 125.4MW Longcroft Wind Farm proposal also includes a 50MW battery energy storage system to help maximise the efficiency of the proposal and further contribute to energy security.

Tackling climate change

Whilst temperature and weather patterns have naturally fluctuated throughout history, scientists now agree that there is *"unequivocal evidence that Earth is warming at an unprecedented rate"* not seen in the past 10,000 years and that *"human activity is the principal cause."*⁴

Rapidly melting ice sheets, accelerated rises in sea levels and ocean warming, longer droughts, more frequent floods, wildfires and tropical storms are just some of the devastating effects of climate change seen across the globe which are affecting humans and other species. With the ever-growing threat of climate change and the catastrophic impacts that it could have, it is critical that we transition to a zero-carbon future. If consented, Longcroft Wind Farm would be capable of reducing carbon emissions by approximately 127,881 tonnes⁵ each year – displacing fossil fuels.

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

² Onshore Wind – policy statement refresh 2021, Scottish Government, October 2021

³ The indicative homes equivalent figures for the site (a conservative estimate of 145,000 homes) and for the three different wind turbine models shown above (985 homes, 2,664 homes, and 7,645 homes) have each been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation (based on the site's installed capacity of 125.4MW, or each wind turbine's capacity i.e. 850kW/ 2.3MW/ 6.6MW) together with RES' predicted capacity factor of 46.4% (based on a 6.6MW [megawatt] candidate turbine) and dividing this by the BEIS annual average electricity figure (showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,509 kWh [December 2022]). The final wind farm capacity and the wind turbine models used for Longcroft Wind Farm will vary depending on the outcome of any planning permission and the wind turbine procurement process.

⁴ NASA (<https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/>)

⁵ The carbon emissions reduction figure of 110,136 was calculated using the Scottish Government's Renewable Electricity Output Calculator (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/renewable-and-conversion-calculators/>)

Project overview

Project background

In March 2023 RES submitted a Scoping Report to the Scottish Government and other consultees seeking feedback on the scope of proposed environmental survey work for a wind farm and energy storage proposal located approximately 9km north of Lauder in the Scottish Borders.

The Scoping Report included an early design comprising 24 wind turbines at a tip height of up to 220m and an energy storage facility which would help maximise generation capacity and efficiency of the proposal.

In May 2023, we held public exhibitions in the local area to seek views on a revised proposal for 21 wind turbines, informed by results from ongoing technical and environmental surveys. The events enabled people to learn more about the proposal, discuss any questions with the project team, and provide feedback on the layout design.

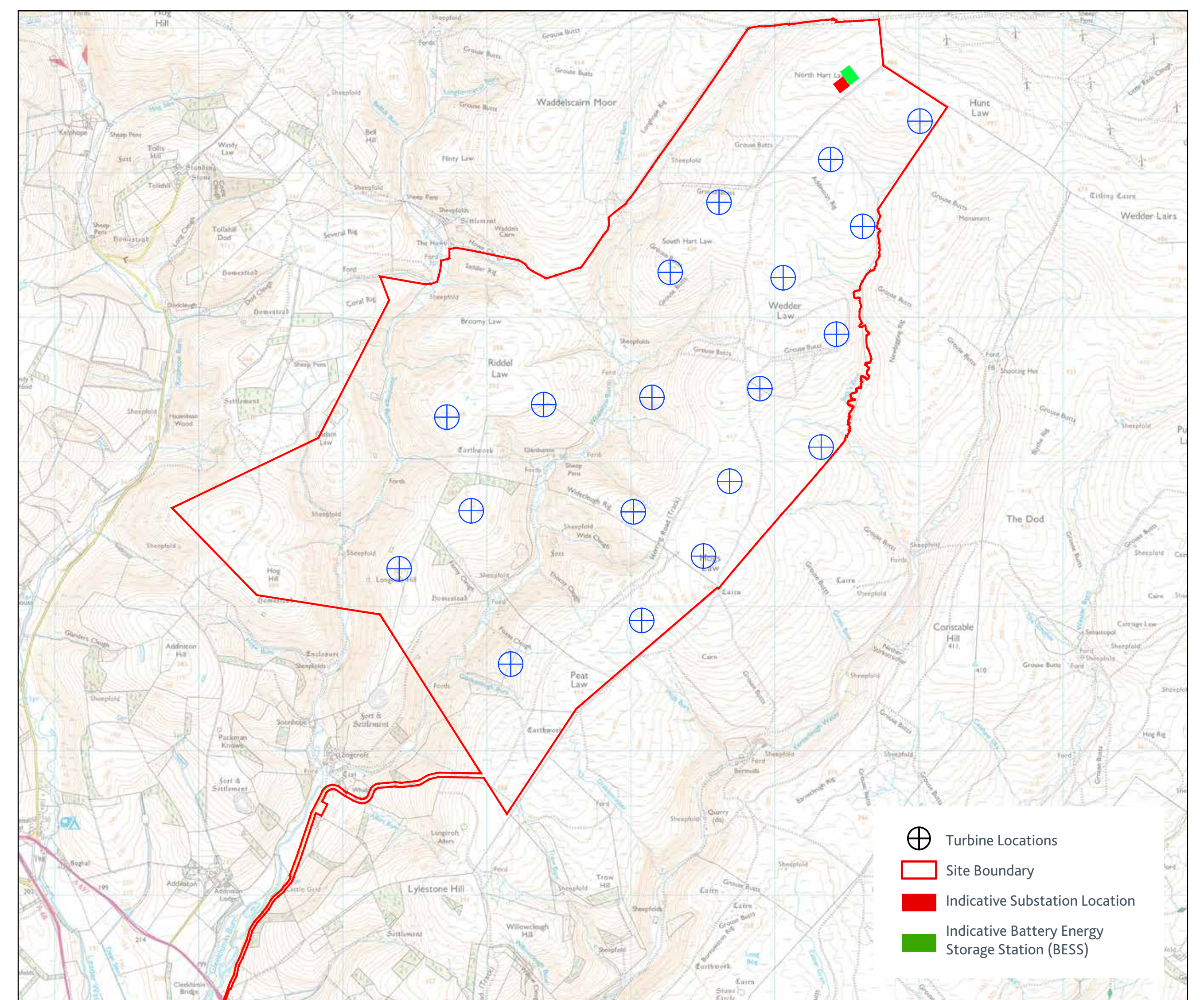
Since these events we have undertaken further detailed environmental and technical studies to build our understanding of the site. The findings from this work, together with the comments received from the public consultation as well as technical key consultee feedback, have been carefully considered in relation to the development of the layout design.

The maps to the right show the updated 19 wind turbine proposal, and the previous 21 wind turbine layout design.

Design evolution – turbine layout & site boundary

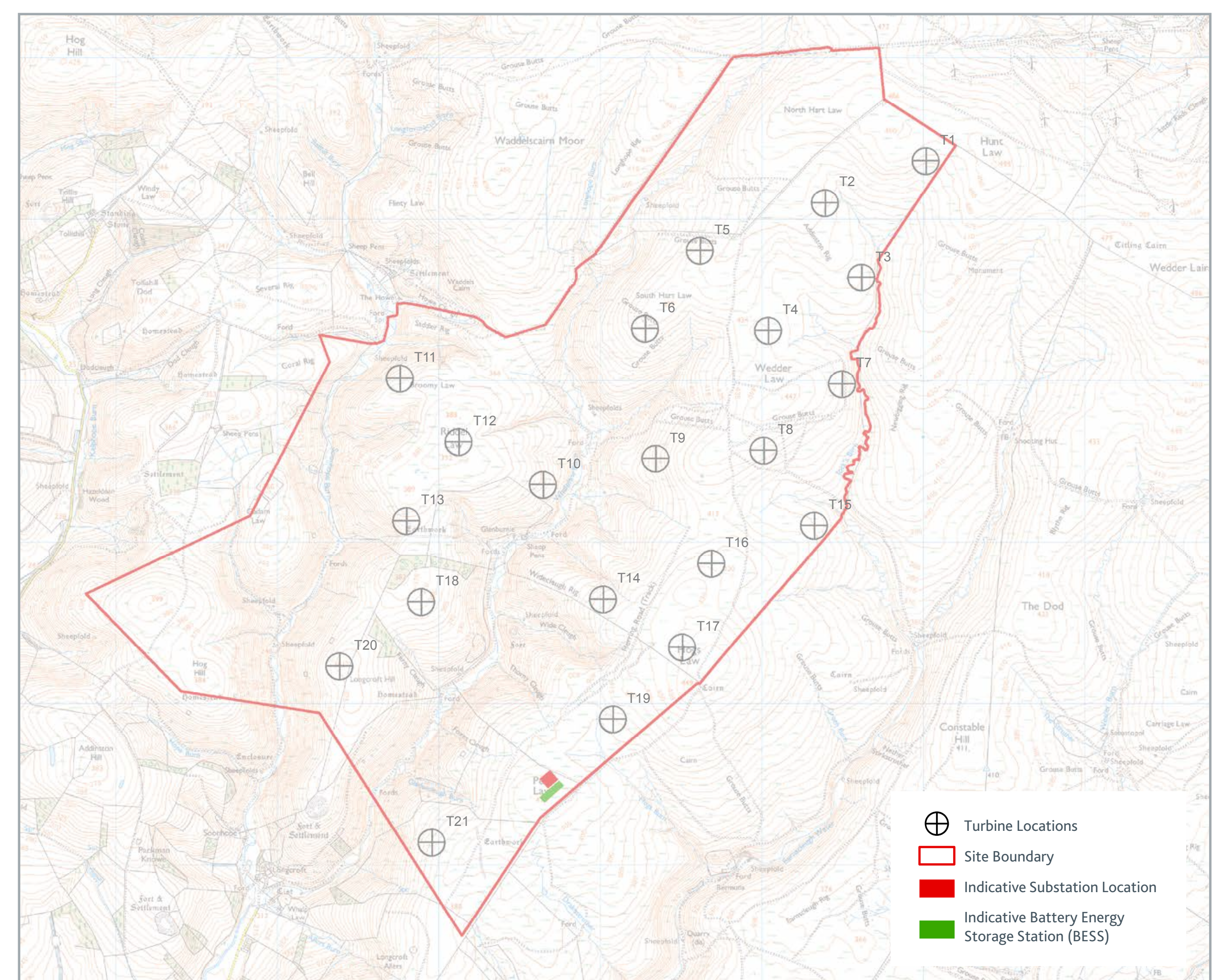
The two maps below show the comparative changes in wind turbine numbers and locations and the red lined site boundary.

Updated site layout



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Preliminary site layout



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Infrastructure – updated design

Wind turbines

Since the scoping design, which was presented at the May 2023 public exhibitions, the number of wind turbines has been reduced from 21 to 19. The proposed wind turbine tip height of up to 220m remains the same.

Furthermore, each wind turbine location has moved to varying degrees to refine the design and minimise impacts wherever possible.

The total installed generating capacity has also reduced slightly since the previous proposal from around 138.6MW to 125.4MW due to the reduction in wind turbine numbers.

Tracks

Tracks have been aligned to avoid, as much as possible, crossing of watercourses, services and areas of deeper peat.

Grid connection

RES has been advised by the Transmission Owner (TO) that the proposed wind farm will connect to the National Grid via a 132kV connection into Gala North, a new substation near Galashiels.

The grid network operators are currently upgrading the grid infrastructure in the country and RES will be required to pay transmission connection charges to National Grid during operation of the wind farm for the grid connection. We have accepted a grid offer from the TO, in this case Scottish Power Transmission (SPT).



SPT, as the TO, is responsible for maintaining and investing in the grid in the south of Scotland. This includes designing connections for transmission grid applications, such as that for the Longcroft Wind Farm, and submitting the planning applications for these connections. As such, the grid route is subject to a separate planning application from the wind farm – and will be submitted as a separate Section 37 planning application under the Electricity Act by the TO once they have finalised their design.

Once the planning application for the grid route is submitted, there will be a consultation period undertaken by the TO during which details of the grid route and method will be available for the public to provide comment to the TO as part of the planning process.

Indicative details of the anticipated route of the grid connection for the proposal will also be included by RES within the Proposed Development Description chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which will accompany the planning application for Longcroft Wind Farm.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

The battery energy storage system (BESS) is anticipated to have a storage capacity of 50MW and a storage energy capacity of around 100MWh (megawatt hours).

The maximum size of the BESS compound would be up to 100m by 130m. Full details of the scale and dimensions, minimum and maximum export capacity and a full assessment of the impacts and effects and all proposed mitigation will be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which will accompany the planning application.

The BESS location can be seen on the Infrastructure map on the 'Infrastructure and constraints maps' exhibition board.

The risk of fire at a BESS is low but will be considered and mitigated in the design of the storage general arrangement and consideration of the monitoring and fire suppression system. The BESS is optimised with appropriate container spacing to minimise the risk of propagation across the facility in the unlikely event of a fire. Additionally, fire breaks or spacing from forestry is designed again to minimise fire propagation.

A battery management system is also implemented for continuous monitoring of the BESS through its lifetime. The containers housing the batteries typically include dry aerosol fire suppression solutions, favoured over water suppression, as they are successful at reaching all areas within containers and don't require a dedicated water supply.



Substation

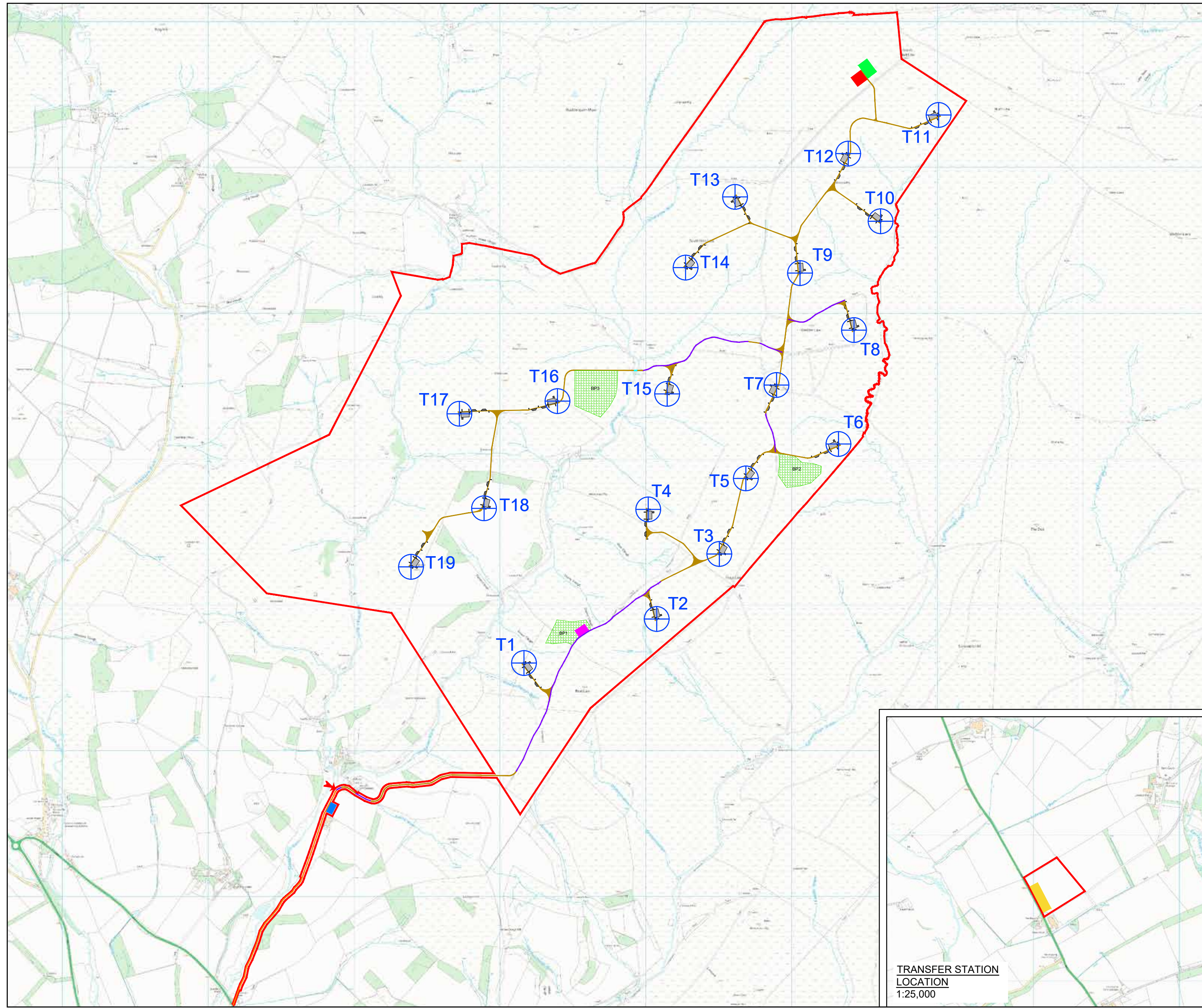
The proposal will also include a substation. The electricity generated from each wind turbine is low voltage and needs to be converted into a higher voltage to be exported onto the National Grid.

Underground cables organised into arrays transport the electricity generated to the substation whereupon it is converted into a higher voltage (132kV in the case of Longcroft Wind Farm). This electricity is then transported via a 'grid connection' (a 132kV overhead wood pole line is expected for Longcroft Wind Farm) onto the National Grid.

The substation location can be seen on the Infrastructure map on the 'Infrastructure and constraints maps' exhibition board.

Infrastructure and constraints maps

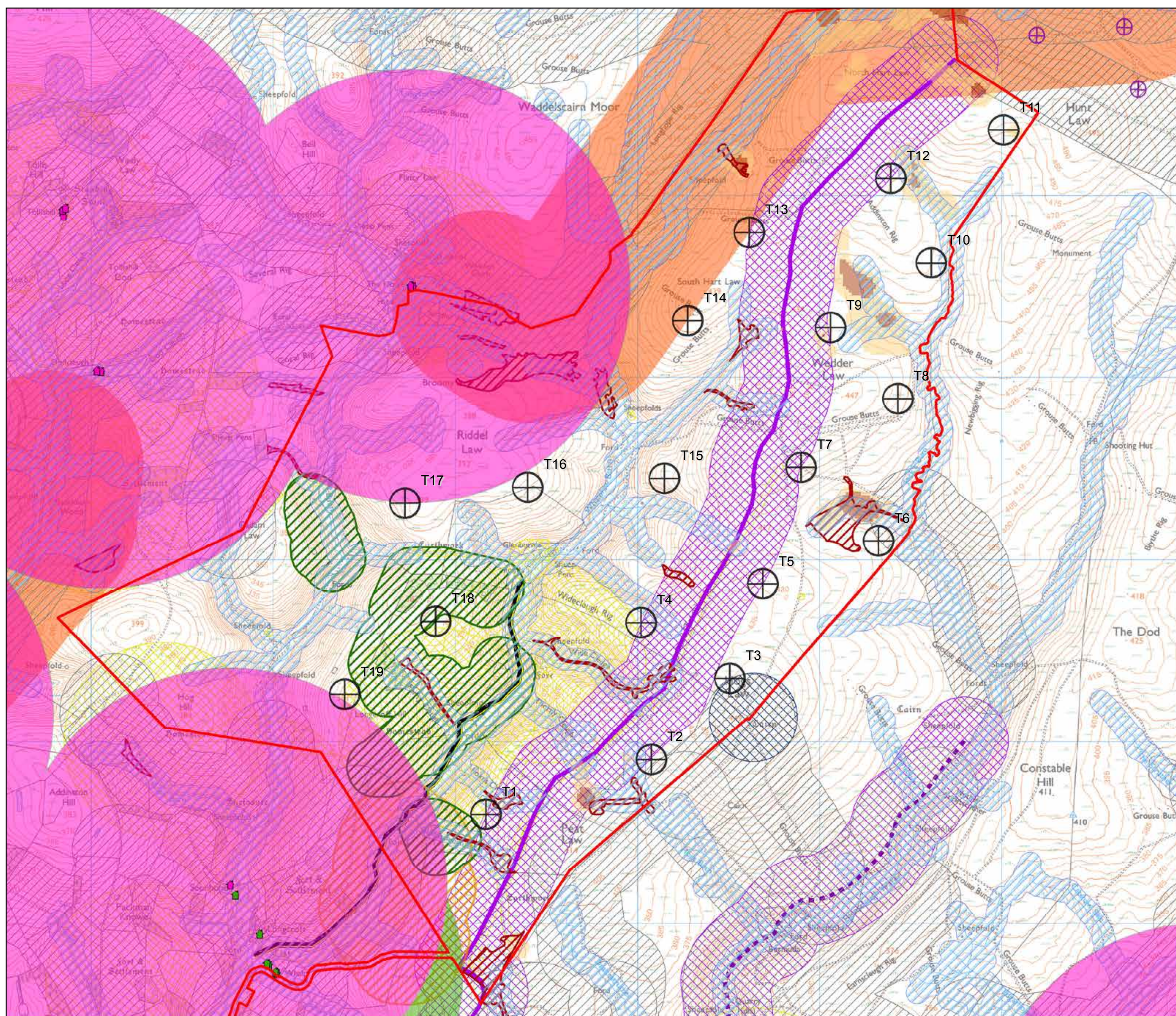
Infrastructure map (updated design)



- KEY:
- TURBINES
 - SITE BOUNDARY (CENTRE OF LINE DENOTES BOUNDARY)
 - UPGRADED SITE TRACKS
 - NEW SITE TRACKS
 - WATERCOURSE CROSSING
 - EXISTING PUBLIC ROAD
 - BORROW PIT SEARCH AREA
 - TEMPORARY BATCHING PLANT
 - SUBSTATION LOCATION
 - TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION COMPOUND
 - BATTERY STORAGE COMPOUND
 - TRANSFER STATION
 - HARDSTANDING
 - SITE ENTRANCE LOCATION

The location of the 'transfer station' on the east side of the A697 is where it is proposed that the blades will be transferred to a specialist blade lifting trailer to enable them to be safely transported to the site entrance and minimise disruption as far as possible. More information can be found on the 'Indicative turbine delivery route' drawing on one of the 'Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) considerations' boards.

Constraints map (updated design)



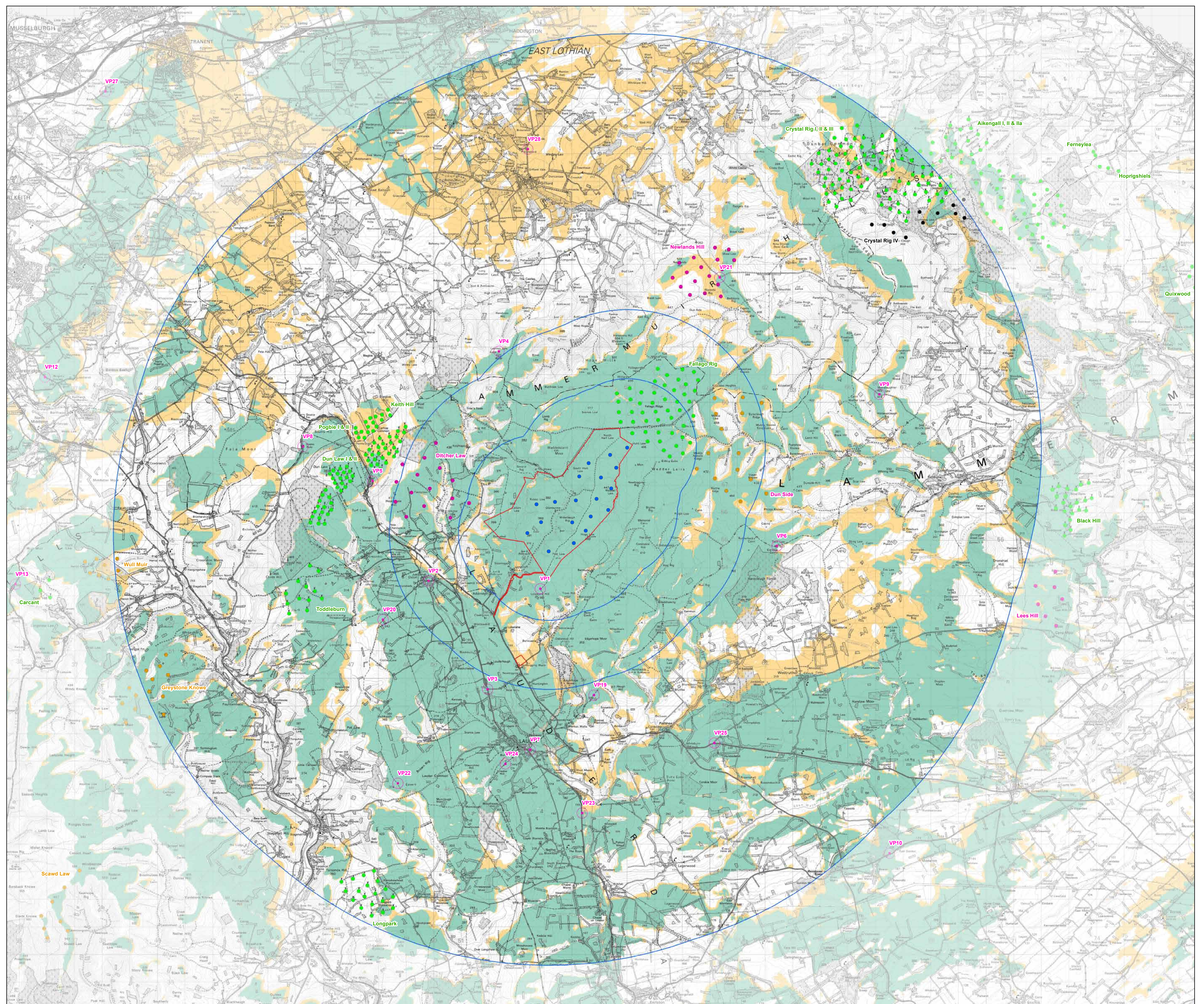
- Turbines
- Fallago Rig Turbines
- Longcroft Site Boundary
- Occupied Properties
- Financial Beneficiary
- Houses Buffer: 1190m
- Financial Beneficiaries Buffer: 1020m
- Hydrology Buffer: 60m
- NVC
- Forestry Buffer: 150m
- GWDTE Buffer: 250m
- Roads Buffer: 242m
- Core Paths
- Permissive/Customary Paths
- Core Paths and P/RoW Buffer: 242m
- OHL Buffer: 510m
- Walkie Talkie Mast Buffer: 242m
- Scheduled Monuments Buffer: 100m
- Fieldwork Assets Buffer: 12.5m
- Historic Environment Records Buffer: 12.5m
- Terrain Slope
- Peat depth
- <12%
- 12 - 15%
- 15 - 20%
- >20%

Tip height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) - 15km unscreened











Bare landform visibility

The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) map below illustrates the theoretical extent of where wind turbines will be visible from within a 15km radius, assuming 100% visibility and bare landform (without any trees, buildings or obstacles in the view) as per NatureScot guidance.

This map serves as a tool to inform the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). The visibility indicated on the bare landform ZTV below is likely to be much less extensive in reality.



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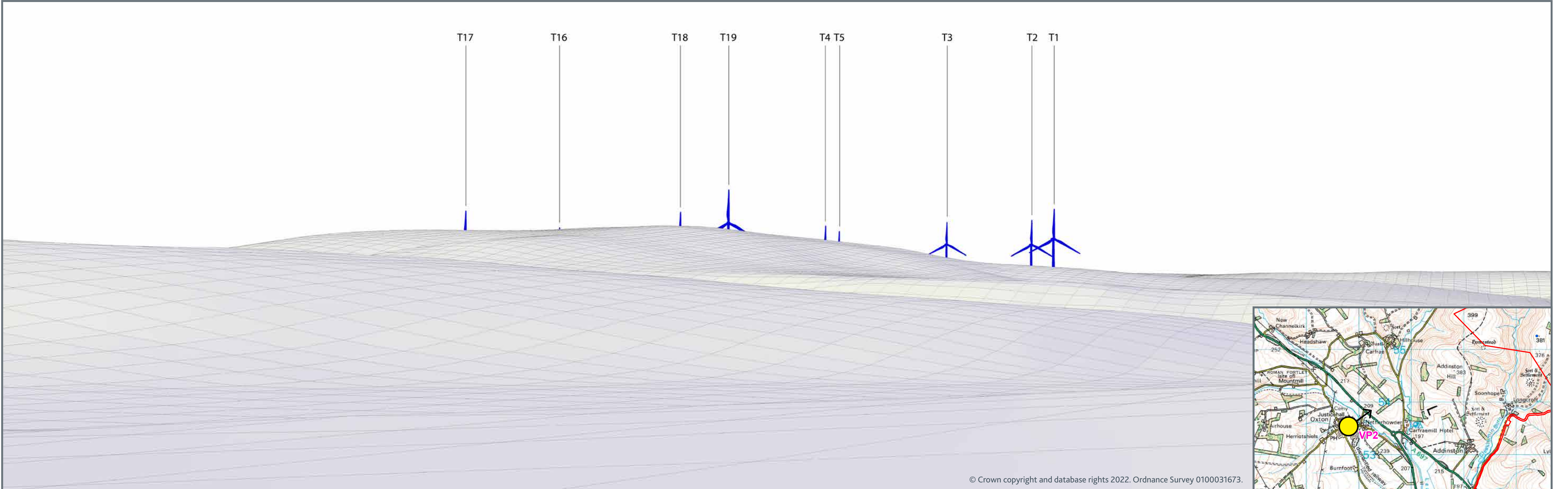
- | | | | |
|---|--|---|-------------|
|  | Site Boundary |  | Hub |
|  | Proposed Turbines (135m hub, 220m tip) |  | Blade Tip |
|  | Distance from Proposed Turbines (2.5, 5, 15km) | Cumulative Wind Farms | |
|  | Proposed Viewpoints |  | Operational |
| | |  | Consented |
| | |  | Application |
| | |  | Scoping |

Viewpoint 2 – Station Road, Oxton

EXISTING VIEW



WIRELINE DRAWING



VIEWPOINT LOCATION

PHOTOMONTAGE OF PROPOSAL



VIEWPOINT INFORMATION

Location 349814, 653531

Altitude 218m AOD

Nearest turbine 3.97km to T19

Bearing to centre of image 66°

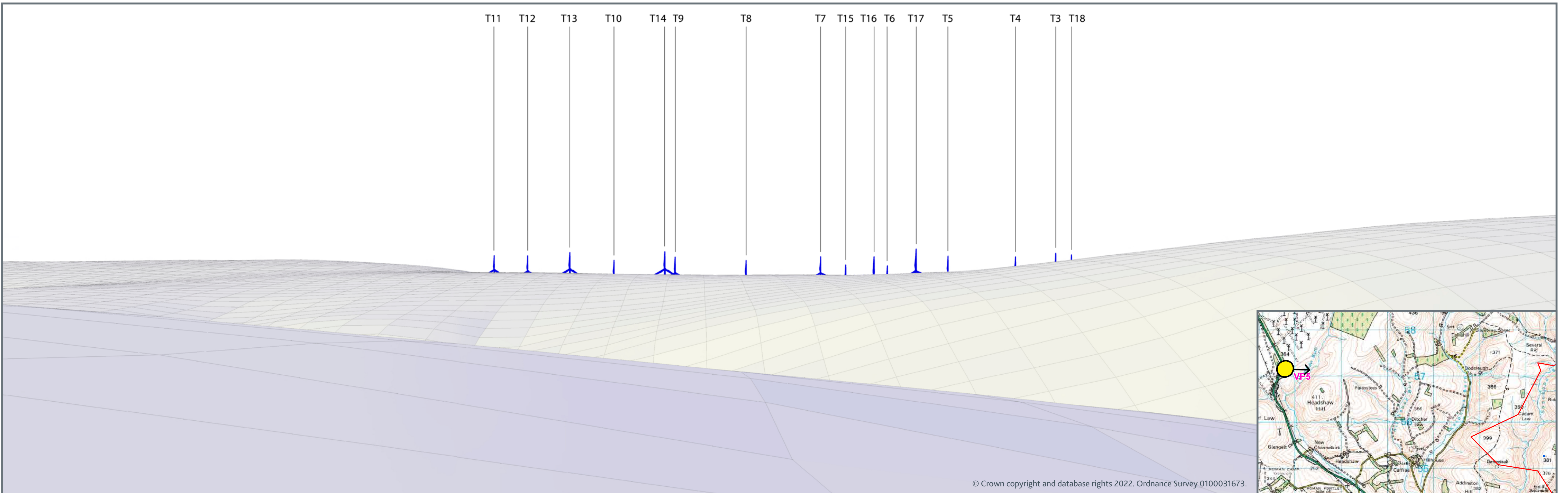
Angle of view 53.5 Degrees

Viewpoint 5 – A68 South of Dun Law Wind Farm

EXISTING VIEW



WIRELINE DRAWING



VIEWPOINT LOCATION

PHOTOMONTAGE OF PROPOSAL



VIEWPOINT INFORMATION

Location 347788, 657152

Altitude 353m AOD

Nearest turbine 5.91km to T19

Bearing to centre of image 93°

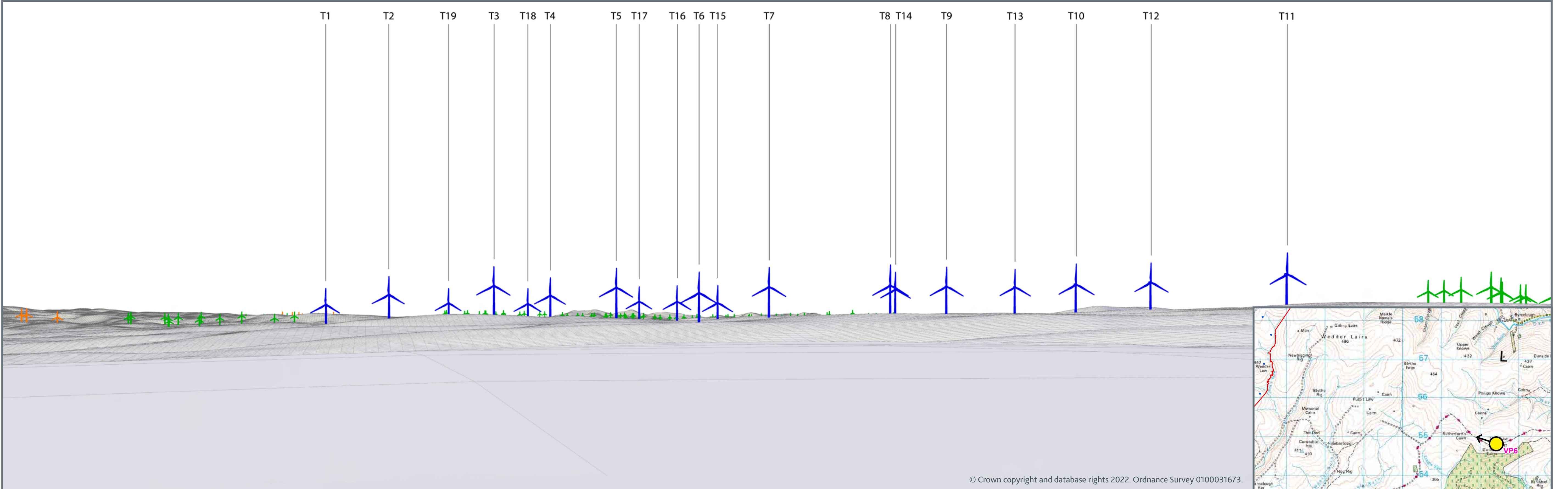
Angle of view 53.5 Degrees

Viewpoint 6 – Southern Upland Way, Twin Law Cairns

EXISTING VIEW



WIRELINE DRAWING



VIEWPOINT LOCATION

PHOTOMONTAGE OF PROPOSAL



VIEWPOINT INFORMATION

Location 362428, 654796

Altitude 444m AOD

Nearest turbine 6.24km to T6

Bearing to centre of image 285°

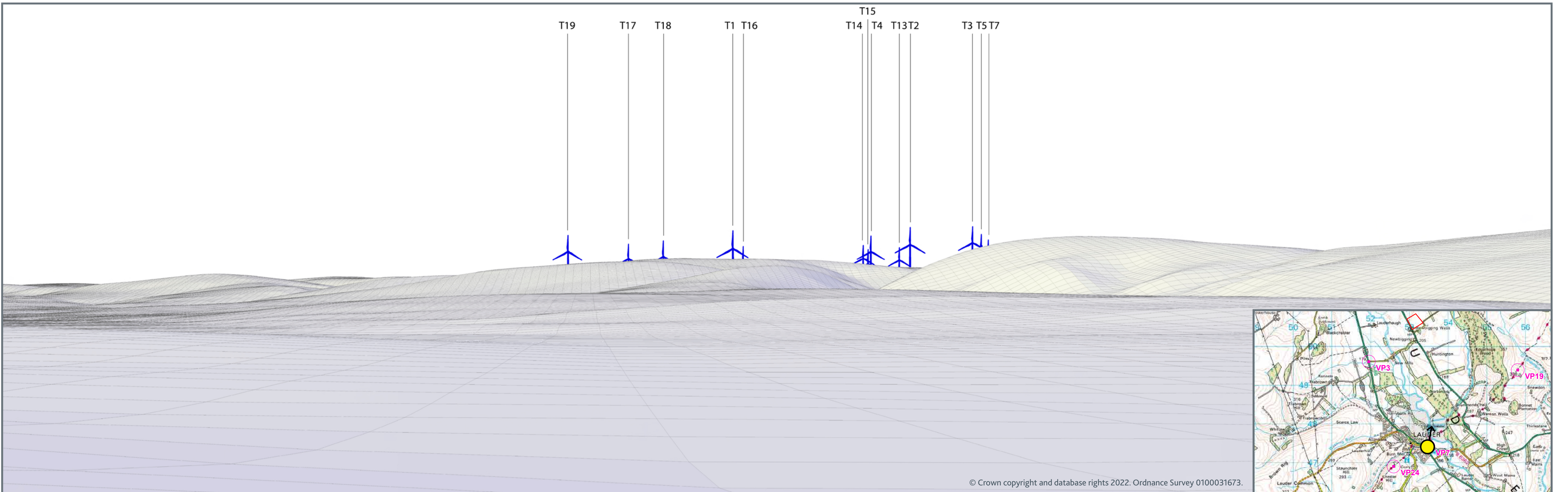
Angle of view 53.5 Degrees

Viewpoint 7 – Thirlestane Castle GDL, Southern Upland Way

EXISTING VIEW



WIRELINE DRAWING



VIEWPOINT LOCATION

PHOTOMONTAGE OF PROPOSAL



VIEWPOINT INFORMATION

Location 353493, 647417

Altitude 167m AOD

Nearest turbine 7.22km to T1

Bearing to centre of image 7°

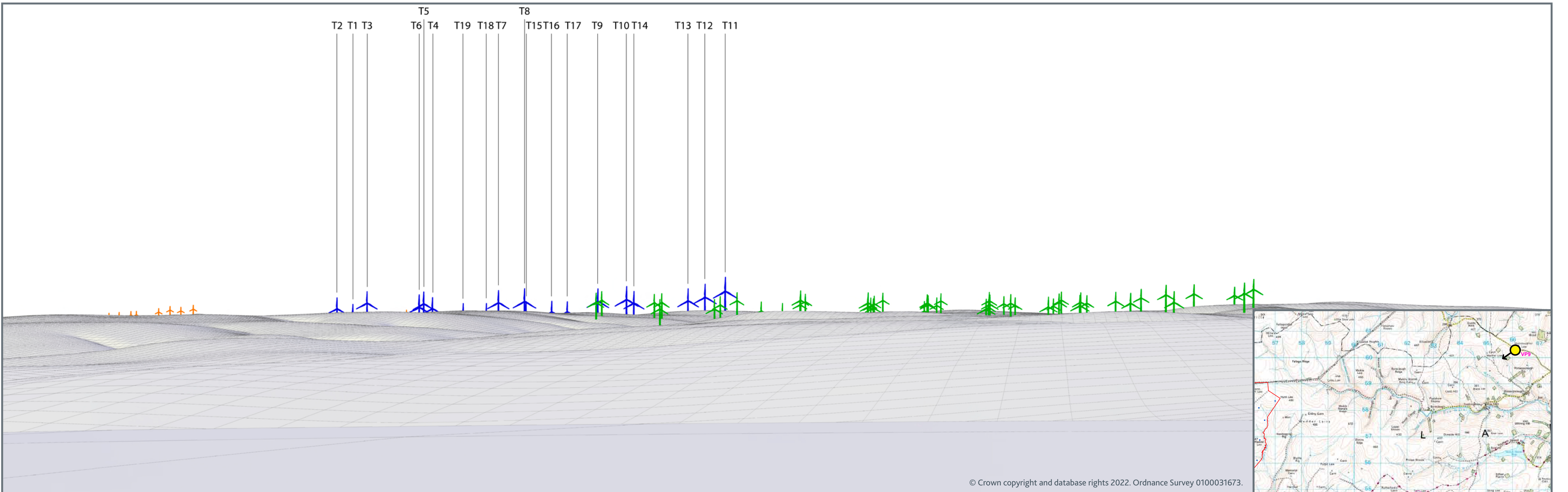
Angle of view 53.5 Degrees

Viewpoint 9 – Minor Road to Longformacus

EXISTING VIEW



WIRELINE DRAWING



VIEWPOINT LOCATION

PHOTOMONTAGE OF PROPOSAL



VIEWPOINT INFORMATION

Location 366139, 660290

Altitude 412m AOD

Nearest turbine 9.33km to T11

Bearing to centre of image 260°

Angle of view 53.5 Degrees

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) considerations

Site selection

The wind resource, site accessibility, topography, proximity to housing, local ecology and wildlife, waterbodies, peatland, cultural heritage assets and grid connectivity are some of the key considerations for the site selection and then layout design of a proposal like Longcroft Wind Farm.

Since the site selection, the Scottish Government published the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) in February 2023 which provides the national spatial strategy for Scotland. Policy 11 asserts support for onshore wind farms outside of National Parks and National Scenic Areas. Longcroft is outwith such national landscape designations.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are a compulsory part of the planning and consenting process for wind farms. The purpose of an EIA is to investigate and mitigate any potential effects of a development on the natural, physical and human environment.

Over the last couple of years, RES has undertaken a wide range of technical studies and environmental surveys on the site, including:

- Acoustics
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
- Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology
- Landscape and Visual
- Ornithology and Ecology
- Traffic and Transport

The findings from the assessments are written up in a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which the Scottish Ministers will take into account when deciding whether or not to grant consent for the proposal.

Landscape and visual

Our landscape architects have undertaken extensive assessment work to inform the design development and turbine layout. Key changes (since the scoping design) include the reduction in turbine numbers from 21 to 19 and the movement of each wind turbine location to varying degrees to refine the design and minimise impacts wherever possible.

The photomontages and wireline visualisations presented at this exhibition have been prepared to NatureScot guidance and help to give an impression of what the proposal could look like from different viewpoints surrounding the site.

We are looking to achieve a design that strikes an acceptable balance between the visibility of the proposal and its ability to generate significant amounts of renewable energy. Ultimately, the acceptability of this design will be assessed by the determining authority in relation to current energy policy and planning requirements having considered feedback from consultees as well as representations by members of the community and wider public.

Residential visual amenity

The Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) is an important component of the wider Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment which is undertaken as part of the EIA. Following feedback through the Scoping process and public consultation we have been working carefully on the layout design to minimise potential impacts of the proposal on residential amenity by increasing the separation distance from wind turbines to settlements and residential properties.

Private water supplies

RES has collected Private Water Supply (PWS) data from Scottish Borders Council to establish the PWS source locations and source types in order to inform the PWS assessment that will be presented in the EIAR. The findings of the assessment will inform what further work would be required, if any, which may include baseline monitoring of relevant PWS, before, during and after construction. Any work associated with PWS post consent will be enforced through planning condition and subject to agreement with Scottish Borders Council.

Peat

Peat depth surveys and assessments have been undertaken. Peat is not uniform across the site and deeper peat is being avoided.

Typically, wind farms pay back the carbon within 1-3 years and operate carbon free thereafter. A carbon balance assessment will be provided in the EIAR.

Cultural heritage

There are two designated heritage assets within the site boundary area and a further 20 non-designated heritage assets which have local importance. The monuments within the site are two assets which date to the Iron Age; Glenburnie Fort (SM4473) and Longcroft Hill, Homestead, (SM4480). The updated layout design lessens the potential effect upon the setting of such assets.

The Cultural Heritage chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will provide assessment of the impacts of the development on heritage assets identified both on the site and within 10km of the proposed wind turbines, as agreed in consultation with Historic Environment Scotland.

Ecology and Ornithology

Protecting and minimising any potential direct or indirect impacts on local wildlife and their habitats is of utmost importance and we take this responsibility seriously. A wide range of ecological and ornithological studies have been undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment work.

We are also in consultation with relevant consultees, including Scottish Borders Council, NatureScot, RSPB Scotland, and Marine Scotland Science with regard to designated sites, protected areas and protected species.

We are also developing an outline Habitat Management Plan for the site.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) considerations

Acoustics

Operation and construction acoustic assessments and prediction are undertaken in accordance with the relevant standards, current assessment methodologies and best practice as determined by the regulatory bodies, which include Scottish Borders Council, the Scottish Government and the UK Institute of Acoustics.

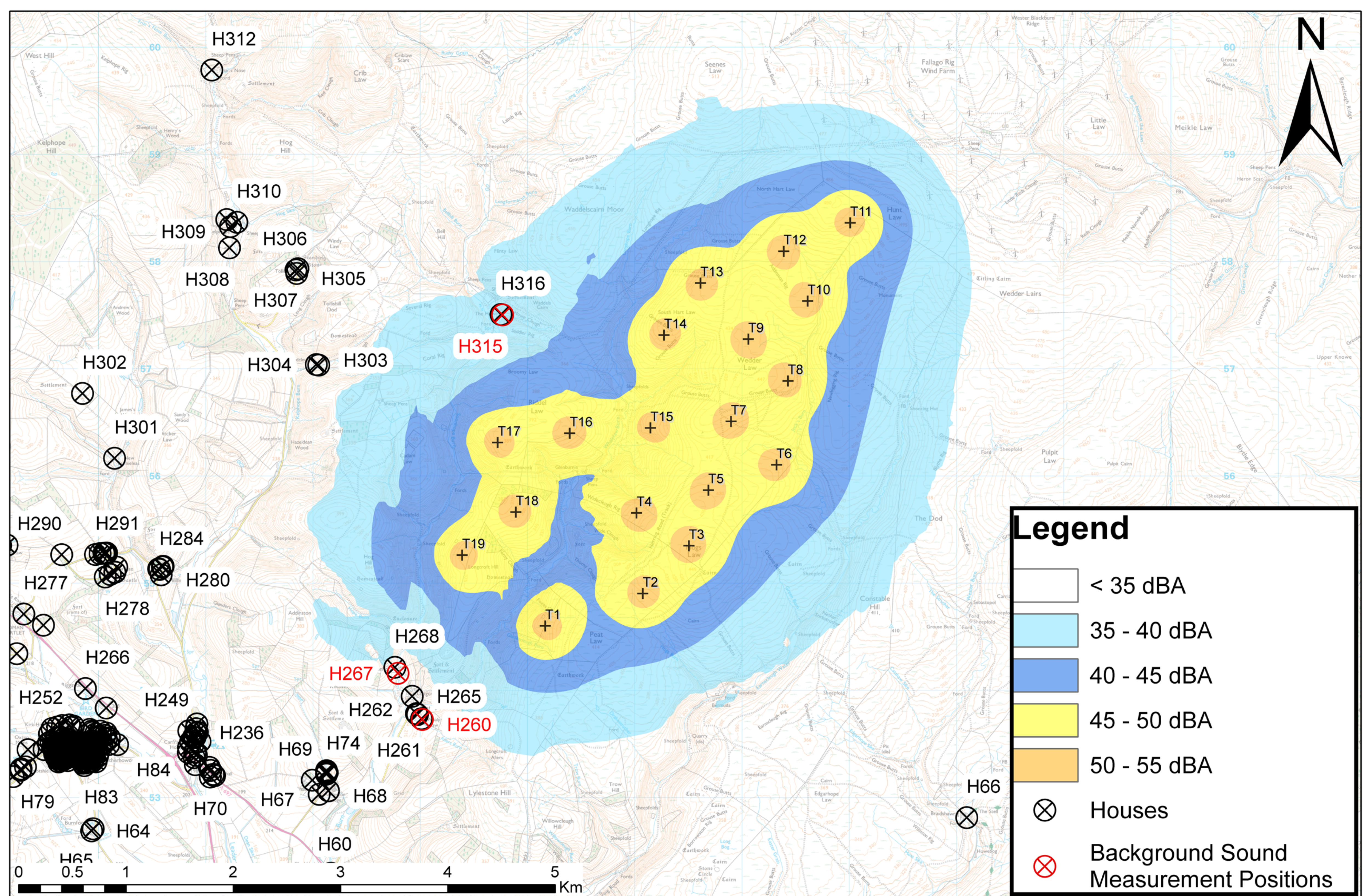
In consultation with Scottish Borders Council, we have undertaken a background sound survey at a number of locations around the site to measure the existing background sound levels. The results of the background sound survey are being analysed by our acoustics team and will inform the setting of the sound immission limits for the operation of the wind farm. These limits will be agreed with the local authority, and the proposal will be required to comply with these strict noise limits set within planning conditions.

The acoustic impact of the wind farm will be modelled and the output of this modelled work will be presented in the Acoustic Chapter of the extensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which will accompany the planning application.

The Acoustic Chapter of the EIAR will demonstrate that RES has considered all appropriate measures in the design, construction, and operation phases to minimise the acoustic impact of the wind farm.



Predicted preliminary acoustic footprint map



Shadow flicker

Shadow flicker is a phenomenon where, under certain circumstances of geographical position and time of day, the sun may pass behind the rotors of a wind turbine and cast a shadow over neighbouring properties. When the blades rotate, the shadow flicks on and off. It only occurs inside buildings where the flicker appears through a narrow window opening.

Shadow flicker can be predicted, modelled and mitigated using specialised software. The Longcroft Wind Farm proposal is being designed to minimise any potential for shadow flicker.

Shadow flicker monitoring software which can shut down certain wind turbines at particular times of the day, or in certain weather conditions, where a shadow flicker effect may result can also be utilised. This shadow flicker modelling work will be presented in the EIAR which will accompany the planning application.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) considerations

Traffic and transport

Various studies have been undertaken to assess route options and help minimise potential impacts during the delivery of wind turbine components. We are assessing traffic volumes in the local area to understand the impact of other construction traffic (HGVs, site plant, 4x4s) and identify ways to minimise disruption on road users.

We have now established a route to deliver wind turbine components to the proposed development. This is shown on the drawing below. Once components have reached the A697, it is proposed that a blade lifting trailer will be used to travel north along the A697 and right onto the D124 to the site entrance near Longcroft Farm. The site entrance has been carefully designed with appropriate visibility splays to meet strict safety requirements.

We are also in consultation with Scottish Borders Council's roads department as well as the emergency services and other relevant consultees.

Should the proposal be consented, a detailed Traffic Management Plan would be developed to mitigate potential impacts on road users and ensure road safety.

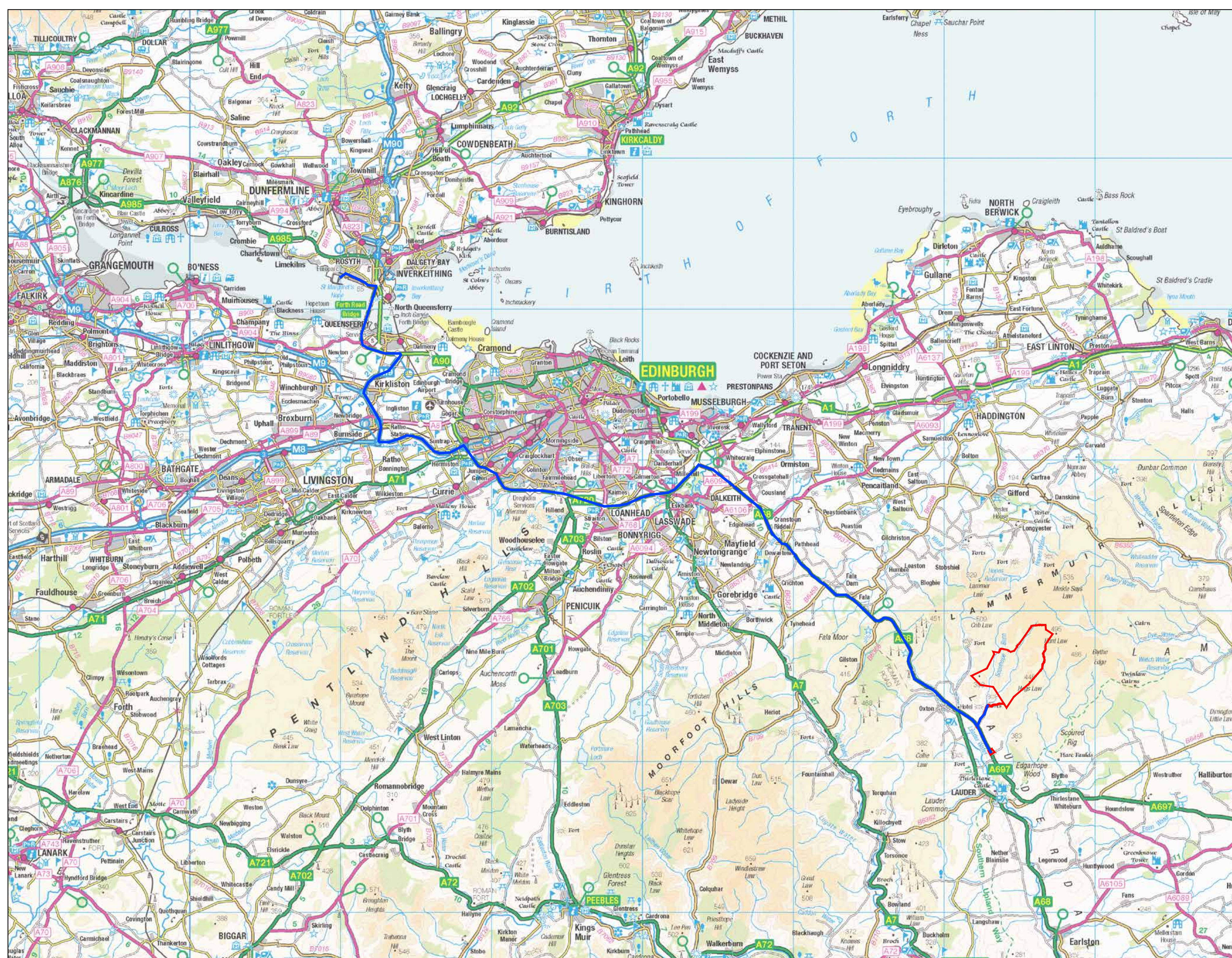
Aviation and radar

Radar systems can be susceptible to interference from wind turbines as the blade movement can cause intermittent detection by radars within their operating range. This is particularly relevant where there is a line of sight between the radar and the wind farm.

RES has undertaken an initial Aviation Assessment to identify any radar infrastructure which may be impacted by the proposed turbines. Further assessment is being carried out to establish any potential impacts of the proposed turbines on the instrument flight procedures of Edinburgh Airport.

Full consultation will be undertaken with all relevant consultees including the MoD, Civil Aviation Authority and Edinburgh Airport.

Indicative turbine delivery route



KEY:
— SITE BOUNDARY
— AIL DELIVERY ACCESS ROUTE

Aviation lighting

In accordance with the Air Navigation Order 2016, en-route obstacles at or above 150m, such as the wind turbines proposed at Longcroft Wind Farm, require to be lit at night with medium intensity red aviation lights. The aviation lighting is designed to focus the light across and upwards for the attention of aircraft rather than downward to those at ground level and, in some circumstances, not all wind turbines require to be lit.

The light intensity varies in response to weather conditions and visibility (via atmospheric conditions and visibility sensor on the wind turbine) - with lighting dimmed to 10% of their intensity in good visibility (typically greater than 5km) but maximised in cloudy or foggy weather (where visibility is typically less than 5km). We are consulting with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to agree a lighting strategy with them. The proposed lighting strategy will be presented in the planning application which will also include a night-time visual impact assessment and visualisations.

Maximising the local benefit

A power for good

RES seeks to be a power for good in communities that neighbour our projects by working openly and constructively to ensure tangible local benefits. We believe that onshore wind should provide direct, lasting benefits to local communities and there are a number of ways that this can be achieved.

Some of the most direct and meaningful benefits that can be delivered from a proposal like Longcroft Wind Farm are jobs and employment for local businesses and contractors, in addition to the use of local services and amenities, all of which can generate a significant amount of inward investment within the area.

Working with the local supply chain

RES is committed to ensuring that, wherever reasonably practicable, local contractors and employees are used in all aspects of wind farm development, construction and operation. The major opportunities arise during the construction phase when suitably qualified local firms are invited to bid for different aspects of construction, such as foundation laying and electrical works. Construction materials are normally sourced locally (i.e. within the county) and local transport and plant hire companies used wherever possible.

Expenditure in the local economy during the development, construction and operation of wind farms varies from project to project due to various factors including project size, project duration, and the availability of local suppliers. In recent years, RES has seen typical spend with local stakeholders, suppliers and service providers in the region of £279,000 per wind turbine during the development, construction and first year of operation. In some cases, it has been possible to significantly improve on this number.

Based on the updated layout design, the Longcroft Wind Farm proposal is predicted to deliver approximately £5.3 million of inward investment to the area in the form of jobs, employment, and use of local services during the development, construction and first year of operation. In addition, more than £1.3 million in business rates¹ will be payable each year to Scottish Borders Council during operation.



Kintradwell Wind Farm proposal – case study

RES signed an agreement with Brora-based firm, Edward Mackay Contractor, giving them right of first refusal on the civil construction work for our proposed Kintradwell Wind Farm. Should the project receive consent, this commitment will help secure valuable local jobs and employment opportunities for the firm, which currently employs around 100 local staff.

Liam Mackay, Director at Edward Mackay said "All credit to RES for engaging with local businesses and for giving us the opportunity to get stuck into a project on our doorstep, should it proceed. The work that we are looking at is significant and could be a real boost for not only our business but the whole area".



Glenchamber Wind Farm – case study

Glenchamber, an 11-turbine wind farm located in Dumfries and Galloway has an installed capacity of 27.5MW and began operating in 2016. In keeping with our commitment to maximise economic benefit to the local area, the civil engineering contractor chosen for Glenchamber was Luce Bay Group who are based just 8 miles from the wind farm. RES' work with Luce Bay saw more than £8 million invested into the local economy and provided employment for 45 local people.

Skills and services

Some of the most direct and meaningful benefits that can be delivered from a project like this are jobs and employment for local businesses and contractors, in addition to the use of local services and amenities, all of which can generate a significant amount of inward investment within the area.

RES has a strong track record for working with the local supply chain around its projects. In order to maximise the opportunities from the Longcroft Wind Farm proposal we are looking to connect with local businesses and build our knowledge of the local skills and capabilities within the area.

Some of the services and materials that are likely to be required in relation to the Longcroft Wind Farm proposal, should it be consented, are:

- Groundworks
- Steel fixing
- Labourers
- Fencers
- Plant operators
- Plant and crane hire
- Civil engineering
- Electrical works and cabling
- Environmental surveyors
- Concrete and aggregates
- Accommodation
- Cleaning and office support
- Garage services and vehicle maintenance

If you're a local business or contractor (or you know one) interested in getting involved in onshore wind, please speak to our project team.

¹The business rates figure of £1.3 million each year has been calculated from the most recent non-domestic rates revaluation in Scotland (2023 Revaluation) and predicted performance of the wind farm.

Community benefit package

Our approach

Should the project be consented, a community benefit package will be established to support the communities who host, and are closest to, Longcroft Wind Farm.

We take a tailored approach and consult with the local community, both pre-planning and post-consent (should the proposal be granted planning permission), to gain an understanding of the local priorities and to seek suggestions for projects that will help to secure long-term economic, social and environmental benefits for the area.

This approach ensures the community benefits package that is delivered is aligned with the priorities of the local community. For instance, the package could include RES' Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) or provide funding for projects that sit outside the parameters of a traditional application-based fund.

Should the proposal receive consent, the area of benefit for Longcroft Wind Farm will be determined in consultation with locally elected representatives from the closest communities.

Value of the package

RES is proposing a tailored package of benefits for the community from Longcroft Wind Farm that would be worth £5,000 per megawatt (or equivalent) of installed capacity per annum. Based on the current layout design and installed capacity of 125.4MW this could equate to a tailored community benefit package for the local area worth £627,000 (or equivalent) each year.

This package could include RES' unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS), something that has received significant interest from the community. LEDS seeks to deliver direct and tangible benefits to people living and working closest to RES' operational wind farms.

Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS)

Our unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) was developed in response to research and feedback from local communities around RES' operational wind farms.

LEDS offers an annual discount to the electricity bills of those properties closest to a participating wind farm and there is no need to change energy provider. If this is something that you are interested in as a potential part of a tailored community benefits package at Longcroft, please note this in your formal written feedback to RES and let our project team know if you would like more information.



Who administers the fund?

Where traditional application-based funds are established for our projects, these are always administered by an independent organisation. For example, a Trust established for the specific purpose of managing community funds or an established grant-making organisation such as Foundation Scotland.

Should an application-based fund form part of the tailored community benefits package for Longcroft Wind Farm then we would consult with the community with regard to an administrator for the fund.

Your feedback on local priorities

We are seeking your feedback on ideas for local benefits and priority projects that you would like to see supported or delivered in your community from the proposed Longcroft Wind Farm, should it receive consent. Some of the most popular suggestions we've received from the community so far include:

- Biodiversity initiatives (habitat restoration)
- Discounted electricity
- Funding for local community groups
- Funding for schools, education initiatives, apprenticeships
- Funding for upgrades to local public premises
- Home eco measures (insulation, solar panels)
- Upgraded or new sports facilities

Voluntary community benefits are not a material planning consideration

Penmanshiel Wind Farm – case study

The Penmanshiel Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund contributed £35,000 to the Community Council's refurbishment of Reston play park which had been severely delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with match funding used for the balance.

The initiative involved entering a contract with Scottish Borders Council to transfer ownership of the play park to the community council. The park was officially opened by the oldest gentleman in Reston, a fitting tribute from the elderly to the young.



Shared ownership Is this of interest to the community?

RES is also interested to understand whether there is any appetite from the community in exploring the potential opportunity of shared ownership in the wind farm. If shared ownership is something that interests you, please put this on your comments form and speak to our project team. Local Energy Scotland is the independent body that manages the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES).

To find out more visit: www.localenergy.scot/hub/shared-ownership

Next steps

Commenting on the updated design

This exhibition forms part of our pre-application consultation and, whilst the design is almost finalised, this event provides you with an opportunity to submit written feedback to RES, if you wish, on the updated design.

Our team are here to discuss the project with you and do our best to answer any questions that you may have, but please note that formal feedback to RES on the updated design needs to be submitted in writing.

Anyone wishing to provide feedback to RES on the proposal and ideas for local benefits can do so in writing by filling out a 'comments form' at the exhibition events or online from the project website at www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk from Monday 25 September when copies of the exhibition information will be available on the project website for people to view. If you have any questions about this please speak to our project team.

The closing date for comments is Tuesday 10 October 2023.

Comments submitted to RES during these exhibitions or subsequent consultation period are not representations to the determining authority (The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority once a planning application has been submitted.



Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report

A Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report will accompany the planning application submission. The report will summarise the communications activity that has been undertaken on the project and consultation feedback received.

Indicative timeline

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Submission (Section 36)		X						
Consent determination		12 - 30 months						
Discharge of planning conditions				12 - 18 months				
Procurement process						12 months		
Construction process							18 - 24 months	
Commissioning								

Planning submission timescales

The Longcroft Wind Farm proposal has an installed generating capacity greater than 50MW (megawatts). As such, the application for planning consent will be submitted by RES to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (the Electricity Act) and determined by Scottish Ministers. Scottish Borders Council will be a statutory consultee in the process.

We currently expect to submit the Section 36 application later in Autumn 2023.

In the meantime, we will write up the detailed Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). This is an extensive and comprehensive document which reports on the survey findings and subsequent assessment of the proposal on key topic areas including:

- Acoustics
- Aviation and Infrastructure
- Cultural heritage
- Ecology
- Geology
- Hydrology and Hydrogeology
- Landscape and Visual
- Ornithology
- Socioeconomics
- Traffic and transport

The EIAR will accompany the planning application and be available for public viewing and comment as part of the formal consultation period run by the determining authority.

Once the Section 36 planning application has been submitted the determining authority will advertise the planning submission and hold a statutory consultation period whereupon members of the public, as well as statutory consultees, can submit their formal comments on the proposal.

These representations will then be assessed against the proposal and a planning decision made by the determining authority in due course.

Further information

Further information about the project can be found on the Longcroft Wind Farm project website at www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk together with contact details for our project team. A copy of the key information presented at this exhibition, including an electronic copy of the comments form (which can be filled in online or downloaded), can also be found on the website.

If you would like to be kept up to date with the proposal, please fill in a comments form with your details and ask to be added to our project newsletter mailing list.

Your feedback counts

Thank you for taking an interest in our Longcroft Wind Farm proposal. The purpose of these exhibitions is to update the public on the design, explain the changes that have been made since the May 2023 public exhibition events and consultation period, and answer any questions.

The updated layout is unlikely to change between now and submission. Nevertheless, we welcome any further feedback that you may have on the proposal, particularly with regards to ideas for local benefits which the project could deliver, should it be consented. Please provide any feedback in writing by filling out this comments form. **The closing date for comments to RES is Tuesday 10 October 2023.**

Hard copy comments forms can be handed in at the exhibitions, posted back to RES at **Longcroft Wind Farm - Project Team, Renewable Energy Systems Limited, 3rd Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow G51 1PQ**, or scanned and emailed to james.cameron@res-group.com.

Please note that any comments submitted to RES during these exhibitions or subsequent consultation period are not representations to the determining authority (the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). Once the planning application is submitted, a formal consultation will be advertised and held by the determining authority to provide the opportunity for people to submit formal representations on the proposal before a planning decision is made.

1. Public exhibitions

1.1 How did you find out about this public exhibition?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter through the door | <input type="checkbox"/> Advert in local newspaper or digital online adverts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth | <input type="checkbox"/> Project website (www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk) |

Other (please specify): _____

1.2 Which exhibition event did you attend?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lauder Public Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> Oxton War Memorial Hall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None - viewed exhibition information on project website only | |

1.3 What part of the public exhibition did you find most useful?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibition information boards | <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to ask RES questions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visualisations (photomontages, wirelines) | |

Other (please specify): _____

2. Updated design and layout

2.1 What's your attitude to the updated proposal for Longcroft Wind Farm?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am supportive | <input type="checkbox"/> I am opposed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am neutral | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't like onshore wind farms in general |

2.2 If the project went ahead what do you think about the updated turbine/infrastructure layout?

- I am happy with the proposed layout
 I have concerns about the proposed layout
 I am neutral to the proposed layout
 I don't like onshore wind farms in general

2.3 Do you have any further comments regarding the proposal or updated design?

3. Community benefits package

RES is proposing to deliver a tailored community benefits package aligned with the priorities of the local community. This package would be worth £5,000 per megawatt (or equivalent) of installed capacity per annum and could include RES' unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS), something that has received significant interest from the community. LEDS offers an annual discount to the electricity bills of those properties closest to a participating wind farm. There will be further consultation with the local community, should the project receive consent, on the detail of the community benefits package. In the meantime, please provide any comments below.

3.1 Within which Community Council area do you reside? _____

3.2 Please rank each of the following most-popular ideas, from community feedback gathered so far, from:

1 - high importance; 2 - medium importance; or 3 - low importance:

- | | Please rank (1-3) |
|---|--------------------------|
| a. Biodiversity initiatives (habitat restoration) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Funding for local community groups | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Funding for schools, education initiatives, apprenticeships. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Funding for upgrades to local public premises | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Home eco measures (insulation, solar panels) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Upgraded or new sports facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3.3 Do you have any other comments regarding ideas, local priorities, or community projects that you would like to see benefitting from Longcroft Wind Farm, should it go ahead?

4. Your details

Please provide your name and contact details below in order to authenticate this comments form. If you are not comfortable providing us with your full contact details nor wish to be kept up to date, **please include your postcode as a minimum**. Your contact details will be treated by RES with the strictest of confidence, in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. We may at times share your contact details, in confidence, with third parties who we employ to help process your comments or update you on the project and by providing your details below you consent to this. You may write to RES at any time to ask that your contact details be removed from our records and from any third parties we work with.

Name	
Address	
Postcode	
Email	

If you would like to be kept up to date with the project, please ensure to include your email and/or postal address above and tick the box opposite:



Longcroft Wind Farm Proposal

Report on feedback



Image: View from Station Road, Oxton

September 2023

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this report

RES has considerable experience in developing onshore wind projects throughout the UK and believes in the importance of community consultation to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which can be considered when developing and designing a project.

The purpose of this report is to summarise the written feedback received from the community during the May 2023 public exhibitions and subsequent consultation period regarding the design of the proposed development and highlight any changes that have been made to the proposal since. Each section focuses on a key topic area and summarises the feedback received, followed by RES' response.

1.2 May 2023 exhibitions and consultation

RES held two public exhibition events in the local area (Oxton and Lauder) in May 2023 as part of its pre-application consultation on the proposed Longcroft Wind Farm. These events provided people with the opportunity to learn more about the project, discuss the proposal with the project team, and provide written feedback to RES on the preliminary site layout.

A range of information was made available, including visualisations prepared to NatureScot guidance which helped to give an impression of what the site could look like from different viewpoints in the area. RES staff were on hand to discuss the proposal and answer any questions. A four-week consultation period followed the exhibitions for people to submit written feedback to RES on the proposal and early stage design. More than 71 people attended the events and 36 comments forms were received by the time that the consultation period closed - providing comments across a variety of topics.

RES included a multiple-choice question on the comments form that asked people about their attitude to the proposal for a wind farm at Longcroft. The breakdown of responses is as follows: 31% responded as supportive; 22% responded as 'neutral'; 44% responded as 'opposed'; and 3% responded that they didn't like onshore wind farms in general.

RES also included a multiple-choice question that asked if the wind farm went ahead as currently designed, what people thought about the turbine and infrastructure layout. The breakdown of responses is as follows: 51% responded that they had concerns about the proposed layout; 23% responded that they were neutral to the proposed layout; 20% responded that they were happy with the proposed layout; and 6% responded that they didn't like onshore wind farms in general.

The consultation feedback submitted to RES has been considered by the project team as part of the design development, in addition to feedback from key consultees and the findings from the detailed technical and environmental studies that have been undertaken. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to engage with us on the proposal.

2. ENERGY feedback

Approximately 44% of respondents provided comments relating to types of energy generation and the needs case for onshore wind.

2.1 Key themes

The key themes and comments raised within the feedback were:

- **Cost of electricity:** question over whether developing onshore wind reduces fuel bills.
- **Other technologies:** need a diverse energy supply; preference for other forms of renewable energy generation (hydro, offshore) that won't impact the environments in which people live.
- **Onshore wind needs case:** agree with need but this area has its fair share of wind farms.

2.2 RES response to energy feedback

We are in a climate emergency, cost of living crisis and also seeking to enhance the security of our energy supply. Onshore wind can address all of these. This is recognised by the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) which was published in February 2023 and provides the national spatial strategy for Scotland. Policy 11 asserts support for onshore wind farms outside of National Parks and National Scenic Areas. Longcroft is outwith such national landscape designations.

Onshore wind plays an important part in creating a balanced energy mix and is required alongside other technologies, all of which have their merits in relation to cost, efficiency, environmental or social benefits. In response to the climate emergency the focus on developing more onshore wind within Scotland has only strengthened - with national targets now set for installing 20GW of onshore wind across Scotland by 2030 to help towards meeting Net Zero carbon emissions by 2045.

Onshore wind, alongside other renewable energy technologies, can generate the cheapest form of new electricity generation. With the rising cost of living and climate change emergency, it is imperative that we deliver electricity efficiently and at lowest cost to the consumer.

3. LANDSCAPE and VISUAL feedback

Approximately 36% of respondents provided comments relating to the landscape and visual aspect of the proposal which covered a variety of themes.

3.1 Key themes

The key themes and comments raised within the feedback were:

- **Turbine height:** turbines too big; too visible over wide area.
- **General comments:** cumulative impact - have enough wind turbines in this area; will spoil views.
- **Exhibition visualisations:** visualisations were limited; would like to see additional viewpoints.
- **Residential amenity:** turbines will be visible from local properties; residential amenity will be affected.
- **Aviation lighting:** aviation lighting will cause light pollution.

3.2 RES response to landscape and visual feedback

Wind turbine technology has advanced considerably in recent years, meaning that wind turbines are now taller and more efficient which enables them to generate a significantly greater amount of electricity per wind turbine.

Modern taller wind turbines provide more electricity, which helps address the climate emergency, cost of living crisis, and security of energy supply. The 220m tall wind turbines proposed at Longcroft Wind Farm would allow for far greater benefits in terms of renewable electricity generation per wind turbine than smaller turbines would.

Our landscape architects have undertaken extensive assessment work to inform the design development and turbine layout. Key changes (since the May 2023 exhibitions) include the reduction in turbine numbers from 21 to 19 and the movement of each wind turbine location to varying degrees to refine the design and minimise impacts wherever possible. We are looking to achieve a design that strikes an acceptable balance between the visibility of the proposal and its ability to generate significant amounts of renewable energy. Ultimately, the acceptability of this design will be assessed by the determining authority in relation to current energy policy and planning requirements having considered feedback from consultees as well as representations by members of the community and wider public.

Wind farms are quite often sited on hills or areas of higher ground in Scotland as the wind regime tends to be better in these locations - with smoother and less interrupted wind. However, hills tend to create more visible sites and so the turbine height needs to be assessed accordingly from a landscape and visual perspective to understand if the proposal may be appropriate from a planning perspective.

The Scottish Government's Onshore Wind Policy Statement, published in December 2022, states in paragraph 3.6.1 that *"Meeting our climate targets will require a rapid transformation across all sectors of our economy and society. This means ensuring the right development happens in the right place. Meeting the ambition of a minimum installed capacity of 20 GW of onshore wind in Scotland by 2030 will require taller and more efficient turbines. This will change the landscape."*

At our May 2023 public exhibition events we provided five visualisation boards showing how the proposal may look based on the preliminary site layout from five viewpoints within the local area. These viewpoint locations were selected in order to demonstrate the most "localised" effects of the proposed development, which would be of most interest to people attending the exhibitions. At this final set of exhibitions, we have chosen to display the same five viewpoints to show the updated turbine layout. These viewpoints are among a total of 30 agreed with NatureScot, Scottish Borders Council & East Lothian Council which will be assessed in the application. All visualisations were and will continue to be produced to well established and recognised standards set by NatureScot.

The Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) is an important component of the wider Landscape and Visual Assessment which is undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Following feedback through the Scoping process and public consultations we have been working carefully with the design to minimise potential impacts of the site on residential amenity by increasing the separation distance from wind turbines to settlements and residential properties.

At Scoping, it was confirmed that all properties within 2.5km of a proposed turbine in the final development area would be included within a standalone Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) that would accompany the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. This RVAA is now underway, and properties within 2.5km will be contacted directly to request access to help inform the findings of the RVAA.

In accordance with the Air Navigation Order 2016, en-route obstacles at or above 150m, such as the wind turbines proposed at Longcroft Wind Farm, require to be lit at night with medium intensity red aviation lights. Aviation lighting on turbines at or above 150m is set at 2,000 candela on the nacelles. In some circumstances, not all turbines within a wind farm are required to be lit. Furthermore, the aviation lighting is designed to focus the light across and upwards for the attention of aircraft rather than downward to those at ground level.

The light intensity varies in response to weather conditions and visibility (via an atmospheric conditions and visibility sensor on the turbine) - with lighting dimmed to 10% of their intensity in good visibility (typically greater than 5km) but maximised in cloudy or foggy weather (where visibility is typically less than 5km). Consultation is underway with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to agree a lighting strategy with them. If agreed in time, the agreed lighting strategy will be presented in the planning application which will also include a night-time assessment and visualisations. If CAA response timescales do not allow for this, a “worst-case scenario” will be presented in the assessment at application stage.

4. ENVIRONMENT feedback

Approximately 22% of respondents provided comments in relation to the impacts on the surrounding environment.

4.1 Key themes

The key themes and comments raised within the feedback were:

- **Wildlife:** concerns about potential impact on wildlife (ecology and ornithology).
- **General:** general comments and enquiries about the preservation and management of the environment surrounding the wind farm.

4.2 RES response to environment feedback

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are a compulsory part of the planning and consenting process for wind farms. The purpose of an EIA is to investigate and mitigate any potential effects of a development on the natural, physical and human environment.

Protecting and minimising any potential direct or indirect impacts on local wildlife and their habitats is of utmost importance and we take this responsibility seriously. We look to mitigate any potential effects of the development during construction and operation on the habitats and protected species that are found to be present or active within the site.

The findings from the wide range of technical studies and environmental surveys (including Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology; and Ornithology and Ecology among others) that have been undertaken over the last couple of years will be written up in a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which the Scottish Ministers will take into account when deciding whether or not to grant consent for the wind farm.

For instance, a wide range of detailed ecological surveys have been undertaken by qualified ecologists as part of the non-avian Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA). The non-avian Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) survey and assessment work is an extensive undertaking, and the findings will be included in the EIAR.

The planning application and associated documents such as the EclA and survey data (excluding any confidential annexes) will become available for public viewing and comment as part of the formal consultation period which will be run by the Scottish Government’s Energy Consents Unit once the planning application is submitted.

We are in consultation with relevant consultees, including Scottish Borders Council, East Lothian Council NatureScot, SEPA, RSPB Scotland, and Marine Scotland Science with regard to designated sites, protected areas and protected species.

As part of the project design we are also developing an outline Habitat Enhancement and Management Plan for the site which will set out the measures being proposed for the site, including a plans for biodiversity enhancement which will focus on improving the biodiversity already found on the site beyond offsetting any potential loss of biodiversity from the proposed development. Although any enhancement measures proposed will look to offset potential impacts of the project, primarily they will seek to complement the existing conditions for flora and fauna while expanding their effective reach as much as is practicable.

5. CONSTRUCTION feedback

Approximately 17% of respondents provided comments focused on construction.

5.1 Key themes

The key themes and comments raised within the feedback were:

- **Transport route:** more information needed on route between A697 and the site (missing from drawing shown on board); concerns about road safety following recent incidents.
- **General comments:** construction impacts; preservation of site tracks; desire to work on the project.

5.2 RES response to construction feedback

At the time of the May 2023 public exhibitions, there were several options under review for the proposed route connecting the A697 to the site boundary therefore this level of detail was unavailable to view as it had not been fully agreed.

The indicative turbine delivery route has now been updated to show this section of the route and can be found on the relevant 'Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) considerations' exhibition board. Once components have reached the A697, it is proposed that a blade lifting trailer will be used to travel north along the A697 and right onto the D124 to the site entrance near Longcroft Farm. The site entrance has been carefully designed with appropriate visibility splays to meet strict safety requirements.

RES has commissioned surveys to understand traffic flows and volumes on local roads and assess any potential impacts of construction traffic on the local area. This has enabled RES to identify potential pinch points, bottle-necks, and areas which may require traffic management and will help in developing mitigation strategies. The data collected from the traffic surveys will be presented in the Traffic and Transport chapter of the extensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) that will accompany the planning application.

Should the project be consented, a detailed Traffic Management Plan would be developed and agreed with Scottish Borders Council in consultation with Police Scotland, setting out the steps that RES would take to help mitigate any potential impacts on local traffic and road users and ensure road safety. Some examples of measures that have been taken by RES on other construction projects include: introducing a reducing speed limit for project construction traffic along certain stretches of road; avoiding turbine deliveries between school-drop off and pick-up and/or rush-hours; delivering turbine components at night-time; and, agreeing certain 'routes to site' for daily construction traffic.

As part of the traffic assessment and data-gathering process RES has also commissioned turbine delivery-specific surveys - including swept path analysis along the proposed turbine delivery route as well as detailed assessment of the site access point with regard to visibility splays and safety requirements.

The abnormal load vehicles which deliver the longer turbine components (primarily blades and towers) are specialised multi-axle vehicles, some of which can raise their load height to clear walls and bridges) that are driven by experienced operators. These vehicles have a considerable ability to precisely navigate and manoeuvre along a wide range of roads. Should the project be consented, further detailed survey work and drive-throughs along the route will be undertaken by RES and the turbine haulier to assess any more challenging stretches of the delivery route and ensure that they can be safely navigated.

RES often establishes local Community Liaison Groups (CLGs) during the construction phase of a wind farm to support regular engagement with the local Community Councils and wider public - in addition to project communications and updates via local newsletters and the project website. This approach ensures that questions and concerns or opportunities can be raised to RES and encourages a constructive dialogue to ensure that the project is delivered with consideration to the local community.

RES' construction team has a wealth of experience in managing construction traffic, having built many wind farms within Scotland and across the UK and Ireland, and works closely with the local community to minimise disruption wherever possible. RES also has a strong track record for safety on its projects and within the company's culture. In fact, RES recently won Health and Safety Team of the Year at the 2022 Safety and Health Excellence (SHE) Awards.

6. INFRASTRUCTURE feedback

Approximately 11% of respondents provided comments on battery storage and the grid connection.

6.1 Key themes

The key themes and comments raised within the feedback were:

- **Battery storage:** more information on battery storage; concerns about safety - specifically fire risk.
- **Grid:** general comments and request for more information on where the wind farm will connect in to.

6.2 RES response to infrastructure feedback

The proposed BESS is anticipated to have a storage energy capacity of around 100MWh (megawatt hours). The BESS would help maximise generation capacity and efficiency of the proposal and further contribute to energy security. Full details of the scale and dimensions, minimum and maximum export capacity and a full assessment of the impacts and effects and all proposed mitigation will be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which will accompany the planning application.

The risk of fire at a BESS is low but will be considered and mitigated in the design of the storage general arrangement and consideration of the monitoring and fire suppression system. The BESS is optimised with appropriate container spacing to minimise the risk of propagation across the facility in the unlikely event of a fire. Additionally, fire breaks or spacing from forestry is designed again to minimise fire propagation. A battery management system is also implemented for continuous monitoring of the BESS through its lifetime. The containers housing the batteries typically include dry aerosol fire suppression solutions, favoured over water suppression, as they are successful at reaching all areas within containers and don't require a dedicated water supply.

RES has been advised by the Transmission Owner (TO) that the proposed wind farm will connect to the National Grid via a 132kV connection into Gala North, a new substation near Galashiels. The grid network operators are currently upgrading the grid infrastructure in the country and RES will be required to pay transmission connection charges to National Grid during operation of the wind farm for the grid connection. We have accepted a grid offer from the TO, in this case Scottish Power Transmission (SPT).

SPT, as the TO, is responsible for maintaining and investing in the grid in the south of Scotland. This includes designing connections for transmission grid applications, such as that for the Longcroft Wind Farm, and submitting the planning applications for these connections. As such, the grid route is subject to a separate planning application from the wind farm - and will be submitted as a separate Section 37 planning application under the Electricity Act by the TO once they have finalised their design.

Once the planning application for the grid route is submitted, there will be a consultation period undertaken by the TO during which details of the grid route and method will be available for the public to provide comment to the TO as part of the planning process. Indicative details of the anticipated route of the grid connection for the proposal will also be included by RES within the Proposed Development Description chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which will accompany the planning application for Longcroft Wind Farm.

7. ACOUSTICS feedback

Approximately 11% of respondents provided comments focused on acoustics.

7.1 Key theme

The key theme raised within the feedback concerned the potential acoustic impact of the wind farm.

7.2 RES response to acoustics feedback

The acoustic profile of the turbines is one of many important considerations that has been assessed and carefully managed as part of the site design. The design process will ensure that the project doesn't exceed the strict acoustic limits which will be set within the planning conditions should consent be granted. These limits correspond to existing background acoustic levels typical in the local area, which will control the wind farm acoustics in relation to nearby residential properties.

Operation and construction acoustic assessments and prediction are undertaken in accordance with the relevant standards, current assessment methodologies and best practice as determined by the regulatory bodies, which include Scottish Borders Council, the Scottish Government and the UK Institute of Acoustics.

In consultation with Scottish Borders Council, we have undertaken a background sound survey at a number of locations around the site to measure the existing background sound levels. The results of the background sound survey are being analysed by our acoustics team and will inform the setting of the sound immission limits for the operation of the wind farm. These limits will be agreed with the regulatory authority, and the site will be required to comply with these strict noise limits set within planning conditions.

The acoustic impact of the wind farm will be modelled and the output of this modelled work will be presented in the Acoustic Chapter of the extensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which will accompany the planning application. The Acoustic Chapter of the EIAR will demonstrate that RES has considered all appropriate measures in the design, construction, and operation phases to minimise the acoustic impact of the wind farm.

8. COMMUNITY BENEFITS feedback

Approximately 67% of respondents provided comments relating to the community benefit package that will become available should Longcroft Wind Farm be consented. As regards to whether RES' unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) should form a part of the tailored community benefits package for Longcroft Wind Farm, 61% responded 'yes', 3% responded 'no' and 17% responded 'maybe'. 19% of respondents didn't respond to this question.

8.1 Example comments

In response to the below question on the comments form, the following comments were received:

Q. Community benefit tends to focus on those Community Council areas closest to the proposal which host the site and/or infrastructure. What are your views on this approach for Longcroft?

- *"It would be good to employ local workers in the delivery of the project."*
- *"Benefit should be focussed on those adversely impacted in proportion to adverse impacts, not on CC boundaries."*
- *"Each household in the catchment of the site should benefit, as well as the communities."*
- *"Seems logical to me."*
- *"It seems right that local residents - and businesses - should benefit as they will have to deal with the upheaval during construction."*

In response to the below question on the comments form, the following suggestions were received:

Q. What ideas, local priorities, or community projects would you like to see benefitting from Longcroft Wind Farm, should it go ahead?

- “Rotary club, Lauder in Slam, Lauder Paths Network, Lauder Foodbank, LEDS Please!”
- “Giving out apprenticeships for local people”
- “School children, in particular outdoor learning of Lauder primary school”
- “Local groups and facilities getting support to upgrade their premises”

8.2 RES response to community benefits feedback

Should the project be consented, a community benefit package will be established to support the communities who host, and are closest to, the project.

RES is proposing a tailored package of benefits for the community from Longcroft Wind Farm that would be worth £5,000 per megawatt (or equivalent) of installed capacity per annum. Based on the current layout design and installed capacity of 125.4MW, this could equate to a tailored community benefit package for the local area worth £627,000 (or equivalent) each year.

We take a tailored approach and consult with the local community, both pre-planning and post-consent (should the project be granted planning permission), to gain an understanding of the local priorities and to seek suggestions for projects that will help to secure long-term economic, social and environmental benefits for the area. This approach ensures the community benefits package that is delivered is aligned with the priorities of the local community, which may involve initiatives that sit outside the parameters of a traditional application-based fund.

This package could include RES’ unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS), something that has received significant interest from the community as it delivers direct and tangible benefits through offering an annual discount to the electricity bills of those living and working closest to a participating operational wind farm.

Should the project receive consent, the area of benefit for Longcroft Wind Farm will be determined in consultation with locally elected representatives from the closest communities. It is important to note that voluntary community benefits are not a material planning consideration.

RES is also committed to ensuring that, wherever reasonably practicable, local contractors and employees are used in all aspects of wind farm development. Based on the updated design, the Longcroft Wind Farm proposal is predicted to deliver approximately £5.3 million of inward investment to the area in the form of jobs, employment, and use of local services during the development, construction and first year of operation.

9. EXHIBITION and GENERAL PROJECT feedback

RES included a multiple-choice question on the comments form that asked people to what extent they felt they had increased their knowledge of the Longcroft Wind Farm proposal having visited the exhibition. The breakdown of responses is as follows: 64% responded ‘quite a lot’; 5% responded ‘a lot’; 17% responded ‘a little’; 11% responded ‘very little’; and 3% responded ‘none at all’.

Approximately 30% of respondents provided specific comments on the exhibition events, for example: dissatisfaction with level of project information available; interest in how the project may be modified following consultation; and expertise of project team in attendance.

9.1 RES response to exhibition and general project feedback

We are grateful to everyone who provided feedback on the early stage design at the public exhibition events we held in May 2023 in the local area to engage with people on the proposal (and during the subsequent consultation period).

The purpose of this final suite of public exhibitions is to provide people with an opportunity to review the updated 19 wind turbine layout design, speak with the project team and ask any questions. Whilst the layout design is almost finalised, these events provide people with a further opportunity to submit written feedback again to RES on the updated layout design.

As well as updated layout design, infrastructure and constraints drawings, we have provided more information on aspects such as the on-site substation, grid connection, and proposed battery energy storage system (BESS).

Since the wind farm proposal first became public in March 2023, we have undertaken an extensive amount of technical and environmental site survey work. We have also considered feedback from a wide range of key consultees on the proposal including local Community Councils and Scottish Borders Council.

We are now at a stage where most of the site survey work is complete, the updated 19 wind turbine layout design is being refined and finalised, and the Environmental Impact Assessment (an extensive document which will accompany the planning application) is underway.

A Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report will also accompany the planning application submission. The report will summarise the exhibition events, communications activity that has been undertaken on the project and consultation feedback received.

Once the proposal is submitted into planning there will be an opportunity to submit formal comments on the proposal to the determining authority. The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit will hold a statutory consultation period whereupon members of the public, as well as statutory consultees, can submit their formal comments on the proposal. These representations will then be assessed against the proposal and a planning decision made by the determining authority in due course.

A copy of the key information presented at this exhibition, including an indicative timeline of the steps required to go through the planning process up to when the wind farm is expected to reach full operation, if consented, can also be found on the website at www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk together with contact details for the project team.