

Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering and Extension

**Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)
Report**

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
BPA	Borrow Pit Assessment
BT	British Telecommunications
DfT	Department of Transport
DGC	Dumfries and Galloway Council
DGCAS	The Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeology Service
EAC	East Ayrshire Council
EALDP2	East Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2
EcIA	Ecological Impact Assessment
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
GW	Gigawatts
Ha	Hectares
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HH	Hare Hill
HHE	Hare Hill Extension
HHW	Hare Hill Windfarm
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
Km	Kilometre
LDP	Local Development Plan
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
m	metre
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MSS	Marine Scotland Science
MW	Megawatt
MWh	Megawatt Hour

NATS	National Air Traffic Services
NDSFB	Nith District Salmon Fishery Board
NPF4	National Planning Policy Framework 4
PAN	Planning Advice Note
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
ScotWays	Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society
SEPA	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
SES	Scottish Energy Strategy
SPR	ScottishPower Renewables Limited
The EIA Regs	The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

1. Introduction

1. This Pre-Application Consultation Report (PAC Report) provides details and approach to the pre-application consultation measures undertaken to support the Section 36 application for the proposed Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering and Extension (the proposed Development).
2. This PAC Report has been prepared to accompany the submission of an application by the Applicant, ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Limited (SPR) under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for the construction and operation of a Windfarm comprising 23 turbines with tip heights up to 150, 180 and 200 m. The proposed Development is located between the towns of Kirkconnel and New Cumnock. The proposed Development straddles the administrative boundaries of East Ayrshire Council (EAC) and Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC).
3. The proposed Development also includes external transformer housing, access tracks, crane pads, turbine foundations and hardstanding's, up to four temporary borrow pits, temporary laydown areas, temporary construction and storage compounds, and ancillary infrastructure associated works/infrastructure and Health and Safety sign posting around the site (further information is provided in **Chapter 5: Development Description** in Volume 1 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. The proposed Development intends to connect into the Glenmuckloch Substation located north of the site via an overhead line.
4. This PAC Report provides details of the range of methods, materials, and activities undertaken during the consultation process. The PAC report describes what measures have been carried out in advance of the S36 application to ensure that meaningful community consultation has taken place. In doing so this PAC Report also explains the outcomes of the consultation programme and details where feedback has influenced the development design process.

2. The Applicant

5. ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Limited (the Applicant) is part of the ScottishPower group of companies operating in the UK under the Iberdrola Group, one of the world's largest integrated utility companies and a world leader in wind energy. ScottishPower now only produces 100% green electricity – focusing on wind energy, smart grids and driving the change to a cleaner, electric future. The company has committed to investing over £16 million every working day to make this happen and is committed to speeding up the transition to cleaner electric transport and improving air quality to deliver a better future, quicker for everyone.
6. The Applicant is at the forefront of the development of the renewables industry through pioneering ideas, forward thinking and outstanding innovation. Its ambitious growth plans include expansion of its existing onshore wind portfolio, investment in new large-scale solar deployment and innovative grid storage systems including batteries. The company is also delivering the Iberdrola Group's offshore windfarms in the Southern North Sea off East Anglia.

7. With over 40 operational onshore windfarms, ScottishPower Renewables manages all its sites through its world leading Control Centre at Whitelee Windfarm, near Glasgow.
8. The Applicant has been working alongside communities across the UK for nearly two decades and has to date contributed more than £72 million in benefit funds to support initiatives and projects for those communities local to their windfarm sites. Over £18 million of community benefit has been used to support valuable community led initiatives and projects in Dumfries and Galloway. In excess of £13.9 million has been invested into communities in East Ayrshire. Repowering Hare Hill Windfarm and Hare Hill Extension will further increase community benefit funds available to neighbouring communities within Dumfries and Galloway and East Ayrshire.
9. Operational since 1999, the Hare Hill site is one of Scotland's oldest windfarms and the Applicant has been a neighbour for many years, generating cleaner power and providing socio-economic benefits to local communities in Dumfries and Galloway and East Ayrshire. They also own and operate Killgallioch, Harestanes, Ewe Hill, and Wether Hill Windfarms in Dumfries and Galloway, and several others in the wider Ayrshire region. With the development of these sites nearby, SPR is continuing the history of working positively with local communities in the region. The flexible approach adopted by the Applicant has empowered local communities to decide what the community benefit is spent on.
10. This has resulted in a fantastic diversity of projects being delivered from improving local amenities including town halls, cinemas and local youth clubs, to supporting work experience places, educational workshops and much more.
11. They are also keen to create employment opportunities during the construction and operation of our windfarms that can be delivered locally to benefit those who live near their sites.

3. Legislative Context

12. As the proposed Development exceeds 50 MW generating capacity, determination and consent from the Scottish Government under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 is required.
13. The S36 application also seeks deemed consent under section 57 (2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended (the TCPA).

4. Overview of Public Consultation Legislation

14. Although an application made under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 is not subject to the statutory pre-application consultation required by the TCPA, the Applicant has adopted the planning approach as good practice, recognising the benefits in carrying out early consultation to all concerned parties. In addition, the Applicant considers a

comprehensive pre application consultation an integral element of the iterative public consultation process.

15. The TCPA places an emphasis on consulting those affected by new developments and requires applicants submitting “major” development applications to formally engage with prescribed elected members, community councils and local communities, to advertise and hold at least two public exhibitions, and to submit a PAC Report with their planning application. This approach has been adopted by the applicant on the S36 application.
16. The purpose of the pre-application consultation is to ensure greater openness and accountability in the application process whilst ensuring, at an early stage, information on a particular development is presented in an inclusive and accessible manner regardless of age, gender or cultural background.
17. Accordingly, in line with the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, the consultation for the Proposed Development included:
 - Consultation with every community council whose area is within or adjoins the site;
 - Undertaking two public consultation events in the settlements of Kirkconnel and New Cumnock.
 - Publicity carried out to ensure details of the proposed Development and the consultation events were detailed in a postcard drop and local newspaper at least seven days prior. The postcard and advert included the location and description of the proposed Development, details on where further information can be obtained, date and the locations of the consultation events, and a statement explaining how and by when persons wishing to make comment to the prospective application relating to the proposed Development may do so;
 - Consultation was carried out in a manner that provides genuine opportunity for members of the public to engage with Applicant;
 - Consultation also allowed for meaningful engagement with those parties or individuals who represent the community’s views and offer the opportunity to mitigate negative impacts, clarify misunderstandings and deal with any community issues that can be reasonably addressed;
 - Submission of a PAC Report with the application, detailing the consultation undertaken and any changes made to the proposed Development as a result of that consultation; and
 - Feeding back on the comments received throughout the Pre-Application Consultation.

5. Process for Community Consultation

18. The Scottish Government’s Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010 – Community Engagement Planning with People, provides guidelines for Pre-Application Consultation.

PAN 3/2010 stipulates that community engagement should be meaningful and proportionate and take place at an early stage to influence the shape of proposals. PAN 3/2010 uses the National Standards for Community Engagement, developed by Communities Scotland, as its structure. This provides a useful framework to help plan, monitor and evaluate community engagement and sets out ten standards which are intended as best practice guidance:

- Standard 1: Involvement - identify and involve people and organisations who have an interest in the focus of the engagement;
- Standard 2: Support - identify and overcome barriers to involvement;
- Standard 3: Planning - gather evidence of need and resources to agree purpose, scope and actions;
- Standard 4: Methods - agree and use methods of engagement that are fit for purpose;
- Standard 5: Working together - agree and use clear procedures that enable participants to work together efficiently and effectively;
- Standard 6: Sharing information - ensure necessary information is communicated between participants;
- Standard 7: Working with others - work effectively with others with an interest;
- Standard 8: Improvement - develop the skills, knowledge and confidence of the participants;
- Standard 9: Feedback - feed results back to the wider community and agencies affected; and
- Standard 10 - Monitoring and evaluation; monitor and evaluate whether engagement achieves its purpose and meets the national standards for community engagement.

6. Consultation Activities

19. This PAC Report details the consultation activities undertaken with statutory and non-statutory consultees prior to the submission of the application. It seeks to outline the relationships built within the local community and the two-way flow of communication that took place throughout the process. In addition, the consultation process demonstrates how the Applicant has listened to feedback and how the design of the proposed Development may have changed in response to local views and opinions.
20. The Applicant used the consultation process to establish links with stakeholders and dialogue with local communities. Pre-submission consultation for the proposed Development ensured that local residents were able to provide feedback, views and comments, at an early stage. This has helped to shape the final design of the proposed Development. Follow up public exhibitions will be held post submission of the Application to provide an opportunity for the community to ask questions about the Application of the Applicant and members of Natural Powers EIA team.

6.1. Consultation Methods

21. A range of methods for communicating with statutory and non-statutory consultees were employed throughout the consultation process. This included but was not limited to:

- Meetings and telephone calls with resident groups;
- Meetings and telephone calls with key stakeholders;
- Public exhibitions (see Section 9);
- Postcard drop; and
- Newspaper advertising (see **Appendix B** for April 2024 Newspaper Advert and **Appendix K** for September 2024 Newspaper Advert)

6.2. Engagement with Consultees

22. A Scoping Report was submitted on the 9th November 2023 (ECU00004967). A Formal consultation meeting was held on the 26th January 2024 with statutory consultees to discuss the phasing approach of the proposed Development. A Technical Appendix to the Scoping Report outlined the proposed phasing approach and was submitted on the 3rd April 2024, the formal consultation responses were then received. The full Scoping Opinion was then received from the Scottish Government (**Appendix 3.2 in Volume 1** of the EIA Report).

23. A landscape and visual methodology was proposed by MVGLA (LVIA consultant) and was circulated and agreed with NatureScot and both EAC and DGC.

24. Meetings were requested of both EAC and DGC. Although DGC did not respond to these requests, a meeting was held with EAC in January 2025 to discuss the LVIA methodology, EIA methodology and clarify scoping responses.

25. The gatecheck¹ process was undertaken with the Energy Consents Unit (ECU). During this process all scoping responses and post-scoping consultations were described and discussed. The gatecheck process included details on how the scoping responses were to be addressed within the EIAR. This process also sought input from EAC, DGC, NatureScot, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Historic Environment Scotland (HES), and Marine Scotland. These consultees were provided with, and invited to comment on the following:

- The proposed structure of the EIA Report and timeline for its submission;
- A summary of general engagement with communities to date (see **Section 3 of Appendix A**); and

¹ [5. Submission of the Application - Electricity Act 1989 - sections 36 and 37: applications guidance - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/5-submission-of-the-application-electricity-act-1989-sections-36-and-37-applications-guidance-gov-scot) (www.gov.scot) [Accessed 03/05/24]

- A table showing the scoping responses and how these have been dealt with in the EIAR.
- 26. A copy of the submitted Gatecheck Report can be found in **Appendix A**. Feedback to the Gatecheck Report was received from EAC, SEPA, NatureScot and HES. A further clarification letter was sent to ECU, EAC and HES following these responses on 29 May 2025.

7. Consultees

- 27. A number of consultees were consulted as part of the formal pre application and scoping process as well as throughout the EIA process. These included:
 - East Ayrshire Council
 - Historic Environment Scotland
 - Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
 - NatureScot (Previously “SNH”)
 - British Telecommunications plc
 - Defence Infrastructure Organisation
 - Edinburgh Airport
 - Fisheries Management Scotland
 - Glasgow Airport
 - Glasgow Prestwick Airport
 - Highlands and Islands Airports limited
 - Joint Radio Company Limited
 - NATS Safeguarding
 - Nith District Salmon Fisheries Board
 - Office for Nuclear Regulation
 - Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society
 - Scottish Water
 - The Coal Authority
 - Transport Scotland
 - Visit Scotland
 - Woodland Trust
 - Dumfries and Galloway Council
 - Airways Solutions (Motorola)

- Annan District Salmon Fisher Board
- British Horse Society Scotland
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Crown Estate Scotland
- Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere
- Galloway Fisheries Trust
- John Muir Trust
- Kirkconnel & Kelloholm Community Council
- Mountaineering Scotland
- New Cumnock Community Council
- New Cumnock Development Trust
- Oban Airport
- Royal Burgh of Sanquhar and District Community Council
- RSPB Scotland
- Scottish Forestry
- Scottish Wildlife Trust
- Scottish Wild Land Group (SWLG)
- West of Scotland Archaeology Service

28. The full scoping opinion can be found in [Appendix 3.1](#) of the EIA Report.

8. Community Consultation

29. The proposed Development straddles the administrative boundaries of EAC and DGC. There are three community council areas in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Development. New Cumnock Community Council, Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Community Council and the Royal Burgh of Sanquhar and District whose area of jurisdiction covers the whole Proposed Development Area.

30. The Applicant has focussed direct public engagement on the areas covered by these community councils. The Applicant has communicated with local residents and liaised extensively throughout the pre-scoping and pre-submission period. At all times the Applicant has sought to ensure that local communities are fully informed of the proposed Development, are provided with opportunities to provide comment on the

proposals, receive early notification of events and any changes to the proposals and the application timeframes.

8.1. Community Organisations

31. The communities closest to the proposals are represented by a variety of organisations including community councils, community trusts and community associations.
32. Engagement with community councils largely took the form of written updates. (for example, written letters notifying of Scoping submission).
33. This was supplemented with ongoing one-to-one engagement with members of the local community as required.
34. Community groups have continued to be informed about the progress of the proposed Development during the lead up to submission. This consultation has been undertaken utilising different methods of communication, including newsletters, online (https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/hare_hill_windfarm_repowering.aspx) and in person meetings.

9. Public Exhibitions

9.1. Introduction

35. This section details the public exhibitions held in April 2024 and September 2024 and outlines the feedback received from the exhibitions.

9.2. April 2024 Public Exhibitions

36. The first round of public exhibitions in April 2024 provided the opportunity to present the initial site layout whilst environmental survey works were still ongoing. The events sought to gather feedback from the local community and key stakeholders which would go on to inform the final submitted proposals.
37. Two events took place in order to provide several opportunities to engage with the proposals. These were:
 - Tuesday 16 April 2024 at Miners Memorial Hall, DG4 6PH, 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm
 - Wednesday 17 April 2024 at New Cumnock Town Hall, KA18 4AN, 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm
38. The events listed above were promoted locally using various means of publicity. This included:
 - a notification in writing to community councils and groups;
 - postcard drop (see **Appendix C**); and
 - a newspaper advert (see **Appendix I**) published in The Cumnock Chronicle and The Galloway Gazette appearing on the 3rd April 2024 and 5th April 2024 respectively.

39. The postcards and newspaper adverts provided a variety of information in addition to the event details, including a telephone number and email address so that readers could contact the Applicant if they had any comments or questions relating to the proposed Development.
40. Community members were able to view the following materials at the April 2024 public exhibition:
 - Exhibition Boards (see **Appendix D**);
 - Photomontages (see **Appendix E**);
 - The site layout as designed at the time of the exhibition (see **Appendix F**);
 - Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) (see **Appendix G**); and
 - SPR Leaflet (see **Appendix H**).
41. If members of the community were unable to attend the events, or easily access the information online, the Applicant encouraged them to get in touch to have a conversation or to request copies of the information available. The Applicant also displayed a QR Code and a URL link to the Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering website provides additional information on the proposed development, the public exhibition boards, and the opportunity to give feedback.

9.2.1. Feedback from the April 2024 Public Exhibitions

42. A total of 20 people attended the April 2024 public exhibitions over the two days. The community members who attended were asked to fill out a feedback form (see **Appendix J**). 8 feedback forms were completed and handed in. For the feedback received from the April 2024 Public Exhibitions see **Appendix I**.

9.3. September 2024 Public Exhibitions

43. The second round of public exhibitions were held in September 2024. These exhibitions provided the opportunity to present an updated layout to the community, including peatland restoration areas and the removal of three turbines. The events sought to gather feedback from the local community and key stakeholders which would go on to inform the final proposed Development layout.
44. 3 events took place in order to provide many opportunities to engage with the proposals. These were:
 - Tuesday 2 September 2024 at Miners Memorial Hall, DG4 6PH, 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm;
 - Wednesday 3 September 2024 at New Cumnock Town Hall, KA18 4AN, 11:30 am – 3:00 pm; and
 - Wednesday 3 September 2024 at Miners Memorial Hall, DG4 6PH, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm.
45. The events were promoted locally using various methods. This included a notification in writing to community groups, postcard drop (see **Appendix L**) as well as a newspaper advert (see **Appendix K**) that was published in The Cumnock Chronicle and The Galloway Gazette appearing on the 28th August 2024 and 30th August 2024 respectively. The

postcards and newspaper adverts provided event details, including a telephone number and email address so that readers could contact the Applicant if they had any comments or questions relating to the proposed Development.

46. Community members were able to view the following materials at the September 2024 public exhibition:
 - SPR Leaflet (see [Appendix L](#));
 - Exhibition Boards (see [Appendix M](#));
 - Photomontages (see [Appendix N](#)); and
 - Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) (see [Appendix O](#)).
47. If members of the community were unable to attend the events, or easily access the information online, the Applicant encouraged them to get in touch to have a conversation or to request copies of the information available. The Applicant also displayed a QR Code and a URL link to the Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering and Extension website on the which provides additional information on the proposed Development, the public exhibition boards, and the opportunity to give feedback.

9.3.1. Feedback from September 2024 Public Exhibitions

48. A total of 12 people attended the September 2024 public exhibitions over the two days. The community members who attended were asked to fill out a feedback form (see [Appendix J](#)) however, no forms were completed by the attendees.

10. Further Community Consultation

49. Throughout the consultation process the Applicant has continually sought to meet, with as many local stakeholders as possible. This has included engaging with individuals and local community groups and stakeholder organisations such as, 9CC Group (a community group made up of nine communities in Cumnock and Doon Valley area), Kirconnel and Kelloholm Community Council and New Cumnock Development Trust – exploring how the project can best support Scotland's net zero commitment, minimising the environmental impacts and being the best fit for the local area.
50. As a result, the Applicant has undertaken a range of commitments to ensure that the proposals have wider benefits to the economy, local communities and wider renewables industry.

11. Community Benefit

51. The Applicant believes that the proposed Development can be an economic asset to the local area, supporting the local economy.
52. If consented, the proposed Development will provide communities with over £32 million throughout its lifetime. This would be as a result of annual community benefit payments of £5,000 per MW. These payments are in line with the 2017 Scottish Energy Strategy,

which strongly supports the provision of community benefits for renewable energy projects.

53. The Applicant is committed to working closely with the communities surrounding the proposed Development to ensure that the community benefit can assist with addressing identified local challenges such as attracting families to the local area, improving housing stock and energy consumption.

12. Evaluation of the Consultation Process

54. The level of public consultation for the Proposed Development has met the National Standards for Community Engagement whilst being in proportion with the size and nature of the Proposed Development. This is demonstrated in **Table 12.1** which considers how the consultation exercise has satisfied the National Standards for Community Engagement.

Table 12.1 National Standards for Community Engagement

NATIONAL STANDARD	EXAMPLE
1. Involvement	<p>The community councils for each area surrounding the proposed Development were identified and contacted with information on the proposed Development. public exhibitions took place between 16th and 17th April 2024 and 2nd and 3rd September 2024 in venues close to the site. Further details are contained in Section 9.</p> <p>An update on the proposed Development will be sent, upon submission, to key stakeholders to advise them of the Application submission and ways to engage with the application process.</p> <p>Further public exhibitions will be held post submission, at the time of writing the dates for these are still to be confirmed.</p>
2. Support	<p>All of the public exhibitions were advertised in The Galloway Gazette and Cumnock Chronicle more than seven days prior to the events. They were also promoted locally using social media and written correspondence. This provided advance notice and the opportunity to prepare to attend/participate in the formal consultation events.</p> <p>The events took place in person at village halls across four days in April 2024 and September 2024 in order to provide ample opportunity for people to engage.</p> <p>The advertisements provided contact details for engagement over email and telephone, alongside the opportunity to view materials online.</p>
3. Planning	<p>A clear scope for the community consultation was set out in the Scoping Report dated 9th November 2024 submitted to the ECU, EAC, DGC, SEPA, HES and NatureScot. No specific issues were raised regarding community involvement.</p>
4. Methods	<p>The methods used by the Applicant to engage with the local community such as public exhibitions, surveys and ongoing updates</p>

NATIONAL STANDARD	EXAMPLE
	were used successfully to engage in a dialogue with the local community and make sure a wide range of voices were heard. Information on how to contact the project team was available on all advertisements throughout the process.
5. Working Together	ECU, SEPA and NatureScot have all agreed on the scope of the consultation that was set out in the scoping report. There were no concerns raised.
6. Sharing Information	The materials exhibited at the public exhibitions covered all aspects of the proposed Development and members of the project team were in attendance to guide attendees through the details of the proposed Development and answer any questions. All of the exhibition materials were available online at the dedicated project website and further hard copy materials could be requested by email or telephone.
7. Working with Others	Community councils were engaged with early in the process to communicate the project timeline and details of the development.
8. Improvement	Discussions took place with attendees at the public exhibition about how individuals could get involved with the application process of the proposed Development. The Applicant listened to comments from the communities and statutory consultees and sought to take on board, where practicable, their concerns. Through an iterative design process, the Applicant have improved the layout as a direct result of the consultation process, more information on this can be found in Chapter 4: Site Selections and Design Evolution , in Volume 1 of the EIA Report.
9. Feedback	This PAC Report provides a comprehensive account of the processes and methods deployed, and details of comments and feedback received throughout the pre-application consultation process.
10. Monitoring and Evaluation	The consultation process was monitored to assess its effectiveness in the context of the scale and nature of the proposed Development. As demonstrated in this table and overall PAC Report, the pre-application consultation process undertaken for the proposed Development has been evaluated against and meets the National Standards for Community Engagement ² in the context of the scale and nature of the proposed Development.

13. Design Evolution

55. Feedback received from consultations formed a component of the iterative design process to the proposed Development. The various iterations of the layout and details of

² Scottish Community Development Centre (2016) National Standards for Community Engagement [Online] Available at: NSfCE+online_October.pdf (squarespace.com) [Accessed 01/05/2024]

the factors influencing each iteration of the layout are provided in **Chapter 4: Site Selection and Design Evolution** in Volume 1 of the EIA Report.

14. Scoping

56. A Scoping Report was submitted to the ECU in November 2023 and formal consultation responses were then received in May 2024. This is set out in **Appendices 3.1 and 3.2** of the EIA Report. Each of the consultee responses have been addressed through an iterative EIA process and these responses are detailed within the chapters of the EIAR to which they relate. The relevant chapters detail how the responses were addressed as the Proposed Development has progressed.
57. Whilst a number of consultees did not provide a response to the Scoping Report, it is noted that the majority of those consulted did respond and their comments have been taken into consideration within the design process and production of the EIA Report.

15. Conclusions

58. The pre-application consultation carried out by the Applicant for the proposed Development was open, transparent and in keeping with the Government's guidelines under PAN 3/2010.
59. The Applicant has, as part of this proposed Development, engaged with the local community through the relevant community organisations and via public exhibitions. This has allowed the communities to be informed about the proposed Development and for the Applicant to respond directly to any concerns that the communities have in connection with the proposed Development.
60. Communications with statutory consultees, non-statutory consultees and with communities will be maintained as the development progresses, and the Applicant will aim to continue to provide information as requested, addressing any queries as and when they arise.

Appendices

APPENDIX	DESCRIPTION
Appendix A	Gate Check Report
Appendix B	April 2024 Newspaper Advert
Appendix C	April 2024 Post Card
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A. Gate Check Report

Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering and Extension

Technical Appendix: 3.3
Gate Check Report

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Abbreviations

ABBREVIATION	DESCRIPTION
ADLS	Aircraft Detection Lighting System
AIL	Abnormal Indivisible Load
ANO	Air Navigation Order
ANSP	Airport as an Air Navigation Services Provider
BT	British Telecommunications
EC	Electronic Conspicuity
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FMS	Fisheries Management Scotland
GPA	Glasgow Prestwick Airport
GWDTE	Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HMP	Habitat Management Plan
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
IFP	Instrument Flight Procedures
ILS	Instrument Landing System
km	Kilometre
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
m	metres
MW	Megawatt
NDSFB	Nith District Salmon Fishery Board
NRTF	National Road Traffic Forecasts
ONR	Office for Nuclear Regulation
PD	Probability of Detection
PIE	Public Information Events

PMP	Peat Management Plan
PSR	Primary Surveillance Radar
RLoS	Radar Line of Sight
ScotWays	Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPR	ScottishPower Renewables
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
VP	Viewpoints

1. Gatecheck Report

1.1. Introduction

1. To aid in the design of the proposed Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering and Extension (the 'proposed Development') and maximise its potential within its economic and environmental constraints, ScottishPower Renewables (SPR or the 'Applicant') has proactively engaged with statutory consultees, local communities and stakeholders since a scoping report was submitted in November 2023 and continues to do so.
2. Throughout this process the focus has been to inform, listen, answer and where feasible, add value and/or reduce burdens on consultees. A broad range of media has been utilised to achieve this including digital and online tools, local and community press, social media and community events.
3. Within this Gatecheck Report, the Applicant demonstrates that consultee points that have been raised throughout the evolution of the proposed Development have been addressed within design iterations and that any remaining matters have been set out and discussed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. Consultee responses and the Applicants response are provided in **Appendix 1** of this report.

1.2. Key Project Information

4. The proposed Development's generating capacity exceeds 50 megawatt (MW), therefore the application is made pursuant to Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and the EIA has been undertaken in accordance with the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.
5. The proposed Development site is located c. 1.5 kilometres (km) south east of the village of New Cumnock and c. 4.5 Kilometre (km). west of Kirkconnel. The application boundary and the area it surrounds (the 'Site') is across both the East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway administrative areas. The central coordinate of the Site is NS 65411 08094.
6. There have been a number of design iterations for the proposed Development which continued to progress up to the proposed Developments 'Design Freeze'. A design evolution figure has been provided in **Appendix 2** which depicts where multiple iterations have taken place, including the removal of numbers and the reduction of turbine heights.
7. The proposed Development is anticipated to comprise of up to 23 turbines, seven with a maximum height of 200 m, nine with a maximum height of 180 m and seven with a maximum height of 150 m, with associated infrastructure. The associated infrastructure would include:
 - Up to 23 turbines; seven up to 200 m to tip; nine up to 180 m to tip and seven up to 150 m to tip;
 - Turbine foundations and hardstanding;
 - External transformer housings;

- Crane pads;
- Access tracks (circa 23 km new and 6 km upgraded);
- Underground electricity cabling linking the turbines with the substation
- Temporary borrow pits;
- Temporary construction compounds with ancillary infrastructure;
- Site signage and snow poles;
- Onsite substation, storage buildings and control building;
- Waste water and drainage attenuation measures (as required); and
- A permanent power performance assessment (PPA) anemometry mast and associated hardstanding area.

8. A specific turbine model has not yet been selected but it is expected to be a horizontal axis machine with three rotor blades. Current models range from c. 4.5-7 MW generating capacity for 150 to 200 m to tip respectively. For the purposes of assessment only candidate turbines of the Vestas V136, V150 and V162 which are currently available turbine models within the proposed dimensions, have been used throughout the EIA Report. Crane pads would be left in-situ following erection of turbines to allow for maintenance and replacement of parts as necessary during the lifetime of the project. Temporary hardstand areas would be reinstated following the completion of construction activities.

9. The lifespan of the proposed Development is proposed to be 50 years, after this time the project will be decommissioned.

1.2.1. proposed Development Phasing

10. The proposed Development will be split across two distinct phases:

- Phase 1 would commence following the decommissioning of Hare Hill turbines and involve the construction of 15 new turbines (T1 – T15); and
- Phase 2 would commence following the decommissioning of Hare Hill Extension turbines and involve the construction of 8 new turbines (T16-T23).

Table 1.1 – proposed Development Indicative Phasing Timeline

	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038 (Onwards)
Hare Hill Decommissioning									
Construction									
Operation									
Hare Hill Extension Decommissioning									
Construction									

	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038 (Onwards)
Operation									

11. The primary reason leading to the proposed Development being separated across the two phases is to maximise potential of the separate life cycles for both current operational windfarm developments. This approach was discussed with the ECU and other consultees such as SEPA and NatureScot, with methodologies for the impact assessments being produced and agreed prior to assessment. It was noted that the worst-case scenario in EIA terms may differ between disciplines with which period of the proposed Development this scenario would take place. This is due to the interaction with the new larger turbines and the current smaller operational turbines present. The period in which this worst-case scenario takes place will be discussed in each chapter of the EIA Report where relevant and would be the primary assessment point for each environmental topic.

12. The distribution of turbine sizes for each phase is as follows:

Table 1.2 – Distribution of proposed turbines through phases

Turbine Height	Phase 1 (T1-T15)	Phase 2 (T16-T17)
150 m	6	1
180 m	7	2
200 m	2	5
Total	15	8

1.3. EIA Report Project Team

13. The Applicant, SPR, has been developing wind farms in the UK since the 1990's

14. The proposed Development has been designed by the Applicant in association with civil engineers with inputs from its lead EIA consultants, Natural Power and their subconsultants in an iterative way to minimise environmental effects as much as possible throughout the construction and deconstruction of the proposed Development.

15. Natural Power has been appointed to coordinate the EIA for the proposed Development and produce the EIA Report. Natural Power has been providing expertise to the renewable energy industry since the company was formed in 1995 and is one of the UK's leading renewable energy consultants. Natural Power currently employs over 500 people working full time providing renewable energy services nationally and internationally. Testimony to Natural Power's experience and ongoing commitment to competency and continual improvement, its Consenting and Environment Department is accredited by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). In addition, Natural Power also operates in formally accredited health and safety (IOSAS 18001), environmental (14001) and quality (9001) management systems. As well as development and EIA services, Natural Power also provides expert advice and due diligence consultancy, site construction management and site operation and maintenance. Thus, Natural Power is a competent, experienced consultant to co-ordinate

and undertake EIA and to prepare the EIA Report.

1.4. Structure of the EIA Report

16. The EIA Report will be prepared in accordance with the EIA regulations and follows the structure presented in **Table 1.3** Where relevant each EIA Report chapter considers the baseline environment, the likely significant effects for each phase of the development and cumulative impacts.
17. The EIA Report will be divided into four volumes, outlined below:
 - Volume 1 – EIA Report Chapters;
 - Volume 2 – EIA Report Figures;
 - Volume 3 – EIA Report Technical Appendices; and
 - Volume 4 – Non-Technical Summary.

Table 1.3 Hare Hill EIA Report Chapter Breakdown

Chapter Headings	Lead Assessor and/or Author
Chapter 1: Introduction	Natural Power
Chapter 2: Legal and Policy Context	Natural Power
Chapter 3: EIA Processes and Methodology	Natural Power
Chapter 4: Site Selection and Design Evolution	Natural Power
Chapter 5: Development Description	Natural Power
Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Assessment	MVGLA
Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity Assessment	Natural Power
Chapter 8: Ornithology Assessment	WSP
Chapter 9: Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology Assessment	Natural Power
Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage Assessment	CFA Archaeology
Chapter 11: Access, Traffic and Transport	Natural Power
Chapter 12: Aviation and Existing Infrastructure	Cyruss
Chapter 13: Noise	Hoare Lea
Chapter 14: Forestry	DGA Forestry
Chapter 15: Other Considerations	Natural Power
Chapter 16: Summary of Residual Effects	Natural Power

18. This EIA Report will be accompanied by the planning documents set out in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1 Hare Hill Planning Documentation Accompanying the EIA Report

Supporting Document	Author
Planning Statement	ReAmp
Design and Access Statement	Natural Power
Pre-Application Consultation Report	Natural Power
Socio -Economic and Tourism Report	BiGGAR Economics

2. Scoping and Consultation

2.1. Introduction

19. As part of the EIA process, the Applicant sought a formal scoping opinion from the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) on behalf of the Scottish Ministers under the EIA regulations.

20. Scoping was undertaken in order to refine the scope of the assessment of environmental impacts and ensure that it is robust and focussed in its approach on significant effects. A scoping report was issued to Scottish Ministers, and consultees were invited to comment on the proposed approach, the methodology, specify aspects of the environment and related issues that should be considered, and highlight any other potential consultees. A scoping report was submitted to the ECU in November 2023. A copy is available at [Appendix 1.1](#) of the EIA Report.

21. A scoping opinion was received on the 22nd of May 2024 and will be provided as [Appendix 1.2](#) of the EIA Report and informs the scope of the EIA undertaken for the proposed Development. The Scoping Opinion was used during the design evolution along with other assessments and consultation feedback of the proposed Development.

2.2. Scoping Consultation

22. **Table 2.1** provides a summary of the organisations that were contacted as part of the Scoping process. These organisations were invited to provide feedback on the scope of the assessment of environmental impacts.

Table 2.1 Scoping Consultees

Consultee	
East Ayrshire Council	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Historic Environment Scotland	Airways Solutions (Motorola)
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency	Annan District Salmon Fisher Board

NatureScot (Previously "SNH")	British Horse Society Scotland
British Telecommunications plc	Civil Aviation Authority
Defence Infrastructure Organisation	Crown Estate Scotland
Edinburgh Airport	Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere
Fisheries Management Scotland	Galloway Fisheries Trust
Glasgow Airport	John Muir Trust
Glasgow Prestwick Airport	Kirkconnel & Kelloholm Community Council
Highlands and Islands Airports limited	Mountaineering Scotland
Joint Radio Company Limited	New Cumnock Community Council
NATS Safeguarding	New Cumnock Development Trust
Nith District Salmon Fisheries Board	Oban Airport
Office for Nuclear Regulation	Royal Burgh of Sanquhar and District Community Council
Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society	RSPB Scotland
Scottish Water	Scottish Forestry
The Coal Authority	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Transport Scotland	Scottish Wild Land Group (SWLG)
Visit Scotland	West of Scotland Archaeology Service
Woodland Trust	

23. The consultation summary, which outlines the responses from consultees, including details of the issues raised and the Applicant's response to each issue, is provided as a tabulated summary in **Table 3.1** below.

3. Community Engagement

3.1. Background and Context

24. Public consultation is a key element of the environmental assessment process and, as part of the wider consultation process, attention was given to community engagement, in cognisance of Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010: Community Engagement (Scottish Government 2010).

25. The Applicant is committed to developing renewable energy responsibly. The Applicant strives to be a good neighbour in all aspects of its work and is committed to East Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway and the surrounding area, and to maximising

opportunities for local communities to benefit from its developments. Local community councils that have an administrative boundary within or adjacent to the Site were contacted during the EIA process as well as local community organisations. The Applicant has a long standing, existing relationship with local stakeholders and informed the following organisation of the proposed Development:

- Auchinleck Community Council;
- Cronberry, Logan and Lugar Community Council;
- Cumnock Community Council;
- Dalmellington Community Council;
- Drongan, Rankinston and Stair Community Council;
- Kirkconnel Community Council;
- Netherthird Community Council;
- New Cumnock Community Council;
- Patna Community Council; and
- Sanquhar Community Council; and;
- New Cumnock Development Trust.

3.2. Public Information Days

26. Two rounds of Public Information Event (PIEs) were held, the first in April 2024 and the second in September 2024. On both occasions a leaflet was created and posted to local households in New Cumnock, Kirkconnel and their surrounding areas. Adverts were also provided in the Galloway Gazette on April 4th and August 30th 2024 and also within the Cumnock Chronicle on April 3rd and August 28th 2024. The information provided introduced the proposed Development and invited individuals to attend the forthcoming exhibition events. Each advert included information on how to provide feedback and find out more information on the proposed Development.
27. Elected local councillors were contacted by the Applicant in advance of the events and were given the opportunity to attend each of the PIEs and meet members of the team. Information about the proposed Development and the public consultation arrangements were included on the Applicant's dedicated website for the proposed Development, alongside an online feedback form. Members of the public were given the opportunity to provide feedback via the online feedback form, email or letter up to the 30th June 2024.

3.2.1. Public Information Days – Round 1

28. Face-to-face Public Information Days were first undertaken as follows:
 - Tuesday 16 April 2024 at Miners Memorial Hall, DG4 6PH, 2:00 pm-7:00 pm
 - Wednesday 17 April 2024 at New Cumnock Town Hall, KA18 4AN, 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

29. The exhibition included information on:

- SPR and their approach;
- Landscape sensitivity, turbine height and landscape restoration;
- Ecology and how we will protect the natural environment;
- Habitat management;
- Protecting heritage and archaeology on and around the Site;
- Transport and traffic planning;
- Mitigating noise, shadow flicker and potential impacts on local residents;
- Protecting and supporting local tourism, recreation and access;
- Aviation, airspace and lighting;
- Virtual wireline viewpoints (VP) showing turbine layout; and
- Feedback survey.

30. The exhibition was publicised using a variety of methods including:

- Advertised in the local media;
- Notification provided directly to all stakeholders;
- A dedicated project website; and
- A leaflet distributed to all households within radius of the Site.

3.2.2. Public Information Days – Round 2

31. Throughout the summer of 2024, the proposed Development proceeded through the design iteration process, taking into account feedback gathered to date and by September an updated layout had been developed. The main change within this was the inclusion of three turbine sizes, replacing the previous 250 m turbine height (to tip) from scoping. The information provided was in line with the first PIE with topics updated as appropriate.

32. The second round of public exhibitions were held at the following locations, dates and times:

- Tuesday 2 September 2024 at Miners Memorial Hall, DG4 6PH, 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- Wednesday 3 September 2024 at New Cumnock Town Hall, KA18 4AN, 11:30 am – 3:00 pm
- Wednesday 3 September 2024 at Miners Memorial Hall, DG4 6PH, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

3.2.3. Public Consultation Feedback

33. A total of 20 members of the public attended the Public Information Events on 16th and 17th of April 2024 and the 2nd and 3rd of September 2024.

The feedback provided by the Community Councils and local residents highlighted several points which this EIA Report addresses, including:

- Landscape and visual impact;
- Potential effect on the Site's ecology; and
- Localised impact from construction and associated traffic.

34. Further details of the second round of public consultation will be included in a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report to accompany the application for consent to the Scottish Ministers.

3.2.4. Application Details

35. The Applicant expects to lodge the Section 36 application in June 2025 for:

- Up to 23 turbines; seven up to 200 m to tip; nine up to 180 m to tip and seven up to 150 m to tip;
- Turbine foundations and hardstanding;
- External transformer housings;
- Crane pads;
- Access tracks (circa 23 km new and 6 km upgraded);
- Underground electricity cabling linking the turbines with the substation
- Temporary borrow pits;
- Temporary construction compounds with ancillary infrastructure;
- Site signage and snow poles;
- Onsite substation, storage buildings and control building;
- Waste water and drainage attenuation measures (as required); and
- A permanent power performance assessment (PPA) anemometry mast and associated hardstanding area.

36. Subject to confirmation with East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway Councils, it is envisaged that the EIA Report will, on submission of the Section 36 Application, be available for viewing to the public at a suitable location in the vicinity of the Site, as well as at the East Ayrshire Council Offices (London Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 7BU) and the Dumfries and Galloway Council Offices (Main Reception, Kirkbank House, English Street, Dumfries, DG1 2HS).

37. The EIA Report and associated documentation will be available to view for several weeks, the length of which is to be confirmed with the Energy Consents Unit. In addition, the material will be made available electronically on the Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering and Extension website. Data stick and hard copies may be obtained from the Applicant at a reasonable charge reflecting the cost of making the relevant information available.
38. The Section 36 Application for consent will be advertised in the Edinburgh Gazette, a national newspaper and local newspapers, likely the Dumfries Courier, Annandale Herald, Moffat News, Annandale Observe Cumnock Chronicle and Galloway Gazette. The dates of publication are yet to be confirmed.

4. Conclusion

39. SPR has proactively engaged with statutory consultees, local people, communities and stakeholders throughout the application process.
40. A broad range of media has been utilised including local and community press, social media, community online and social media digital and online tools and direct mail.
41. SPR consider that any remaining matters, that have not already been addressed through the design iteration process, of the proposed Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering and Extension have been set out and addressed in the EIA Report.

Appendix 1

Table A1.1 Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering and Extension Consultation Summary

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
East Ayrshire Council	<p>Document lacks sufficient detail for further consideration with respect to the Hare Hill Repowering development itself but rather provides a summary of a scoping request for a phased approach to a separate site and comments on limited responses received from consultees in respect of that case.</p> <p>The Council has no issue in principle to a phased approach, however it is not considered sufficient case-specific detail has been provided to enable any informed position to be made on the scope of the EIA Report based on the document summarising a separate project.</p>	<p>Noise response from EAC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to the large concentration of other wind farms in the surrounding area, the process of determining appropriate limits such that the existing noise limits for Hare Hill and Hare Hill Extension wind farms and cumulative noise limits applying to other nearby wind farms is complex. However, I am content that the approach outlined in the letter is suitable to demonstrate that predicted noise emissions will comply with the appropriate noise limits. <p>Noise response from EAC, EHO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I refer to your recent enquiry regarding 	<p>In response to Scoping:</p> <p>Noted these comments are towards the additional information provided following a discussion on phasing, rather than the scoping report itself.</p> <p>In Response to Further Consultation: The noise assessment has followed the methodology agreed with EAC.</p>

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
Dumfries and Galloway Council	NA	<p>proposed noise assessment methodology for the above, and insofar as the assessment will relate to properties within the East Ayrshire Council boundary I can confirm that we accept your proposed methodology.</p>	<p>The EIA report will provide detail on the length of phases and what will be included within each.</p>
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	General Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We can confirm that there are no scheduled monuments, category A-listed buildings, Inventory battlefields, GDLs, or World Heritage Sites within the proposed Development boundary. We are generally content with the proposed scope of the EIA Report. We expect that all designated assets within the proposed outer study area be assessed. If an asset is scoped out 	<p>A representative of HES attended the phasing call in January 2024. It was raised that the scoping report did not provide detail on the phasing of the project, however, it was acknowledged that this was not in the public domain when the scoping report was submitted.</p> <p>All designated assets within the proposed study area have been assessed.</p> <p>Where relevant and assets have been scoped out a full explanation has been provided.</p> <p>The cumulative impact of windfarm developments has been included within the assessment.</p>

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<p>of more detailed assessment, the reasons for this should be presented in the EIA Report.</p> <p>Cultural Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We welcome that cultural heritage is scoped into the assessment and we are broadly content with the proposed methodology. However, we have the following comments to make regarding best practice. – We welcome that a 10 km study area alongside a ZTV will be used for identifying heritage assets that have potential to experience impacts to their settings. We note that the wording of the Scoping Report suggests that only assets that are within both the 10 km study area and the ZTV will be included in the assessment. We expect that all designated assets within the 10 km study area be assessed, and that if an asset is scoped out of more detailed assessment, the reasons for this should be presented in the written report. – We are broadly content for the settings of heritage assets outside the outer study area to be scoped 	<p>A study area of 10 km alongside a ZTV has been included.</p> <p>Scheduled monuments within 10 km have been included within the assessment.</p> <p>Although outside the 10 km study area, Dumfries House and GDL have been included within the assessment.</p> <p>All viewpoints requested in the scoping response from HES will be included in support of the EIA Report</p>	

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<p>out, as currently proposed. But we do note the presence of a small number of assets out with the 10 km study area that cannot be scoped out and thus will need to be assessed for setting impacts.</p> <p>Scheduled Monuments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within the 10 km study area, the concentration of scheduled heritage assets clustered around Sanquhar to the east of the development site are potentially the most at risk of negative setting impacts. As such, wireframe visualisations should be prepared for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crichton Peel & Sanquhar Castle (SM687) Kemps Castle, fort 320m SW of Euchan Bridge (SM656) Ryehill, motte (SM708) There is a gap in the surrounding windfarms, existing and consented, to the north east of the proposed Development. Two monuments lie within the ZTV in this direction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cairn Table, two cairns (SM4631) Cairn Kinny (SM4275), 		

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<p>Proposed viewpoint 17 is from the summit of Cairn Table Hill, the site of Cairn Table, two cairns (SM4631). A wireframe visualisation from Cairn Kinny (SM4275) should also be included.</p> <p>A-Listed Buildings and Gardens and Designed Landscapes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We welcome that, although outside the 10km study area, Dumfries House Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL00149) and Category A-listed Dumfries House (LB14413) have been scoped in for further assessment. • With regard to Dumfries House GDL (GDL00149), and Dumfries House itself, we note it is proposed to produce a visualisation from the north eastern boundary. We would question the rationale for this choice of location because, in our view, it seems likely that visibility of the proposed Development would be greater from the south east boundary of the GDL. This area is likely to be higher and closer to the proposed 		

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<p>Development. We would therefore request the location for the proposed viewpoint is reviewed and moved to the south east, perhaps in the vicinity of Stair Mount, if visibility and impacts are likely to be greater here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With regard to Dumfries House (LB14413) itself, if there is any potential for visibility of the proposed turbines from it, we recommend the assessment be informed by a wireframe from the main external stair to the entrance elevation. If visibility of the proposed turbines is demonstrated from this sensitive viewpoint, then a photomontage should be produced to inform assessment and mitigation if appropriate. 		
NatureScot	<p>Key natural heritage considerations requiring consideration within the EIA are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape and visual impacts, including cumulative impacts. Potential impacts on the Ailsa Craig and Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands Special Protection Areas (SPA) and related Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). 	<p>Ailsa Craig SPA Based on the information provided for the two years of bird survey, we agree that the there is no Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on the SPA and that therefore the SPA can be scoped out of further assessment.</p>	<p>In response to the scoping Opinion:</p> <p>Landscape and visual impacts, including cumulative, will be assessed within Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Assessment. The</p>

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential impacts on carbon-rich soil and priority peatland habitats. 	<p>We advise that the EIA Report contain a full assessment of the bird data to demonstrate the lack of LSE</p> <p>Phasing Discussion Jan 2024 Representatives of NatureScot attended the phasing call in January 2024. It was raised that the scoping report did not provide detail on the phasing of the project, however, it was acknowledged that this was not in the public domain when the scoping report was submitted.</p> <p>A query was raised regarding the operational aspect of the Site and it was confirmed that the Site would not be undeveloped at any stage until the proposed Developments decommissioning.</p> <p>Due to the phased approach it was noted that a variation to the 5 year period to start construction could be requested if required.</p>	<p>NatureScot scoping response recognises that significant impacts are unlikely to arise from the proposed Development. Relevant NatureScot guidance will be adhered to within the EIA Report.</p> <p>Potential impacts on carbon-rich soils and priority peatland habitats are considered in Chapter 9: Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology Assessment.</p> <p>In response to the Pre-submission response: It is acknowledged that the Ailsa Craig SPA and relative species can be scoped out.</p>

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<p>Detailed scoping requirements</p> <p>1 Site layout</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All maps must be based on an adequate scale with which to assess the information <p>2 Engineering activities which may have adverse effects on the water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site layout should be designed to minimise watercourse crossings and avoid other direct impacts on water features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ All proposed temporary or permanent infrastructure overlain with all lochs and watercourses ◦ A minimum buffer of 50 m around each loch or watercourse. 	<p>Methodology letter</p> <p>Following the phasing discussion in January, NatureScot was provided the proposed methodologies for noise and landscape and visual sections.</p> <p>The landscape and visual did not meet the threshold for engagement and noise is out of NatureScot's purview.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All maps will be on an appropriate scale for assessment. 2. The Site layout has been developed to minimise the number of watercourse crossings as feasibly possible. <p>A buffer of 50 m has been provided to all lochs and watercourses for all infrastructure except where there are watercourse crossings.</p>
SEPA			

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<p>3. Disturbance and re-use of excavated peat and other carbon rich soils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proposals are on peatland or carbon rich soils the following should be submitted to address the requirements of NPF4 Policy 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> layout plans showing all permanent and temporary infrastructure, with extent of excavation required, which clearly demonstrates how the mitigation hierarchy outlined in NPF4 has been applied. These plans should be overlaid on: peat depth survey (showing peat probe locations, colour coded using distinct colours for each depth category and annotated at a usable scale) peat depth survey showing interpolated peat depths peatland condition mapping NVC habitat mapping. an outline Peat Management Plan (PMP). 	<p>3.</p> <p>Layout plans will show all permanent and temporary infrastructure which will be provided in support of the EIA.</p> <p>Potential impacts on carbon-rich soils and priority peatland habitats are considered in Chapter 9: Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology Assessment.</p> <p>NVC habitat mapping is discussed in Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity Assessment.</p> <p>An outline PMP will be provided in support of the EIA.</p> <p>A draft HMP will be provided in support of the EIA.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>GWDTE's are discussed in Chapter 9: Hydrology,</p>	

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ an outline Habitat Management Plan (HMP). ○ Detailed advice - Development design in line with the mitigation hierarchy <p>4. Disruption to GWDTE and existing groundwater abstractions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE) are protected under the Water Framework Directive. Excavations and other construction works can disrupt groundwater flow and impact on GWDTE and existing groundwater abstractions. The layout and design of the development must avoid impacts on such areas. A National Vegetation Classification survey which includes the following information should be submitted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A map demonstrating all GWDTE and existing groundwater abstractions are outwith a 100 m radius of all excavations shallower than 1 m and outwith 250 m of all excavations deeper than 1 m and proposed 	<p>Geology and Hydrogeology Assessment.</p> <p>5.</p> <p>Forest felling has been minimised through the design process wherever possible.</p> <p>Information on forestry will be provided through Chapter 14: Forestry.</p> <p>6.</p> <p>A Borrow Pit Assessment and borrow pit locations will be provided in support of Chapter 9: Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology Assessment.</p> <p>7/8.</p> <p>Pollution prevention, environmental management, life extension, repowering and decommissioning are described in an Outline DCEMP.</p>	

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<p>groundwater abstractions.</p> <p>The survey needs to extend beyond the site boundary where the distances require it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the minimum buffers cannot be achieved, a detailed site specific qualitative and/or quantitative risk assessment will be required <p>5. Forest removal and forest waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We prefer a site layout which avoids large scale felling as this can result in large amounts of waste material and a peak in release of nutrients which can affect local water quality. The submission must include a map with the boundaries of where felling will take place and a description of what is proposed for this timber <p>6. Borrow pits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The following information should also be submitted for each borrow pit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A map showing the location, size, depths and dimensions. 		

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A map showing any stocks of rock, overburden, soils and temporary and permanent infrastructure including tracks, buildings, oil storage, pipes and drainage, overlain with all lochs and watercourses to a distance of 250 m. You need to demonstrate that a site specific proportionate buffer can be achieved. On this map, a site-specific buffer must be drawn around each loch or watercourse proportionate to the depth of excavations and at least 10 m from access tracks. ○ Sections and plans detailing how restoration will be progressed including the phasing, profiles, depths and types of material to be used. <p>7. Pollution prevention and environmental management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A schedule of mitigation supported by the above site specific maps and plans must 		

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<p>be submitted. These must include reference to best practice pollution prevention and construction techniques (for example, limiting the maximum area to be stripped of soils at any one time) and regulatory requirements. They should set out the daily responsibilities of Ecological Clerk of Works, how site inspections will be recorded and acted upon and proposals for a planning monitoring enforcement officer.</p> <p>8. Life extension, repowering and decommissioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals for life extension, repowering and/or decommissioning must demonstrate accordance with SEPA Guidance on the life extension and decommissioning of onshore wind farms. • The submission needs to state that there will be no discarding of materials that are likely to be classified as waste as any such proposals 		

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
British Telecommunications (BT)	<p>would be unacceptable under waste management licensing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The conclusion is that project indicated should not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network. BT requires 100 m minimum clearance from any structure to the radio link path. If the proposed location changes, please let us know as this approves the exact location only. We can then reassess this for you. 	N/A	<p>As the proposed Development has remained in the same location and through the design iterations the area of the Site has decreased it is implied there will be no interference with BT's radio network.</p>
Ministry of Defence	<p>the MOD has concerns with the proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Obstruction MOD would require that conditions are added to any consent issued requiring that the development is fitted with aviation safety lighting and that sufficient data is submitted to ensure that structures can be accurately charted to allow deconfliction. MOD would require that the development be fitted with MOD accredited aviation safety lighting in accordance with the Air Navigation Order 2016. The MOD would request to be lit with no less than 25cd visible and IR 	<p>Aviation lighting will be incorporated into the proposed Development.</p> <p>At the time of writing a reduced lighting scheme is being prepared alongside the application to discuss which turbines will be lit.</p> <p>An on site met mast will be present, however, it will not breach the 150 m height for lighting.</p>	

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	COMBL on perimeter turbines. The MOD will also request that any associated met masts to be lit if they fall below the height of 150m.		
Edinburgh Airport	I can confirm the location of this development falls out with our Aerodrome Safeguarding zone for Edinburgh Airport therefore we have no objection/comment.	N/A	N/A
Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS)	Due to the potential for such developments to impact on migratory fish species and the fisheries they support, FMS have developed, in conjunction with Marine Scotland Science, advice for DSFBs and Trusts in dealing with planning applications. We would strongly recommend that these guidelines are fully considered throughout the planning, construction and monitoring phases of the proposed Development.	N/A	Fish surveys have been undertaken in support of this application and are included in Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity Assessment .
Glasgow Airport	The scoping report submitted has been examined from an aerodrome safeguarding perspective and we would make the following observations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The Site is outwith the obstacle limitation surfaces and radar consultation area for Glasgow Airport; 3. It is within the instrument flight procedures safeguarding areas and may impact. Detailed assessments will be required. 	N/A	An instrument flight procedure assessment has been completed and considered within the final design of the proposed Development. Aviation concerns are addressed in Chapter 12: Aviation and Existing Infrastructure .

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<p>Our position with regard to this proposal will only be confirmed once the turbine details are finalized and we have been consulted on a full planning application. At that time we will carry out a full safeguarding impact assessment and will consider our position in light of, <i>inter alia</i>, operational impact and cumulative effects.</p>		
Glasgow Prestwick Airport (GPA) Limited	<p>The Airport's Windfarm Safeguarding Assessment Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The position of the windfarm directly on the extended centreline for Runway 30 at a distance of 17-19.5 nautical miles is an area where the Airport's ATC regularly provide an air traffic service. Other Issues include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential disruption to multiple Instrument Flight Procedures due to the site's location on the Runway 30 extended centreline potential for disruption to the Instrument Landing System signal (both azimuth and glidepath) for Runway 30. 	N/A	<p>An IFP assessment has been completed and considered within the final design of the proposed Development. Turbine heights to tip were selected to adhere to these restrictions.</p> <p>Aviation concerns are addressed in Chapter 12: Aviation and Existing Infrastructure.</p> <p>At the time of writing a reduced lighting scheme is being prepared alongside the application to discuss which turbines will be lit.</p>

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the need for aviation lighting for obstacles above 150 m in height; ○ potential loss of VHF Ground to Air communications in the vicinity of the windfarm as a consequence of the large turbines and proximity to other developments in the area. <p>Primary Surveillance Radar (PSR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preliminary Radar Line of Sight ("RLoS") analysis at both the minimum of 175 m and maximum turbine tip heights of 250 m for the proposed Hare Hill Wind Farm Repowering indicates that there is a high likelihood that all of the proposed turbines will be visible to the Airport's primary radar. Further assessments will be required to establish and confirm the actual number of turbines visible to the Airport's primary radar. <p>Instrument Flight Procedures (IFPs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Furthermore, given the proposed maximum tip height (250 m) of the turbines and a height above sea level of 831 m (2726 ft), there is 		

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<p>potential for significant infringement of safety buffers for multiple Airport departure and arrival procedures as well as the GPA specific minimum safety altitudes. If changes to climb or descent gradients were to be required to accommodate the wind farm, there would be a resulting reduction in operational safety margins to aircraft operating to and from the Airport, with the potential for certain types of aircraft that do not have the performance characteristics required ceasing their use of the Airport.</p> <p>Technical Safeguarding – VHF Communication Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary analysis indicates it may be necessary to conduct a detailed Technical Safeguarding Assessment in respect of the protection of the Airport's VHF Radio Navigation Equipment in accordance with CAP670 - Part B, Section 4: GEN 02: Technical Safeguarding of Aeronautical Radio Stations Situated at UK Aerodromes and Appendix A to GEN 02: Methodology for the 		

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<p>Prediction of Wind Turbine Interference Impact on Aeronautical Radio Station Infrastructure.</p> <p>Technical Safeguarding – Instrument Landing System (ILS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary analysis on the Airport's Runway 30 Instrument Landing System indicates the need for a detailed ILS impact assessment as a consequence of the position of the Site within the ILS safeguarding area as defined and recommended by ICAO Annex 10 chapter 3, 3.1.3.3.1, due to the large turbines and cumulative effect of adding to existing developments. <p>Aviation Lighting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Airport remain interested as to how the Developer intends to address the aviation warning obstruction lighting as required by UK CAA for obstacles greater than 150 m in height above local ground level in accordance with Article 222 of the UK Air Navigation Order (ANO) 2016. GPA note that while solely a matter for the CAA to consider, should the aviation lighting 		

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<p>scheme consider the use of Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS) dependent upon Electronic Conspicuity (EC) Equipment, GPA respectfully request that they are consulted with further, should such an ADLS lighting scheme be incorporated into the finalised design.</p> <p>Cumulative Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Airport also raises concerns in respect of the cumulative impact, due to other proposed windfarms in the vicinity of the proposed Hare Hill Wind Farm Repowering. There are 10 existing or proposed developments (not including the original Hare Hill site) within a 5 nm radius, comprising over 110 turbines visible to the GPA PSR, and 23 sites in total within with over 230 turbines visible. Those risks include: (1) Terma alone not being able to provide the required level of mitigation; and (2) adverse impact on VHF Communication Equipment. The cumulative issues across the whole coverage volume are likely to result in the Airport having to procure and install (at the appropriate point) 		

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<p>additional surveillance and communication equipment to address the cumulative impact of multiple windfarms in close proximity to each other.</p> <p>Hare Hill Wind Farm Repowering Scoping Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to the aviation section commencing at paragraph 15 of the Hare Hill Wind Farm EIA Scoping Report, the Airport request that dialogue commences with the Developer to undertake the following aviation safeguarding assessments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A radar flight trial in the airspace above the proposed windfarm to establish the Baseline Probability of Detection (PD) of the radar prior to the windfarm being constructed. ○ A radar modelling assessment (inc detailed Radar Line of Sight analysis) against the Airport's primary surveillance radar(s) to establish if the Terma radar has the capability to 		

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<p>mitigate the clutter from the visible turbines;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An IFP assessment against the Airport's published flight procedures (both RNAV/RNP and conventional); In this case, given the scale and location of the proposed development, we would recommend proceeding directly to a Stage 2 assessment (if provided by the Airport's contracted IFP Safeguarding provider), which provides solutions (if any) to any identified IFP infringements. The findings of any SPR consultant IFP reports would also need to be verified by our contracted IFP Safeguarding provider. ○ An ILS assessment of the proposed windfarm against the Airport's Runway 30 Instrument Landing System, provided (or verified by) our 		

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<p>contracted ILS Safeguarding provider)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A VHF radio communication assessment in the vicinity of the proposed windfarm against the Airport's VHF Ground to Air radio equipment infrastructure; ○ Consultation on any changes to the proposed aviation lighting scheme. <p>Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This development raises serious aviation safety concerns, and would have a potentially insoluble operational impact on the Airport as an Air Navigation Services Provider (ANSP). The Airport will work through its full ATC Operational Impact Assessment and the Technical Safeguarding Assessment(s) to consider the various impacts of the proposal once the proposed development is mature and at the full planning application stage. As part of those assessments, the Airport would wish to discuss with the Developer the terms of a suitable agreement to address the cost 		

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<p>and risks which will be imposed upon it as a result of the proposed development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consequently, the Airport would lodge an objection to this development should the scoping proceed to a full Section 36 application. Furthermore, given the potential scale of infringements to Airport arrivals and departure procedures, we believe it could be extremely difficult to address all technical and operational aviation safety matters detailed above to the satisfaction of the Airport at this time, and removal of the objection may ultimately not be possible 		
Highlands and Islands Airports Limited	This proposal is out-with HIAL's safeguarding criteria. Therefore, Highlands and Islands Airports Limited has no objections to the proposal.	N/A	N/A
JRC Limited	In the case of this proposed wind energy development, JRC does not foresee any potential problems based on known interference scenarios and the data you have provided.	N/A	N/A
NATS Safeguarding	NATS (En Route) plc objects to the proposal. The reasons for NAT's objection were outlined in the TOPA SG000AX report and summarised below:	N/A	Aviation concerns are addressed in Chapter 12: Aviation and Existing Infrastructure.

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predicted Impact on Lowther RADAR (all turbines) Predicted Impact on Great Dun Fell RADAR (14, 16, 17, 18, 19 & 26) Predicted Impact on Cumbernauld RADAR (1, 3, 5, 6 & 8) En-route operational assessment of RADAR impact 		As locations and heights have moved we would look to discuss the proposed Layout with NATS to update on their potential objection.
Nith District Salmon Fishery Board (NDSFB)	To date this wind farm has not given our Board any cause for concerns.	N/A	N/A
Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)	With regard to planning application, ONR makes no comment on this proposed Development as it does not lie within a consultation zone around a GB nuclear site.	N/A	N/A
Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)	We thank the applicant for providing this however as it is not relevant to our interest, we will not be submitting comments.	N/A	N/A
Scottish Water	<p>Scottish Water has no objection to this planning application; however, the applicant should be aware that this does not confirm that the proposed development can currently be serviced</p> <p>Drinking Water Protected Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of our records indicates that there are no Scottish Water drinking water catchments or water abstraction sources, which are designated as Drinking Water Protected Areas under the Water 	N/A	<p>Private water supplies have been assessed within the area surrounding the Site. These are described in</p> <p>Chapter 9: Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology Assessment</p> <p>It is proposed that further work and assessment on private supplies would be required if the proposed</p>

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<p>Framework Directive, in the area that may be affected by the proposed activity</p> <p>Surface Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For reasons of sustainability and to protect our customers from potential future sewer flooding, Scottish Water will not accept any surface water connections into our combined sewer system. <p>There may be limited exceptional circumstances where we would allow such a connection for brownfield sites only, however this will require significant justification from the customer taking account of various factors including legal, physical, and technical challenges</p>		
The Coal Authority		N/A	N/A

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
Transport Scotland	<p>Proposed Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We would note that if any modifications are to be made to the A76 access junction then details should be provided with the application. A 1:500 scale drawing of the geometric layout should be provided along with visibility splay plans and a swept path of the largest anticipated vehicle access the site. <p>Assessment of Environmental Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Scotland is satisfied with this approach, and would add that an alternative source of traffic data is Traffic Scotland's National Traffic Data System. We would also add that base traffic data will require to be factored to the peak construction year flows, using National Road Traffic Forecasts (NRTF) Low Growth The SR states that the assessment will seek to provide a robust (expected worst case or most likely case) assessment of impacts and effects associated with the proposed Development. Transport Scotland would ask that a worst case assessment is provided. 	N/A	<p>A site access visibility splay plan and site access swept path analyses will be provided in support of the EIA.</p> <p>Baseline traffic flows are to be included Chapter 11: Access, Traffic and Transport.</p> <p>All assessments within Chapter 11 will provide a worst case scenario.</p> <p>The up to date IEMA guidance will be used within the Chapter 11: Access, Traffic and Transport. assessments.</p> <p>An abnormal load assessment will be provided as an appendix of Chapter 11: Access, Traffic and Transport..</p>

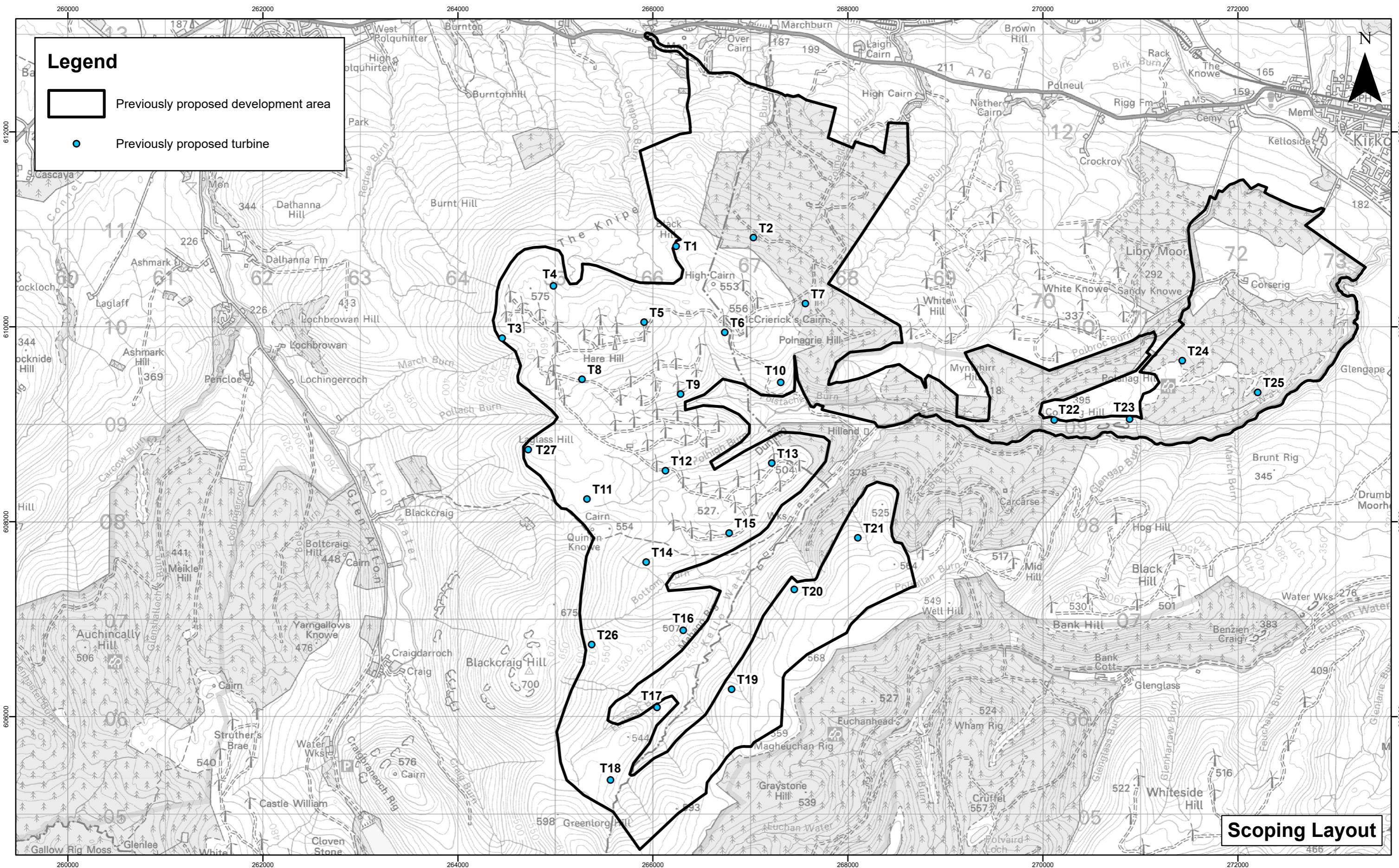
Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We note that the SR states that the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Road Traffic ("the IEMA Guidelines") will be used to assess any impact upon environmental receptors. Transport Scotland would wish to point out that new guidance has been published by IEMA, entitled Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement (July 2023), which are intended to update and replace the previous 1993 IEMA guidelines. These new Guidelines provide enhanced and up to date advice on the assessment of traffic and movement. • Transport Scotland would request that the thresholds as indicated within these new Guidelines be used as a screening process for the assessment. These specify that road links should be taken forward for further assessment where the following two rules are breached: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rule 1: Include road links where traffic flows will 		

Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
		<p>increase by more than 30% (or the number of heavy goods vehicles will increase by more than 30%);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rule 2: Include road links of high sensitivity where traffic flows have increased by 10% or more ● For any trunk road links where the thresholds are breached, Transport Scotland would ask that the following list of impacts is assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Severance of communities ○ Road vehicle driver and passenger delay ○ Non-motorised user delay ○ Non-motorised amenity ○ Fear and intimidation on and by road users ○ Road user and pedestrian safety ○ Hazardous/large loads. ● It is noted that any impacts associated with the operational and decommissioning phases of the development are to be scoped out of the EIA Report. We would consider this to be acceptable in this instance 	

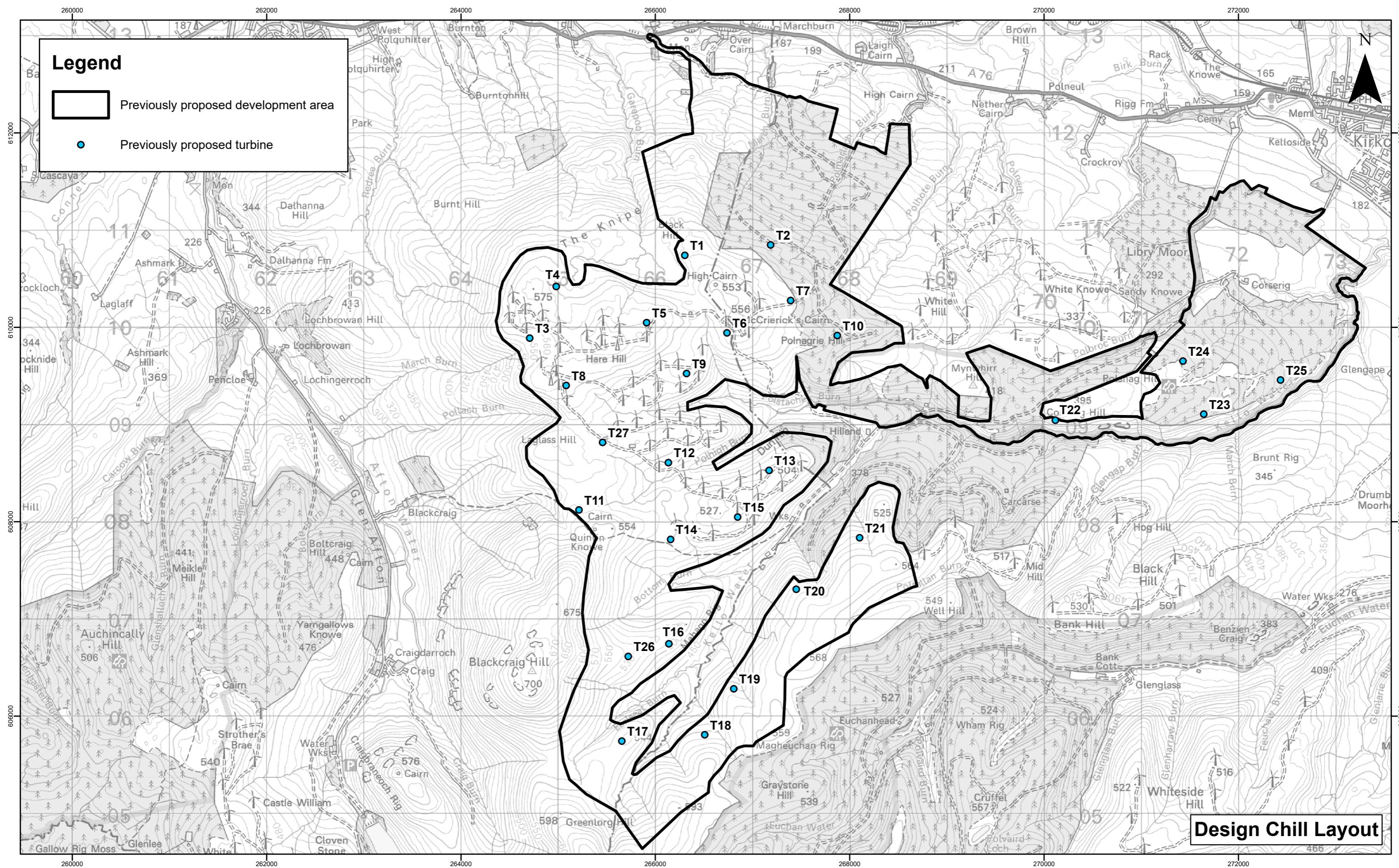
Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	<p>Abnormal Loads Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SR states that it is anticipated that Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL) transporting turbines components will travel from the selected port of entry, anticipated to be King George V Docks in Glasgow, via the M77 and A76(T) to the site entrance. We also note that an AIL Route Survey Report will be undertaken, the geographical extent of which will be from the M77/A76(T) junction to the proposed development site. It should be noted that Transport Scotland will require to be satisfied that the size of turbines proposed can negotiate the entirety of the selected trunk road route and that their transportation will not have any detrimental effect on structures within the trunk road route path. A full Abnormal Loads Assessment report should be provided with the EIA Report that identifies key pinch points on the trunk road network. Swept path analysis should be undertaken and details provided with regard to any required changes to street 		

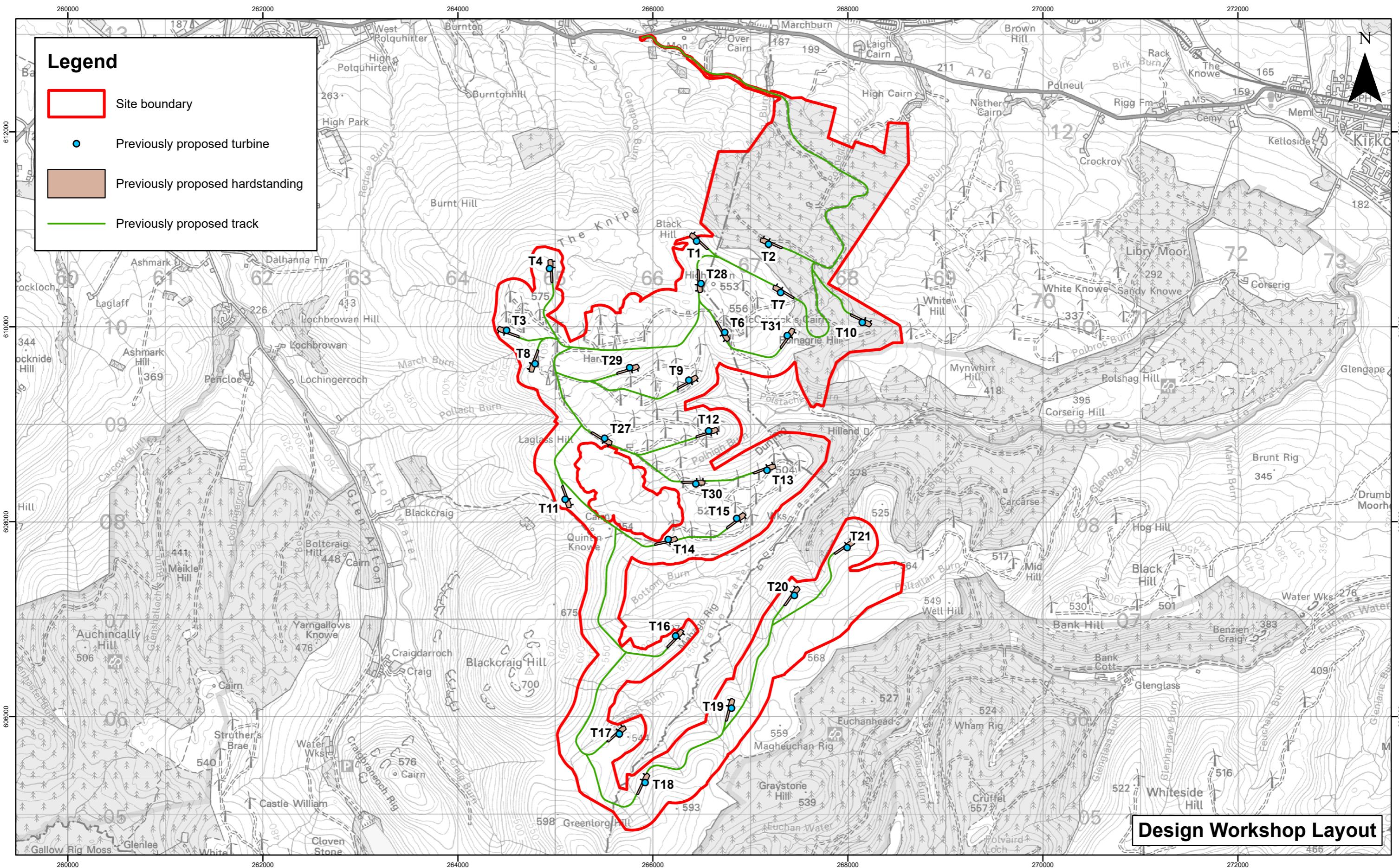
Consultee	Scoping Opinion	Pre-Submission Responses/ Further Consultation	SPR Response or Action Required/Taken
	furniture or structures along the route.		

Appendix 2

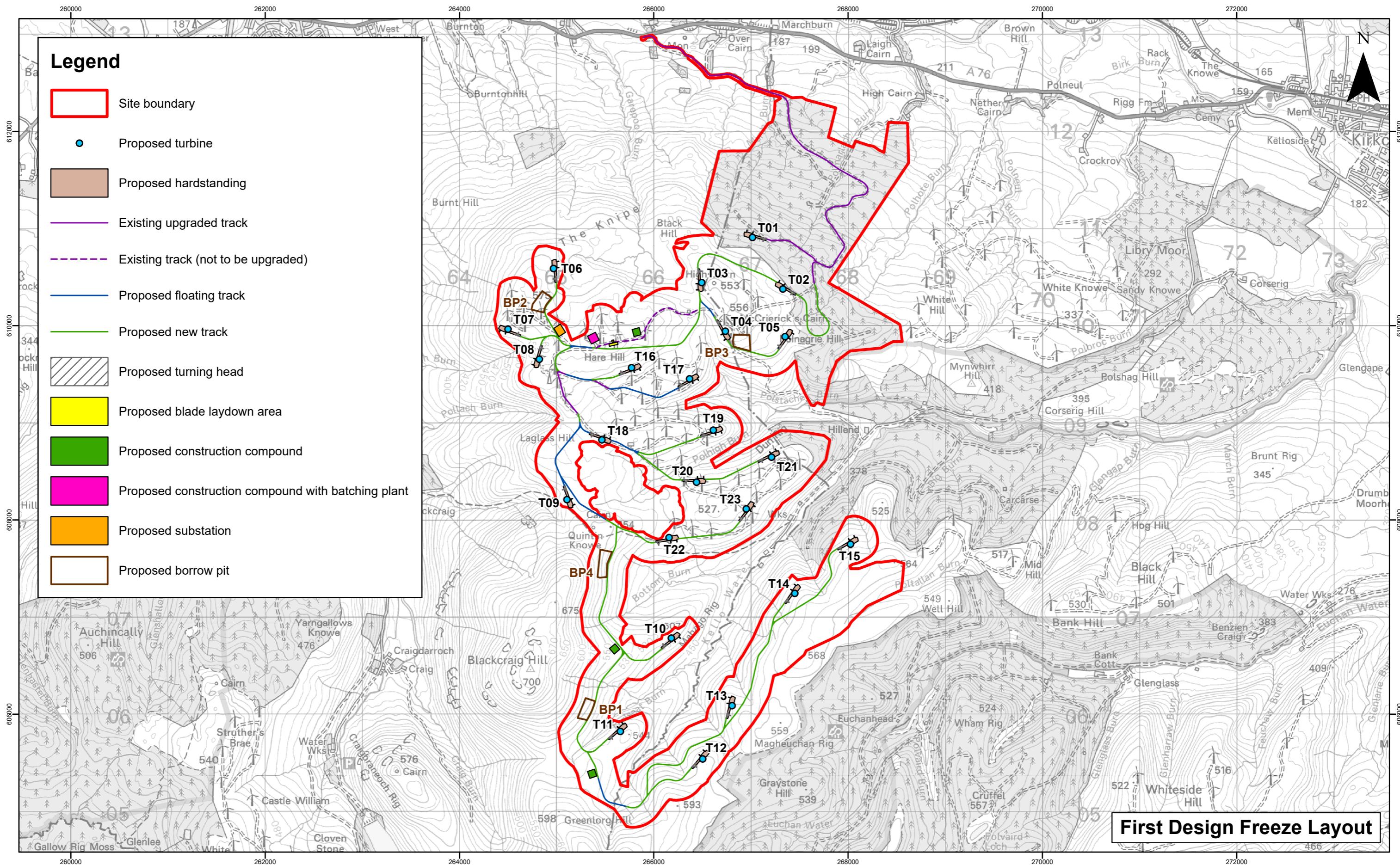


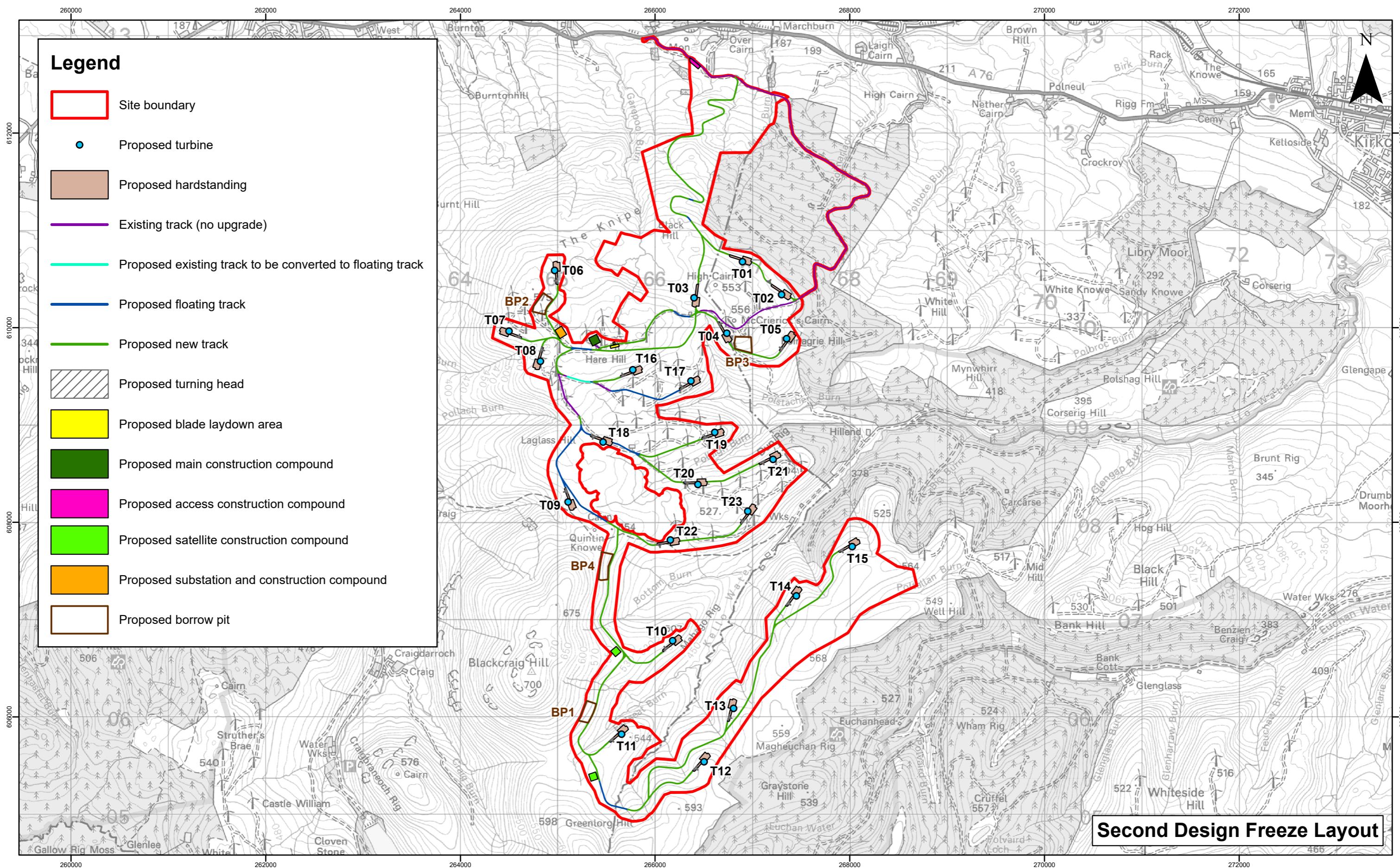
 ScottishPower Renewables	D	03/11/25	DM	Fourth Issue.	1:36,000 Scale @ A3 	Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering and Extension Design Evolution Stages	Drg No	GB200665_M_079
	C	09/05/25	NN	Third Issue.			Rev	D
	B	26/03/25	PL	Second Issue.			Date	03/11/25
	Rev	Date	By	Comment			Figure	4.2a
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 ScottishPower Renewables	D	03/11/25	DM	Fourth Issue.	1:36,000 Scale @ A3 	Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering and Extension Design Evolution Stages	Drg No	GB200665_M_079
	C	09/05/25	NN	Third Issue.			Rev	D
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	Rev	Date	By	Comment			Figure	4.2c
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B. April 2024 Newspaper Advert

Hare Hill Repowering Public Information Event

ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) intends to apply to the Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering. SPR invites you to participate in its Public Information Event on the proposal for Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering. The Proposed Development is anticipated to comprise of up to 27 wind turbines with blade tip heights of up to 250 metres and associated onsite infrastructure. We are committed to engaging with the community throughout the development process, to ensure local communities and stakeholders are given the opportunity to provide feedback and are kept informed of project progress.

The Public Information Event will provide the opportunity to learn more about the proposal, to ask questions or to comment on the proposal, and will take place at:

16th April 2024

2pm-7pm

Miners Memorial Hall
Needle Street
Kirkconnel
DG4 6PH

17th April 2024

12pm-6pm

New Cumnock Town Hall
31-33 Castle
New Cumnock
KA18 4AN

If you're unable to attend, you can find further details of the proposed Hare Hill Repowering at:
https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/hare_hill_windfarm_repowering.aspx

You can also contact our Project Team can be contacted directly by emailing:
harehillrepower@scottishpower.com

Or by writing to: ScottishPower Renewables, Hare Hill Repower Project Team,
ScottishPower Headquarters, 9th Floor, 320 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5AD

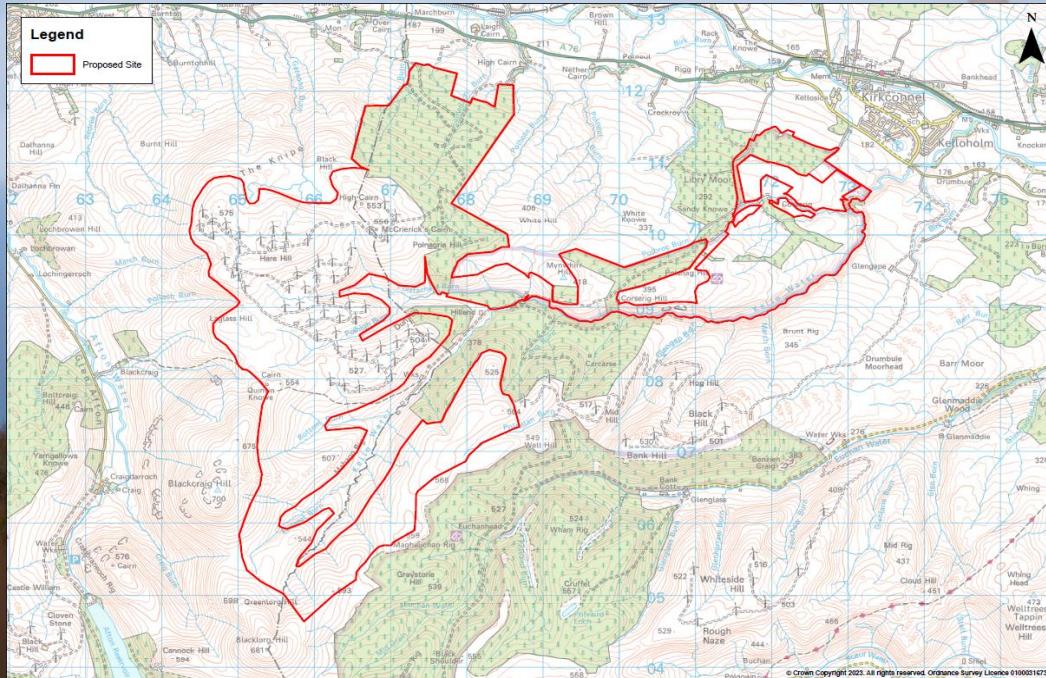
If you have any questions or wish to share any feedback on the proposal, we request
that these are submitted via the online feedback form, email or letter. Alternatively, you may do so
by emailing or writing to the Project Team at the above address.

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



C. April 2024 Postcard

ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) UK Limited would like to invite you to a Public Information Event for Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering



PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

We are proposing a renewable energy development, the repowering of our operational Hare Hill site. Currently, Hare Hill and Hare Hill Extension have a combined total of 55 turbines, generating 43.2 megawatts across the two sites. The proposed development will consist of fewer wind turbines, approximately 27, with blade tip heights of up to 250 metres and the potential to deliver up to 150 megawatts of green electricity - enough to power the equivalent of 80,000 homes.

EXHIBITIONS

The Public Information Event will provide the opportunity to learn more about the proposal, to ask questions or to comment on the proposal and will take place at:

16th April 2024

2pm – 7pm

Miners Memorial Hall
Needle Street
Kirkconnel
DG4 6PH

17th April 2024

12pm – 6pm

New Cumnock Town Hall
31-33 Castle
New Cumnock
KA18 4AN

ONLINE INFORMATION

Further information about the scheme is also available via the QR code or project website address below:

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

You can also contact our Project Team by emailing:

harehillrepower@scottishpower.com

Or by writing to:

Hare Hill Repowering Project Team,
9th Floor, ScottishPower Headquarters,
320 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5AD

If you have any questions or wish to share any feedback on the proposal, we request that these are submitted via the online feedback form, email or letter.

Please note, comments made to us at this stage will not constitute a formal representation. Opportunities to make formal representations will be available if a planning application is made. Thank you, and we look forward to meeting you at our Public Information Event.



D. April 2024 Exhibition Boards

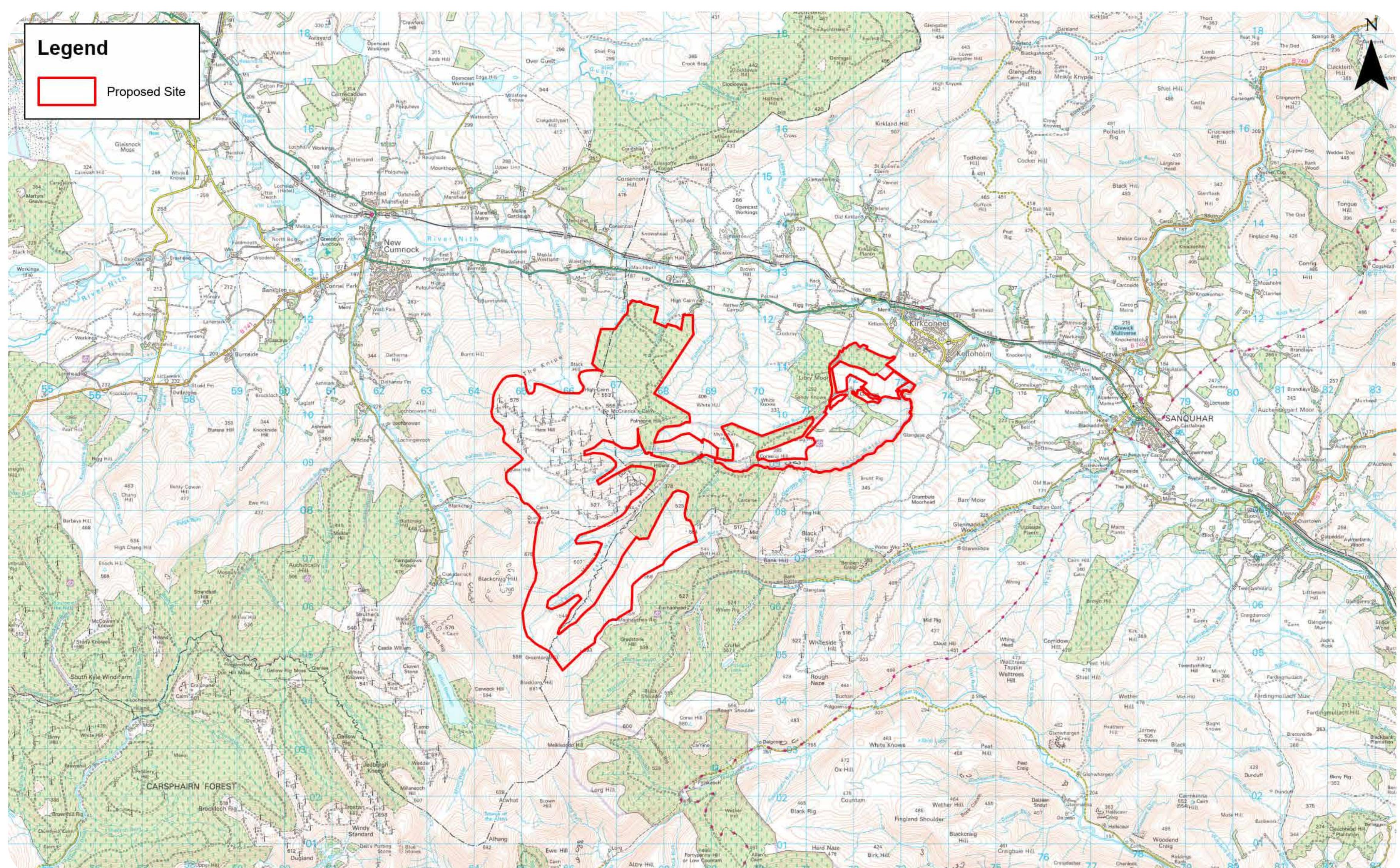


Welcome to the Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering Public Exhibition

Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering is a ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) Project

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

At SPR, we are committed to developing renewable energy responsibly. We strive to be a good neighbour in all aspects of our work and are committed to Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire and the surrounding area, and to maximising the opportunities for local communities to benefit from our projects. We aim to find the best balance of constraints; to conform that no impact from our developments is unacceptable; and to demonstrate that the benefits of our projects are real value, wide-reaching and shared with the community.



Hare Hill Repower - Proposed Turbine Layout



Visit our Website



Learn more about
Repowering

Email: harehillrepower@scottishpower.com

Post:

Hare Hill Repowering Project Team,
ScottishPower Renewables,
9th Floor,
320 St Vincent Street,
Glasgow,
G2 5AD



Community Benefit and History in the Region

ScottishPower Renewables has been working alongside communities across the UK for nearly two decades and has to date contributed more than £60 million in benefit funds to support initiatives and projects for those communities local to our windfarm sites. Over £15.5 million of community benefit has been used to support valuable community led initiatives and projects in Dumfries and Galloway. In excess of £11.5 million has been invested into communities in East Ayrshire. Repowering Hare Hill Windfarm and Hare Hill Extension will further increase community benefit funds available to neighbouring communities within Dumfries and Galloway and East Ayrshire.

Operational since 1999, our Hare Hill site is one of Scotland's oldest Windfarms and SPR has been a neighbour for many years, generating cleaner power and providing socio-economic benefits to local communities in Dumfries and Galloway and East Ayrshire. We own and operate Killgallioch, Harestanes,

Ewe Hill and Wether Hill windfarms in Dumfries and Galloway, and several others in the wider Ayrshire region. With the development of these sites nearby, SPR is continuing the history of working positively with local communities in the region. The flexible approach adopted by SPR has empowered local communities to decide what the community benefit is spent on. This has resulted in a fantastic diversity of projects being delivered from improving local amenities including town halls, cinemas and local youth clubs, to supporting work experience places, educational workshops and much more.

We are also keen to create employment opportunities during the construction and operation of our windfarms that can be delivered locally to benefit those who live near our sites.

£60m

of community benefit
UK wide

£15.5m

of community benefit
to date in Dumfries
and Galloway

£11.5m

of community benefit
to date in East Ayrshire



The Site - Hare Hill Windfarm

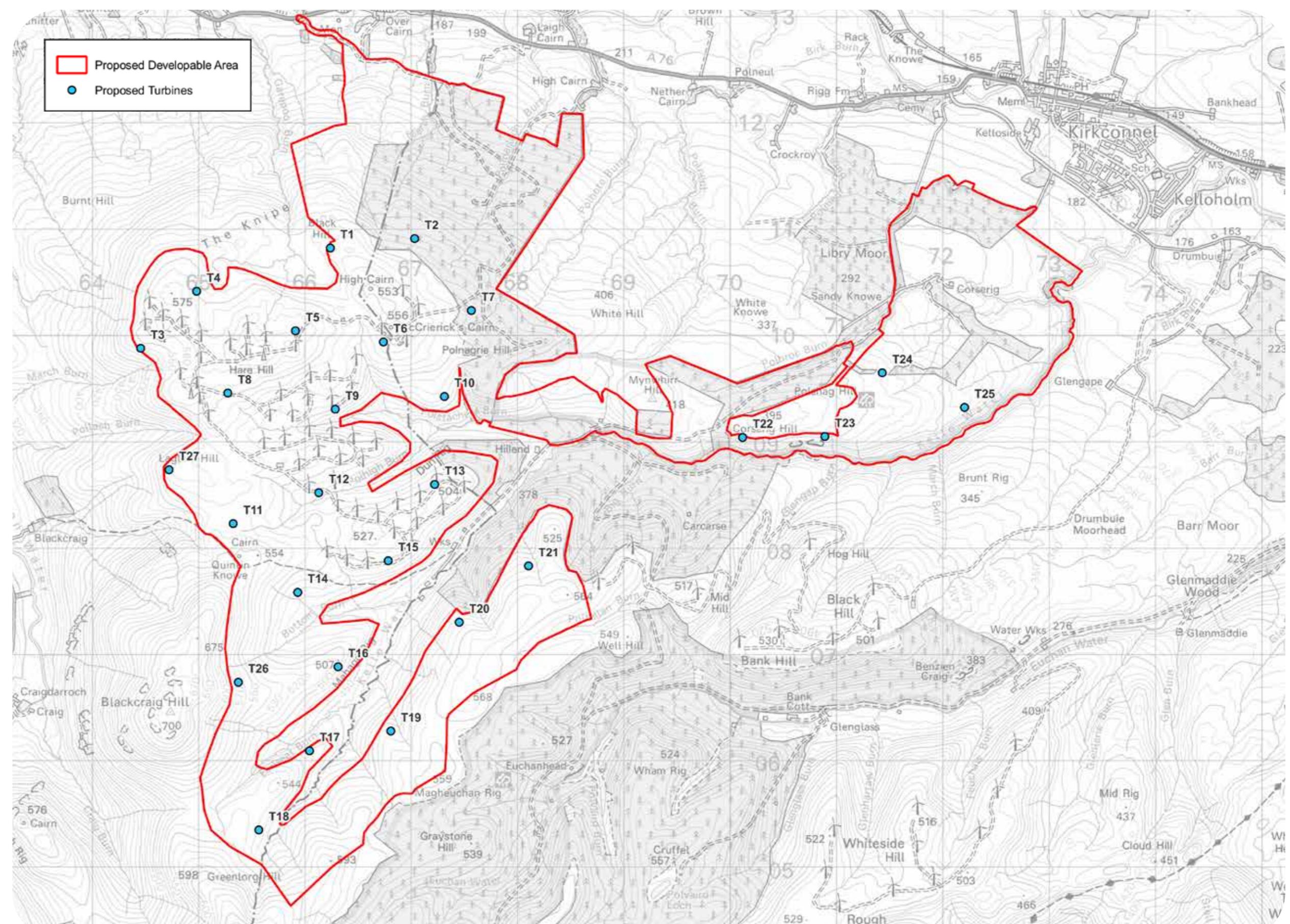
The Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering project is located on the border of East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway, 4 km Southeast of New Cumnock, at the site of our Hare Hill windfarm and Hare Hill Windfarm Extension sites.

The Proposed Development

Currently, Hare Hill and Hare Hill Extension have a combined total of 55 turbines, generating 43.2 megawatts across the two sites. The Proposed Development will consist of fewer wind turbines, approximately 27, with blade tip heights of up to 250 metres.

November 2023 Scoping Layout

Maximises the energy production whilst considering environmental constraints known from public data resources and desktop study.



Hare Hill Repower - Proposed Turbine Layout



Development Process

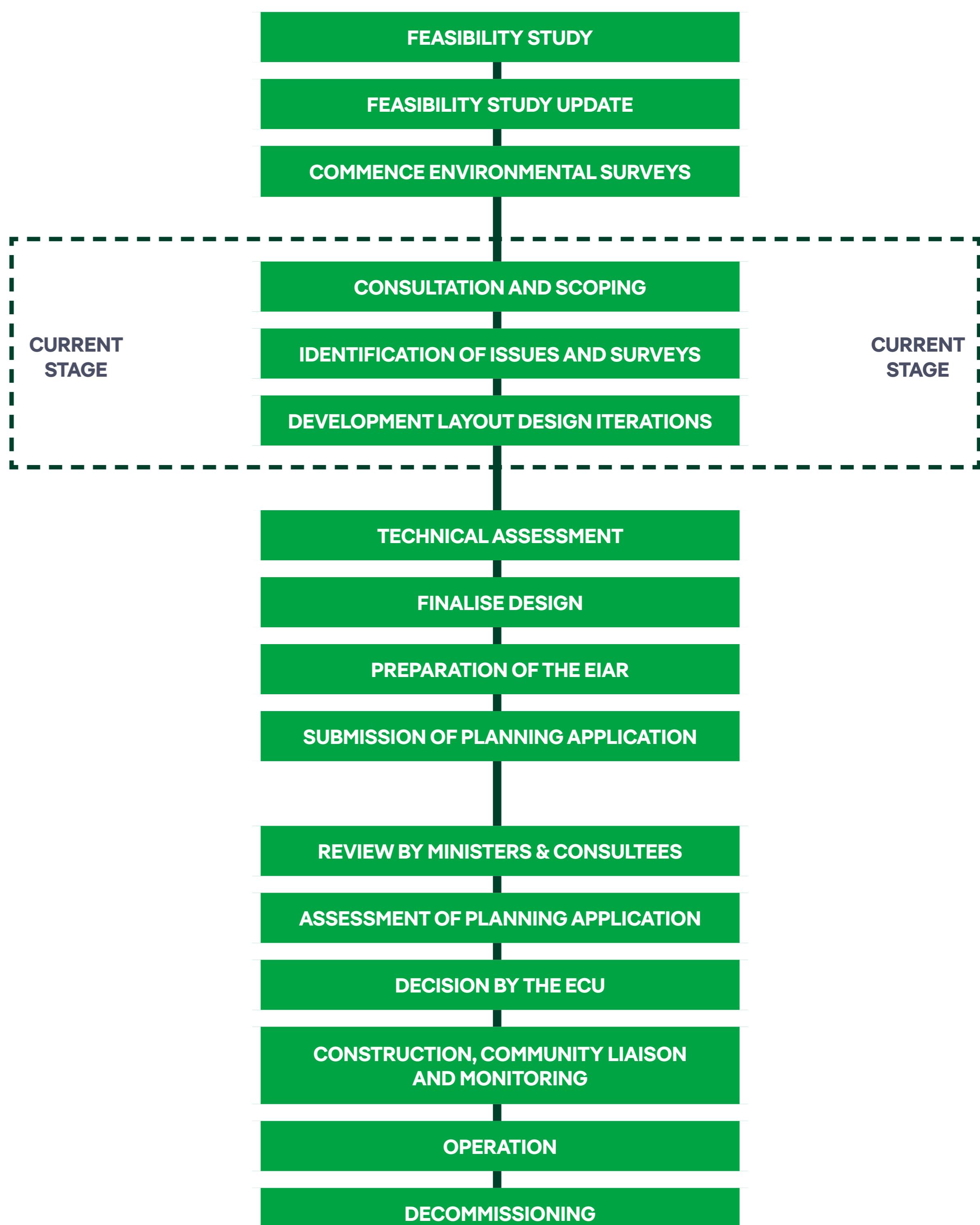
A Scoping Report was submitted to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in November 2023.

This described our draft proposal and invited the views of consultees on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Once the scoping opinion has been received it will determine the scope of the EIA currently being drafted. This will be presented in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report to accompany the application for consent to the ECU.

The EIAR will consider:

- Landscape and visual matters
- Ecology
- Ornithology
- Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology
- Cultural heritage
- Traffic and Transport
- Aviation and existing infrastructure
- Noise
- Forestry
- Socioeconomics
- Telecommunication





Environmental Considerations

The following environmental considerations will be assessed and documented, forming a part of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. This approach ensures a thorough examination and reporting of the environmental implications of the Proposed Development are considered, and will confirm the impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development align with regulatory standards and best practices.

Ecology and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

This assessment considers the local flora and fauna present within the site. Habitat and protected mammals surveys will be undertaken within the site boundary which include badger, otter and water vole. The assessment will include recommendations for mitigation and. Measures for biodiversity enhancement and net gain in line with National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and standard guidance.

Bat activity surveys were undertaken in 2023, and in 2024 a suite of carcass surveys will be undertaken on the existing operational turbines to identify whether there is currently any impact on bat species.

Hydrological, Geological and Hydrogeological

This assessment will consider the hydrological, geological and hydrogeological characteristics of the Proposed Development and help inform appropriate mitigation proposals. Field surveys will be carried out to inform baseline conditions, such as

watercourse assessments, peat depth and condition surveys and private water supply surveys. A 'water environment' map will be produced to provide the basis for describing the current water regime. This map will also provide form the basis for identifying potential impacts and helping to instruct the specification of appropriate mitigation.

An impact assessment would be undertaken to assess the potential effects of the Proposed Development on receptors to draw conclusions on the significance of the effects.

Ornithology

This assessment will assess the potential effects of the Proposed Development on features of ornithological interest during both its construction and operational phases.

There are no statutory International/European or national designated sites for ornithological features located within the site.

Potential adverse impacts on ornithological receptors will be avoided or minimised where possible through the design process. Where significant adverse effects are predicted through the impact assessment process, appropriate mitigation measures will be prescribed to either avoid these or reduce them to an acceptable (not significant) level.

Where necessary, a habitat management plan and breeding bird protection plan will be developed to ensure that all reasonable precautions are taken to protect and enhance conditions for ornithological features of interest within the Proposed Development Site during both construction and operation.

Aviation

The Aviation section will assess the potential effects of the Proposed Development on civil and military aerodromes, airspace and radars. The aviation assessment will include radar line of sight modelling and will identify and examine in greater detail sensitive aviation and radar receptors. Consultation will also be undertaken with relevant aviation stakeholders.

Forestry

A forestry baseline would be compiled from a desk-based assessment and field surveys. A Development Forest Plan would be prepared incorporate the windfarm infrastructure into the forest structure. The proposal would identify the extent of any net loss of woodland area. A Development Felling Plan will be prepared to show which woodlands are to be felled for construction of the development by considering existing crops; silvicultural constraints; site conditions; baseline Forest Plans and landowner objectives; windfarm requirements; any other constraints identified during the EIA process; and any mitigation proposals. In addition, a Development Restocking Plan would detail the timing, location and species to be replanted following construction felling. Restocking options would include delayed restocking; revised species; and / or stocking densities. Following completion of the Development Forest Plan the changes in the woodlands would be analysed and described. The effects of the development forestry proposals would be assessed by the other relevant disciplines.



Environmental Considerations

Traffic and Transport

The objective of the Traffic and Transport assessment is to assess the impact of the proposed Development, Hare Hill Repower, on the public road network, by means of a Traffic Impact Assessment. This will be supplemented by an Access Route Assessment for delivery of the wind turbine Abnormal Indivisible Loads and a preliminary Traffic Management Plan. This will consider the impact of the traffic volumes and the transport network during the construction period, operational phase and decommissioning phase of the proposed development.

Cultural Heritage

The assessment will cover on-site impacts identified through desk-based research, and verified by field survey, and off-site impacts on the settings of heritage assets in the surrounding area.

The baseline character and sensitivity of heritage assets within the site will be described and avoided where necessary.

Heritage assets in the wider landscape with settings sensitive to change will be identified and efforts will be made to avoid or reduce potentially adverse effects on their cultural significance.

Consultation will be maintained with statutory consultees throughout the EIA process.

Mitigation measures will be outlined which will ensure direct or indirect impacts on sensitive assets within the site are dealt with appropriately, to the satisfaction of both East Ayrshire Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Design

The engineering team will use Infraworks software to locate the candidate turbine and the crane pad in positions that will allow construction that is compliant with the manufacturer's hardstanding and track specifications, with minimal cut and fill, and takes into consideration the identified environmental and performance constraints. Where appropriate, existing infrastructure will be incorporated into the design. The quantities of aggregate required for construction will be estimated for use in borrow pit design, transportation assessment and carbon balance calculations.

Socioeconomics

The assessment will consider the potential socioeconomic impacts that could arise from the Proposed Development. It will provide a baseline socio-economic context outlining population levels, employment statistics, and relevant economic data at the local, regional, and national level. The assessment will estimate the economic impact generated during the development, construction, and operational phases, providing estimates on the number of jobs and the Gross Value Added that could be generated. The assessment will also propose measures and

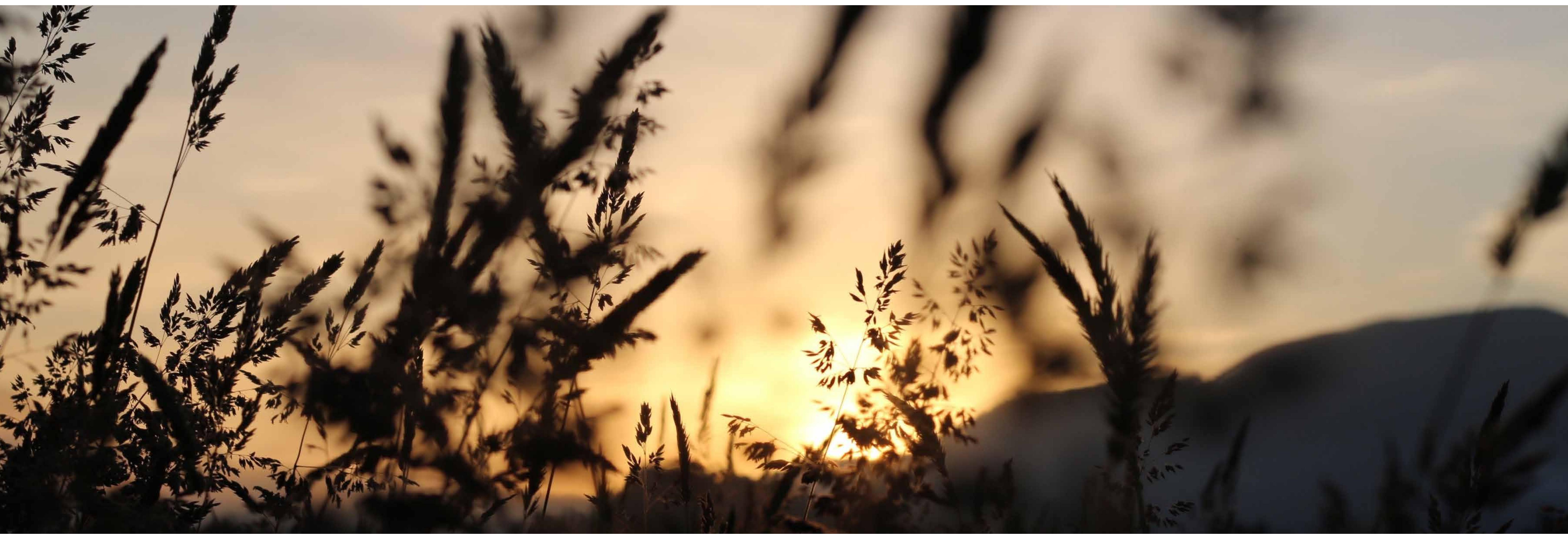
actions that could be taken to maximise local economic benefits and consider the impacts of proposed community benefit funding.

Noise

This assessment will assess the noise emitted during the construction and operation period of the windfarm. The level of noise emitted sources and the distance from those sources to the receiver locations are the main factors determining noise at receptor locations.

Construction noise will be assessed based on a potential construction programme and by assuming the Proposed Development is constructed using standard and good practice methods. Noise levels will be calculated for receiver locations closest to the areas of work and compared with guideline values. The construction assessment would consider increased levels of noise due to construction traffic traveling to and from the Proposed Development on public roads. Construction noise, by its very nature, tends to be temporary and highly variable and much less likely to cause adverse effects, with a focus on management such as restriction of working hours.

Noise from operation of the wind turbines on the Proposed Development will be compared with limits derived from the existing noise environment following the method stipulated in guidance. Predicted noise levels will take full account of the potential combination of the noise from the Proposed Development when operating with other nearby wind energy schemes.



Landscape and Visual Impact

A Landscape and Visual Impact

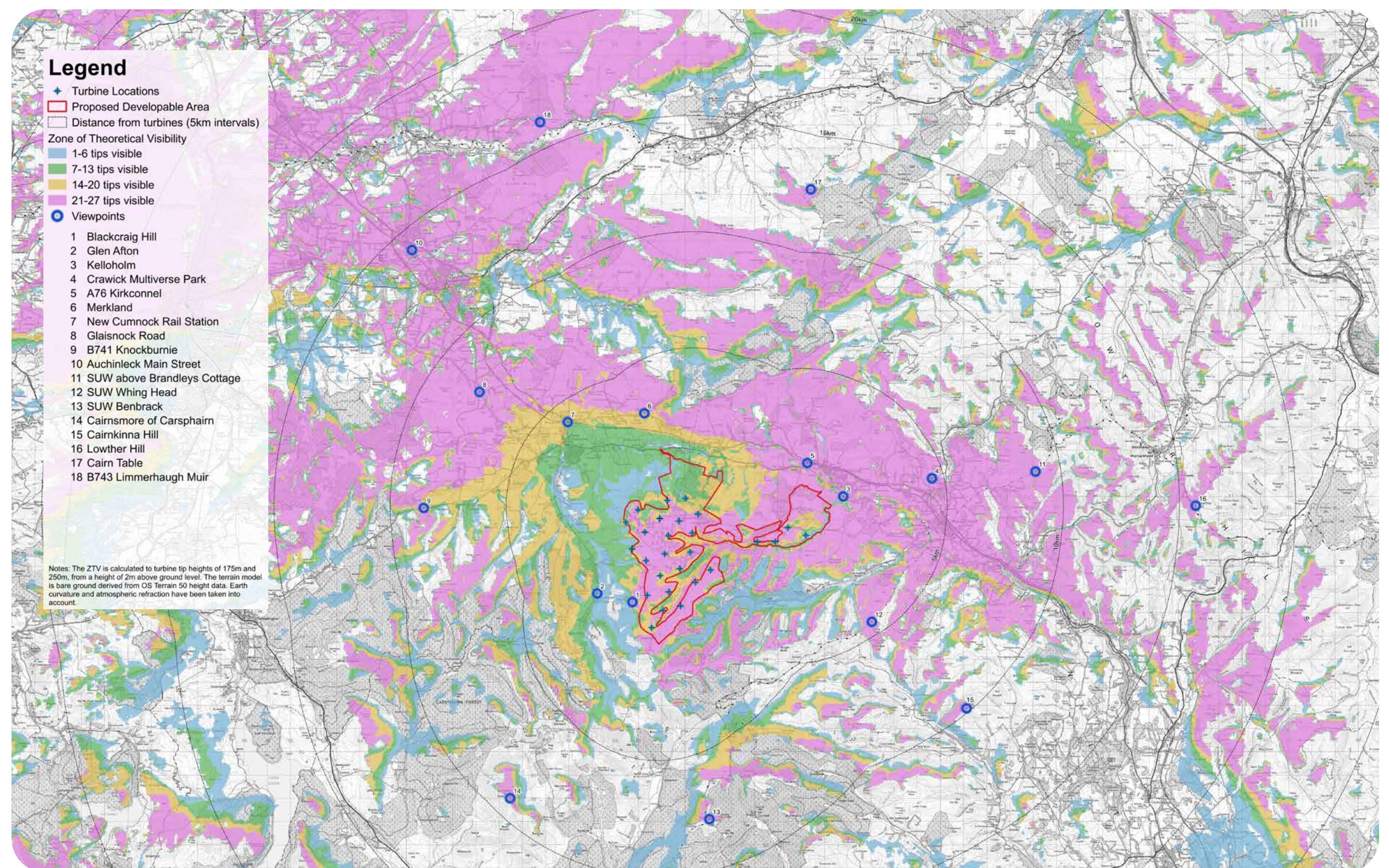
Assessment (LVIA) will establish the potential effects of Hare Hill Repower on the surrounding landscape and visual amenity.

The study area will extend to 45 km from the outermost turbines.

The Landscape Architect will be providing design advice on landscape and visual matters and undertaking the LVIA for the Proposed Development.

The LVIA will include:

- An assessment of cumulative effects;
- Effect of aviation lighting; and
- Effects on the visual aspects of residential amenity for properties within 2km of the Proposed Development.
- Fieldwork will include visits to the site and the wider area more generally to assess potential effects – on views, landscape character areas and designated landscapes.



Zone of Theoretical Visibility

The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) diagram for the Proposed Development (above) indicates the number of turbines theoretically visible from any location within the 45 km study area.

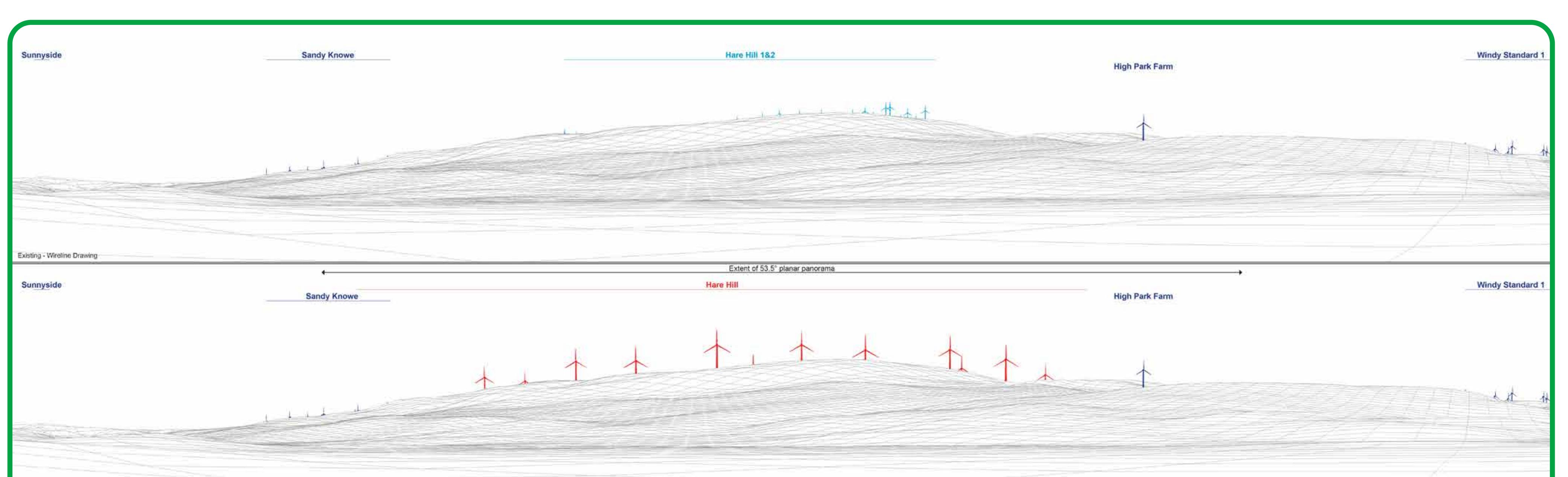
Landscape and Visual Impact

From a visual perspective computer generated wireline views are used to refine the layout of the turbines. Viewpoints will be agreed with consultees to represent key local and distant views through the scoping process.

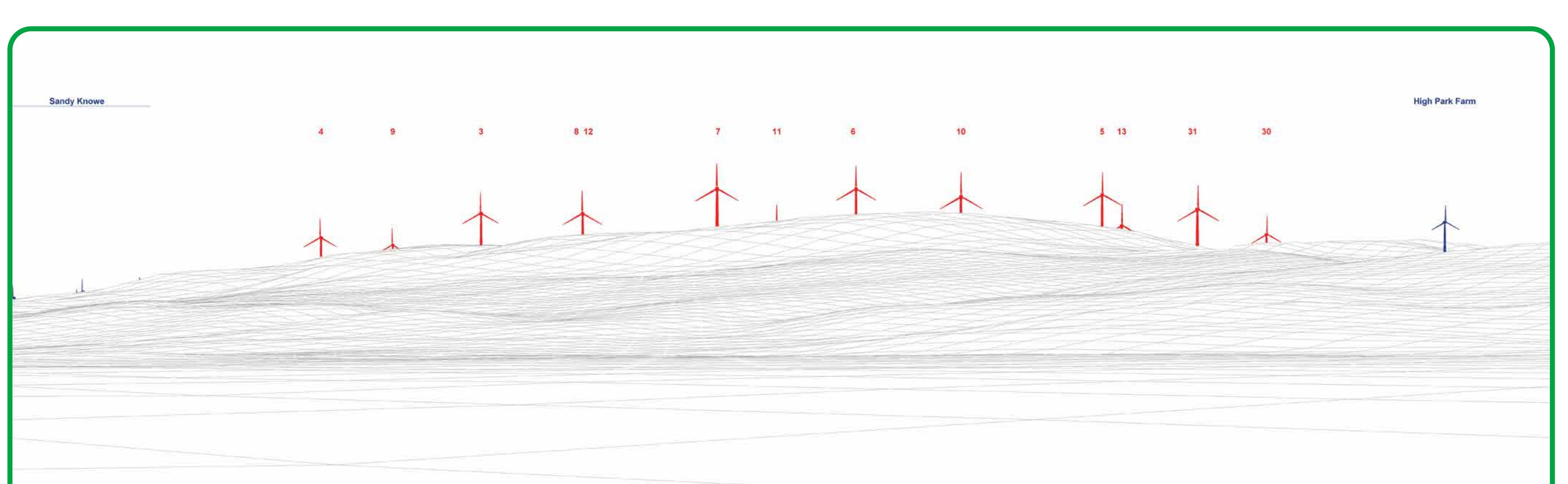
A photomontage is developed by rendering a wireline view of the turbines onto a photograph. The photographs are comprised of several images taken from the same viewpoint and stitched together to minimise distortion. The figures included in this display show the photomontage development process.



Comparison of current baseline photograph to Hare Hill Repower Wireline



Comparison of existing baseline to Hare Hill Repower Wireline



Hare Hill Repower Wireline



Hare Hill Repower Photomontage

E. April 2024 Photomontages



Photomontage



Photomontage



Photomontage

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

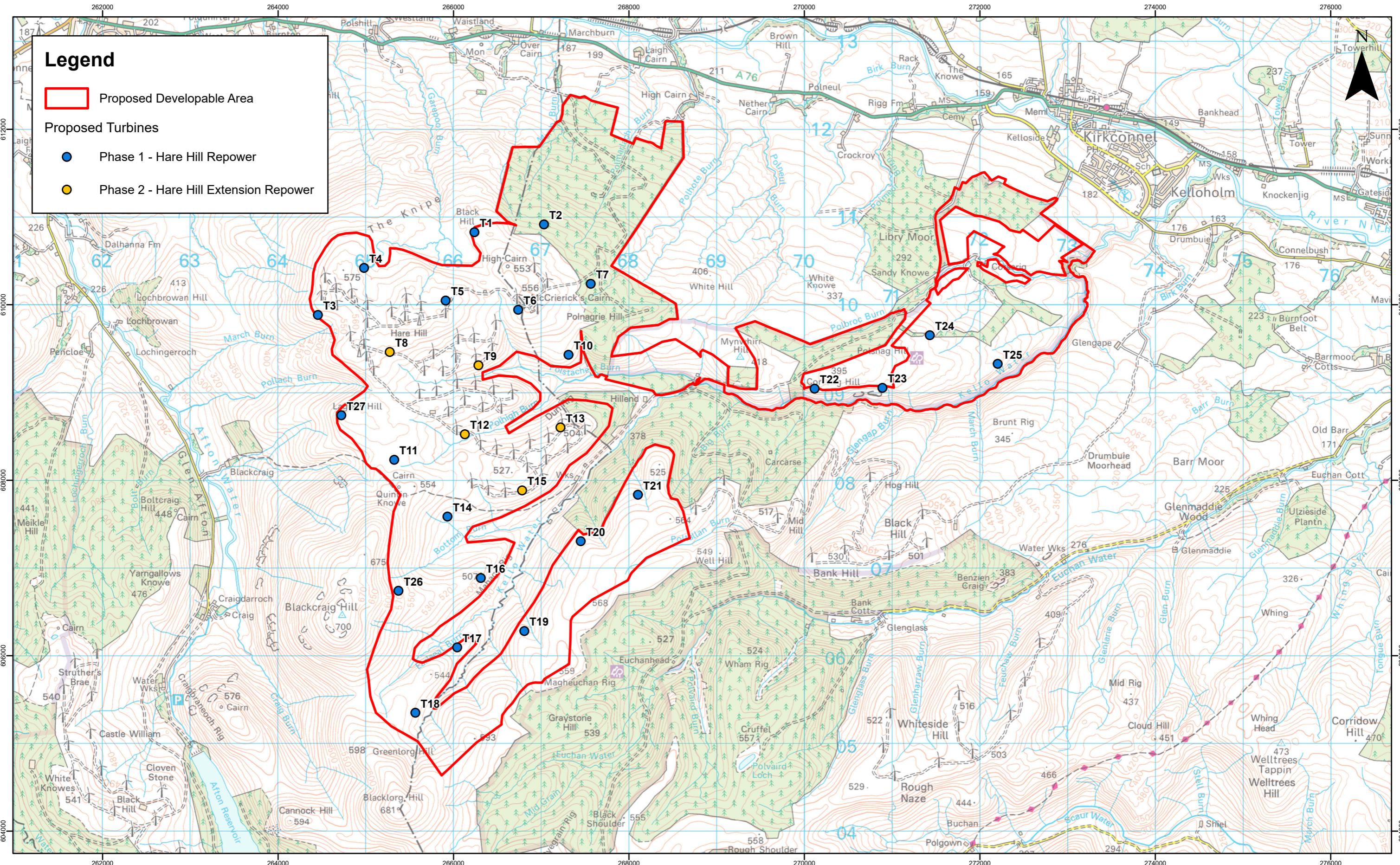


Photomontage

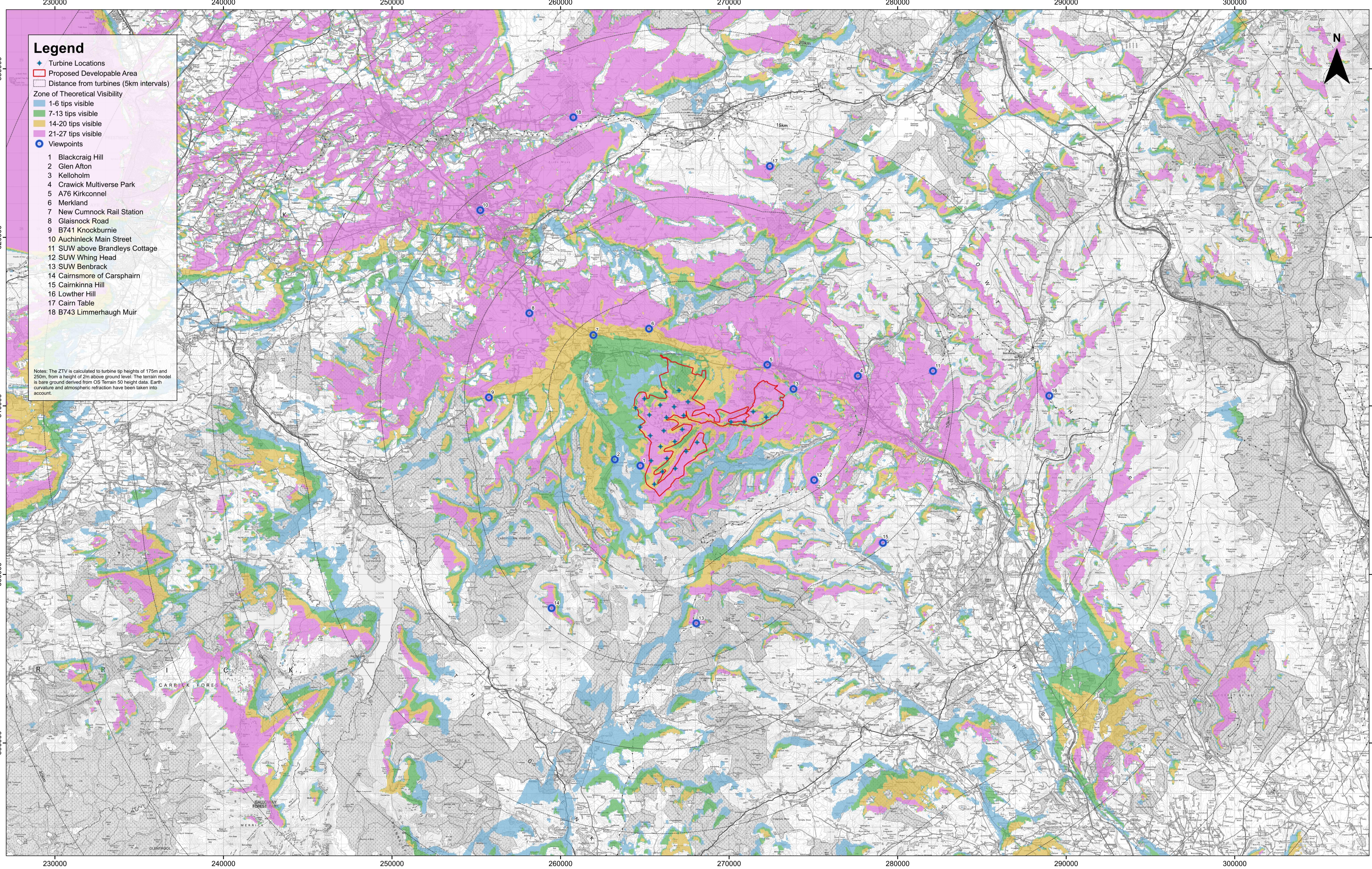


Photomontage

F. April 2024 Site Layout



G. April 2024 ZTV



H. April SPR Information Leaflet



Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering

Public Information Day

April 2024



Introducing Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering



Who are we?

ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) is part of the ScottishPower group of companies operating in the UK under the Iberdrola Group, one of the world's largest integrated utility companies and a world leader in wind energy. SPR, the first integrated energy utility in the UK to generate 100% green electricity, is already investing a total of £10 billion over five years - £8 million every working day, focusing on wind energy, solar energy, smart grids and driving the change to a cleaner, electric future.

At SPR, we are committed to developing renewable energy responsibly. We strive to be a good neighbour in all aspects of our work and are dedicated to maximising the opportunities for local communities to benefit from our projects. We aim to find the best balance of environmental factors; to minimise impacts resulting from our developments; and to demonstrate that the benefits of our project are of real value, wide-reaching and shared with the community.

We are at the forefront of the development of the renewables industry through pioneering ideas, forward thinking and outstanding innovation. Our ambitious growth plans include expansion of our existing onshore wind portfolio, investment in new large-scale solar deployment and innovative grid storage systems including batteries.

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



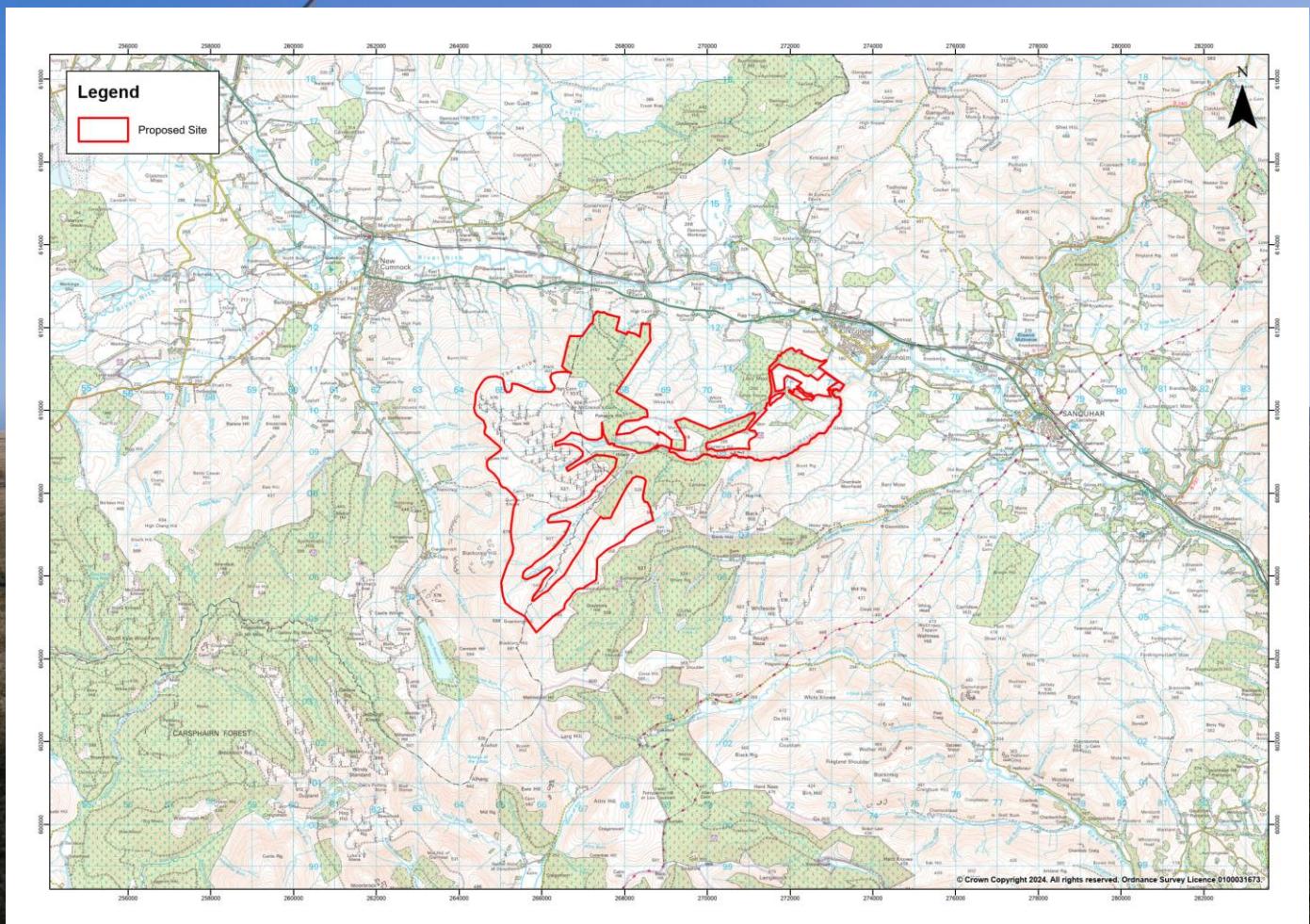
Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering Proposal

SPR is proposing to develop and repower the two operational windfarms at our existing Hare Hill site. Located on the border of East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway, Hare Hill Windfarm and Hare Hill Windfarm Extension sit to the southeast of New Cumnock, East Ayrshire.

Currently, Hare Hill Windfarm and Hare Hill Windfarm Extension have a combined total of 55 turbines, generating 43.2 megawatts across the two sites. The proposed development will consist of fewer wind turbines, approximately 27 to be installed, with blade tip heights between 180 to 250 metres and the potential to deliver up to 150 megawatts of green electricity – enough to power the equivalent of over 90,000 homes⁽¹⁾.

In November 2023, a request for Pre-Application and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping advice was submitted to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU). Copies of the submitted documentation can be found on the ECU's website or in the 'Documents' section of SPR's project webpage for the Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering Proposal.

(1) Installed capacity (in MW) multiplied by the number of hours in one year (8,760) multiplied by the average load factor for each technology (being the average load factor for load factor for offshore wind during 2022, 2021 and 2020 as published within the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics, DESNZ, 2023), divided by the average annual household energy consumption (3.694 MWh) (being the average annual household energy consumption during 2022, 2021 and 2020 as published within Energy Consumption in the UK 2023, DESNZ, 2023).



Location of the Proposed Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering



The need for renewable energy

Policy at the local, national and global level is changing rapidly to address the threat of climate change. Decarbonisation means we must reduce our consumption of fossil fuels and increase renewable and low carbon energy generation.

Key UK and Scottish Government policies that showcase the need for renewable energy are:

- The Climate Change Act 2008 as amended by the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 – this set a legally binding target to **reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 100% by 2050**, compared to 1990 levels.
- The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) Scotland Act 2019 – this amended the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and set targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to **Net Zero by 2045**, five years ahead of the UK.
- Onshore Wind Policy Statement (2022) – this set an ambition that Scotland will deploy a minimum of 20 Gigawatt (GW) of onshore wind energy by 2030.

Scotland is still reliant upon fossil fuels for electricity generation and the continued transition towards renewable energy is expected to lead to a reduction in electricity bills and provide greater energy security for all consumers, whilst reducing GHG emissions and helping to meet climate change objectives. Onshore Wind generation plays an important part in the Scottish energy mix and is now one of the lowest cost forms of new, large-scale electricity generation in Scotland.



Environmental considerations

We are currently undertaking a range of environmental assessments to inform the site design and for submission alongside the planning application. These include:

- Landscape and visual impact
- Ecology and biodiversity
- Heritage and archaeology
- Traffic and access
- Noise
- Hydrology
- Peat & Soils

The work carried out to date has informed the current design of the proposed Hare Hill Repowering. Where required, suitable mitigation will be designed into the scheme.

The overall aim is to design a layout that has the least environmental impact whilst optimising the renewable energy generation from the Site.



Community Benefits of Hare Hill Repower

We believe the benefits of our projects should be shared with the communities in which we work.

To date, our operational onshore windfarms have shared over £60 million of community benefit to communities across the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Over £15.5 million of community benefit has been used to support community led initiatives and projects in Dumfries & Galloway. More than £11.3 million has been invested into communities in East Ayrshire.

Community benefit funds have led to the delivery of a diverse range of projects, including environmental improvements, educational programmes, heritage and tourism schemes, provision of life saving defibrillators and investment in energy efficiency measures within community buildings.

Repowering Hare Hill Windfarm will increase community benefit funds available to neighbouring communities within Dumfries & Galloway and East Ayrshire.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



LEARN MORE ABOUT REPOWERING



Powering your community

We are committed to being a responsible developer of renewable energy and strive to be a good neighbour in all areas of our work. We encourage as many people as possible to get involved in and to learn more about our projects, particularly in understanding the local economic and social benefits our developments can create.

As we progress with repowering Hare Hill, we will engage with communities, local stakeholders and both Dumfries & Galloway and East Ayrshire Council to understand how benefits could be delivered to best meet the needs of the local area, should the Proposed Development be consented.



Benefits of Repowering

- Increased electricity generation = increased security of supply
- Building & maintaining new assets = jobs and supply chain opportunities
- More generation from windfarm = more community benefit funding to share
- New technologies available = increased efficiency – sometimes up to 10x the capacity of the original windfarm, with fewer turbines
- Repowered site = further investment in ecology and the local environment
- Old assets = Sustainable resources for research & training, recycling and restoration into assets like bus shelters and other re-usable components.



Next steps

We welcome your feedback on our initial proposal to help us refine the details of Hare Hill Repowering. Please contact us using the project mailbox details below to provide us with your comments.

We will use the findings from environmental surveys, technical studies, and consultation feedback to continue to shape the design of the Proposed Development ahead of submitting a Section 36 application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit towards the end of 2024.

Please note that any comments made to SPR on the proposal at this stage are not representations to the planning authority. When the Section 36 application is submitted to the Energy Consents Unit, statutory consultation will be undertaken. At that time, you will have the opportunity to make a formal representation on the proposal.

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

[Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering - ScottishPower Renewables](#)

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

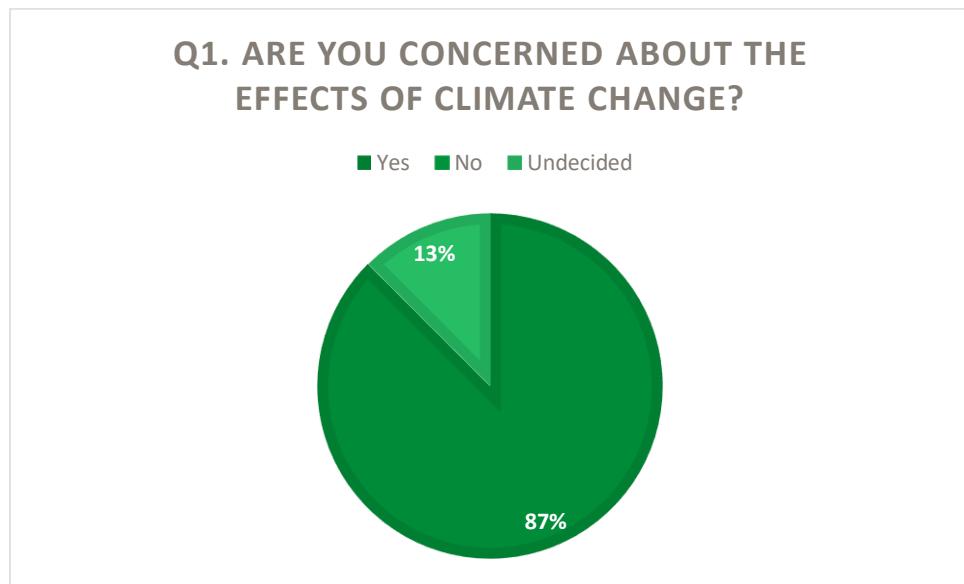
Email: harehillrepower@scottishpower.com

Post: Hare Hill Repowering Project Team · ScottishPower Renewables · 9th Floor · Scottish Power Headquarters · 320 St Vincent Street · Glasgow G2 5AD

I. Feedback from April 2024 Exhibition

The following feedback was received:

Graph J1.1: Response to Question 1 at April 2024 Public Exhibitions



Yes

7

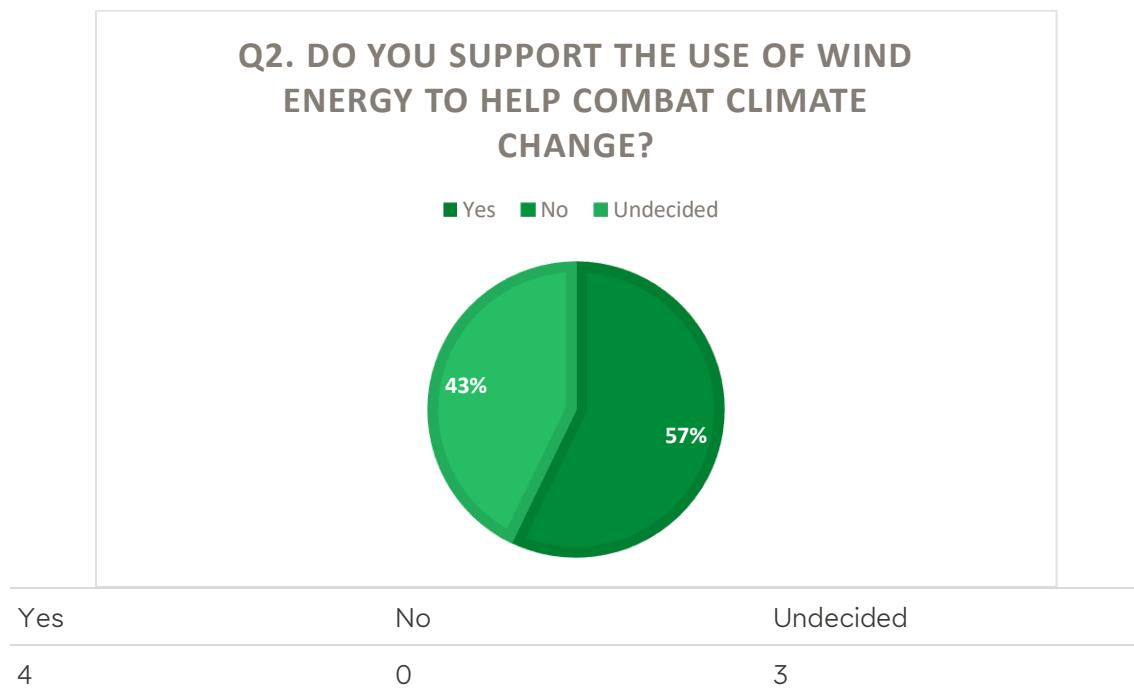
No

0

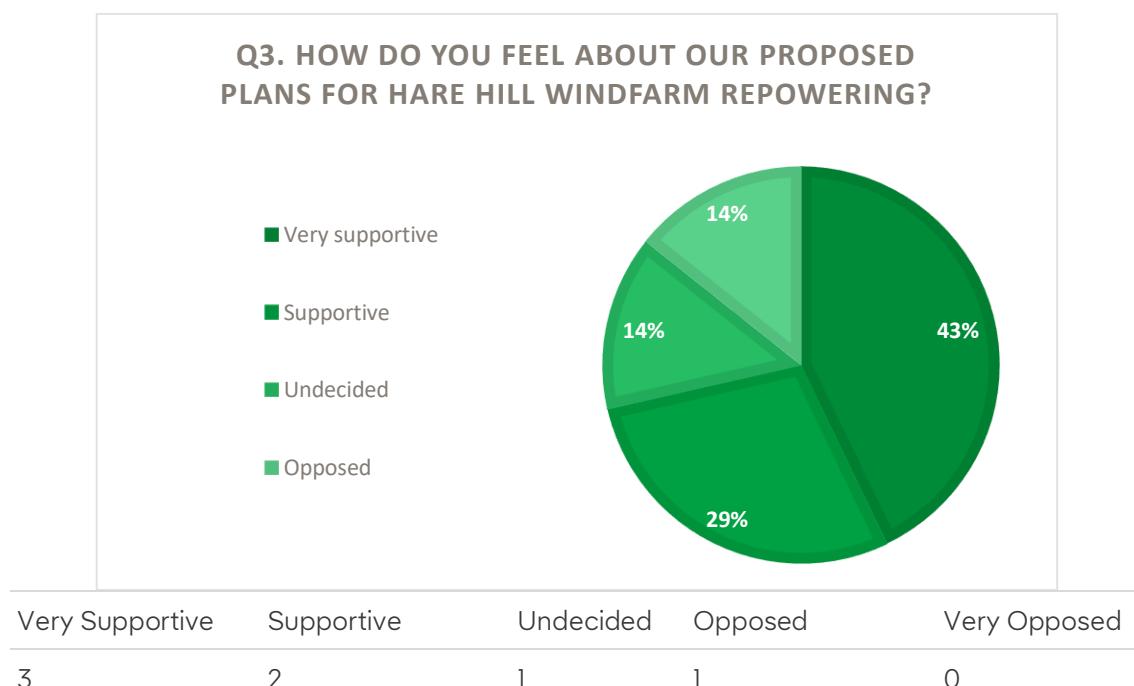
Undecided

1

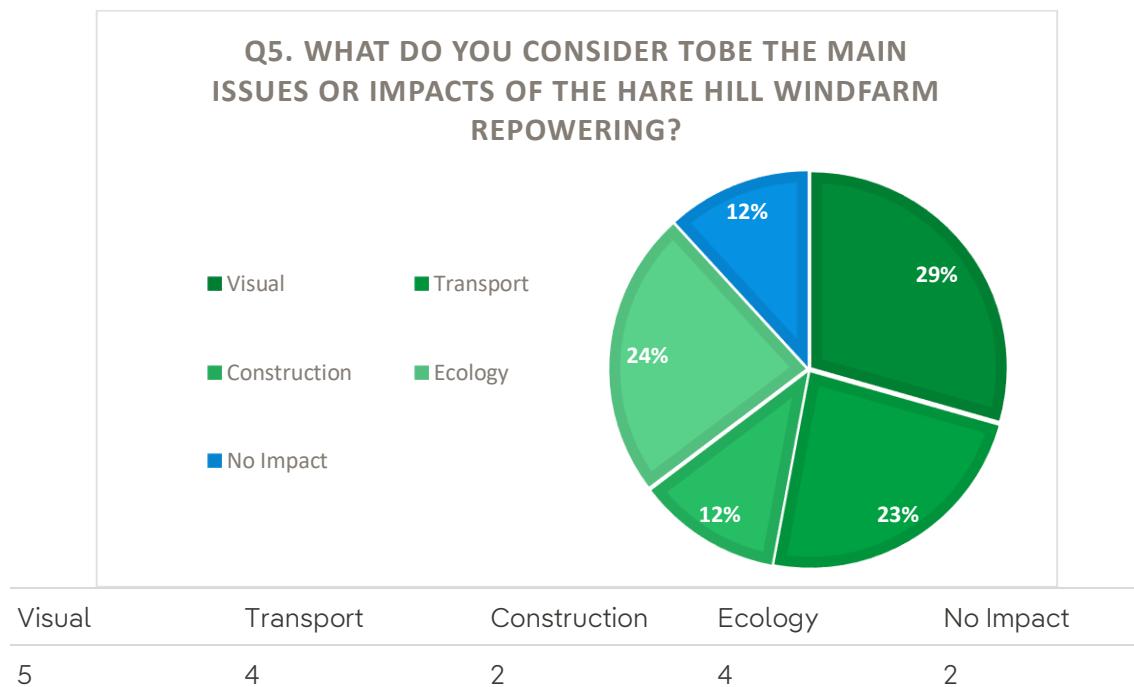
Graph J1.2: Response to Question 2 at April 2024 Public Exhibitions



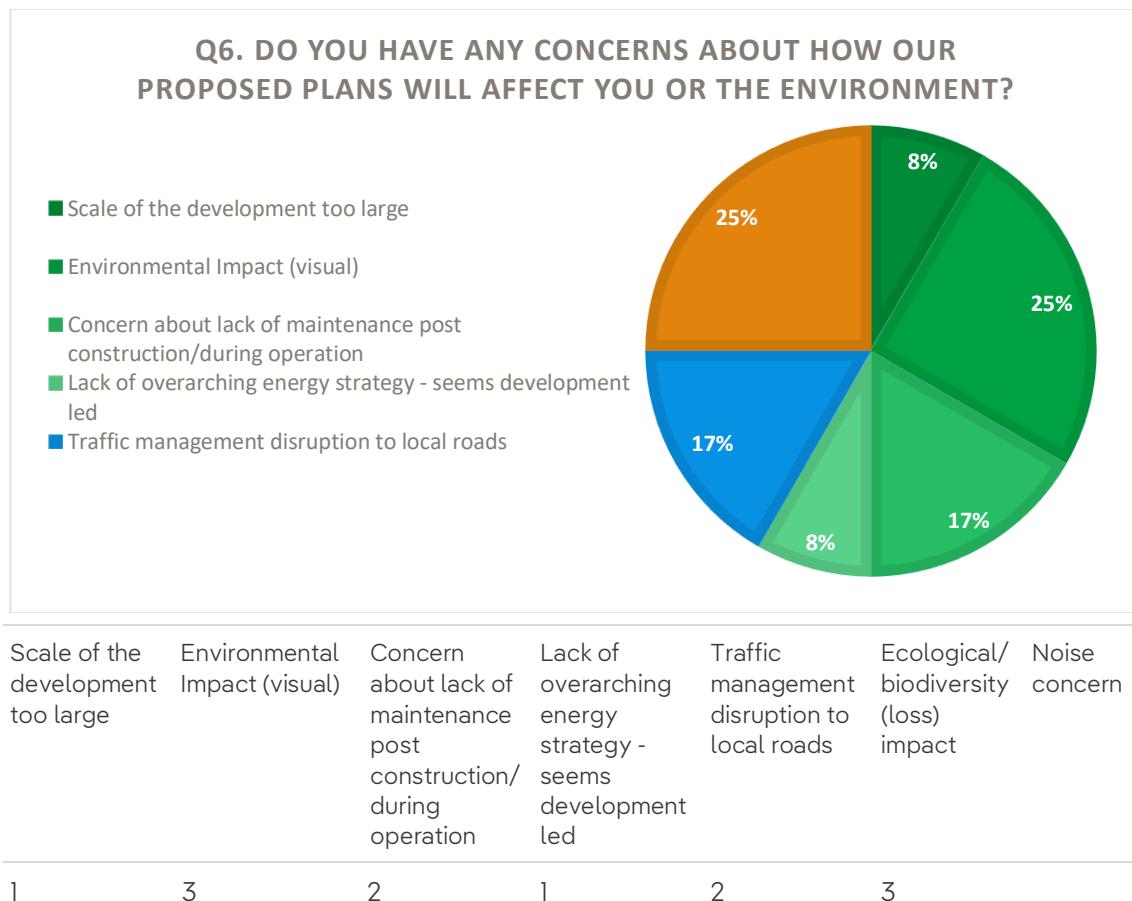
Graph J1.3: Response to Question 3 at April 2024 Public Exhibitions



Graph J1.4: Response to Question 5 at April 2024 Public Exhibitions



Graph J1.5: Response to Question 6 at April 2024 Public Exhibitions



Graph J1.6: Response to Question 9 at April 2024 Public Exhibitions



Graph J1.6: Response to Question 9 at April 2024 Public Exhibitions

Response	Q1. Are you concerned about the effects of climate change?	Q2. Do you support the use of wind energy to help combat climate change?	Q3. How do you feel about our proposed plans for Hare Hill Windfarm repowering ?	Q4. What do you think would be the main benefit of the proposal ?	Q5. What do you consider to be the main issues or impacts of the Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering ?	Q6. Do you have any concerns about how our proposed plans will affect you or the environment?	Q7 Do you have suggestions for how community benefit funds may be spent?	Q8. Please use this space for any further COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS or questions you may have.	Q9. How did you hear about this event?
1	Yes	Undecided	Supportive	Unsure	Visual: 4 Transport: 2 Construction: 1 Ecology: 3 No Impact: 0	Concern about lack of maintenance post construction/during operation: Regular monitoring required. Traffic management disruption to local roads: Very Important	NCCC has signed up to 9CC Group to deal with community benefit. Community benefit funds need to be spent to lower our electricity bills, create jobs for the future generations when decommissioning current turbines consider how blades could be used to enhance our village.	Monitoring construction traffic is absolutely essential, speeding, bad driving, being made aware of resident's safety and steps taking to deal with drivers who don't heed the rules. Including litter. A simple plastic bag in a cab is all that's needed	Other: Word of mouth
2	Yes	Yes	Very Supportive	Reducing impact of climate change	Ecology	Ecological/biodiversity (loss) impact	Strategic projects Legacy projects		Other: Work

3	Yes	Yes	Very Supportive	Communities receiving CB. Reducing the impact of climate change	Visual Transport		As a member of the 9CC Group, I would wish to see the other communities surrounding the project receiving CB specially with legacy projects - enhancing throughout Cumnock and Doon Valley area.		Other
4	Yes	Yes	Very Supportive	Community benefits local areas	No impact		Paid to foundation Scotland to address local projects		Other: Community Council email
5	Undecided	Undecided	Opposed	Profits for SP	Visual Ecology	Scale of the development too large Environmental Impact (visual) Lack of overarching energy strategy - seems development led Ecological/biodiversity (loss) impact BPA & FPA's pollution			Other: Email
6	Yes			Better efficient turbines & community support	Transport	Traffic management disruption to local roads	From the bases that are redundant, can you use these for battery storage systems as no further circuits would be needed.		Other: Official channels

7	Yes	Yes	Supportive	To help with climate change	Visual	Environmental Impact (visual)			Newspaper Adverts
8	Yes	Undecided	Undecided	I'm afraid it remains to be seen as the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Corporate Greed & share holders will be the winners... always!!	Visual Transport Construction Ecology	Environmental Impact (visual) Concern about lack of maintenance post construction/during operation Ecological/biodiversity (loss) impact	Local environment. Having a long lasting presence within the community. Take time and money to understand the community's needs and aspirations.		Other: Development Trust

J. Blank Copy of Feedback Form

To record your views and help us improve our future public information days, please complete this feedback form, and email it to: harehillrepower@scottishpower.com

Or post it to:

FAO: Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering Project Team
ScottishPower Renewables
9th Floor ScottishPower Headquarters
320 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5AD

Name:

Email:

Address:

1. Are you concerned about the effects of climate change?

Yes	
No	
Undecided	

2. Do you support the use of wind energy to help combat climate change?

Yes	
No	
Undecided	

3. How do you feel about our proposed plans for Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering?

Very supportive	
Supportive	
Undecided	
Opposed	
Very opposed	

4. What do you think would be the main benefit of the proposal?

5. What do you consider to be the main issues or impacts of Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering?

Visual	
Transport	
Construction	
Ecology	
No impact	

6. Do you have any concerns about how our proposed plans will affect you or the environment?

Scale of development too large	
Environmental impact (visual)	
Concern about lack of maintenance post construction/during operation	
Lack of overarching energy strategy – seems development led	
Traffic management disruption to local roads	
Ecological/biodiversity (loss) impact	
Noise Concerns	

7. Do you have suggestions for how community benefit funds might be spent?

8. Please use this space for any further comments, suggestions, or questions you may have.

9. How did you hear about this event?

Postcard Invite

Newspaper Adverts

Official SPR Website

Other: _____

For further information relating to how ScottishPower Renewables will use your data and your rights in this respect, please refer to the privacy statement on the website at www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/privacy and on display at each Public Information Event. This describes how ScottishPower/Iberdrola collects, stores, and uses information that identifies individuals in connection with its business activities. If you do not have internet access or would like to see a hard copy of our privacy statement, please ask one of our representatives.

K. September 2024 Newspaper Advert

Hare Hill Repowering & Extension

Public Information Event

ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) intends to apply to the Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering & Extension. SPR invites you to participate in its Public Information Event on the proposal for Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering & Extension. The Proposed Development is anticipated to comprise of up to 25 wind turbines with blade tip heights of up to 200 metres and associated onsite infrastructure. We are committed to engaging with the community throughout the development process, to ensure local communities and stakeholders are given the opportunity to provide feedback and are kept informed of project progress.

The Public Information Event will provide the opportunity to learn more about how the proposal has evolved since our last Public Information Event in April 2024, to ask questions or to comment on the proposal, and will take place at:

2 nd September 2024	3 rd September 2024	3 rd September 2024
2pm-7pm	11:30am-3pm	4pm-7pm
Miners Memorial Hall Needle Street Kirkconnel DG4 6PH	New Cumnock Town Hall 31-33 Castle New Cumnock KA18 4AN	Miners Memorial Hall Needle Street Kirkconnel DG4 6PH

If you're unable to attend, you can find further details of the proposed Hare Hill Repowering & Extension at:

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

You can also contact our Project Team directly by emailing:
harehillrepower@scottishpower.com

Or by writing to: ScottishPower Renewables, Hare Hill Repower Project Team,
ScottishPower Headquarters, 9th Floor, 320 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5AD

If you have any questions or wish to share any feedback on the proposal, we request that these are submitted via the online feedback form, email or letter. Alternatively, you may do so by emailing or writing to the Project Team at the above address.

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



L. September 2024 Postcard

**ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) UK
Limited would like to invite you to a
Public Information Event for
Hare Hill Repowering & Extension**



PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

We are proposing a renewable energy development, the repowering of our operational Hare Hill site. Currently, Hare Hill and Hare Hill Extension have a combined total of 55 turbines, generating 43.2 megawatts across the two sites. The proposed development will consist of fewer wind turbines, approximately 25, with blade tip heights of up to 200 metres and the potential to deliver up to 150 megawatts of green electricity - enough to power the equivalent of 80,000 homes.

EXHIBITIONS

The Public Information Event will provide the opportunity to learn more about how the proposal has evolved since our last Public Information Event, to ask questions or to comment on the proposal and will take place at:

2nd September 2024

2pm-7pm

Miners Memorial Hall
Needle Street
Kirkconnel
DG4 6PH

3rd September 2024

11:30am-3pm

New Cumnock Town
Hall
31-33 Castle
New Cumnock
KA18 4AN

3rd September 2024

4pm-7pm

Miners Memorial Hall
Needle Street
Kirkconnel
DG4 6PH

[Visit our Project Webpage](#)



ONLINE INFORMATION

Further information about the scheme is also available via the QR code or project website address below:
https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/hare_hill_windfarm_repowering.aspx

You can also contact our Project Team by emailing:

harehillrepower@scottishpower.com

Or by writing to:

Hare Hill Repowering Project Team,
9th Floor, ScottishPower Headquarters,
320 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5AD

If you have any questions or wish to share any feedback on the proposal, we request that these are submitted via the online feedback form, email or letter.

Please note, comments made to us at this stage will not constitute a formal representation. Opportunities to make formal representations will be available if a planning application is made. Thank you, and we look forward to meeting you at our Public Information Event.

M. September 2024 Exhibition Boards

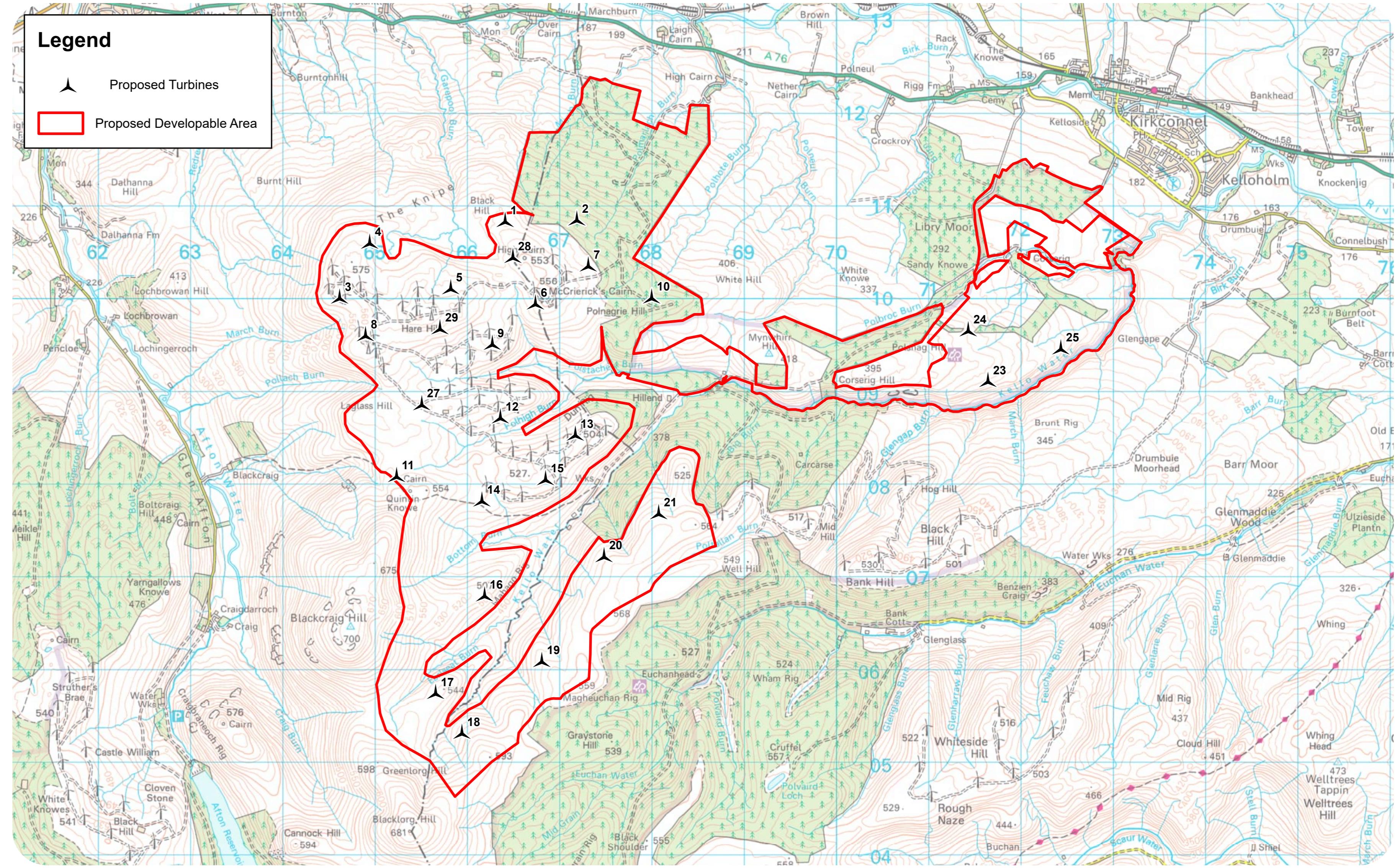


Welcome to the Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering and Extension Public Exhibition

Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering is a ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) Project

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

At SPR, we are committed to developing renewable energy responsibly. We strive to be a good neighbour in all aspects of our work and are committed to Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire and the surrounding area, and to maximising the opportunities for local communities to benefit from our projects. We aim to find the best balance of constraints; to conform that no impact from our developments is unacceptable; and to demonstrate that the benefits of our projects are real value, wide-reaching and shared with the community.



Hare Hill Repower and Extension - Proposed Turbine Layout



[Visit our Website](#)



[Learn more about
Repowering](#)

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9th Floor,
320 St Vincent Street,
Glasgow,
G2 5AD



Community Benefit and History in the Region

ScottishPower Renewables has been working alongside communities across the UK for nearly two decades and has to date contributed more than £65 million in benefit funds to support initiatives and projects for those communities local to our windfarm sites. Over £15.8 million of community benefit has been used to support valuable community led initiatives and projects in Dumfries and Galloway. In excess of £12.7 million has been invested into communities in East Ayrshire. Repowering Hare Hill Windfarm and Hare Hill Extension will further increase community benefit funds available to neighbouring communities within Dumfries and Galloway and East Ayrshire.

Operational since 1999, our Hare Hill site is one of Scotland's oldest Windfarms and SPR has been a neighbour for many years, generating cleaner power and providing socio-economic benefits to local communities in Dumfries and Galloway and East Ayrshire. We own and operate Killgallioch, Harestanes,

Ewe Hill and Wether Hill windfarms in Dumfries and Galloway, and several others in the wider Ayrshire region. With the development of these sites nearby, SPR is continuing the history of working positively with local communities in the region. The flexible approach adopted by SPR has empowered local communities to decide what the community benefit is spent on. This has resulted in a fantastic diversity of projects being delivered from improving local amenities including town halls, cinemas and local youth clubs, to supporting work experience places, educational workshops and much more.

We are also keen to create employment opportunities during the construction and operation of our windfarms that can be delivered locally to benefit those who live near our sites.

£65m

of community benefit
UK wide

£15.8m

of community benefit
to date in Dumfries
and Galloway

£12.7m

of community benefit
to date in East Ayrshire



The Site - Hare Hill Windfarm

The Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering and Extension project is located on the border of East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway, 4 km Southeast of New Cumnock, at the site of our Hare Hill windfarm and Hare Hill Windfarm Extension sites.

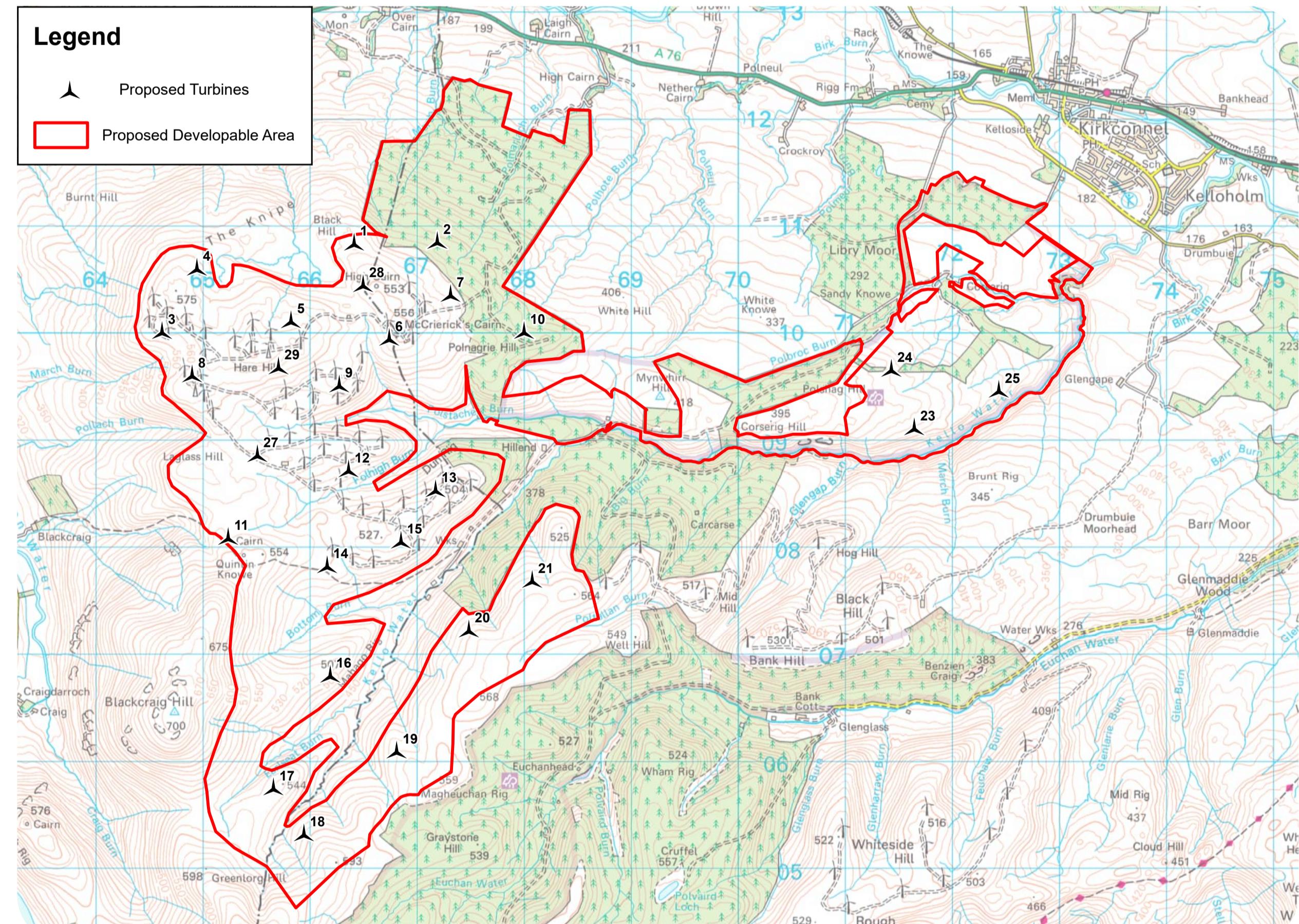
The Proposed Development

Currently, Hare Hill and Hare Hill Extension have a combined total of 55 turbines, generating 43.2 megawatts across the two sites. The Proposed Development will consist of fewer wind turbines, approximately 24 with blade tip heights of up to 200 metres.

Summer 2024 Layout Update

Following on from the collection and analyses of survey data, the layout has been further refined.

The site now consists of 24 turbines at heights of 150, 180 and 200 meters.



Hare Hill Repower and Extension - Proposed Turbine Layout



Development Process

A Scoping Report was submitted to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in November 2023.

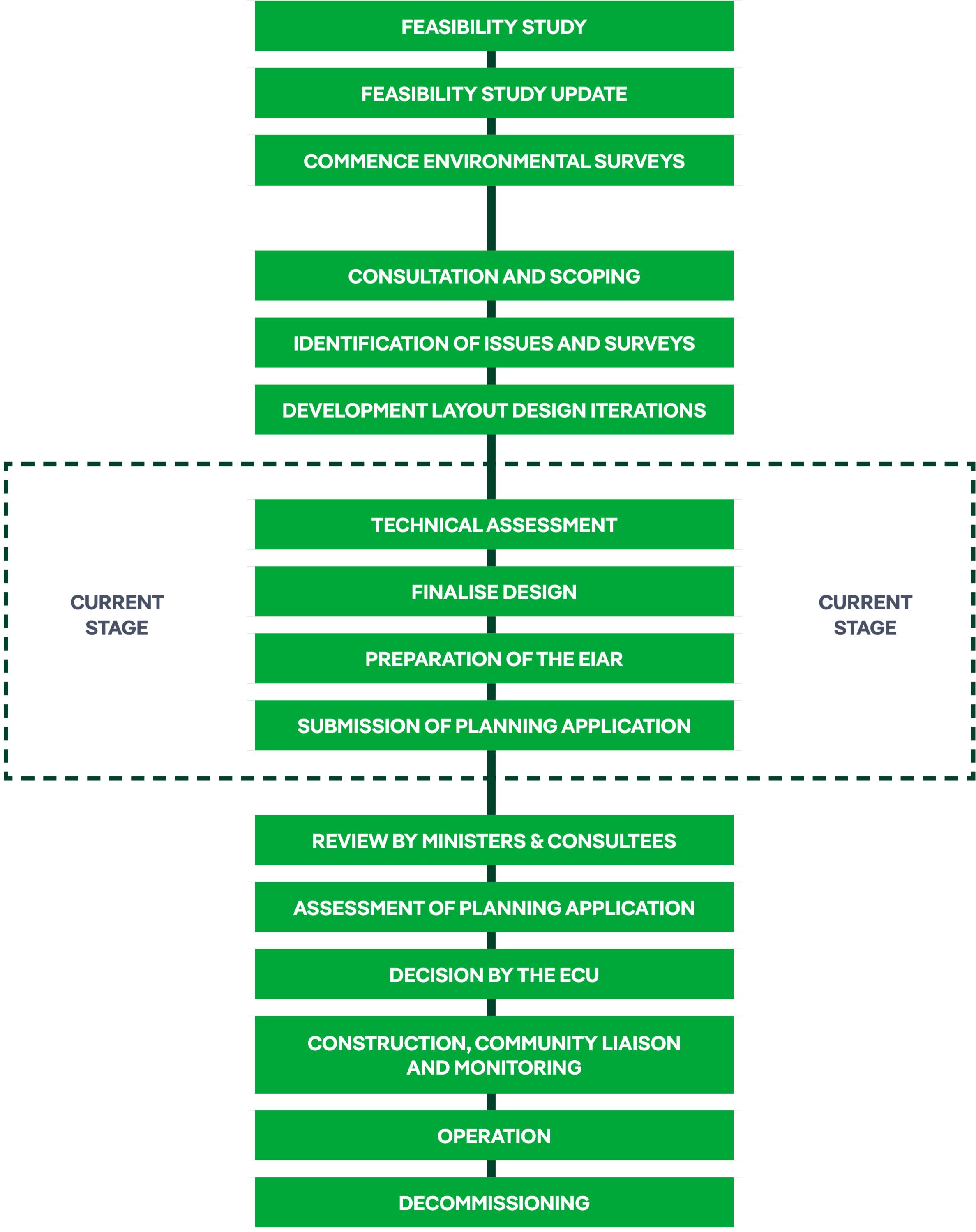
This described our draft proposal and invited the views of consultees on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

A Scoping response has now been received and the technical teams are completing surveys and assessments to feed into the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

This will accompany the application for consent to the ECU with intended submission in early 2025.

The EIAR will consider:

- Landscape and visual matters
- Ecology
- Ornithology
- Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology
- Cultural heritage
- Traffic and Transport
- Aviation and existing infrastructure
- Noise
- Forestry
- Socioeconomics
- Telecommunication





Environmental Considerations

The following environmental considerations will be assessed and documented, forming a part of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. This approach ensures a thorough examination and reporting of the environmental implications of the Proposed Development are considered, and will confirm the impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development align with regulatory standards and best practices.

Ecology and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

This assessment considers the local flora and fauna present within the site. Habitat and protected mammals surveys have been undertaken within the site boundary which include badger, otter and water vole. The assessment will include recommendations for mitigation and. Measures for biodiversity enhancement and net gain in line with National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and standard guidance.

Bat activity surveys were undertaken in 2023, and in 2024 a suite of carcass surveys are being undertaken on the existing operational turbines to identify whether there is currently any impact on bat species.

Hydrological, Geological and Hydrogeological

This assessment will consider the hydrological, geological and hydrogeological characteristics of the Proposed Development and help inform appropriate mitigation proposals. Field surveys have been carried out to inform baseline conditions, such as

watercourse assessments, peat depth and condition surveys and private water supply surveys. A 'water environment' map will be produced to provide the basis for describing the current water regime. This map will also provide form the basis for identifying potential impacts and helping to instruct the specification of appropriate mitigation.

An impact assessment would be undertaken to assess the potential effects of the Proposed Development on receptors to draw conclusions on the significance of the effects.

Ornithology

This assessment will assess the potential effects of the Proposed Development on features of ornithological interest during both its construction and operational phases.

There are no statutory International/European or national designated sites for ornithological features located within the site.

Potential adverse impacts on ornithological receptors will be avoided or minimised where possible through the design process. Where significant adverse effects are predicted through the impact assessment process, appropriate mitigation measures will be prescribed to either avoid these or reduce them to an acceptable (not significant) level.

Where necessary, a habitat management plan and breeding bird protection plan will be developed to ensure that all reasonable precautions are taken to protect and enhance conditions for ornithological features of interest within the Proposed Development Site during both construction and operation.

Aviation

The Aviation section will assess the potential effects of the Proposed Development on civil and military aerodromes, airspace and radars. The aviation assessment will include radar line of sight modelling and will identify and examine in greater detail sensitive aviation and radar receptors. Consultation will also be undertaken with relevant aviation stakeholders.

Forestry

A forestry baseline would be compiled from a desk-based assessment and field surveys. A Development Forest Plan would be prepared incorporate the windfarm infrastructure into the forest structure. The proposal would identify the extent of any net loss of woodland area. A Development Felling Plan will be prepared to show which woodlands are to be felled for construction of the development by considering existing crops; silvicultural constraints; site conditions; baseline Forest Plans and landowner objectives; windfarm requirements; any other constraints identified during the EIA process; and any mitigation proposals. In addition, a Development Restocking Plan would detail the timing, location and species to be replanted following construction felling. Restocking options would include delayed restocking; revised species; and / or stocking densities. Following completion of the Development Forest Plan the changes in the woodlands would be analysed and described. The effects of the development forestry proposals would be assessed by the other relevant disciplines.



Environmental Considerations

Traffic and Transport

The objective of the Traffic and Transport assessment is to assess the impact of the proposed Development, Hare Hill Repower and extension, on the public road network, by means of a Traffic Impact Assessment. This will be supplemented by an Access Route Assessment for delivery of the wind turbine Abnormal Indivisible Loads and a preliminary Traffic Management Plan. This will consider the impact of the traffic volumes and the transport network during the construction period, operational phase and decommissioning phase of the proposed development.

Cultural Heritage

The assessment will cover on-site impacts identified through desk-based research, and verified by field survey, and off-site impacts on the settings of heritage assets in the surrounding area.

The baseline character and sensitivity of heritage assets within the site will be described and avoided where necessary.

Heritage assets in the wider landscape with settings sensitive to change will be identified and efforts will be made to avoid or reduce potentially adverse effects on their cultural significance.

Consultation will be maintained with statutory consultees throughout the EIA process.

Mitigation measures will be outlined which will ensure direct or indirect impacts on sensitive assets within the site are dealt with appropriately, to the satisfaction of both East Ayrshire Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Design

The engineering team will use Infraworks software to locate the candidate turbine and the crane pad in positions that will allow construction that is compliant with the manufacturer's hardstanding and track specifications, with minimal cut and fill, and takes into consideration the identified environmental and performance constraints. Where appropriate, existing infrastructure will be incorporated into the design. The quantities of aggregate required for construction will be estimated for use in borrow pit design, transportation assessment and carbon balance calculations.

Socioeconomics

The assessment will consider the potential socioeconomic impacts that could arise from the Proposed Development. It will provide a baseline socio-economic context outlining population levels, employment statistics, and relevant economic data at the local, regional, and national level. The assessment will estimate the economic impact generated during the development, construction, and operational phases, providing estimates on the number of jobs and the Gross Value Added that could be generated. The assessment will also propose measures and

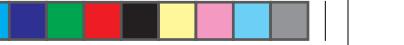
actions that could be taken to maximise local economic benefits and consider the impacts of proposed community benefit funding.

Noise

This assessment will assess the noise emitted during the construction and operation period of the windfarm. The level of noise emitted sources and the distance from those sources to the receiver locations are the main factors determining noise at receptor locations.

Construction noise will be assessed based on a potential construction programme and by assuming the Proposed Development is constructed using standard and good practice methods. Noise levels will be calculated for receiver locations closest to the areas of work and compared with guideline values. The construction assessment would consider increased levels of noise due to construction traffic traveling to and from the Proposed Development on public roads. Construction noise, by its very nature, tends to be temporary and highly variable and much less likely to cause adverse effects, with a focus on management such as restriction of working hours.

Noise from operation of the wind turbines on the Proposed Development will be compared with limits derived from the existing noise environment following the method stipulated in guidance. Predicted noise levels will take full account of the potential combination of the noise from the Proposed Development when operating with other nearby wind energy schemes.



Landscape and Visual Impact

A Landscape and Visual Impact

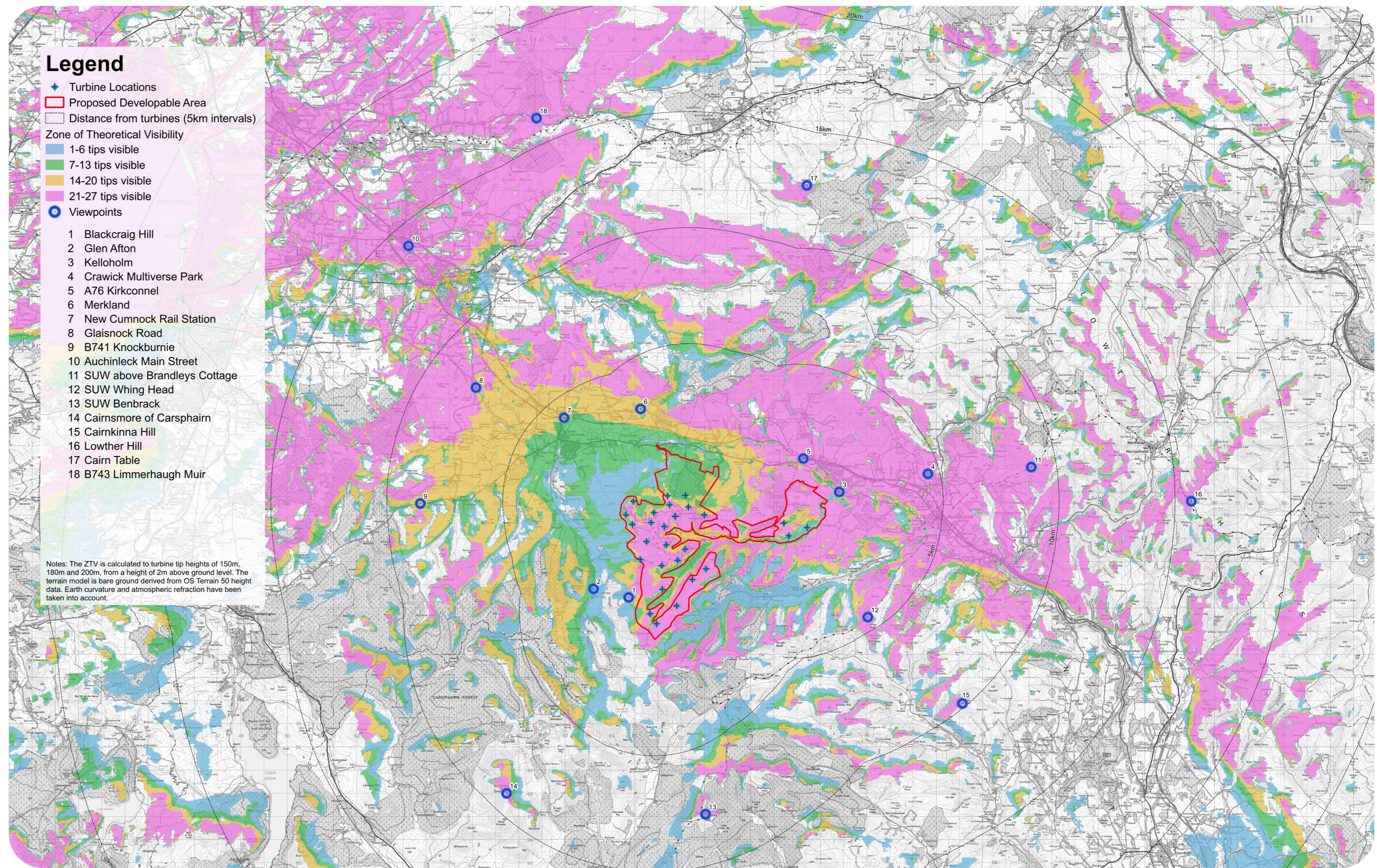
Assessment (LVIA) will establish the potential effects of Hare Hill Repower and Extension on the surrounding landscape and visual amenity.

The study area will extend to 45 km from the outermost turbines.

The Landscape Architect will be providing design advice on landscape and visual matters and undertaking the LVIA for the Proposed Development.

The LVIA will include:

- An assessment of cumulative effects;
- Effect of aviation lighting; and
- Effects on the visual aspects of residential amenity for properties within 2km of the Proposed Development.
- Fieldwork will include visits to the site and the wider area more generally to assess potential effects- on views, landscape character areas and designated landscapes.



Zone of Theoretical Visibility

The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) diagram for the Proposed Development (above) indicates the number of turbines theoretically visible from any location within the 45 km study area.

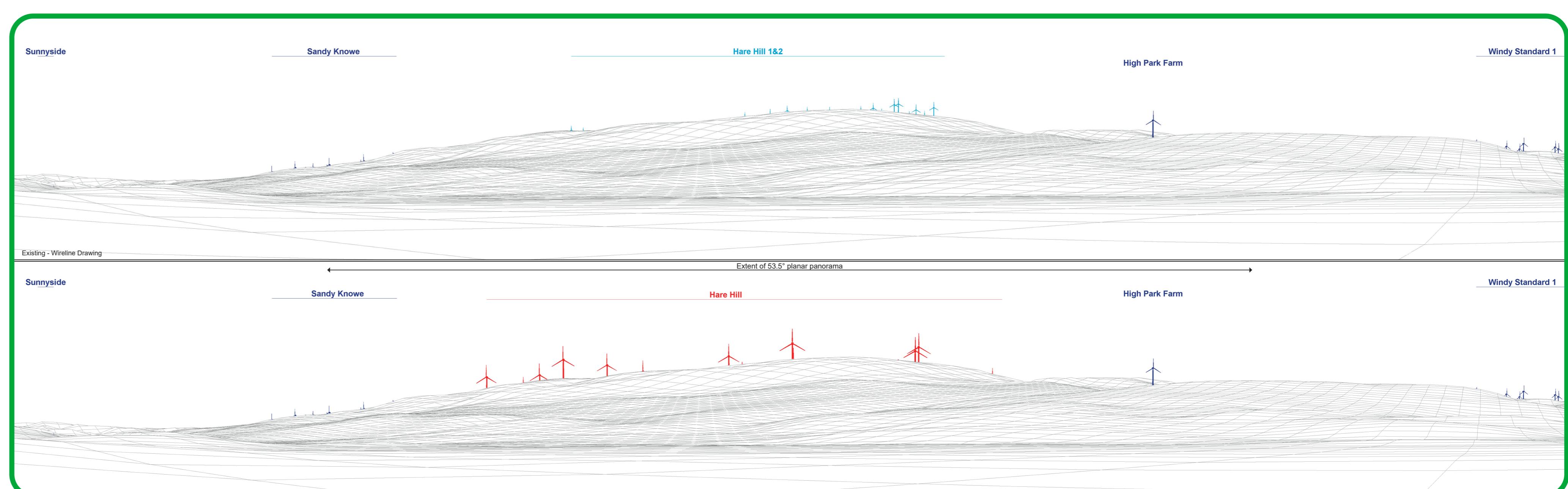
Landscape and Visual Impact

From a visual perspective computer generated wireline views are used to refine the layout of the turbines. Viewpoints will be agreed with consultees to represent key local and distant views through the scoping process.

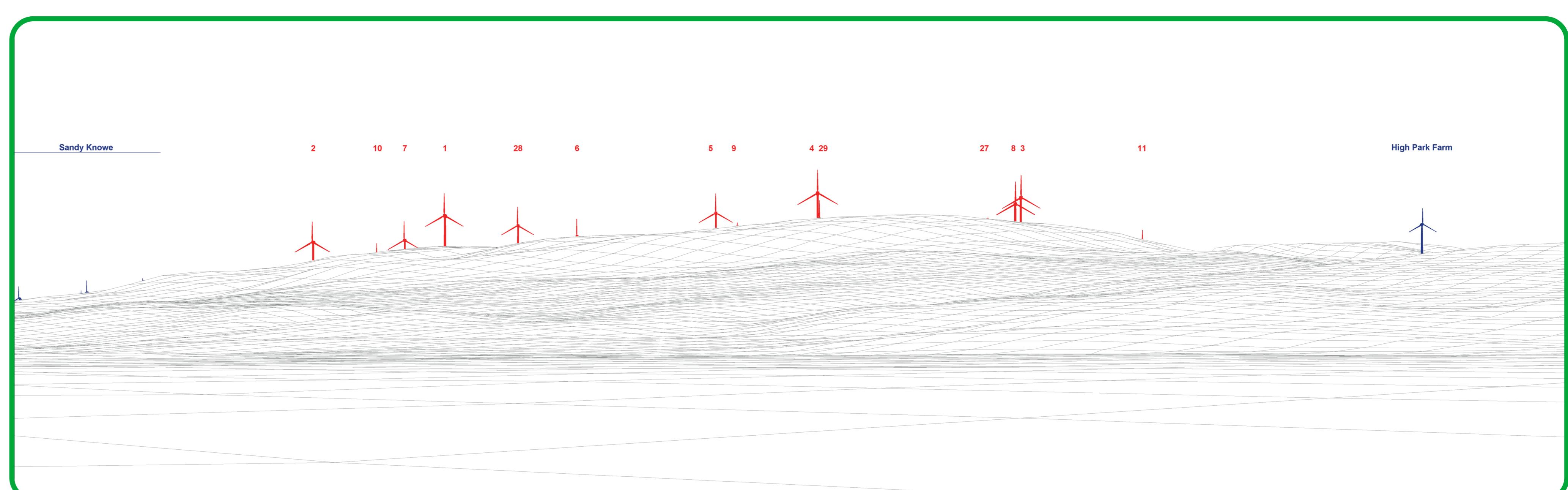
A photomontage is developed by rendering a wireline view of the turbines onto a photograph. The photographs are comprised of several images taken from the same viewpoint and stitched together to minimise distortion. The figures included in this display show the photomontage development process.



Comparison of current baseline photograph to Hare Hill Repower and Extension Wireline



Comparison of existing baseline to Hare Hill Repower and Extension Wireline



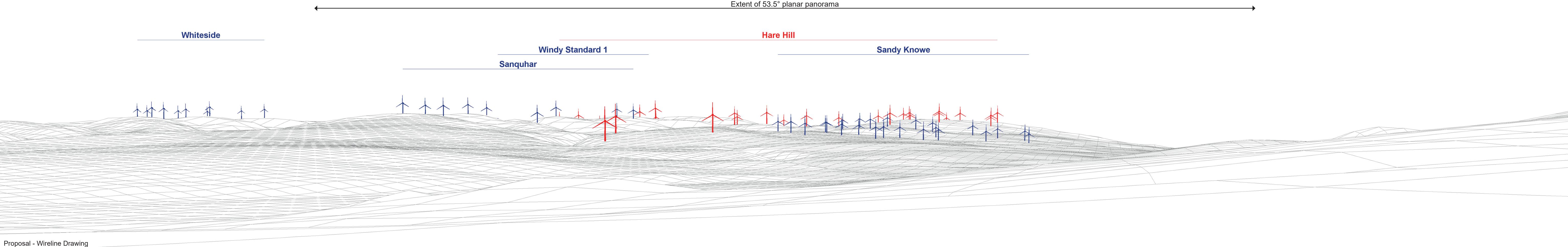
Hare Hill Repower and Extension Wireline

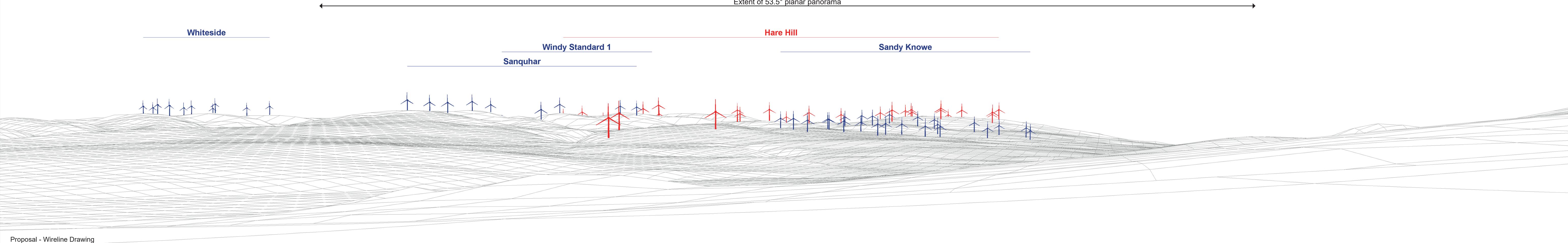
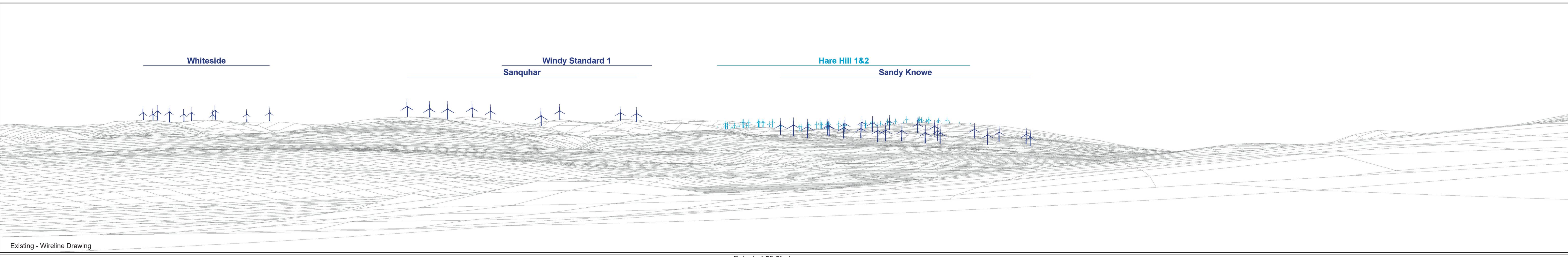


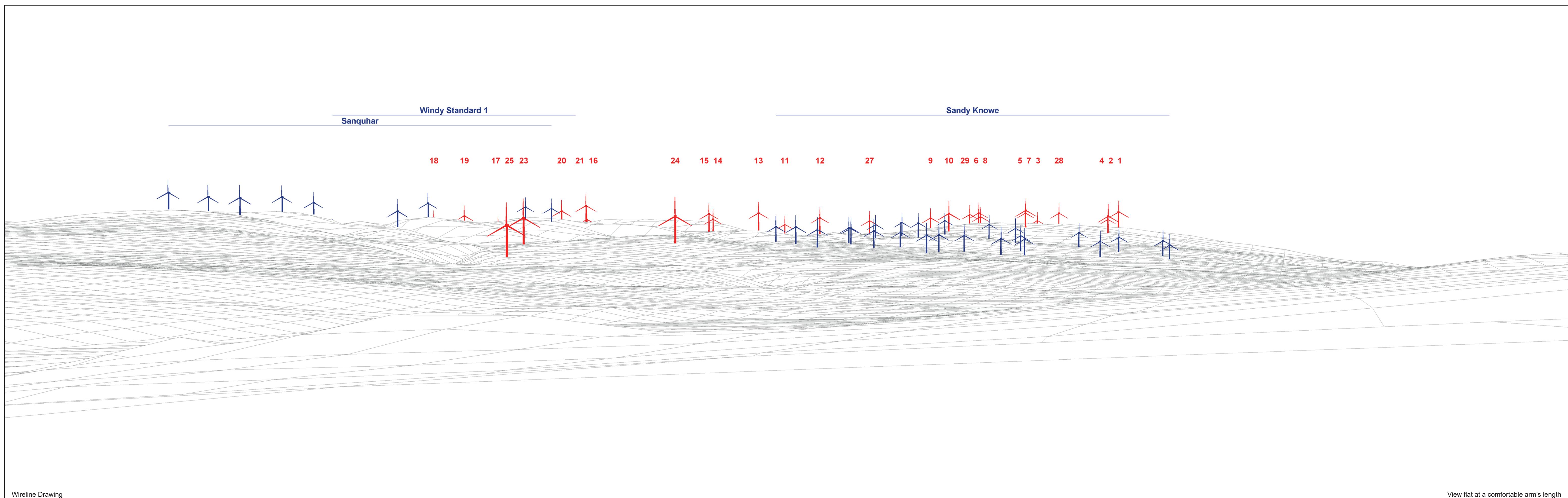
Hare Hill Repower and Extension Photomontage

N. September 2024

Photomontages





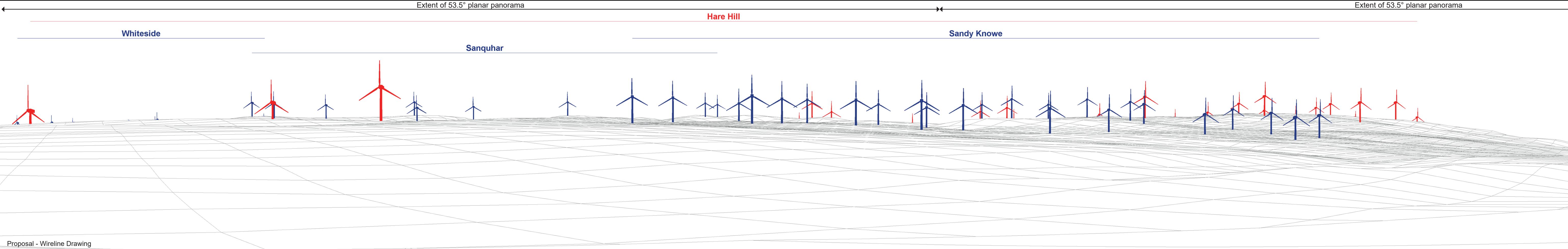


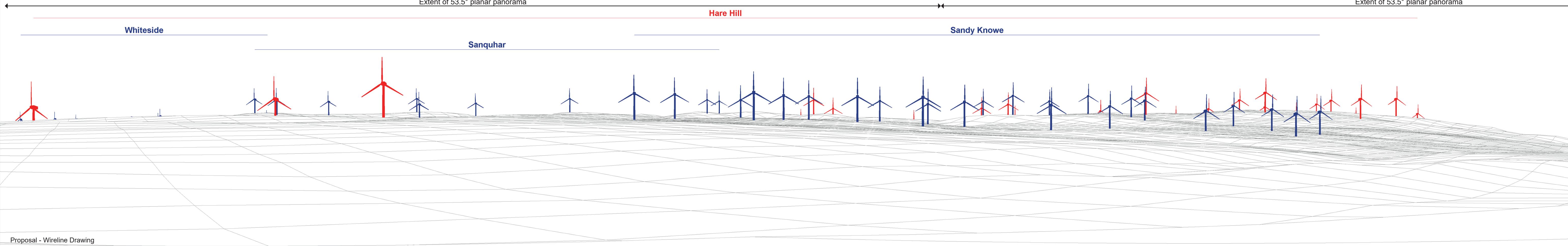
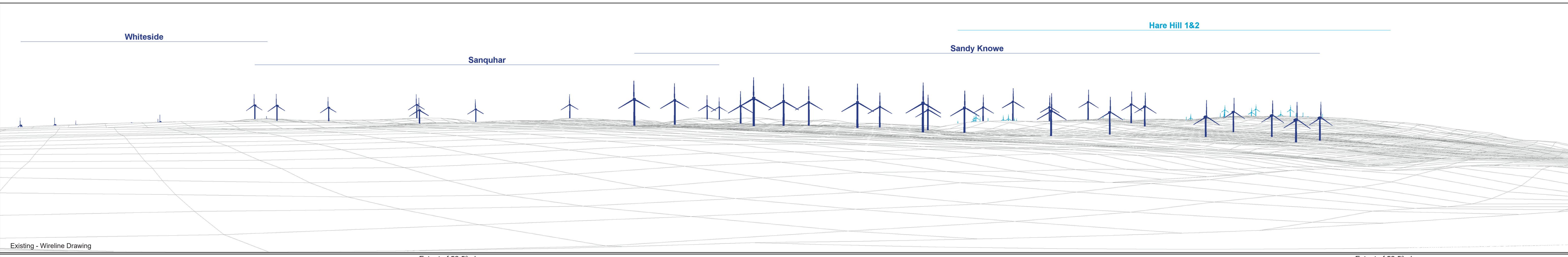
Wireline Drawing

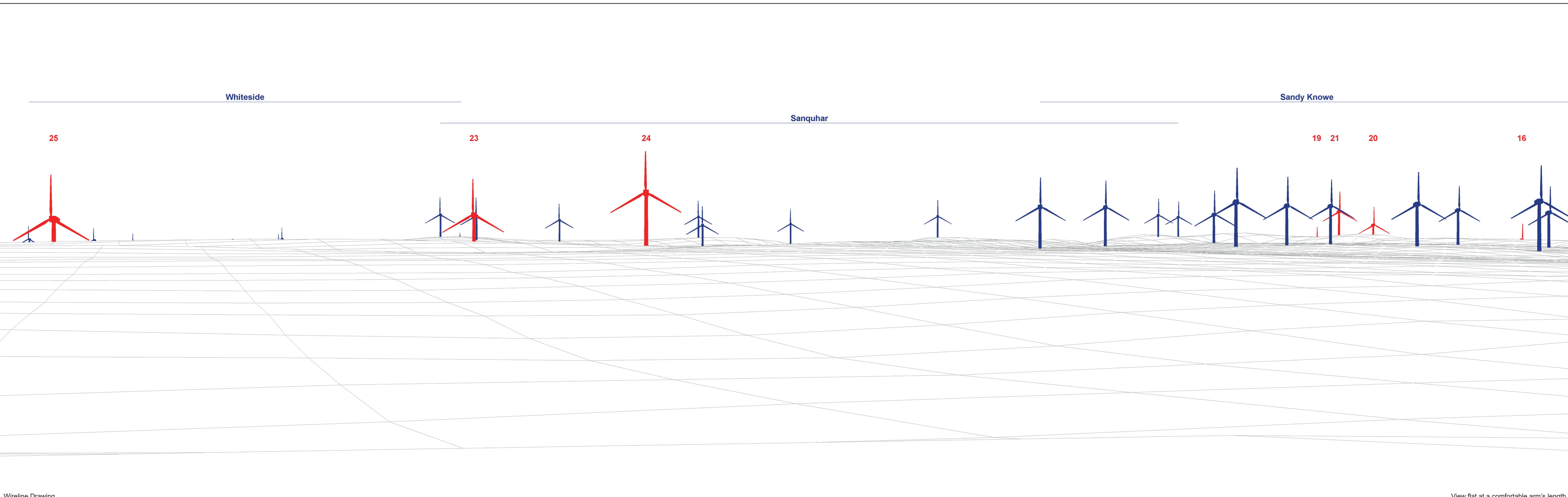
View flat at a comfortable arm's length



Photomontage



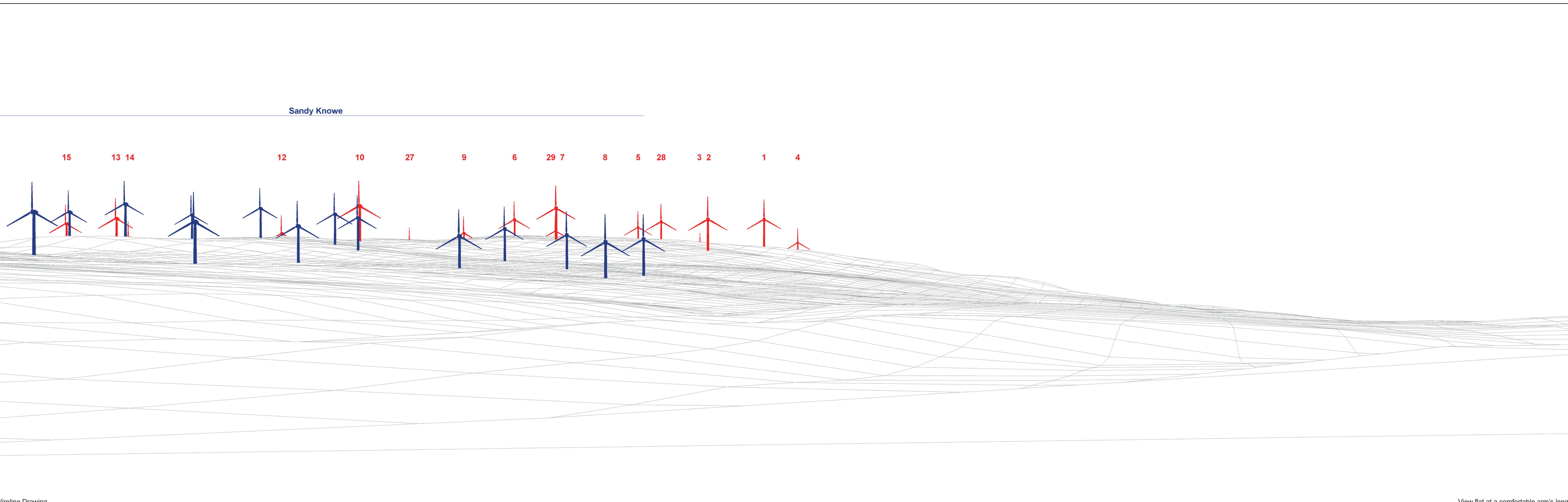




Wireline Drawing

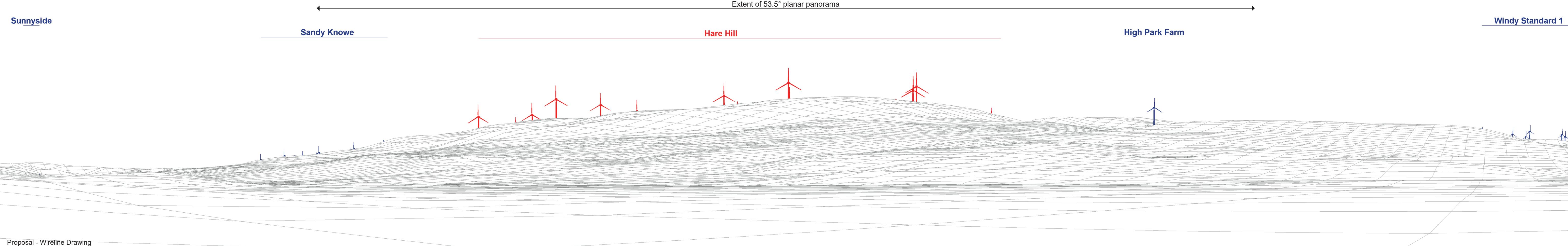


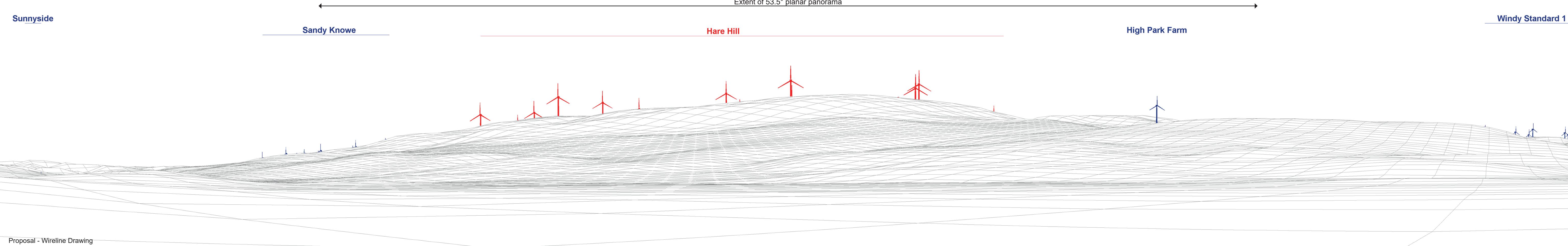
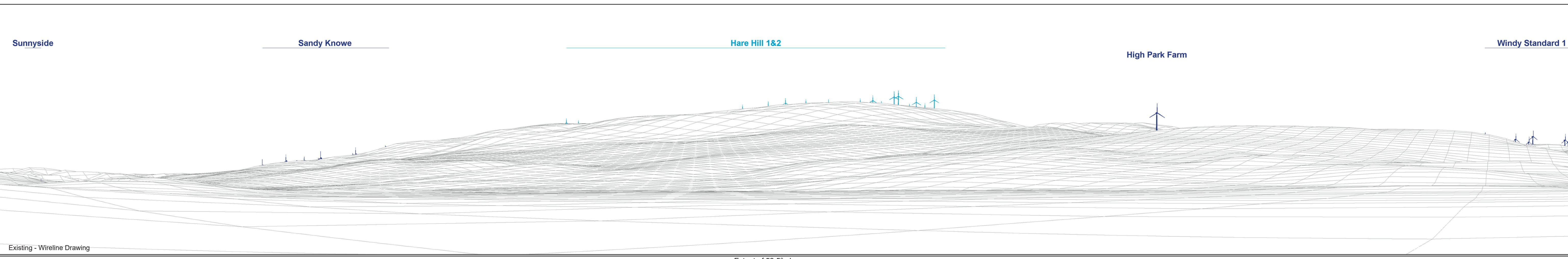
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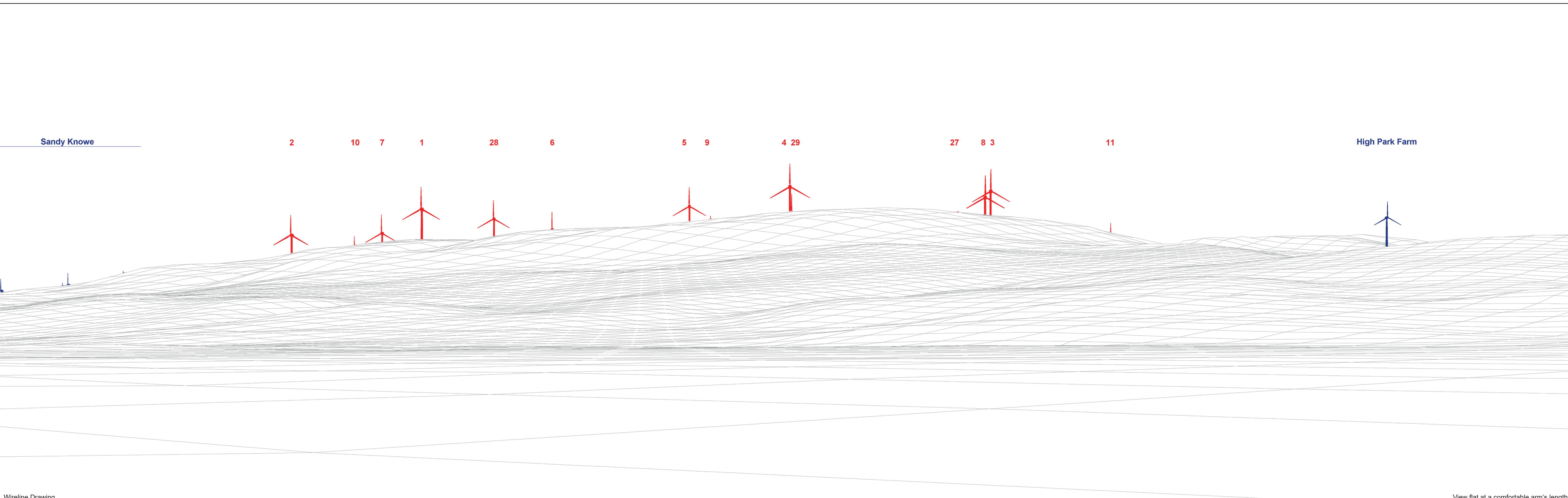




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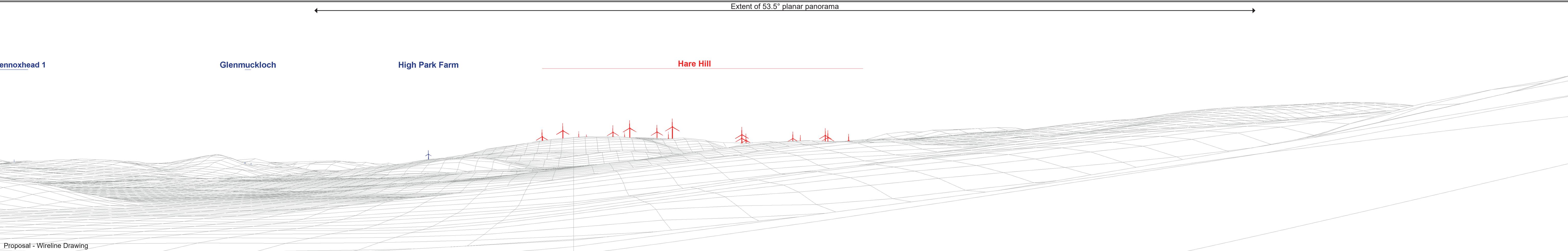


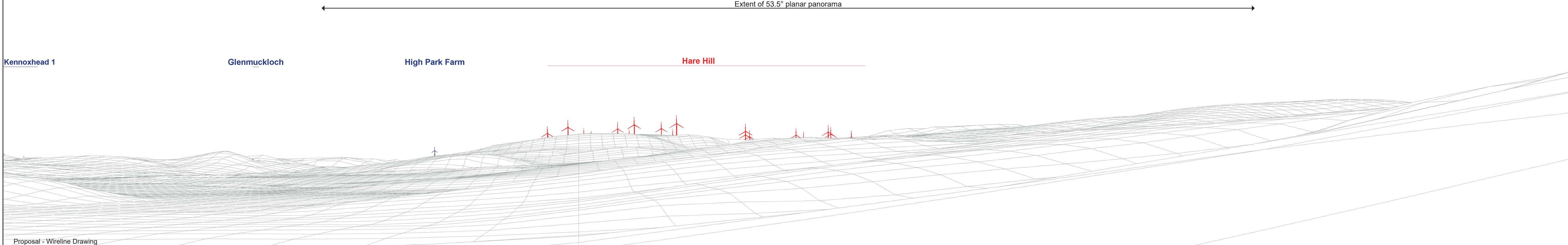
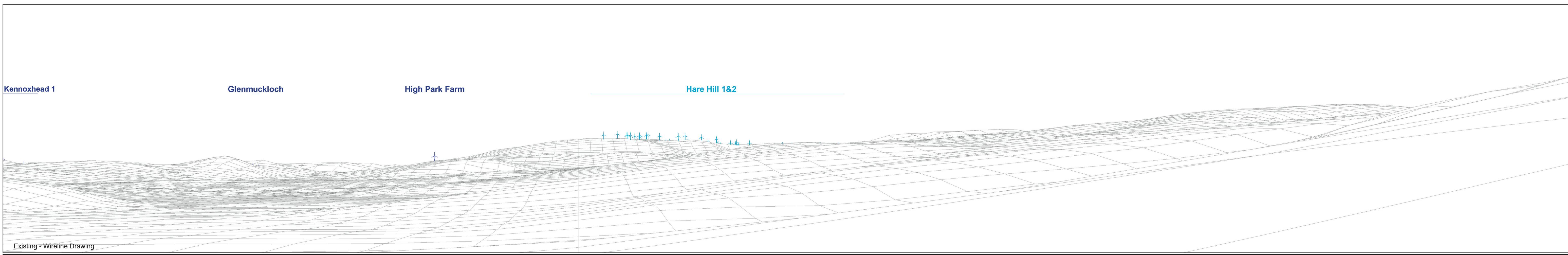


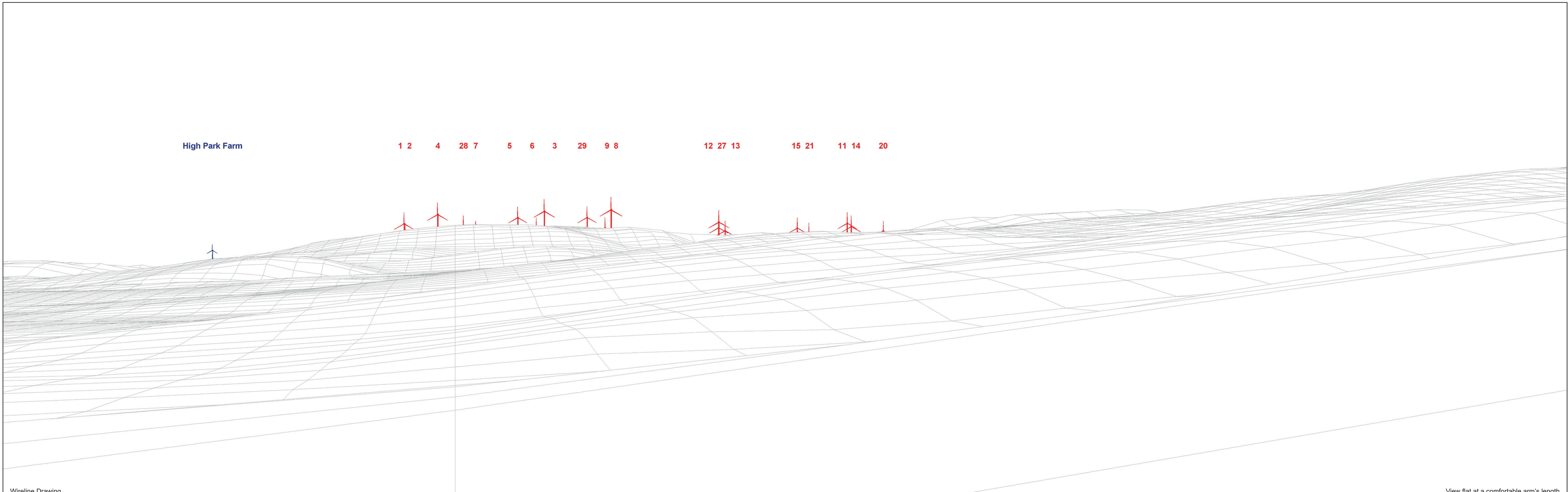


Photomontage

View flat at a comfortable arm's length









Photomontage

O. September 2024 ZTV

