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# Pre-Application Consultation Report

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Scoop Hill Community  
Wind Farm

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November 2020

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## 1.1 The Proposal

### Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report has been prepared by CWL and the Applicant to accompany a Section 36 application for the Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm, situated in Dumfries and Galloway, located approximately 5km south east of Moffat and 11km north east of Lockerbie.
- 1.1.2 This report sets out the relevant national and local guidance on how to undertake community consultation and involvement as well as noting the approach that has been adopted to inform, advise and consult with the local residents in the communities surrounding the proposed wind farm development.
- 1.1.3 The report summarises the views of those consulted and outlines how Community Windpower Ltd and the Applicant has responded to comments made and how this has impacted the final design and submitted planning application.

### Project Description

- 1.1.4 Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm comprises of 75 wind turbines, associated access tracks, crane hardstands, three meteorological masts, substation/control room buildings and compound, together with temporary construction and storage compounds, a temporary substation construction compound and up to 14 temporary borrow pits. Energy Storage Facilities will also be constructed as part of this application to store the electrical energy generated by the wind farm.
- 1.1.5 Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm will have a typical installed capacity of 525 Megawatts (MW), utilising turbines with maximum blade tip heights of 250 metres (m), 225m, 200 and 180m.

## 1.2 The Applicant/Developer

- 1.2.1 The Applicant is CWL Energy Limited, which is a sister company to Community Windpower Limited (CWL). CWL Energy Limited will be the company for which the Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm will be developed, constructed and operated by however for sake of clarity, CWL will be making the application on behalf of CWL Energy Limited. Therefore, the PAC report and EIAR will subsequently reference CWL in its documentation.
- 1.2.2 Formed in 2001, CWL is a Scottish focused independent UK renewable energy company working closely with local communities to build onshore wind farms that can provide tangible economic, educational and environmental benefits to whole communities and local schools.
- 1.2.3 CWL believe in an open and consultative approach with our host communities during the development stage of a wind farm project and during all stages of the planning process. By learning from our development, construction and operation of medium scale wind farms in Scotland, we are able to use our extensive knowledge and experience to design sites that are sympathetic to local landscapes and can provide generation to meet both local and Scottish energy needs.
- 1.2.4 Currently CWL have seven operational wind farms in Scotland, totalling 221.25 MW:
- Dalry Community Wind Farm in North Ayrshire which has a generating capacity of 18MW and became operational in June 2006;

- Aikengall Community Wind Farm in East Lothian which has a generating capacity of 48MW and became operational in March 2009;
- Millour Hill Community Wind Farm in North Ayrshire which has a generating capacity of 18MW and became operational in the summer of 2012;
- Calder Water Community Wind Farm in South Lanarkshire which has a generating capacity of 39MW and became operational in December 2013;
- Millour Hill Extension in North Ayrshire which has a generating capacity of 6.4MW and became operational in January 2016;
- Aikengall II (Wester Dod) Community Wind Farm in East Lothian which has a generating capacity of 60.8MW and became operational in November 2017; and
- Sanquhar Community Wind Farm in Dumfries and Galloway which has a generating capacity of 31.05MW, completed construction in December 2017 and became operational in March 2018.

1.2.5 CWL has a further three consented windfarms in Scotland totalling 123.5 MW:

- Sneddon Law Community Wind Farm in East Ayrshire which will have a generating capacity of 30MW;
- Sanquhar 'Six' Community Wind Farm in Dumfries and Galloway which will have a generating capacity of 18MW; and
- Aikengall IIa Community Wind Farm in East Lothian which will have a generating capacity of 75.5MW.

1.2.6 CWL have also submitted two planning applications under Section 36 of The Electricity Act 1989 for:

- Sanquhar II Community Wind Farm located on the border of Dumfries and Galloway and East Ayrshire. The proposal comprises of 44 turbines and a generating capacity of 308MW; and
- Faw Side Community Wind Farm located on the border of Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders. The proposal comprises of 45 turbines and a generating capacity of 315MW.

### **1.3 Planning Policy and Guidance**

1.3.1 As the Scoop Hill scheme has a total installed capacity greater than 50 MW, an application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 must be submitted to Scottish Ministers.

1.3.2 Part 13, 3 (a) of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 advises that where a Section 36 application is received by Scottish Ministers, the developer is obliged to inform:

*“(i) the consultation bodies; and  
(ii) any other public body which the Scottish Ministers consider is likely to have an interest in the proposed development by reason of that body’s specific environmental responsibilities or local and regional competencies”.*

1.3.3 Part 2, 7 (1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 details the consultation that is required for a proposed application:

*“The prospective applicant is to consult as respects a proposed application every community council any part of whose area is within or adjoins the land where the proposed development is situated and in doing so is to give a copy of the proposal of application notice to the community council.”*

1.3.4 Part 2, 7 (2) further states:

*“The prospective applicant is to hold at least one public event where members of the public may make comments to the prospective applicant as regards the proposed development; and publish in a local newspaper circulating in the locality in which the proposed development is situated a notice”.*

1.3.5 PAN 3/2010 Community Engagement details the National Standards for Community Engagement and provides the basic principles for effective community engagement, particularly within the planning system. It states:

- *“Community Engagement must be meaningful and proportionate;*
- *Community Engagement must happen at an early stage to influence the shape of plans and proposals;*
- *It is essential for people or interest groups to get involved in the preparation of development plans as this is where decisions on the strategy, for growth or protection, are made.”*

## **1.4 Community Consultation**

1.4.1 CWL are committed to working with the host communities in the area surrounding the Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm to create a project which is mutually beneficial.

1.4.2 CWL believe in an open and consultative approach with local host communities from the outset of a development and engage with Local Authorities, Community Councils, communities, consultees and key stakeholders in the surrounding area of the wind farm proposal.

1.4.3 Consultation with local communities was initiated at the earliest viable opportunity when the project entered the public domain and was scoped with the Scottish Government, which was in May 2019. This engagement has continued despite the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020 at which time Government restrictions meant all public meetings were prohibited as the UK was ‘locked down’, therefore consultation was conducted via alternative methods which enable remote and electronic networking. The following paragraphs outline the engagement activities that CWL implemented until such restrictions were set in place, and the subsequent forms of community consultation following the implementation of the restrictions.

1.4.4 Community consultation, which initially began in May 2019 for the Scoop Hill proposal, has involved the following activities and forms of communication:

- Consultation and meetings with local Community Councils and local residents;

- A dedicated project webpage on the CWL website which has been maintained to provide project updates and links to project documents;
- Posters displayed in local public areas to advertise the upcoming Public Exhibitions in 2019. Posters were also issued to Community Councils and updates sent to those who had provided CWL with their contact details and given permission to be contacted directly;
- Newspaper adverts placed to aid with the advertising of the forthcoming Public Exhibitions. These were advertised in local newspapers including the Annandale Herald and Dumfries and Galloway Standard.
- Events were advertised across CWL's social media sites and the company website;
- Public Exhibitions were held in the local area to provide an opportunity for residents from the local host communities to view and make comment on the wind farm proposals, ask questions etc. in order to inform the final design of the overall wind farm;
- Responses regarding public concerns and Frequently Asked Questions have been issued directly to local communities and residents as requested;
- Creation of a project web-site dedicated solely to the Scoop Hill Wind Farm proposal which describes the proposal in more detail and contains a 'Frequently Asked Questions' page which is regularly updated;
- An on-line video and presentation describing the revised proposal including information which would have been used for the second round of Public Exhibitions that were prevented due to the COVID-19 lockdown. This is available via the Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm website ([www.scoophillwindfarm.scot](http://www.scoophillwindfarm.scot));
- Email communications with Community Councils and updates via the CWL and Scoop Hill websites.

## 1.5 Community Council Meetings

### Methodology

- 1.5.1 The Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm proposal is located within the Annandale North Ward in Dumfries and Galloway. The Community Councils that were consulted as part of this application are detailed below:
- Eskdalemuir Community Council;
  - Johnstonebridge Community Council;
  - Kirkpatrick and Juxta Community Council;
  - Moffat Community Council;
  - North Milk Community Council; and
  - Wamphray Community Council.
- 1.5.2 Communication and consultation has taken place throughout the development process from when it commenced in May 2019 through to the submission of this application in Summer 2020. CWL and the Applicant are both aware of the importance of inclusive consultation with local communities and for this reason extended the consultation to Kirkpatrick Juxta Community Council in January 2020, who previously had been missed off the Energy Consent Unit consultee list.
- 1.5.3 Consultation with all six Community Councils will continue throughout the planning application process and further correspondence and meetings are to be held either via video, telephone or in person when restrictions are lifted.

## Meetings Attended and Held

### 2019 – First Round of Community Council Meetings

- 1.5.4 CWL attended the Eskdalemuir Community Council meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and the North Milk Community Council meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019, to provide additional information on the wind farm proposal and an indication of its progression and development, with regard to the surveys being undertaken as part of the EIA. The Community Council members were also given the opportunity to ask the Applicant's representatives questions about the proposal, and to provide any relevant feedback or suggestions to be considered as part of the ongoing iterative design of the proposal.

### 2020 – Second Round of Community Council Meetings

- 1.5.5 On the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020, CWL hosted a joint Community Council meeting with representatives from Eskdalemuir, Johnstonebridge, Kirkpatrick Juxta, Moffat, North Milk and Wamphray Community Councils, to discuss how the proposal had evolved since the Public Exhibitions held in 2019 and how the wind farm design had been influenced by the comments from the local community. This was an exclusive opportunity for all the Community Councils representatives to receive a comprehensive update about the proposal. The joint meeting enabled the representatives of the Community Councils to collectively ask questions, air concerns and express opinions. Draft layouts of the wind farm and draft photomontages were displayed for the Community Council representatives to view so that the attendees could see what the proposed development would look like from a range of viewpoints. The photomontages were produced and printed in line with NatureScot guidance and presented in such a way that the attendees could collectively view and discuss the images.
- 1.5.6 This first meeting was then followed by a series of separate meetings where CWL representatives attended the regular Community Council meetings, which members of the public could attend as well and ask questions. At these meetings, a PowerPoint presentation was given, detailing the revised scheme and draft visualisations provided. A copy of the Community Council PowerPoint presentation can be found in Appendix 4. Table 1 summarises the dates of each Community Council meeting and the issues discussed.
- 1.5.7 Further meetings were scheduled with North Milk and Eskdalemuir Community Councils on the 17/03/2020 and the 19/03/2020 respectively. However, COVID 19 related concerns meant it was jointly agreed that these meetings should be cancelled. Further information regarding the measures taken following the implementation of COVID-19 restrictions can be found in section 1.7.

**Table 1 - Meetings with Community Councils during 2020**

Community Council	Date of Meeting	Points arising from meeting
Wamphray	24/02/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about the size of turbine</li> <li>• Queries about the removal of forestry and how compensatory planting works.</li> <li>• The size of site and number of turbines in comparison to third party wind farm sites.</li> <li>• What happens when it comes to decommissioning?</li> <li>• Questions about whether the cabling to the substation will be under or above ground.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is noise pollution calculated and stopped from being a subjective assessment.</li> <li>• Whether turbines had any impact on human health or mobile phone usage.</li> <li>• More detail wanted on the access routes.</li> <li>• Queries as to whether CWL will upgrade roads in the area that are already in a state of disrepair.</li> </ul>
Moffat	25/02/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why the site was chosen as members of the public believe that the Dumfries and Galloway area is already saturated with wind farms.</li> <li>• Whether other forms of renewable energy could be used instead of wind turbines.</li> <li>• Wanted information about where the turbines will come from and about why a manufacturer is not already agreed.</li> <li>• Concern about the turbine lighting given the dark sky status in Moffat.</li> <li>• Wanted to know if CWL knew about the dark sky status and how they plan to reduce impact of lit turbines on the area.</li> <li>• Will the wind farm create local weather changes?</li> <li>• Wanted some examples of the benefits they will see personally in the area, not just money going to the community councils.</li> </ul>
Johnstonebridge	02/03/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More information on the timescale for deliveries to site during the construction period.</li> <li>• Queries about the visibility of turbines from the motorway or the village itself.</li> <li>• Wanted more information on the community benefit fund and when they would start to receive the money.</li> <li>• Could CWL help reduce the energy price for the people in the local area and why don't energy providers reduce energy tariffs now more green energy is being used.</li> <li>• Do CWL leave roads in a good condition after construction?</li> <li>• How the scheme could benefit businesses?</li> <li>• Concerns about what makes the scheme consentable and feasible.</li> <li>• How CWL can advertise their meetings in the future so more people are aware of the submission.</li> </ul>
Kirk Patrick Juxta	11/03/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Queries about the community benefit fund and whether energy agreements will be available for the residents.</li> <li>• How will the onsite substation be connected to the Moffat substation?</li> <li>• Concern about Moffat becoming an Eagle town and there being so many turbines in the area.</li> <li>• Other developers have had MOD issues.</li> <li>• Timescales for the scheme to be consented and construction to begin.</li> <li>• Distance to nearest turbines from Beattock.</li> <li>• Access options.</li> <li>• The removal of subsidies for wind farms and how that impacts a scheme.</li> </ul>

## Feedback

- 1.5.8 Consultation with the host Community Councils has been useful in order to discuss the proposal and receive constructive comments. The Community Councils were always grateful for CWL's consultation with them. The most notable questions raised following the discussion of the proposal can be summarised as:
- Questions about the number and height of turbines;
  - Which properties have been selected for noise monitoring, and why only these properties?
  - Which way will the site be accessed? Are alternative access routes being considered?
  - Where is the substation located and how will the grid connection be made?
  - What are the hydrological impacts of the scheme, especially regarding private water supplies and flooding in the Dryfe water head?
- 1.5.9 The specific comments and concerns raised by local residents have been very insightful, and all have been taken into account during the iterative and thorough design process undertaken by CWL. Comments relating to the visual aspect of the proposal have been considered in detail which has led to several turbines being either removed or relocated, along with changes to the turbine tip heights across the entire site, with the majority being reduced in height.
- 1.5.10 When any queries were raised, they were either addressed directly at that time, or where this was not possible, they have been addressed as part of the FAQ consultation process and added to the dedicated Scoop Hill Wind Farm website, and/or in the subsequent Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which accompanies the planning application to the ECU.

## 1.6 Public Exhibitions

- 1.6.1 Public Exhibitions were held in 2019 to provide local residents and local stakeholders with an early opportunity to obtain further information about the proposed wind farm development.
- 1.6.2 Details of the 2019 Public Exhibitions are outlined below in Table 2.

**Table 2 – 2019 Public Exhibition Details.**

Date and Time	Venue
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2019 16.00 – 19.00	Boreland Village Hall, Boreland
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2019 10.00 – 14.00	Moffat Town Hall, Moffat
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2019 16.00 – 19.00	Wamphray Village Hall, Wamphray

- 1.6.3 The exhibitions were held in convenient locations within the Community Council areas at suitable times taking into consideration those constrained by working hours.
- 1.6.4 The Public Exhibitions were advertised in the Annandale Herald and the Dumfries and Galloway Standard, at least 10 days prior to the date of the exhibitions. A copy of the advertisement can be found in Appendix 1. Leaflets and posters detailing the events were also displayed in local shops and public buildings to advertise the exhibitions.

- 1.6.5 The Public Exhibitions gave residents the opportunity to view the proposal, learn more about the survey work required, obtain details about the community benefits and ask any questions they had about the scheme.
- 1.6.6 A series of display boards presented details of the following aspects of the proposal:
- Introduction to CWL and their operational wind farms;
  - Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm proposal and project details, including a site layout plan and a copy of the Scoping Report;
  - Information on the existing Community Benefits provided to the host communities of CWL's existing Scottish onshore wind farm projects;
  - Information on CWL's investment in Scotland and their 'Buy Scottish' policy; and
  - The next steps of the Scoop Hill project.
- 1.6.7 Copies of the posters displayed on the exhibition boards are included in Appendix 2 and copies of the site layout plans which were also displayed at the Public Exhibitions are available in Appendix 3.
- 1.6.8 A range of leaflets were also available at the exhibitions for visitors to take away, including leaflets detailing information about CWL, for example our Commitment to Scotland and existing community involvement initiatives.
- 1.6.9 Several CWL representatives attended the exhibitions to assist with any queries from members of the public, in particular regarding:
- Who are CWL and their previous experience of developing wind farms;
  - The survey work being carried out as part of the development;
  - The proposed project timeline of the wind farm;
  - The proposed Community Benefits;
  - How local businesses would benefit from development of the wind farm; and
  - The proposed access routes and traffic flows.
- 1.6.10 Furthermore, during the Public Exhibitions, visitors had the opportunity to suggest their preferred form of community benefit funding. This proved to be most useful in gaining information on local projects which may require funding in the future and will meet the needs of the community as a whole. Visitors were also provided with CWL's contact information, should they wish to suggest any additional community benefits or community projects following the exhibitions.
- 1.6.11 A Visitors Book was provided for people to leave more detailed comments regarding the proposed scheme. Visitors were also encouraged to leave their contact details if they wished to be kept informed of the scheme's future progress or be sent any additional information as it became available.
- 1.6.12 A second round of Public Exhibitions was due to take place on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020, with the newspaper adverts booked in the two newspapers, posters displayed, and Community Councils and local residents fully informed of the planned exhibitions. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions being implemented the Public Exhibitions had to be cancelled.

## 1.7 COVID-19 and CWL's Virtual Public Exhibition

- 1.7.1 Due to the Government restrictions imposed as part of COVID-19 in March 2020, Community Windpower was unable to attend the Community Council meetings with North Milk (17<sup>th</sup> March) and Eskdalemuir (19<sup>th</sup> March) Community Councils and were also unable to host the scheduled second round of Public Exhibitions.
- 1.7.2 Four Public Exhibitions were arranged to take place in Boreland, Johnstonebridge, Moffat and Wamphray, from Tuesday 31st March until Thursday 2nd April. These exhibitions were postponed indefinitely. However, consultation was still required to inform the local communities of the revised proposal, to seek further feedback on the scheme, prior to the finalisation of everything to enable it to progress to a formal S36 application.
- 1.7.3 Therefore, in the absence of these Public Exhibitions, Community Windpower prepared a short film and presentation which contained all the information which would have been on display at the exhibitions, if they had taken place. The film was emailed directly to the Community Councils on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020, and it was also uploaded to the Scoop Hill Wind Farm website.
- 1.7.4 Community Windpower appreciates that engagement is a vital part of the development process and therefore we will continue to maintain dialogue with the Community Councils via electronic methods such as telephone conference calls, video calls and by email. When the COVID-19 restrictions are eventually lifted, it is hoped that Public Exhibitions will be held, subject to Government restrictions, to provide communities the opportunity to view the submitted application documents.
- 1.7.5 A copy of the film produced by CWL can be found at: <https://www.scoophillwindfarm.co.uk/>
- 1.7.6 In addition, the FAQ page which was created to answer some of the most common questions in relation to the proposal is also available by using the link above, and this is updated regularly following the submission of questions about the proposal.

## 1.8 Feedback from Public Exhibitions

- 1.8.1 Feedback from the Public Exhibitions held in July 2019 has helped to inform the proposed scheme and layout.
- 1.8.2 The majority of people attending the exhibitions were interested in the proposal and wanted further clarification on the process of Section 36 applications. This included requests for further information on the proposed submission date of the application to the Energy Consents Unit.
- 1.8.3 Many attendees expressed positive attitudes and comments towards wind farms. Most visitors recognised that climate change is an increasingly important issue and expressed concern about its effects and were in favour of using renewable energy as an alternative energy source to fossil fuels. Some visitors noted the existence of open pit coal mines in the area and the detrimental impacts which followed during both their operation and closure. The comments raised either in conversation, on questionnaires or written in the Visitors Book, at each Public Exhibition are summarised below:

### **Feedback from the Event at Boreland Village Hall**

- 1.8.4 **Summary:** Feedback from the event held in Boreland mainly consisted of issues such as Forestry, Hydrology, Ecology, Archaeology, Traffic and Transport and how the wind farm will look.

- 1.8.5 **Cultural Heritage:** Members of the community raised concerns over scoping layout turbines T52-T55 and their proximity to the Dryfe Archaeologically Sensitive Area (ASA).
- 1.8.6 **CWL Response:** recognise that the ASA has a number of Scheduled ancient monuments and there is the potential for other undiscovered cultural heritage assets. In light of the concerns raised, these turbines were removed from proposal.
- 1.8.7 **Turbine Size:** Some members of the community expressed concern that turbines T52-T55 would be an overbearing presence on the village of Boreland and some of the more sensitive receptors such as the village Church.
- 1.8.8 **CWL Response:** In order to address these concerns, turbines T57, T58, T10 and T09 have been relocated further North into the centre of the development. In addition, turbines within 6km of the village have been reduced in height to 200m, a reduction of 40m.
- 1.8.9 **Flood Risk:** Comments from those residing in the Dryfe valley focussed on the persistent flooding that can occur following periods of heavy rain. Residents expressed concerns that felling of commercial forestry to accommodate the wind farm could lead to an exacerbation of flooding.
- 1.8.10 **CWL Response:** Experienced hydrological consultants at Natural Power have conducted a flood risk assessment the results of which are captured in part of Section 10 of the EIA. Also, CWL will only be key-hole felling the necessary forestry not clear felling meaning that a lot of the current forestry will be left in place. More information about this method and how much forestry will need to be felled can be found in Section 13 of the EIA.
- 1.8.11 **Traffic Movements:** Members of the community also expressed concerns regarding traffic movements associated with the development and that access to the site, associated with the wind farms construction, would be via the centre of Boreland.
- 1.8.12 **CWL Response:** Traffic will avoid Boreland centre. Full details of the proposed construction traffic routes are presented in Section 12 of the EIA.

#### **Feedback from the Event at Wamphray Village Hall**

- 1.8.13 **Summary:** Feedback from the event held in Wamphray was predominantly positive. Community members recognised that the wind farm would bring significant investment and employment opportunities into the local area.
- 1.8.14 **Height and Location of Turbines:** some members of the local community expressed concerns relating to the height of the turbines and their proximity to residential dwellings.
- 1.8.15 **CWL Response:** CWL will re-visit the design of the wind farm and the purpose of the exhibitions is to gain an understanding of such concerns. CWL have addressed some of these concerns by relocating T62 further away from residential dwellings, and the height of turbines closest to Wamphray have been reduced from 240m to tip down to 200m to tip.
- 1.8.16 **Cumulative Impact:** Some concern was raised over cumulative issues with the operational Harestanes and Minnygap wind farms on the Western side of the A74(M).
- 1.8.17 **CWL Response:** A cumulative assessment has been completed as part of Section 6 and the Volume III Visualisations, as well as for all the other environmental impact assessments required for the EIA.

### **Feedback from the Event at Moffat Town Hall**

- 1.8.18 **Summary:** Opinions from those attending the Moffat Town Hall exhibition were mixed. Some residents were positive about the economic benefits arising from the proposed development and the generation of clean electricity whilst others were interested in how it would appear, and what the night-time aviation lighting would be like.
- 1.8.19 **Ornithology:** Some members of the community expressed concerns over the potential detrimental impact the proposal would have on Golden Eagles.
- 1.8.20 **CWL Response:** Two years of ornithology surveys have been undertaken with a methodology approved by NatureScot and RSPB, the results of these surveys with an impact assessment on all ornithology has been conducted and is presented in Section 7 of the EIAR.
- 1.8.21 **Turbine Lighting:** Turbine Aviation Lighting was another source of concern due to Moffat being a 'Dark Skies Town'.
- 1.8.22 **CWL Response:** CWL recognises the importance of Moffat being a 'Dark Skies Town' and they are working with aviation consultants and the Civil Aviation Authority to reach a viable mitigation solution. This is expected to include 'radar activated lighting' mitigation, which will reduce the requirement for turbine lighting by up to 98% thereby minimising potential impacts.
- 1.8.23 **Tourism:** Some members of the community raised concerns that their businesses would be impacted by the operation of the wind farm and its impacts on a number of tourist routes.
- 1.8.24 **CWL Response:** The design of the wind farm has taken this into account. T78 (scoping layout) was removed from the design in order to reduce impact on the Southern Upland Way. Furthermore, the proposed design has applied a turbine separation distance of at least turbine tip height from core paths.
- 1.8.25 **Visual Impact:** Some members of the local community expressed concerns relating to the height of the turbines and their visual impact on residential dwellings.
- 1.8.26 **CWL Response:** In order to reduce this impact, T78 was removed and T77, T75, T74 and T75 have been lowered by 60m to 180m Tip.

### **General Comments**

- 1.8.27 Several other queries were also raised during the Public Exhibitions:
- How much carbon would the wind farm save during its lifetime?
  - How much carbon would be released to build the wind farm?
  - How much forestry felling would be required for the wind farm?
  - What are the impacts on the hydrological regime in the area?
  - How efficient are wind turbines?
  - What happens after 40 years?
  - How would the community benefits be split?
- 1.8.28 Many members of the communities we engaged were interested in what community benefits package would be offered. It was raised by some members that in conjunction with a benefit fund for each community, community assets could also be explored. These included:

- Broadband;
- Projects to promote social inclusion;
- Creating employment and apprenticeship opportunities within local job markets;
- Outreach education programmes;
- Upskilling young adults;
- Improved public transportation;
- Local day care service for the elderly; and
- Developing the area for tourism by promoting cycling, hill walking and horse riding in the local area.

1.8.29 Additionally, a valid suggestion was made regarding the provision of electricity grants or discounts for locals in the immediate vicinity of the proposed wind farm. This is an option CWL is currently investigating, to establish whether the residents directly adjacent to the scheme would be interested in entering into energy agreements.

### **Local Residents**

1.8.30 Throughout the course of the wind farm development process, CWL have also responded directly to, and held additional meetings with, local residents to answer any queries or concerns they have in relation to the proposed wind farm development. This dialogue will continue throughout all stages of the Scoop Hill development, as required by the residents.

## **1.9 Community Benefits**

1.9.1 As a company, the Applicant and CWL are extremely proud to support a wide variety of local events, community groups, schools, charities and community initiatives as part of the community benefits packages from the company's seven operational wind farms.

1.9.2 Up to the end of April 2020, CWL have donated over £5 million to the host communities of CWL's portfolio of Scottish onshore wind farm projects.

1.9.3 During the operation of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm, it is proposed that CWL will provide funding for local community projects, which support the economic, environmental and social requirements of residents, community groups, schools and community-focused initiatives throughout the 40-year operational lifetime of the project.

1.9.4 Community Benefit funding and the provision of Community Assets has been discussed during the Community council meetings, at the Public Exhibitions and incorporated into the film, with various comments and suggestions provided.

1.9.5 The suggestions for community assets provided during the Public Exhibitions have been considered and further consultation will be held during the whole planning process with Community Councils, local schools, community members and existing Development Trusts and similar organisations. This is to inform the appropriate form and distribution of community benefit funding and the development and commencement of community assets amongst the host communities, should the wind farm gain planning consent.

## 1.10 Conclusion

- 1.10.1 CWL believe in an open and consultative approach with local communities during the development stage of the wind farm project and prior to the submission of a planning application. We are experienced in designing wind farms that are appropriately sited to local landscapes and can provide generation to meet local and Scottish energy needs.
- 1.10.2 CWL have undertaken extensive community consultation regarding Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm which initially commenced in May 2019. The community consultation has involved actively engaging with the local community throughout the scoping, final site design and planning process so far, to ensure constructive consultation. This has helped CWL to clearly understand and address any concerns as the project developed and has positively informed the final proposal which is presented in the S36 application.
- 1.10.3 CWL has endeavoured to find alternative means of communicating with communities and local residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, which included the creation of a key information film that details much of the final proposal that would have been shared at the planned Public Exhibitions. The Applicant will aim to host a series of Public Exhibitions where communities are welcome to come and discuss the EIAR and the submitted documents, once it has been deemed safe to do so by the Scottish Government.
- 1.10.4 Where appropriate, the Applicant and CWL have responded to all comments or concerns raised and have considered these when shaping the final proposal, with certain matters addressed and noted within the EIAR.
- 1.10.5 In conclusion, the consultation process has resulted in a high quality proposal being put forward to the Scottish Government for determination, which would provide a substantial contribution towards Scotland's renewable energy targets and carbon reductions in a bid to reduce the effects of climate change, as well as delivering significant investment to Scotland and the local host communities during the construction phase and the operational life of the wind farm.

## References

The Scottish Government (2017) The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (Online) Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/101/made> [Accessed March 2020]

The Scottish Government (2013) The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Online) Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2013/155/made> [Accessed March 2020]

The Scottish Government (2010) PAN 3/2010 Community Engagement (Online) Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/planning-advice-note-3-2010-community-engagement/> [Accessed March 2020]

## Appendix 1

### Public Exhibition Advertisement

Advertisement featured in Annandale Herald and D&G Standard (July 11<sup>th</sup> – July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019)



# Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm

## Public Exhibitions for the proposed wind farm will be held at:

VENUE	DATE	TIME
Boreland Village Hall	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	16:00 – 19:00
Moffat Town Hall	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	10:00 – 14:00
Wamphray Village Hall	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	16:00 – 19:00

**This is an opportunity for local residents to learn more about the proposal and to discuss the scoping report.**

**Everyone is welcome and Community Windpower will be available to answer questions.**

**For further information, telephone 01928 734544  
or email [projects@communitywindpower.co.uk](mailto:projects@communitywindpower.co.uk)**

**[www.communitywindpower.co.uk](http://www.communitywindpower.co.uk)**

## Appendix 2

### Copies of Posters Displayed at the Public Exhibitions



**Community Windpower**

We are Scotland's leading independent community focused wind energy developer and operator.

Formed in 2001, we have a strong dedication to providing tangible economic, educational and environmental benefits to our local host communities and their economies.

We specialise in the development, construction and operation of onshore wind farms and believe in an open and transparent approach with all stakeholders during the various stages of planning and development.

Our team of engineers, environmental professionals and technical analysts have many years of experience in renewable energy and are proud to be making significant carbon savings and improvements in energy efficiency through our wind energy projects in Scotland.

**Our Operational Wind Farms**

Dalry Community Wind Farm (North Ayrshire) 6 turbines, 18 MW

Aikengall Community Wind Farm (East Lothian) 16 turbines, 48 MW

Aikengall II Community Wind Farm (East Lothian) 19 turbines, 60.8MW

Millour Hill Community Wind Farm (North Ayrshire) 6 turbines, 18 MW

Calder Water Community Wind Farm (South Lanarkshire) 13 turbines, 39 MW

Millour Hill Extension (North Ayrshire) 2 turbines, 6.4 MW

Sanquhar Community Wind Farm (Dumfries and Galloway) 9 turbines, 32.4MW

June 2019



# Community Involvement

CWL is committed to consulting and working with the local community from an early stage. The proposed Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm will offer a substantial community benefits package to the local host communities. Below are some examples of things we have done in the past at our seven operational wind farms:

## BeGreen Energy Advice Centres

A unique initiative developed by Community Windpower to help local communities to reduce domestic carbon emissions, reduce fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency with the aim of becoming Carbon Neutral with top up grants for:

- Solar Panels;
- Insulating under floors or internal and external walls;
- Draught proofing your windows and doors;
- Upgrading old inefficient storage heaters.

## Creation of jobs for local people

Through our current wind farms we employ an Educational Ranger, two Energy Advisors and an Energy Assessor. We also create jobs for wind turbine engineers;

## Educational Support

Community Windpower have Memorandum of Understandings (MoU's) with many schools across Scotland. The MoU confirms our commitment to providing educational support and funding to local schools. Examples include;

- Gardening days;
- Educational presentations/workshops; and
- Guided tours of wind farms

## Local Events

Over the years we have provided sponsorship and donations towards many community events including Agricultural shows, Gala's, Christmas lights, Summer fayres;



## How can Scoop Hill help your community?

As part of the planning application, we would like to commit to supporting community projects or initiatives. Therefore if you have any existing projects which need assistance please speak to our team members or email [projects@communitywindpower.co.uk](mailto:projects@communitywindpower.co.uk)

[www.communitywindpower.co.uk](http://www.communitywindpower.co.uk)



# Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm

## Current work and next steps:

-  Review the Scoping Opinion from the Scottish Government along with all Scoping comments from consultees and key stakeholders;
-  Continue community consultation with local communities, community councils and local residents;
-  Review the comments and feedback received through our community consultation process and from the public exhibitions;
-  Maintain correspondence and engagement with all key consultees, including the Local Authorities, Energy Consents Unit, SNH, SEPA and HES;
-  Undertake the Environmental Impact Assessments and review their findings and recommendations;
-  Review and finalise the wind farm proposal, including the number and height of turbines, their locations, on-site infrastructure including access tracks, turbine tip heights, borrow pits, construction compounds and meteorological masts.
-  Hold further public exhibitions and meetings with local communities upon final site design;
-  Finalise the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Planning Application;
-  Submit the application to the Energy Consents Unit at the Scottish Government.



[www.communitywindpower.co.uk](http://www.communitywindpower.co.uk)

# Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm



A Scoping report was issued to the Energy Consents unit (ECU) in May 2019. An official Scoping Opinion is due back from the ECU in August 2019, along with copies of all the Scoping comments from the various key stakeholders and consultees.

## Site Location

Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm is located in Dumfries and Galloway, approximately 5km south east of Moffat.

## Wind Farm Layout

Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm has been assessed through an iterative design process to date. The scoping layout for Scoop Hill consists of up to 80 wind turbines, with a potential generating capacity of up to 560 MW of clean, green electricity. The proposed wind farm would be a significant contribution towards meeting Scotland's renewable energy and climate change targets, including the reduction of carbon emissions of 70% by 2030 the net-zero target for 2045.

The Scoping Report also includes energy storage and solar power as additional elements to be included as part of the proposal.

Final details of the turbine specifications, tip heights, and turbine locations will be presented in due course as informed by the conclusion of the Scoping Opinion, Environmental Impact Assessments and their recommendations, and thorough consultation with consultees, local communities and local residents.

## Environmental Benefits

Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm would contribute to achieving Scotland's renewable energy and climate change targets by providing up to 560MW of green clean energy and offsetting more than 1,000,000 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide per annum during its operational lifetime.

## Economic Benefits

Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm will provide community benefits during the lifetime of the wind farm however this will be discussed in detail directly with the local host communities and the Community Councils. The proposed wind farm development will also create new employment opportunities and support local businesses through Community Windpower's 'Buy Scottish' Policy.

June 2019





# Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm

## Public Exhibition Here Today

**Please come inside to find out  
more about our proposal.**

# Our Project Pipeline



## Consented & Under Construction Wind Farms

**Sneddon Law Community Wind Farm**  
(East Ayrshire)  
15 turbines, 30 MW

**Sanquhar 'Six' Community Wind Farm**  
(Dumfries and Galloway)  
6 turbines, 18 MW

**Aikengall Ila Community Wind Farm**  
(East Lothian and Scottish Borders),  
19 turbines, 75.5 MW

## In Development

**Sanquhar II Community Wind Farm** (Dumfries and Galloway) 50 turbines, 350 MW

**Faw Side Community Wind Farm**  
(Dumfries & Galloway and Scottish Borders)  
45 turbines, 315 MW

**Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm**  
(Dumfries & Galloway)  
80 turbines, 580 MW

**Cliffhope Community Wind Farm** (Scottish Borders)  
46 turbines, 322 MW



## Follow us on Social Media



@CWL\_BeGreen



@CommunityWindpower



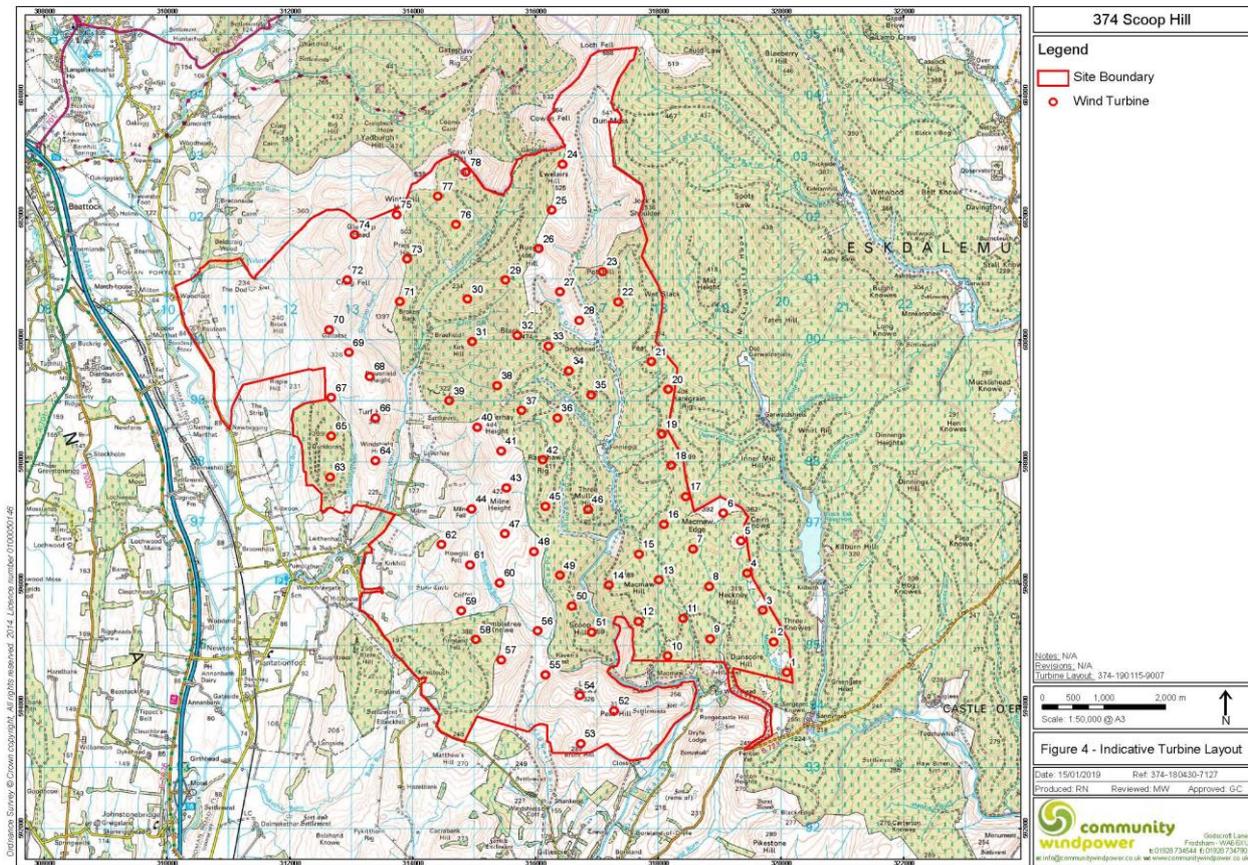
@CWL\_BeGreen

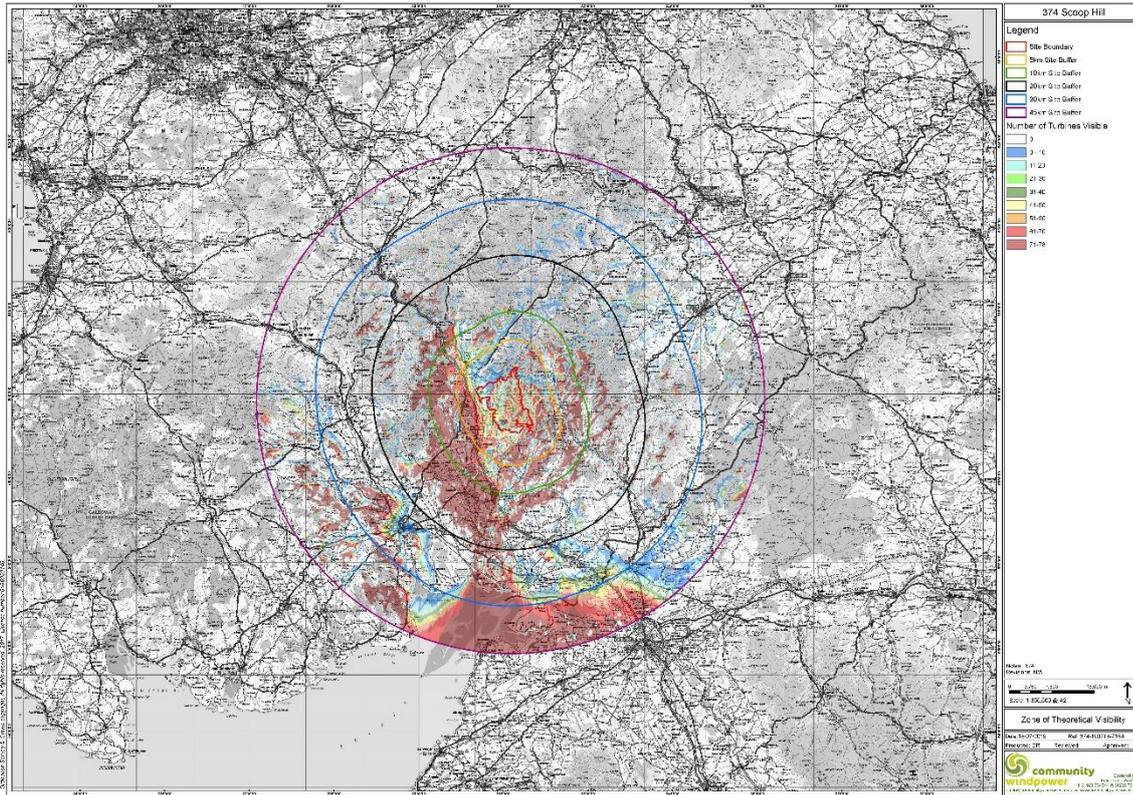
[www.communitywindpower.co.uk](http://www.communitywindpower.co.uk)

June 2019

# Appendix 3

## Copies of Plans Displayed at the Public Exhibitions





## Appendix 4



# Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm

Stephen Milburn & Rebecca Elliott

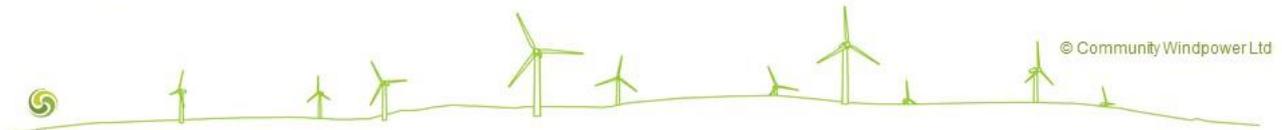
2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020



## About Community Windpower Ltd



- Established in 2001, Community Windpower Ltd (CWL) is at the forefront of wind energy development in the UK with over 1GW built, under construction and in development.
- To date CWL have seven operational wind farms, three consented wind farms pre-construction and a further three schemes in the planning system.
- CWL develop, construct, own and operate all our wind farms from inception to decommissioning.
- Total investment in Scotland to date of £300m, increasing to £700m by 2020 and £2bn by 2022.



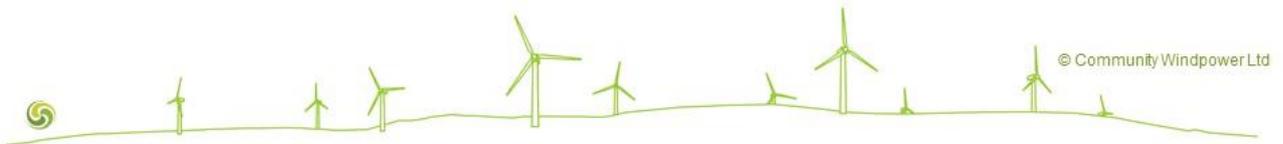
## Climate Change & Renewable Energy

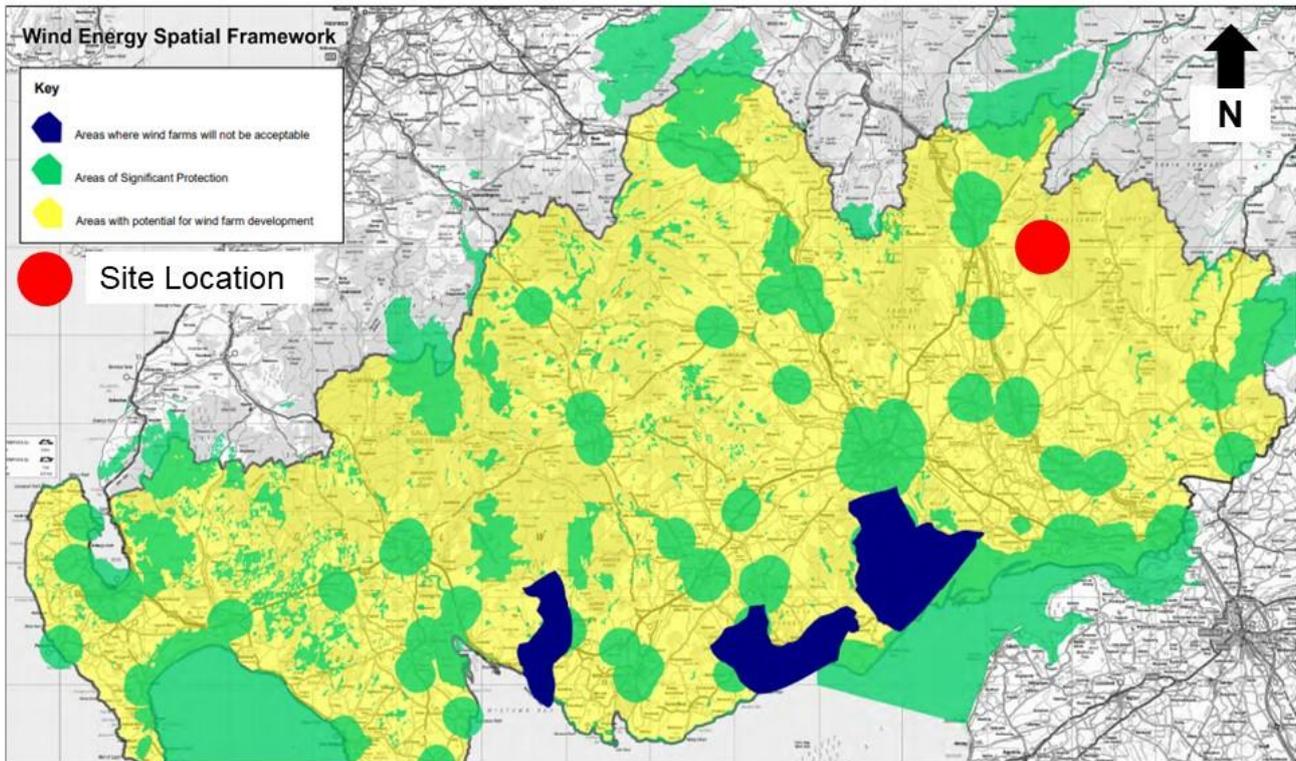
- 2019 Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) Scotland Act specifies the target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2045
- Sept. 19 - Dumfries & Galloway Council made a Climate Emergency Declaration. They established a Climate Emergency Cross Party Working Group, and a 12 point plan of commitments. Of these, Point 2, sets an aim to be net-zero carbon by 2025
- COP26 - This event is a global summit about climate change and what nations are planning to do to tackle it. Taking place in Glasgow from 9th-19th November 2020 with 200 world leaders due to attend.



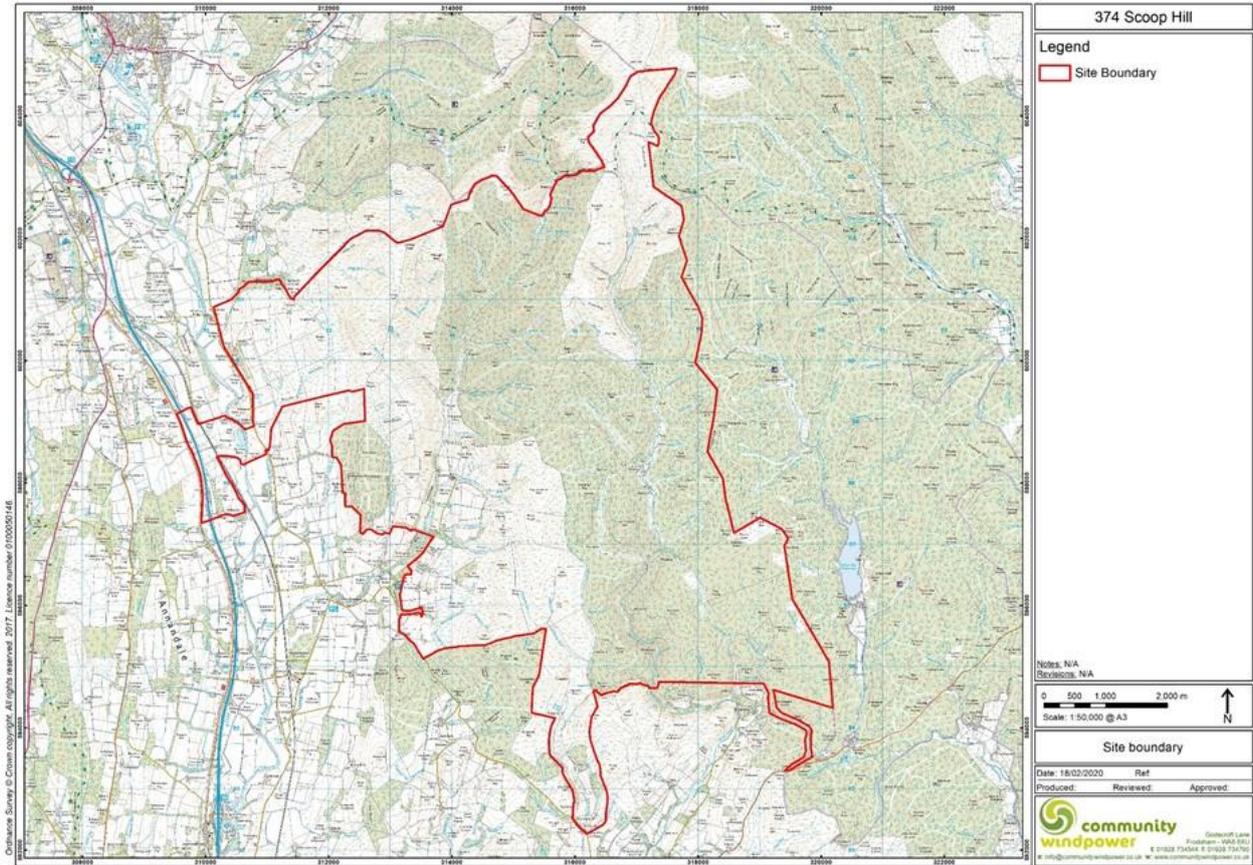


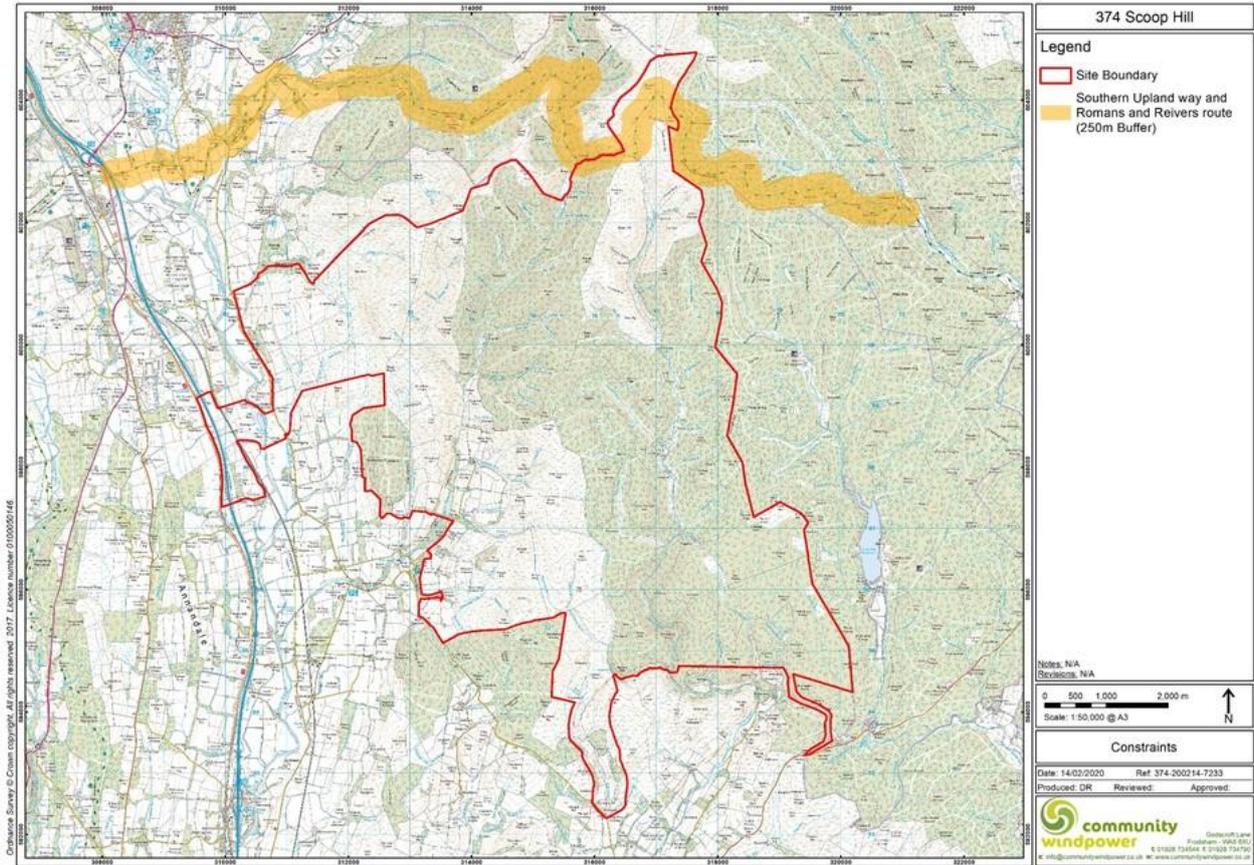
# Design Evolution Site & Constraints

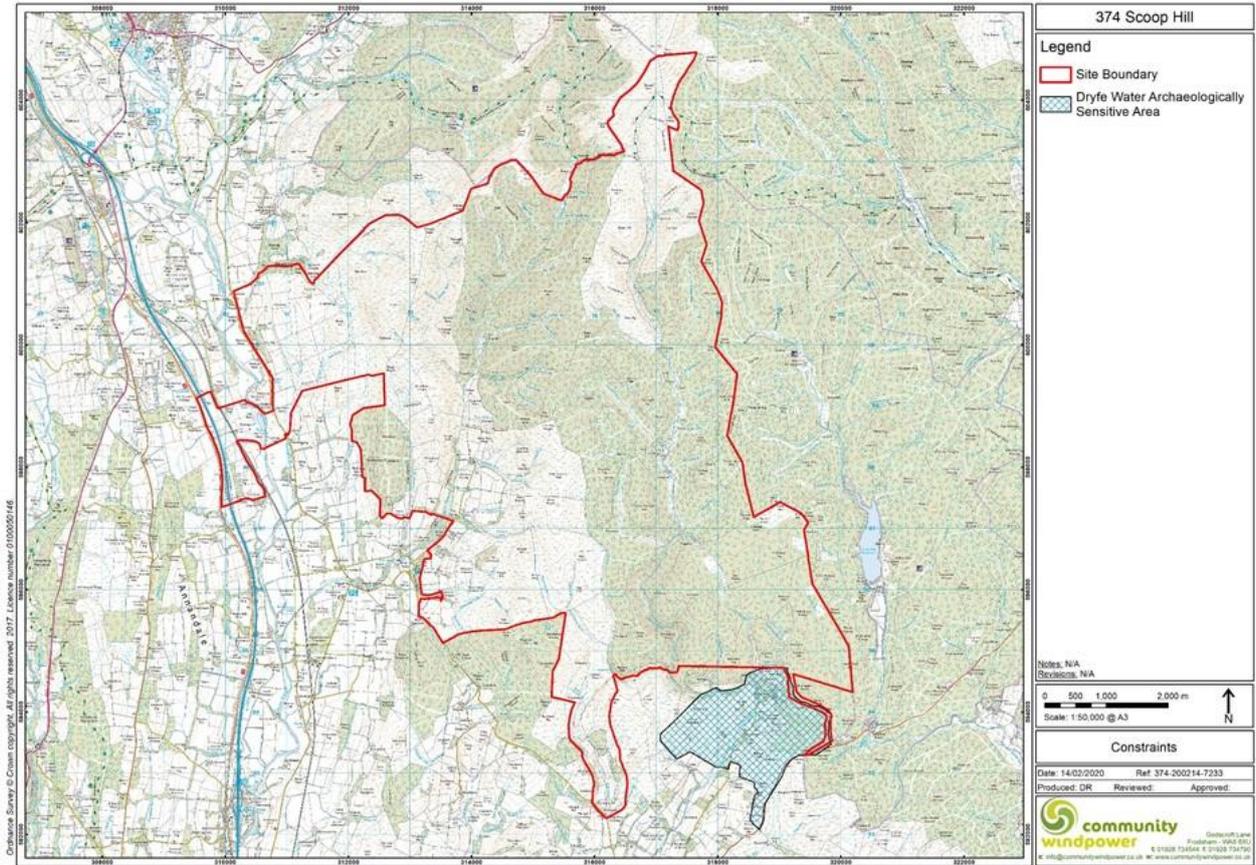


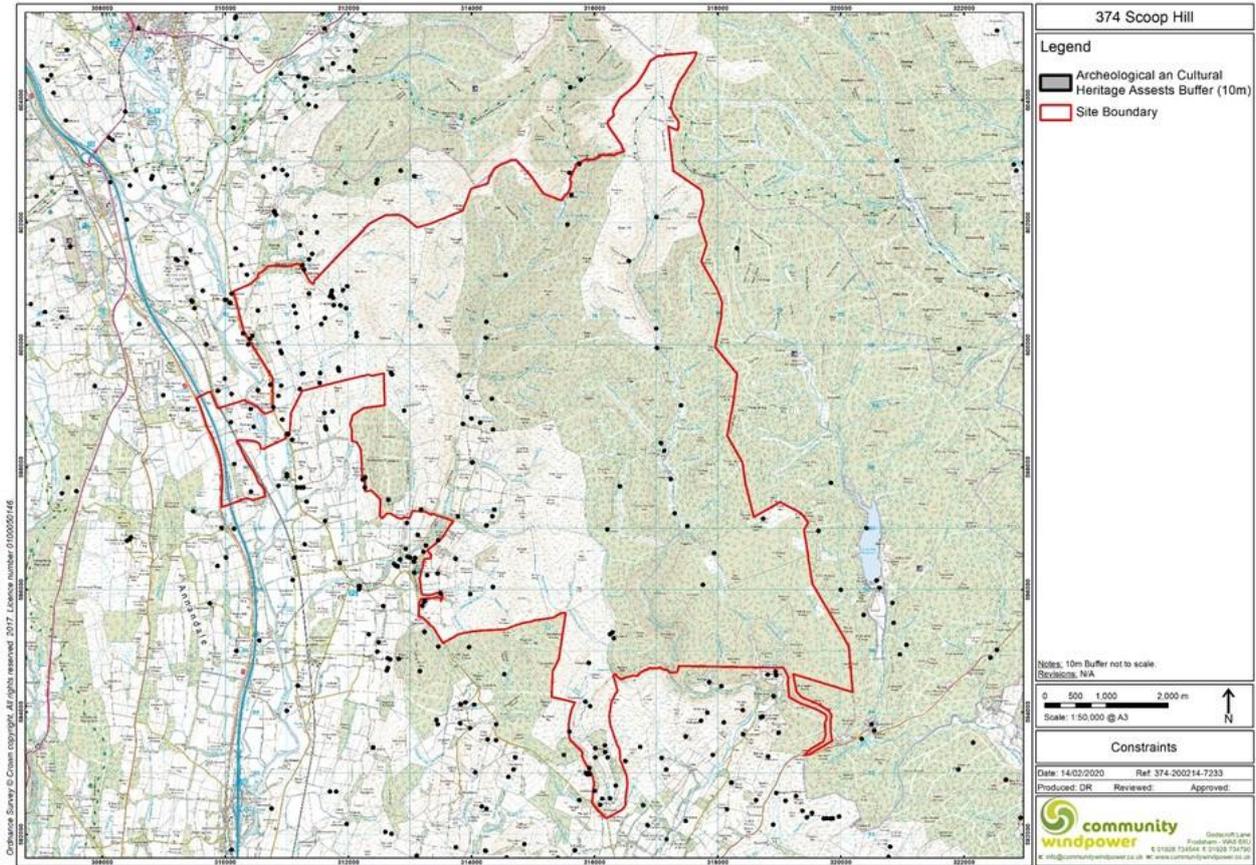


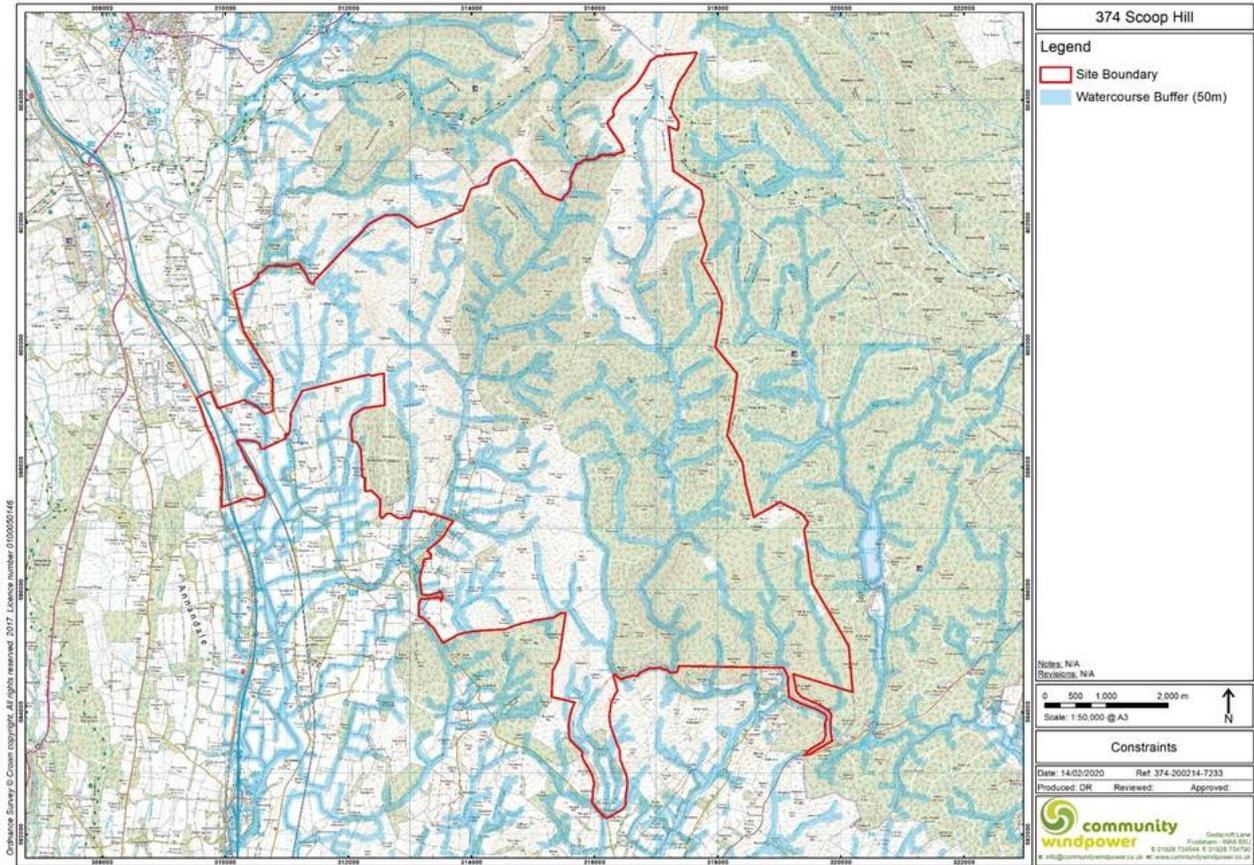
- The site is situated within the area with potential for wind farm development (D&G LDP 2019)
- The site does not directly affect any landscapes that are of national importance e.g. National Scenic Areas & National Parks
- The nearest National Scenic Area is over 25km away & the nearest National Park is over 45km away
- The site does not directly affect any landscapes that are of regional importance e.g. Regional Scenic Areas or Special Landscape Areas.
- The wind farm avoids any direct effects on Wild Land Areas











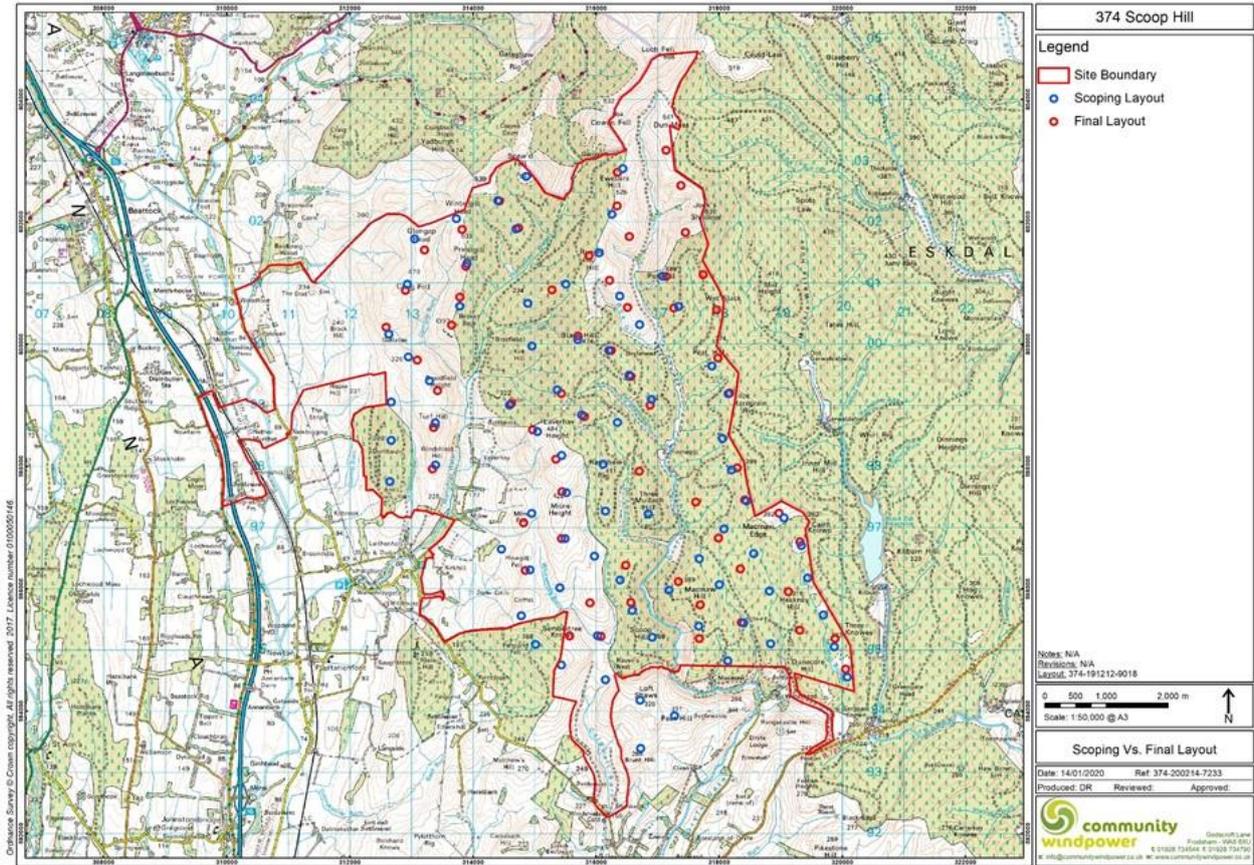
## Scoop Hill – Update

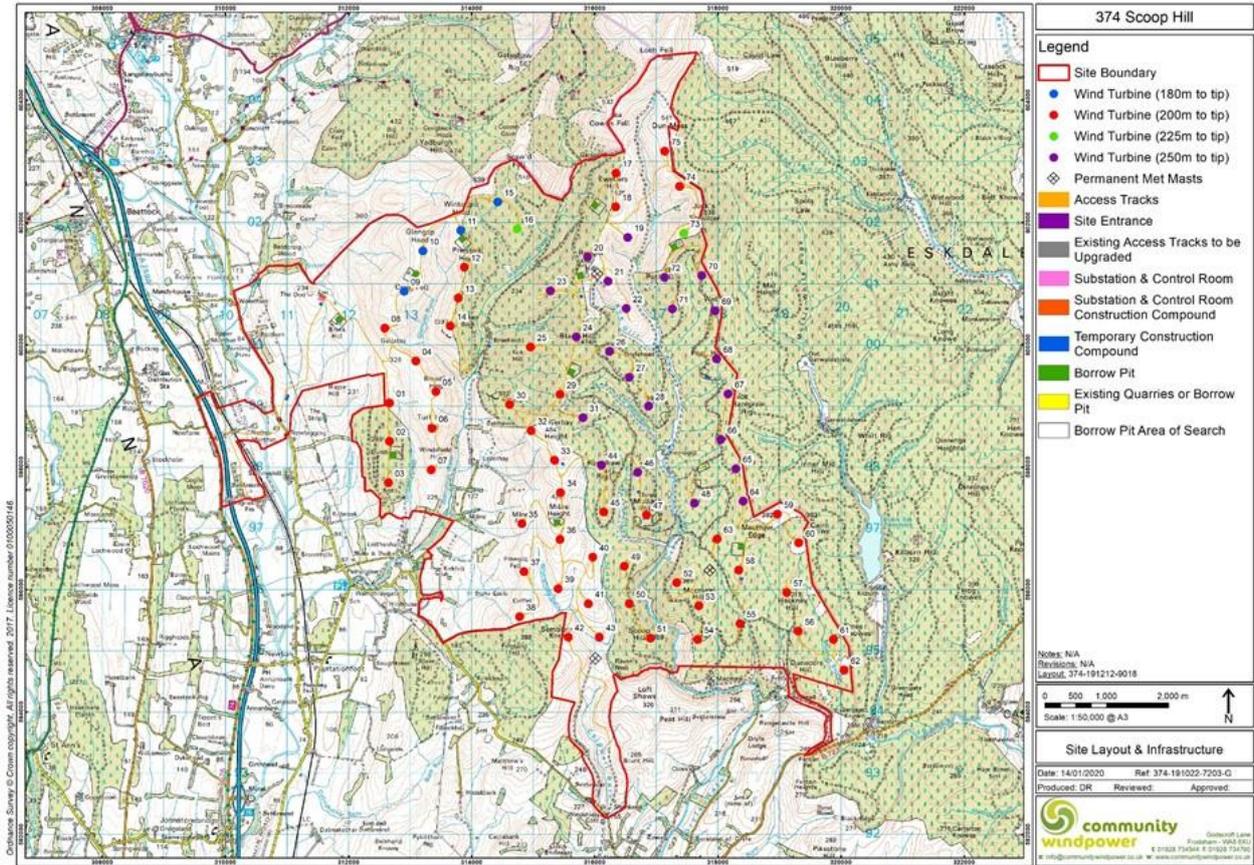


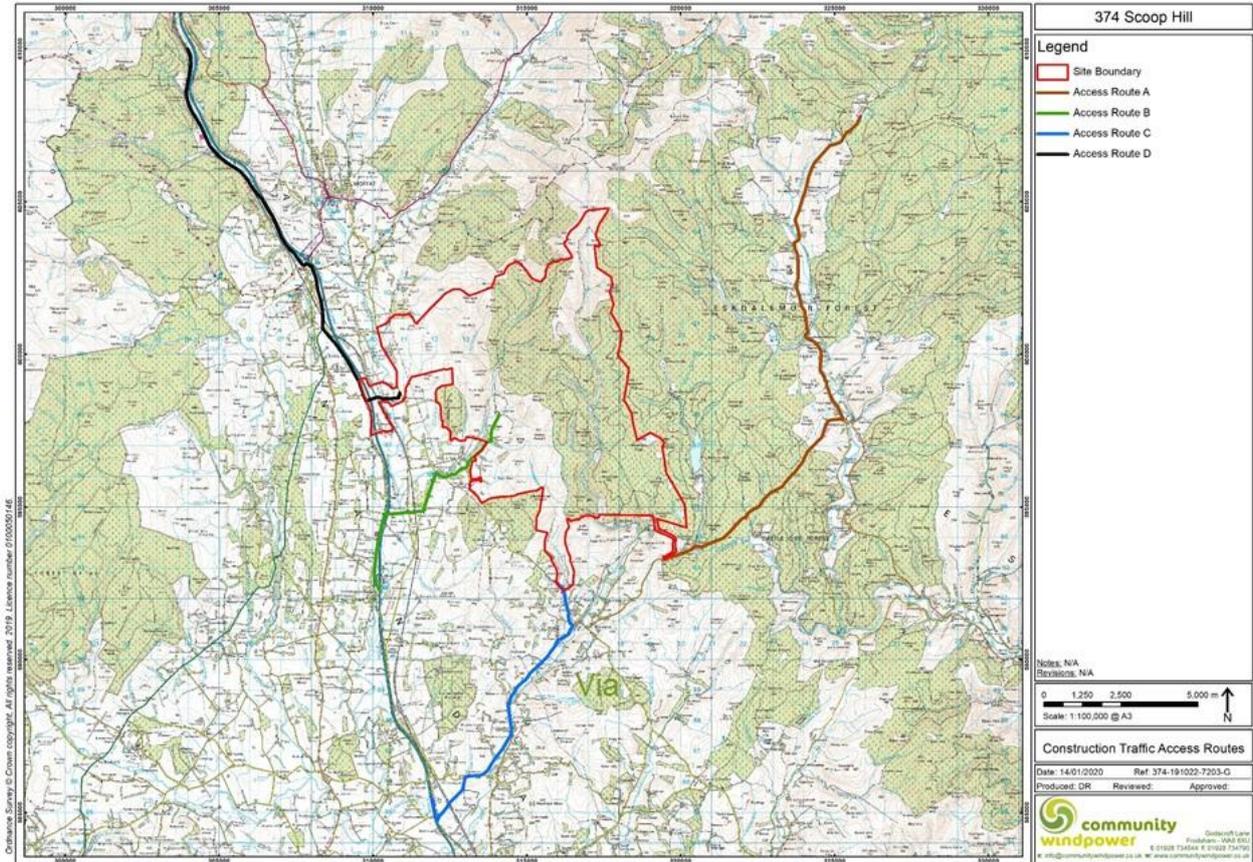
Scoping Opinion from the Scottish Government received in August 2019, since then we have consulted closely with consultees and can now report:

- 2 years of ecology & ornithology surveys completed end summer 2019
- Consultation with statutory consultees undertaken throughout the assessment
- Access feasibility assessment complete
- Preliminary noise assessment complete
- LVIA and cultural heritage assessment complete
- Peat assessment complete
- Technical assessments e.g. aviation will continue post submission
- EIAR now being drafted.





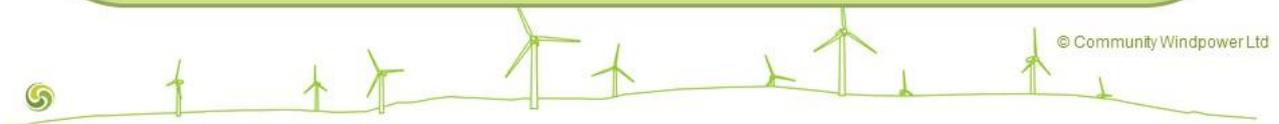




## Scoop Hill – Project Design Facts & Figs.



- 75 turbines; 4 x 180m, 47 x 200m, 2 x 225m, 22 x 250m generating 525Mw
  - 10 existing borrow pits, 10 new borrow pits
  - 1 main substation connecting to Bearholm
  - 3 permanent met masts
  - 1 temporary construction & site storage compound
  - Energy storage facility with up to 100Mw
- 
- During the lifetime of this wind farm, it'll save **37 Millions Tonnes of Co2** emissions. This is equal to **24 million return flights from New York to Glasgow.**
  - If it works at full capacity, the turbines will generate enough energy to power the equivalent **1.2 million** homes.





# Photomontages



## VP 7 - Annandale Water Services J6 A74 (M)

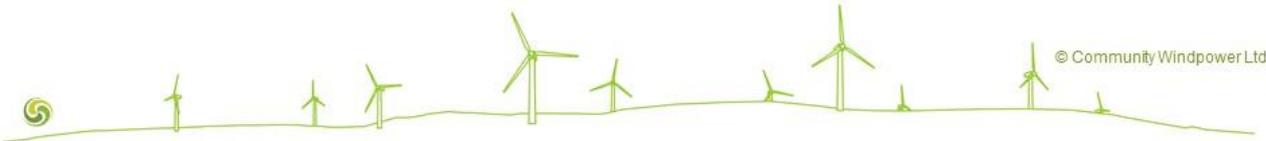


**Figure 6.22a**  
View 7 - Annandale Water Services J6 A74 (M)

<b>OS reference:</b> 21075 0 50000 N	<b>Horizontal field of view:</b> 33.7° lateral projection	<b>Camera:</b> Canon EOS 5D
<b>OS grid:</b> 4000 4000	<b>Horizontal distance:</b> 212.2 m	<b>Lens:</b> Canon EF 24mm f/1.4
<b>Direction of view:</b> 20.3°	<b>Paper size:</b> A1 (210 mm x 297 mm)	<b>Camera height:</b> 1.5 m
<b>Image resolution:</b> 1000 x 666	<b>Camera ground sample size:</b> 0.20 x 0.29 mm	<b>File resolution:</b> 90 x 60 dots/inch

**Figure 6.22a**  
View 7 - Annandale Water Services J6 A74 (M)  
© Community Windpower Ltd

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# Photomontages

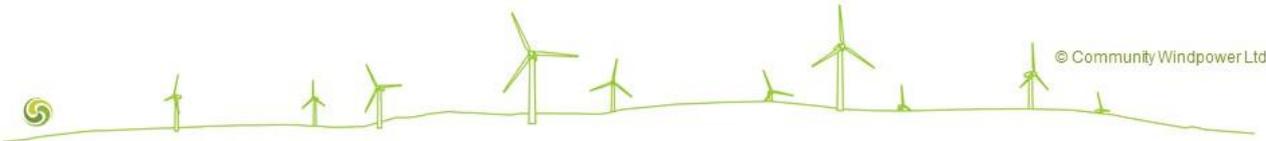


## VP 8 - Southern Upland Way near Beattock Hill



**OS reference:** 261518 000000-6 **Horizontal field of view:** 33.7° (to the ground) **Camera:** Canon EOS 5D MARK II **Figure 6.24F**  
**Day time:** 2011-04-02 10:00 **Vertical distance:** 21.2 m **Scale:** 1:1000 (20m x 1.1m) **Caption:** View 8 - Southern Upland Way near Beattock Hill  
**Resolution of view:** 1024 x 768 **Page size:** 841 x 597 mm (A4) **Camera height:** 1.5 m **Image size:** 1024 x 768 pixels **Image resolution:** 6.67 pixels/cm  
**Image resolution:** 300 dpi **Camera ground image size:** 1024 x 768 mm

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# Photomontages



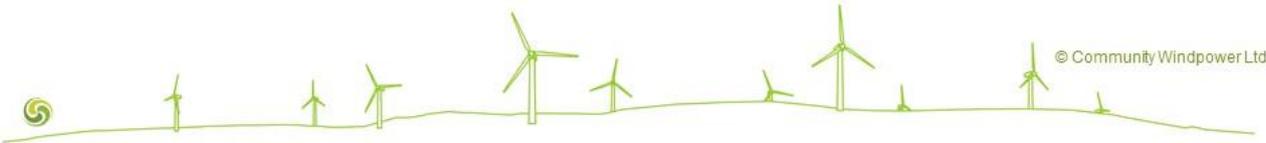
## VP 10 - Moffat A701 on Northern Edge



OS reference: 20180 & 00753 9	Horizontal field of view: 33.7° (horiz projection)	Camera: Canon 5D Mark II
File name: 03101_04010	Vertical distance: 21.2 m	Lens: Canon EF 24mm f/1.4
Resolution of image: 332	Picture size: 81 x 287 mm (A4)	Camera height: 1.5 m
Image resolution: 225 ppi	Camera ground sample size: 0.05 x 0.05 mm	File resolution: 300 x 1040 ppi

View 10 of 4 photomontages (1 of 4 images) Figure 3.26f  
Viewpoint 10: Moffat A701 on northern edge  
Source: P&S Wind Farm  
© Community Windpower Ltd

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# Photomontages

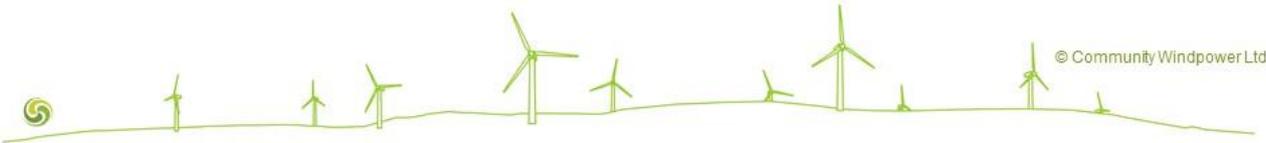


## VP 14 – B709 north of Eskdalemuir



Photomontage: Proposed Development  
OS reference: 22472 E 000 017 6  
Date: 2017/04/20  
Revision of map: 001  
Image resolution: 300 dpi  
Horizontal field of view: 33.7 degree panorama  
Vertical distance: 21.2 m  
Paper size: A1 (210 mm x 300 mm)  
Camera ground range: 100 x 100 m  
Camera: Canon 570D  
Lens: Canon EF 24mm f/1.4  
Camera height: 1.5 m  
Date and time: 01/04/2017 10:00  
Viewed at a horizontal distance of  
Figure 4.130  
Photomontage for B709 north of Eskdalemuir  
Scoop Hill Wind Farm  
© Community Windpower Ltd

DRAFT



© Community Windpower Ltd

## Scoop Hill – Economic Benefits

- Our '**Buy Scottish**' policy is a crucial component of all of our projects, as we maintain our commitment to Scotland and its green energy industry. We're set to invest over **£2 billion** in the Scottish economy.
- To date CWL have employed the services of 119 Scottish based service providers, amongst these are RJ Mcleod, Grange Quarry & Concrete Products, AMD, CS Wind, Breedon Concrete, Gaelforce, Starling Learning, Natural Power etc.

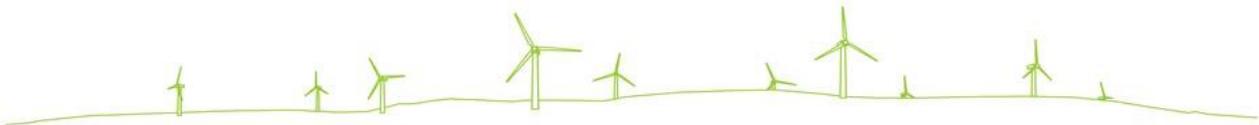


- We will hold a '**Meet the Buyer**' event prior to construction, to ensure all relevant local tradespeople and businesses are provided the opportunity for contracts



## Scoop Hill – Economic Benefits

- All our wind farms have a **Community Benefit Fund** and we commit to providing the money we promise, helping each community make the most of the investment.
- For Scoop Hill, Community Windpower commit **£500,000 per annum** for the life of the project. **This equates to £20m over the life of the project.**
- The project will result in **£6.55 million of business rates** being paid annually to D&G Council. This equates to 10% of Dumfries and Galloways non-domestic rate income and will amount to **£262 million over the life of the project.**



# Scoop Hill – Community Benefit Funding



**Over £4.3m** provided through Community Benefit Funds since 2006



# Scoop Hill – Non-Community Benefit Funds



North Ayrshire  
Supported the Foodbank at Christmas since 2014  
1,000 hampers and other donations worth **£80,000**



STEM learning partnership **£1,000**  
Four members of staff  
Supporting children over ten weeks



Outdoor activity week **£6,000**  
30 children and teachers  
"Community Windpower made this trip possible"



© Community Windpower Ltd



# Scoop Hill – Case Studies



**Dalry Scout Hall £115,000**  
Old building was falling down  
Facility now available for whole community



**New facility for Girl Guides in North Ayrshire £120,000**  
Ensures Girl Guides in the area have fit for purpose facility



© Community Windpower Ltd



# Potential benefits arising from £20m:



**Recreation facilities both within the wind farm and outside**

**Support for local care homes**  
(improvements, extensions, refurbishment)

**Broadband**

**EV points for electric cars**

**Flood Risk prevention**  
(Moffat Community Council has commissioned a report from independent engineers which contains a series of costed options for flood prevention works)

**Development of affordable family housing**

**Development of start-up business premises**

**Do you have any ideas?**





# Questions





Plate 1.1 - Public Exhibition Display Boards at Boreland Village Hall, Dumfries and Galloway, 23rd July 2019

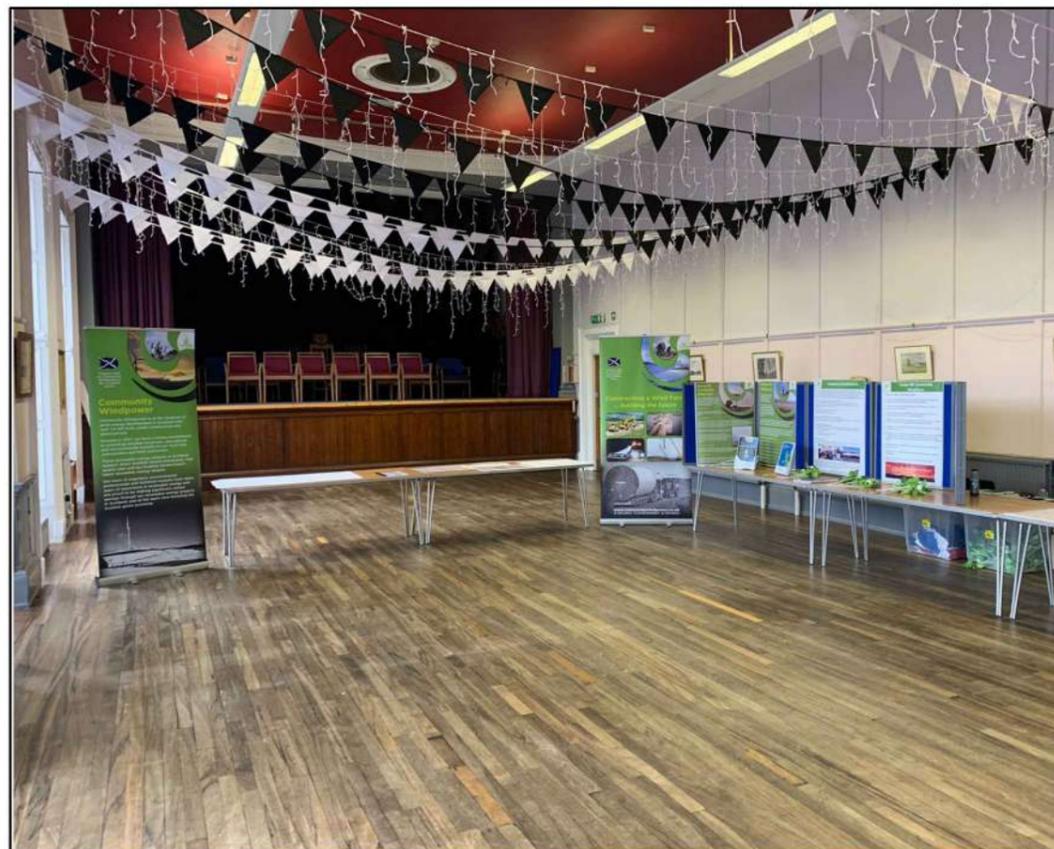


Plate 1.2 - Public Exhibition Display Boards at Moffat Town Hall, Dumfries and Galloway, 24th July 2019



Plate 1.3 - Public Exhibition Display Boards at Wamphray Village Hall, Dumfries and Galloway, 24th July 2019



Plate 1.4 - Community Council presentation at Moffat Town Hall, Dumfries and Galloway, 25th February 2020

Date: 18/05/2020 Ref: 374-200518-7297  
Produced: DW Reviewed: SM Approved: GC