



Carrick Windfarm

Pre-Application Consultation Report

December 2021

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

1. This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report accompanies an application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 being submitted by ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Ltd (SPR) (the Applicant) to the Scottish Ministers to construct and operate Carrick Windfarm (the Proposed Development) within part of the National Forest Estate's Carrick Forest in South Ayrshire. The location of the Site is shown in **Appendix A, Figure 1.1 Site Location**.
2. The Applicant recognises that it is very important to ensure that communities in the vicinity of any development are afforded appropriate and meaningful opportunities to comment on the proposals before they are finalised in accordance with regulations and good practice guidance.
3. This PAC Report provides details of the various consultation which has taken place with the local communities throughout the period prior to submission of the application, including the Public Information Event (PIE). This report also details the findings of that work and illustrates the ways in which community engagement has helped identify potential issues and how this influenced the design of the Proposed Development. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will also accompany the application and provides further detail surrounding the wider consultation process and the responses received regarding the Proposed Development. It also sets out the iterative design process from project initiation through to submission of the application.
4. It should be noted that the method of public consultation for the Proposed Development has been heavily influenced by, and has been undertaken in compliance with, the restrictions imposed by the Scottish Government¹ due to COVID-19.

1.2 The Applicant

5. ScottishPower Renewables is part of the ScottishPower group of companies operating in the UK under the Iberdrola Group, one of the world's largest integrated utility companies and a world leader in wind energy. ScottishPower now only produces 100% green electricity - focusing on wind energy, smart grids and driving the change to a cleaner, electric future. The company is investing over £4 million every working day² to make this happen and is committed to speeding up the transition to cleaner electric transport, improving air quality and over time, driving down bills to deliver a better future for everyone.
6. SPR is at the forefront of the development of the renewables industry through pioneering ideas, forward thinking and outstanding innovation. Its ambitious growth plans include expansion of its existing onshore wind portfolio, investment in new large-scale solar deployment and innovative grid storage systems including batteries. The company is also delivering the Iberdrola Group's offshore windfarms in the Southern North Sea off East Anglia.
7. With over 40 operational windfarms, SPR manages all its sites through its world leading Control Centre at Whitelee Windfarm, near Glasgow. SPR has made substantial investment in south west Scotland and currently owns and operates five windfarms in the South Ayrshire region (Arecleoch, Dersalloch, Glen

¹ Scottish Government (2020). Coronavirus (COVID-19): Planning guidance on pre-application consultations for public events. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-planning-guidance-on-pre-application-consultations-for-public-events/>

² Between 2018 – 2022.

App, Kilgallioch and Mark Hill) as well as a number in the nearby Dumfries and Galloway region. SPR currently operates in excess of 1.7 gigawatt (GW) of windfarm generating capacity in Scotland.

8. Through SPR's established presence in South Ayrshire, the Applicant has to date contributed £7,000,000 in community benefit funding to local communities in the area. This is just part of over £38,000,000 in community benefit funds delivered from our operational windfarms across the United Kingdom (UK). These funds contribute to a variety of groups and organisations to assist them in delivering projects which they have identified as having benefit to those living, working or visiting the surrounding area. It is expected that the Proposed Development would establish a community benefit arrangement with local communities and there would also be an opportunity for the local community to invest in the operational Carrick Windfarm should they wish to do so.
9. SPR recognises the importance of the economic benefits to Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom (UK) from investing in onshore wind generation and other renewable energy technologies. SPR constructed eight onshore windfarms in south west Scotland between 2016-17 with a combined capacity of 474 MW. It is estimated that this £1.6 billion investment would have 51% Scottish expenditure content over the lifetime of the projects, provide 31,118 UK Full Time Equivalent (FTE) job years, including 7,768 local FTE years (within south west Scotland), provide £297 million local value-added and £59 million in community benefit funding. It is expected that the Proposed Development would further enhance the economic opportunities within the region and would contribute significant local income through business rates.

1.3 The Proposed Development

10. The Proposed Development is located within Carrick Forest in the South Ayrshire Council administrative area. Carrick Forest is a commercial forest which is part of the National Forest Estate and is owned and managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS).
11. The Proposed Development comprises up to 13 wind turbines with a blade tip height of up to 200 metres (m), an Energy Storage Facility (i.e. battery) and associated infrastructure giving a combined generating output of around 72.8 megawatts (MW). The Energy Storage Facility would have a storage capacity of around 20MW and would provide flexible management of energy delivery and ancillary support services to the national grid.
12. A detailed description of the Proposed Development is provided in **Chapter 4: Development Description** of the EIAR and is also illustrated in **Appendix A, Figure 1.2 Site Layout Plan**.

1.4 Consultation Guidance and Legislation

13. Proposals for renewable energy developments such as the subject application, with a potential electrical capacity greater than 50MW are subject to the consenting procedures set out in Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (the Electricity Act) and applications are made directly to the Scottish Ministers.
14. There is no statutory obligation to consult the public under the terms of the Electricity Act application process. Nevertheless, in accordance with best practice, a programme of pre-application community engagement has been undertaken by the Applicant which applies the principles of the consultation process recommended for 'major' planning applications as set out in The Town and Country Planning

(Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013³ and circular 3/2013-Development Management Procedure Planning Circular 3/2013 - Development Management Procedures⁴.

15. In accordance with Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010 Community Engagement⁵, the Applicant has ensured they have met the legislation requirements (e.g. consult with the Community Councils and hold at least one public event which is advertised in the local press at least one week in advance of holding the event), see **Section 2.4** and **Section 3.2.2**.

2 Pre-Application Consultation

2.1 Pre-Application Consultation with Energy Consents Unit

16. An initial meeting between the Applicant and the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU), who will administer this application for consent on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, was held on 20 February 2020. Key issues discussed at the meeting include:
 - the Proposed Development's key constraints and opportunities;
 - proposed programme;
 - proposed surveys;
 - consultation and engagement to date;
 - proposed consultation and engagement approach;
 - public engagement for the PIE and with the Community Councils;
 - scoping; and
 - the Gatecheck process.
17. The Applicant has been in regular contact with the ECU throughout the pre-application phase. The Applicant has kept the ECU aware of ongoing dialog between the Applicant and stakeholders further to receipt of the Scoping Opinion, where relevant. This includes responding to comments made by the ECU in their Scoping response such as agreeing viewpoints. Further correspondence taken place between the ECU and the Applicant has included clarifying the requirements for the gate-checking and application submission process, to ensure that all requirements are met.

2.2 Pre-Application Advice from South Ayrshire Council

18. The Applicant opted to engage with South Ayrshire Council via their pre-application service available prior to the submission of applications for energy consent to the Scottish Ministers. The provision of this advice would usually include a meeting with the planning officer(s). The Applicant's pre-application enquiry was submitted to the council on 4 March 2020 and registered on the 24 March 2020, just as the UK-wide lockdown had come into force and South Ayrshire Council were unable to undertake the meeting via video conferencing, nor able to facilitate meetings with their internal stakeholders.

³ The Scottish Government (2013). Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2013/155/contents/made>

⁴ The Scottish Government (2013). Circular 3/2013 - Development Management Procedures. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2015/09/planning-series-circular-3-2013-development-management-procedures%5B2%5D/documents/00485277-pdf/00485277-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/00485277.pdf>

⁵ The Scottish Government (2010). 3/2010 Community Engagement. Available online at: <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2010/08/planning-advice-note-3-2010-community-engagement/documents/0103851-pdf/0103851-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/0103851.pdf>

19. Direct consultation took place between members of the project team and South Ayrshire Council, including their internal stakeholders throughout the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping and pre-application period. This included discussion on methodologies proposed as part of the EIAR, such as the noise assessment, landscape and visual assessment, traffic and transport assessment and requests for data and information.
20. Formal pre-application advice was received from South Ayrshire Council, alongside their response to ECU regarding the EIA Scoping Opinion request, on 18 September 2020.

2.3 Scoping

21. A request for an EIA Scoping Opinion was submitted to the ECU on 1 May 2020 via the submission of an EIA Scoping Report.
22. The ECU consulted with a variety of statutory and non-statutory consultees, set out in **Table 2.1** below, and provided them with a copy of the EIA Scoping Report. Consultation on the EIA Scoping Report was undertaken by the Scottish Ministers between 13 May 2020 and 25 September 2020.
23. A Statutory Consultee Meeting was held on 29 September 2020 to provide a forum for members of the project team to introduce themselves to the ECU and consultees and to enable a discussion on the Proposed Development, the changes that had taken place since the Scoping Report was submitted and to identify how consultation had been taken on board in the design and EIA to date. The meeting was attended by representatives from the ECU, the Applicant, WSP (including key topic specialists), South Ayrshire Council, East Ayrshire Council, NatureScot⁶, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), and Historic Environment Scotland (HES). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held via video conferencing.
24. The Applicant received the Scoping Opinion on 02 October 2020 from the ECU on behalf of the Scottish Ministers.

EIA Scoping Consultees	
Statutory Consultee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dumfries and Galloway Council; • ECU; • East Ayrshire Council; • Historic Environment Scotland (HES); • NatureScot; • South Ayrshire Council; and • Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA).
Internal Scottish Government Advisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Scotland; • Scottish Forestry (formerly Forestry Commission Scotland); • Transport Scotland; and • Ironside Farrar.
Non Statutory Consultees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ayrshire Rivers Trust; • British Horse Society; • British Telecoms; • Civil Aviation Authority – Airspace; • The Coal Authority; • Crown Estate Scotland; • Fisheries Management Scotland;

⁶ Formerly called Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

EIA Scoping Consultees	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defence Infrastructure Organisation/Ministry of Defence; • Fisheries – Doon and Stinchar District Salmon Fisheries Boards; • Galloway Fisheries Trust; • Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere; • Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust; • Glasgow Airport; • Glasgow Prestwick Airport; • Health and Safety Executive; • Joint Nature Conservation Committee; • Joint Radio Company; • John Muir Trust; • Met Office; • Mountaineering Scotland; • National Farmers Union of Scotland; • National Trust for Scotland Regional Office; • NATS (En Route) plc (NERL); • OFCOM; • Ramblers Associated (Scotland); • Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels; • Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland; • Scottish Badgers; • Scottish Outdoor Access Network; • Scottish Raptor Study Group; • Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays); • Scottish Water; • Scottish Wildlife Trust; • Scottish Wild Land Group; • Scottish Wildlife Trust; • South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre; • Sustrans Scotland; • West of Scotland Archaeology Service; • The Woodland Trust; and • Visit Scotland.
Community Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barr; • Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael; and • Dailly.

Table 2.1: List of EIA Scoping Consultees

25. Direct consultation has also been undertaken with consultees, to discuss and agree the approach and scope of environmental surveys and assessments on a topic-by-topic basis. Matters raised as part of the scoping process by consultees are discussed in each relevant technical chapter of the EIAR.

2.4 Community Councils

26. Further to EIA Scoping, the Applicant has kept the three Community Councils whose administrative areas intersect or are adjacent to the Proposed Development informed of the Proposed Development's progress and public consultation process. **Table 2.2** summarises the correspondence that has taken place between the Applicant and the Community Councils. Where reference is made to the Public Consultation Leaflet and the online PIE, details of these are provided in **Section 3**.

27. In August 2018, the Applicant contacted Barr, Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael and Dailly Community Councils to inform them of initial feasibility work which the Applicant had commenced on the Site and

for which an application for planning consent for a meteorological mast would be submitted to South Ayrshire Council. The Applicant also offered a meeting to discuss the proposals.

28. On the 25 September 2018, the Applicant attended the monthly Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael Community Council meeting and introduced the proposals to the members. The Applicant also detailed the initial desk-based feasibility which had been undertaken at this early stage, what the process would be regarding the met mast application and engaged in general discussion regarding the Community Council's views on windfarms in the area.

Community Council	Correspondence	Response/Outcome
<p>Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael Community Council (CSK CC)</p>	<p>The Applicant emailed CSK CC on 4 May 2020 attaching a letter with an update on work at Carrick Windfarm since the last correspondence regarding Garleffin Fell meteorological mast in September 2019. The Applicant offered a meeting (via whatever means was most suitable to the Community Council during the COVID-19 restrictions) to discuss the project.</p>	<p>CSK CC responded on 5 May 2020 and agreed that a virtual monthly meeting would be beneficial.</p> <p>The Applicant responded to CSK CC on 5 May 2020 and provided a link to project website showing documents and location plans.</p> <p>CSK CC responded on 6 May 2020 to confirm that they would prefer to hold a meeting in person as opposed to virtual to discuss the Proposed Development (although at time of writing due to COVID 19 restrictions this was not possible).</p> <p>The Applicant responded to CSK CC on 8 June 2020 and shared an electronic version of the Public Consultation Leaflet.</p>
	<p>The Applicant contacted CSK CC on 26 June 2020 thanking them for their scoping response and asked if could provide locations within the community where it would be useful, and who would be willing, to display a larger map alongside the Public Consultation Leaflet in their window/noticeboard.</p>	<p>No response received to date.</p>
	<p>The Applicant emailed CSK CC 30 September 2020 to circulate the online PIE leaflet which included details of the online PIE and was being mailed to the same residential and commercial properties as June 2020.</p> <p>The Applicant also followed up with D CC on 27 October 2020 to enquire whether any specific queries were to be raised by D CC or their members/residents prior to the end of the online PIE.</p>	<p>No response received to date.</p>
	<p>The Applicant emailed CSK the Community Investment leaflet outlining the Applicants commitment to explore the opportunity of local communities to invest in the operational windfarm, should they choose to do so on 30 October 2020.</p>	<p>CSK CC responded 02 November 2020 to thank the Applicant for the information and to advise that it had been circulated to the Community Council members.</p> <p>CSK CC enquired about when the planning application would be submitted and advised that they would be in a position to canvas local opinion and</p>

Community Council	Correspondence	Response/Outcome
		<p>report back following formal planning application submission.</p> <p>The Applicant confirmed on 02 November 2020 that the submission date would be the end of the year and linked the online PIE webpage. The Applicant reminded CSK CC of the various communication channels to the Applicant if they had any further queries.</p>
	The Applicant contacted CSK CC on 21 July 2020 with regard to if they had any feedback on areas which they would be interested to see considered in terms of recreational enhancement on the Site and/or linked to the Site.	No response received to date.
Dailly Community Council (D CC)	The Applicant emailed D CC on 4 May 2020 attaching a letter with an update on work at Carrick Windfarm since last correspondence regarding Garleffin Fell meteorological mast in September 2019. The Applicant offered a meeting (via whatever means was most suitable to the Community Council during the COVID-19 restrictions) to discuss the project.	<p>D CC responded to the Applicant on 9 May 2020 noting they had not previously received information on the Proposed Development but would like to receive information on this project.</p> <p>The Applicant responded to D CC on 11 May 2020 providing links to information on the Proposed Development and confirmed the address the previous correspondence was issued to.</p> <p>D CC responded to the Applicant on 18 May 2020 noting they were only made aware of the Proposed Development on 4 May 2020 and had not received earlier correspondence.</p> <p>The Applicant responded to D CC on 19 May 2020 confirming they should have now received a copy of the same documentation from the ECU.</p> <p>The Applicant emailed D CC on 8 June 2020 providing DCC with the Public Consultation Leaflet.</p>
	The Applicant contacted D CC on 26 June 2020 and asked if could provide locations within the community where it would be useful, and who would be willing to display a larger map alongside the Public Consultation Leaflet in their window/noticeboard. The Applicant also asked if they were proposing to submit a response to the Scottish Government in response to the EIA Scoping Report which was sent in May 2020.	<p>Copies of larger map and Public Consultation Leaflet were sent to D CC and placed in three locations locally, including local notice board on 10 July 2020.</p> <p>Dailly CC confirmed that they had requested an extension to Scoping consultation until 3 July 2020.</p>
	The Applicant contacted D CC on 21 July 2020 with regard to if they had any feedback on areas which they would be interested to see considered in terms of recreational enhancement on the Site and/or linked to the Site.	D CC responded to the Applicant on 28 July 2020 noting they have not had any discussions with the community regarding recreational enhancements on the Site and/or linked to the Site. Noted they are not

Community Council	Correspondence	Response/Outcome
		<p>holding any meeting at present, including virtual meetings.</p> <p>D CC responded to the Applicant again on 24 September 2020 noting they have not made any progress on enhancements and not had any community council meetings, but noted would be keen to have paths and tracks at appropriate and convenient access points available to walkers, cyclists, mountain bikes and horses. Also suggested to have picnic spots and tables with parking.</p>
	<p>The Applicant emailed D CC 30 September 2020 to circulate the online PIE leaflet which included details of the online PIE and was being mailed to the same residential and commercial properties as June 2020.</p> <p>The Applicant also followed up with D CC on 27 October 2020 to enquire whether any specific queries were to be raised by D CC or their members/residents prior to the end of the online PIE.</p>	<p>D CC responded on 04 November with a request for response on a number of comments and requests which had been collated from their members/residents.</p> <p>The Applicant responded to all queries and provided wirelines from requested locations on 19 November 2020.</p>
	<p>The Applicant emailed D CC the Community Investment leaflet outlining the Applicants commitment to explore the opportunity of local communities to invest in the operational windfarm, should they choose to do so on 30 October 2020.</p>	<p>No response received to date.</p>
Barr Community Council (B CC)	<p>The Applicant emailed B CC on 4 May 2020 attaching a letter with an update on work at Carrick Windfarm since the last correspondence regarding Garleffin Fell meteorological mast in September 2019. The Applicant offered a meeting (via whatever means was most suitable to the Community Council during the COVID-19 restrictions) to discuss the project.</p>	<p>The previous Chair of Barr Community Council responded on 27 May 2020 informing the Applicant that they were no longer on the Community Council but providing contact details, and copying in, the new Chair.</p>
	<p>The Applicant emailed B CC on 8 June 2020 providing B CC with the initial Public Consultation Leaflet and again on 26 June 2020 to ask if there was anywhere locally where it would be useful, and who would be willing, to display a larger map alongside the Public Consultation Leaflet in their window/notice board.</p> <p>The Applicant contacted B CC on 21 July 2020 with regard to if they had any feedback on areas which they would be interested to see considered in terms of recreational enhancement on the Site and/or linked to the Site.</p>	<p>No response received to date.</p>

Community Council	Correspondence	Response/Outcome
	<p>The Applicant emailed B CC 30 September 2020 to circulate the online PIE leaflet which included details of the online PIE and was being mailed to the same residential and commercial properties as June 2020.</p> <p>The Applicant also followed up with B CC on 27 October 2020 to enquire whether any specific queries were to be raised by B CC or their members/residents prior to the end of the online PIE.</p> <p>The Applicant emailed B CC the Community Investment leaflet outlining the Applicants commitment to explore the opportunity of local communities to invest in the operational windfarm, should they choose to do so on 30 October 2020.</p>	
Maybole Community Council (M CC)	M CC contacted the Applicant on 03 July 2020 following receipt of the initial Public Consultation leaflet.	Six copies of larger map and Public Consultation Leaflet were sent to M CC 16 July 2020 and placed in local locations, including the Carrick Centre.
	<p>The Applicant emailed M CC 30 September 2020 to circulate the online PIE leaflet which included details of the online PIE and was being mailed to the same residential and commercial properties as June 2020.</p> <p>The Applicant also followed up with M CC on 27 October 2020 to enquire whether any specific queries were to be raised by M CC or their members/residents prior to the end of the online PIE.</p>	M CC provided a brief update to the Applicant on 27 October 2020, stated nothing to report at this stage but that they would let the Applicant know should anything change.

Table 2.2: Summary of Consultation with Community Councils

2.5 Consultation with the South Ayrshire Council Access Officer

29. A meeting with the South Ayrshire Council Access Officer was undertaken on 2 September 2020 to discuss the existing recreational access on Site (i.e. how routes are used and what signposting exists etc.). Options regarding maintaining safe public access to core paths within the Site Boundary during construction, or provide alternative routes via diversions were also discussed. The Applicant confirmed that they would look at what mitigation measures could be implemented with regards to maintaining access to core paths during construction. These measures would be incorporated into an Access Management Plan which would be undertaken in consultation with the South Ayrshire Council Access officer. The Access Management Plan would be submitted post-consent if obtained.

2.6 Public Consultation

30. The Applicant has also engaged directly with local residents and communities via various forms of public consultation, undertaken principally in two stages and via two Public Consultation Leaflets as described in **Section 3.1** and **Section 3.2.2.1**, and an online PIE described in **Section 3.2** below.

3 Public Consultation

31. As detailed in **Section 1.1** of this report, the form of public consultation which has been undertaken has been heavily influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic and the temporary Scottish Government guidance⁷ during this period, which prevented traditional face-to-face events held in the community from taking place.
32. The Applicant hosts a webpage dedicated to the Proposed Development on their website (www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/carrick_windfarm.aspx), to allow people to view details about the Proposed Development including information on the location, the Site, details of the Proposed Development, benefits and EIA. This is updated regularly.
33. The Applicant provided a dedicated email address and phone number for the Proposed Development, in addition to being able to write the project team, so that there were a number of ways that people could get in contact; regardless of their ability to access to the internet. Contact details were provided on the public consultation material, newspaper adverts, the project webpage and on the public consultation material. Anyone contacting the project team via the dedicated email address (carrickwindfarm@scottishpower.com), received an automatic email response containing details of the other ways you could also get in contact with the project team.

3.1 Public Consultation Leaflet

34. An initial Public Consultation Leaflet (see **Appendix B Public Consultation Leaflet**) was distributed to all recorded addresses within a 10km radius of the Site. Leaflets were sent in June 2020 to residential and commercial addresses. The combined total number of leaflets distributed was 4,783. The Public Consultation Leaflet was also emailed directly to the Community Councils set out in **Section 2.4** and welcomed further discussions.
35. The Public Consultation Leaflet introduced the Proposed Development and the Applicant, providing information on their presence in the local area and community initiatives linked to their operational windfarms. The Public Consultation Leaflet explained the reason for the leaflet, the need for renewable energy to help reach Scottish Government targets, the EIA process and the next steps for the Proposed Development.
36. As mentioned above, the Public Consultation Leaflet prompted feedback and provided various contact details to enable this, including links to the project website, the project email address and a postal address.

3.1.1 Local Councillors – South Ayrshire Council

37. The Applicant contacted the South Ayrshire Councillors who serve the Council wards of the Site; Ward 7 – Maybole, North Carrick and Coylton, and Ward 8 – Girvan and South Carrick. The initial Public Consultation Leaflet was circulated to each Councillor along with a letter introducing them to the Proposed Development and an offer of discussing the proposals with them directly. This ensured that they were provided with the same information as the residents who resided in their local wards should any queries arise.

3.1.1.1 Members of Parliament (MP) and Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSP)

38. The Applicant's Government Affairs Team also introduced the Proposed Development to MPs and MSPs in the local area and South of Scotland regions, providing them with information on the work that

⁷ Scottish Government (2020). Coronavirus (COVID-19): Planning guidance on pre-application consultations for public events.

the Applicant had undertaken to date and how they can access further information. They were also offered a discussion via phone if they wished and noted that information in relation to the future online PIE would be provided to them once details had been finalised.

3.1.1.2 Public Consultation Responses

39. A total of 25 individuals contacted the Applicant from Crosshill, Dailly, Maybole, Straiton and the surrounding area following the circulation of the Public Consultation Leaflet. A summary of the points raised in the letters or emails and how the Applicant responded are presented in **Table 3.1** below.

Subject	Comments Received/Matters Raised	The Applicant's Response
General	Request for larger maps of the Proposed Development or requested maps to display on local notice boards in the area.	The Applicant directed members of the public to larger maps online and also circulated larger maps to the Community Councils for inclusion in local notice boards and on social media forums.
	Queries regarding the need for renewables, energy storage, consumer bills and connectivity to the grid.	The Applicant provided further information on the Proposed Development with links to the online PIE highlighting information on renewables, energy storage, how the price of a consumer's bill is taken into consideration and details of grid connectivity.
	Raised concerns that the Proposed Development would be destructive to the Wild Land Area, the Dark Skies Park and Biosphere.	The Applicant noted that the EIAR would include an assessment of a number of technical subject areas including but not limited to, landscape and visual, ecology and socio-economics. The results of these surveys would be included in the EIAR which would be submitted with the application for consent at the end of the year.
Consultation and feedback	Requested information on proposed timelines and if consultation with stakeholders would be carried out.	The Applicant confirmed that they are undertaking consultation with stakeholders.
	Requests to be kept informed of further information on the Proposed Development and noting their interest to provide feedback.	The Applicant confirmed that they would keep them informed of any future communications and the various methods available for providing feedback.
	Concerns raised regarding consultation procedures during COVID 19.	The Applicant provided reassurance regarding the variety of methods for consultation available directly with the project team to enable and encourage communication during a difficult time. The Applicant also noted that regular communication was being undertaken with the Community Councils and that an online PIE would be held to replace the face-to-face event usually held.
Landscape and Visual	Raised concerns on landscape and visual impacts.	The Applicant highlighted that the EIAR would include a landscape and visual assessment. The results of the assessment would be available within the EIAR which would be submitted with the application for consent at the end of the year.
	Raised that the Proposed Development does not fit into the existing landscape (noting the South Ayrshire Wind Capacity Study 2018).	The Applicant confirmed that the South Ayrshire Council's Planning Guidance, including the supplementary wind guidance, South Ayrshire wind capacity study would be considered within the design, EIAR and Planning Statement.

Subject	Comments Received/Matters Raised	The Applicant's Response
Wild Land	Raised that the Public Consultation Leaflet does not mention the designated wild land.	The Applicant noted that the Public Consultation Leaflet aims to include high level information and directed the member of the public to the Applicants website for more detailed information.
Land ownership	Requests for information on land ownership.	The Applicant confirmed that the land for the Proposed Development is part of National Forest Estate and is managed by FLS.
Ecology and Ornithology	Requested results of bird and bat surveys.	The Applicant stated that at the time of writing, bird and bat surveys are ongoing and results would be presented within the EIAR which would be submitted with the application for consent at the end of the year.
	Concerns raised relating to endangering the bat and bird population.	The Applicant noted that bird and bat surveys have been undertaken alongside other environmental surveys across the Site to provide a baseline, highlight any constraints which would then be fed into the design, assessed and discussed with consultees. The results of the surveys would be presented within the EIAR which would be submitted with the application for consent at the end of the year.
Height of wind turbines	Requested information on why the photograph of wind turbines at Whitelee showing eight wind turbines of much smaller height was used.	The Applicant noted that the Whitelee photograph and confirmed they do not have photographs of wind turbines within operational fleet that are the exact same size and dimensions as those currently being considered for the Proposed Development but confirmed the photograph provided was a clear photo of the proposed wind turbines on a clear day and dimensions were noted below the image to avoid any confusion.
	Requested the height of each wind turbine.	The Applicant noted that the final wind turbine height to the tip of the blade is still undergoing the iterative design process. The visual impact of the proposed wind turbines would be assessed within the landscape and visual impact assessment and presented within the EIAR.
Energy Storage Facility	Requested information on the description and location of the Energy Storage Facility.	The Applicant provided further information on the proposed Energy Storage Facility.
Summary Document	Requested if a summary document be provided other than that provided in the Scoping Report.	The Applicant confirmed that a summary of the key points would be provided via the Applicant's website.
Overhead lines	Concerns regarding the overhead lines close to their property and the associated health implications if more power was going to be put through them due to the Proposed Development connection.	The Applicant noted that they were working with ScottishPower Energy Networks (SPEN) and National Grid to confirm the most suitable grid connection location and current plans involve connecting into the existing 275kV overhead line which runs through the Site and would not be requiring a new overhead line. Information specific to resident's health concerns were sent to them directly.
Grid connection/ electricity transmission	Requested information on grid connection and transmission of electricity in the area.	The Applicant provided a link to website for further information on grid connection and transmission of electricity and provided a list of contact details for various key people in SPEN.

Subject	Comments Received/Matters Raised	The Applicant's Response
Traffic/Access	Details regarding the proposed access route requested.	The Applicant detailed information on the abnormal loads route currently being considered. Also noted that a full Traffic and Transport assessment would be undertaken, and the results of this would be available in the EIAR
	Raised concern regarding the condition of the roads.	The Applicant noted that information on the impact on roads and traffic would be assessed against the current baseline and the results of this would be available in the EIAR
Benefits	Requested a response on how the Proposed Development could support recreation in the area.	The Applicant confirmed they were discussing with FLS as the landowner on this Proposed Development.
	Requested information on positives stories from already completed projects and on benefits to the local economy.	The Applicant provided information on positive stories from their experiences with their operational windfarms, information on community, economic and environmental benefits, habitat management and potential for proposed recreational enhancements.
Enhancement measures	Asked if consideration would be given to integrating recreational facilities and public access to the Site.	The Applicant confirmed that they were investigating opportunities for recreational facilities and public access to the Site with FLS.
Socio-economics	Local suppliers seeking opportunity to work with the Applicant on the Proposed Development.	The Applicant highlighted the current pre-planning status of the Proposed Development and noting timescales for any construction works should it be consented. Applicants confirmed suppliers were added to database.
	Requested information on employment opportunities with ScottishPower in the local area.	The Applicant provided information on apprenticeships and traineeships with ScottishPower and explained how these could be applied for.
	Requested information on community and economic benefits.	The Applicant provided further information relating to community benefits and employment opportunities.
Cumulative impacts with other windfarms.	Concerns raised on the environmental and cumulative impacts of windfarms, namely Clauchrie Windfarm and Dersalloch Windfarm.	The Applicant highlighted that the EIAR would include an assessment on potential cumulative impacts with other windfarms. The results of this assessment would be available within the EIAR which would be submitted with the application for consent at the end of the year.

Table 3.1: Summary of Comments and Responses Following the Public Consultation Leaflet

3.2 Online Public Information Event

3.2.1 Date and format

40. An online PIE was held between 14 October 2020 – 4 November 2020.
41. A dedicated 'portal' was set up for the online PIE, which was accessed either via the project's webpage on the Applicant's website or directly via:

www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/carrick_windfarm_public_information_event
42. The online PIE comprised of a series of webpages designed to appear in a similar way to traditional banners that would be used at a conventional face-to-face consultation event, so as to be a familiar format to the public (see **Appendix C Online PIE Webpage**).

3.2.2 Advertisement of Online PIE

43. In keeping with the spirit of Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2008, the Applicant advertised that the online PIE was being held to update the public on the proposals, publicise the forthcoming planning application in the area and to ask for further feedback. The event was advertised in several ways (subject to COVID-19 restrictions) to help ensure that as many local residents as possible were made aware of the Proposed Development, Further details on how the online PIE was advertised are provided in **Sections 3.2.2.1** and **3.2.2.2** below.

3.2.2.1 Online PIE Leaflet

44. A subsequent Public Consultation Leaflet (see **Appendix D Online PIE Leaflet**) was issued in September 2020 to the same 4,783 recipients as the Public Consultation Leaflet described in **Section 3.1**.
45. The online PIE leaflet provided information on the purpose of the online PIE, how and when it could be accessed and a summary of the changes to the Proposed Development since the previous public consultation in June 2020. Project team contact details were also provided in the event that a member of the public required any of the documents contained within the online PIE to be emailed or posted.

3.2.2.2 Newspaper Adverts

46. An advertisement was published in the following newspapers (see **Appendix E Newspaper Print and Digital Adverts**) to publicise the online PIE, its purpose and provided details of the event such as how to access it and the duration of the event:
- Ayrshire Post: 7 -13 October 2020; and
 - Ayr Advertiser and Carrick Herald: 6 -12 October 2020.
47. In addition to the printed newspaper adverts, the following digital adverts were also placed on the newspaper's websites:
- Ayrshire Post (<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/ayrshire/>): 14 - 20 October 2020; and
 - Ayr Advertiser and Carrick Herald (<https://www.ayradvertiser.com/>): 6 – 8 and 14-18 October 2020.

3.2.2.3 Local Councillors – South Ayrshire

48. As per the initial Public Consultation Leaflet, the Applicant contacted the six South Ayrshire Councillors who had been provided with the initial Public Consultation Leaflet. The online PIE leaflet was circulated to each Councillor along with a summary of what would be presented during the event and how long it would be 'live' for.

3.2.2.4 Members of Parliament (MP) and Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSP)

49. As per the initial Public Consultation Leaflet, the Applicant's Government Affairs team contacted the current local MPs and MSPs who had been provided with the initial Public Consultation Leaflet. The online PIE leaflet was circulated to each Councillor along with a summary of what would be presented during the event and how long it would be 'live' for.

3.2.3 Information Available at the Online Public Information Event

50. The event comprised a virtual exhibition room, with six information banners and one feedback form. The information banners included the following:
- Banner 1: Introduction to the online PIE and the Applicant;
 - Banner 2: Site overview, key facts and EIA process;
 - Banner 3: Landscape and visual considerations within the Proposed Development;

- Banner 4: details on the environmental assessment work undertaken to date, including any environmental surveys for each environmental topic:
 - Ecology, Biodiversity and Ornithology;
 - Archaeology and Cultural Heritage;
 - Noise;
 - Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat;
 - Traffic and Transport;
 - Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism;
 - Forestry and Land Use;
 - Aviation and Radar; and
 - Telecommunications.
 - Banner 5: Benefits of the Proposed Development;
 - Banner 6: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs); and
 - Feedback Form (**Appendix F Feedback Form**) was also provided on the project webpage, to allow interested members of the public to provide comment or ask questions.
51. Each banner linked to a web page which contained detailed information on the topic and the Proposed Development, as well as figures and visualisations where appropriate. The figures and visualisations were also provided as downloadable files, and all information within the web page could be printed off as a hard copy.
52. **Appendix C Online PIE Webpage** shows the online exhibition home page.

3.2.3.1 Online PIE Attendance and Feedback

53. The analytics of the event website show that from 14 October to 04 November 2020, the website recorded a total of 560 people, of whom, 464 of those were new, or unique users, who had never visited SPR website. This is a much larger number of visitors than might typically attend a traditional and face-to-face PIE and demonstrates that the online event was a successful way of engaging with the local community.
54. Visitors to the online PIE were invited to contact the project team with any questions, comments or feedback on the proposals using the feedback form or via the various contact details provided. A total of four completed feedback forms were received (0.8% of unique users), alongside one direct phone call, one letter and emails from nine individuals (one of whom had previously contacted the project team regarding the initial Public Consultation Leaflet).
55. Comments suggest that out of the four respondents, one indicated support for renewable energy and the Proposed Development, one indicated support for renewable energy in general but was opposed to the Proposed Development, one was opposed to renewable energy developments and the Proposed Development and one was supportive of renewable energy developments but made no comment on the Proposed Development.
56. The geographical spread of attendees that completed feedback forms or contacted the project team directly around the online PIE (and provided their location) was as follows:
- Barrhill – 1;
 - Straiton – 3;
 - Crosshill – 1;
 - Dailly – 3;
 - Maybole – 1; and

- Newton Stewart (or surrounding area) – 1.
57. The Applicant responded in the first instance to any questions or comments with an emailed response to each enquiry, with the offer of further direct discussion if required. In some cases, additional information in the form of wirelines of views from certain locations was provided, or a technical specialist was able to provide specific information relating to a specific concern such as noise assessment, or address concerns about the Proposed Development.
58. A summary of the comments received across all methods is shown in **Table 3.2** below.

Subject	Comments Received / Matters Raised	Applicant's Response
General	Request to keep informed on all developments regarding the Proposed Development.	The Applicant noted that the PIE was live until 4 November for all updates and also highlighted that feedback can be sent using the form or responding by email/phone/post. The Applicant also noted that the community Councils are being kept up to date to enable them to keep their members up to date.
	Request to confirm if there is preparatory work currently taking place at the Site.	The Applicant responded via email correspondence confirming no preparatory work would be undertaken on Site unless consent was obtained. Any works currently being undertaken on Site or in the immediate vicinity were not in relation to the Proposed Development or the Applicant.
	Requested evidence of why windfarms are not sited close to large population where electricity is used.	The Applicant responded via email correspondence and provided information in relation to the query, noting Whitelee Windfarm as an example. Also confirmed that a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) would be undertaken as part of the EIAR.
	Queries regarding accessing the final EIAR.	The Applicant is making electronic versions of the EIAR available online and on USB. Hard copies will also be available. Fees for both are detailed in the EIAR.
Height of wind turbines	Concerned regarding the height of the proposed wind turbines and requested information on height of each individual wind turbine (if they differed across the Site)	The Applicant confirmed that all wind turbines within the Proposed Development were currently proposed to be up to 200m to blade tip height.
	Asked if there is another 200m wind turbine in the area that they could visit to understand the scale.	The Applicant confirmed that there is no other 200m wind turbine in the area as turbines of this height are considered the next generation being produced by manufacturers. The closest tallest wind turbine that the Applicant was aware of is at Kilgallioch Windfarm with wind turbines 146m to blade tip height.
Wind turbine coordinates	Requested coordinates for each wind turbine and/or elevations. Also requested distance of wind turbine to their property.	The Applicant provided information on wind turbine coordinates, elevations and distances.
Lighting	Requested information on wind turbine lighting.	The Applicant confirmed that due to the height that there would be a requirement for the wind turbines to be lit. The Applicant detailed consultation with aviation stakeholders ongoing to seek to minimise the impact on the Dark Sky Park.

Subject	Comments Received / Matters Raised	Applicant's Response
Energy Storage Facility	Requested information on the energy storage facility and size and noise levels at these facilities.	The Applicant provided high level details for the Energy Storage Facility, noting that visually they will be similar to shipping containers, proposed and noted that no significant noise effects are predicted for the facility as agreed with South Ayrshire Council.
Power lines	Requested information on the proposed route and voltage of the power lines.	The Applicant responded via email correspondence on the route and voltage of the power lines.
3D model of the Proposed Development	Asked why there is not a 3D model available.	The Applicant confirmed that a 3D model did exist and been used throughout the design process, but it was not possible to present the model in the online PIE.
Landscape and visual	A number of views of the Proposed development were requested from individual locations.	The Applicant provided wirelines from each location requested.
Dark Sky Park	Concerned about Dark Skies Park gold status and future prospect of achieving National Park status.	The Applicant confirmed any potential impact on the Dark Skies Park was being assessed as part of the Landscape and Visual assessment and the results will be presented within the EIAR to be submitted alongside the application for consent at the end of the year.
	Requested confirmation there would be no windfarm on the Merrick or in Dark Sky Park core zone.	The Applicant responded via email correspondence confirming that the Applicant has no plans to develop on Merrick or in the Dark Sky Park core zone in the future.
Private Water Supplies (PWS)	Requested information on PWS and catchment and how this would be mitigated.	The Applicant confirmed that any potential impact on PWS was being assessed and the results of this would be presented within the EIAR to be submitted alongside the application for consent at the end of the year. Any mitigation measures required would also be detailed within the EIAR.
Ecology and Ornithology	Requests for information on impact of wildlife as a result of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant confirmed that the EIAR would include an assessment on the ornithology, ecology and biodiversity during the construction and the operational phase of the Proposed Development.
	Concerns raised re. breeding birds on the Site and wind turbines.	The Applicant confirmed that ornithology surveys have been undertaken on the Site and in the surrounding area since August 2018. Surveys included specialist viewpoints, flight activity, breeding bird surveys and specialist surveys for a variety of bird species in line with NatureScot guidance. The results of these surveys have informed the iterative design process of the windfarm layout and NatureScot and RSPB have been consulted with their feedback informing the design layout. The results of the surveys will be presented in the EIAR.
Noise	Requests for information on noise monitoring and cumulative assessment.	The Applicant stated that due to General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) that the names of the properties where noise monitoring had been agreed with South Ayrshire Council and carried out was not possible. However, the number of locations and the general direction these were in from the Site were provided.

Subject	Comments Received / Matters Raised	Applicant's Response
		A cumulative noise assessment has been carried out and the results of this will be presented within the EIAR.
	Concerns regarding noise and proximity of closest proposed wind turbine.	The Applicant confirmed that baseline noise monitoring has been undertaken to inform the noise assessment, the results of which would be provided within the EIAR. Applicant also provided details of closest windfarm to the property.
	Raised concerns regarding the impact on noise levels during the construction phase.	The Applicant confirmed that baseline noise monitoring has been undertaken to inform the noise assessment – construction and operational impacts, the results of which would be provided within the EIAR. Applicant also provided details of closest windfarm to the property.
Traffic and Transport	Impact to local village roads.	The Applicant noted that consultation with South Ayrshire Council and Ayrshire Roads Alliance had been undertaken regarding transport impacts. A baseline traffic survey has been carried out and data from pre-COVID-19 period has also been utilised and confirmed with South Ayrshire Council. The results of this assessment will be presented within the EIAR.
Socio-economics	Requested further information on number of remote properties being sold as a result of windfarm development.	The Applicant confirmed they do not have information on the number of remote properties that have been sold as a result of windfarm development in Scotland.
Shadow Flicker	Asked for confirmation that shadow flicker is being considered within the EIAR.	The Applicant confirmed that a shadow flicker assessment was being carried out and will be presented within the EIAR.
Habitat Management and Enhancements	Requested information on measures planned for habitat management and information on enhancements on Site (additional paths incorporated around the Site for use by public and walking groups).	The Applicant provided information regarding the habitat and wildlife surveys which have been carried out and the assessments on which the Habitat Management Plan has been based. A link to the Applicant's website for a video on the work undertaken generally to enhance the environment was also sent. The Applicant also confirmed that the proposed upgraded access racks and new access tracks on Site will be able to be used by walking groups and members of the public and that discussions were underway with FLS re. signage and seating areas within the Site.
	Suggestion of interconnected paths between all windfarms in the area and asked if there is provision to be able to access the service roads.	The Applicant thanked for the suggestion but explained that interconnected paths was not part of the Proposed Development planning application, but noted that they are in discussions with FLS on potential enhancement measures within the Site Boundary.
Cumulative impact from other windfarm developments	Raised concerns regarding cumulative impacts from other windfarms.	The Applicant confirmed that an assessment potential cumulative impacts with other windfarms would be undertaken within the EIAR.

Table 3.2: Summary of Comments Received During the Online PIE

4 Response to Public Consultation

59. All of the topics and questions raised through the pre-application consultation have been responded to through email correspondence or addressed in the assessments presented within the EIAR for the Proposed Development. For example, wirelines were produced and sent directly to the individual and further wirelines and photomontages will be included within **Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual** of the EIAR.

4.1.1 Updates to Viewpoints Following Responses from Consultees

60. The following viewpoints were updated in response to comments from consultees:
- CSK CC requested that viewpoint 2 on the National Cycle Route 7 was moved to a better open location;
 - CSK CC and DCC requested that viewpoint 9 was moved to Dalhowan Street, Crosshill; and
 - Mountaineering Scotland requested that add additional viewpoint was to be added (viewpoint 24).

4.1.2 Community Benefits

61. Comments were received from members of the public and local community expressing a desire for the Proposed Development to have a positive benefit upon the local community.
62. The Applicant is committed to offering a package of community benefits to local communities that could include the opportunity for a community benefit fund and for the local community to invest in the operational windfarm. The Applicant has already shared initial information with the community about an opportunity to invest and has provided an introductory leaflet which outlines a potential investment structure, see **Appendix 1.1 Community Investment Leaflet** of the EIAR for further details. To date, the Applicant has voluntarily contributed £7 million in community benefit funding to South Ayrshire communities. A wide range of local projects and community initiatives have been supported by the funds including:
- 224 community facilities and services projects;
 - 74 community or local event projects;
 - 27 environmental projects;
 - 15 heritage projects;
 - 25 skills and employment projects;
 - 143 sport and recreation projects; and
 - 158 youth and education projects.
63. The Applicant would hold discussions with local stakeholders and FLS to decide which communities would be appropriate to participate in any opportunity to invest. This could include a community fund to deliver local initiatives, benefits in kind and the opportunity to invest in the operational windfarm should the community choose to do so.
64. The Applicant is committed to keeping local communities informed as the project progresses and, in line with Scottish Government guidance, would provide information in a timely manner so the communities are able to fully assess the opportunity.
65. It is expected that any proposed income streams would provide a long-term, flexible revenue which could be used to support community projects within South Ayrshire. A range of options would be

available to local communities who would have the flexibility to be able to choose how the money is spent and prioritise it on the things which matter most to them.

66. The Applicant is committed to maximising employment opportunities for those local to their projects by making sure that local people and businesses have the opportunities to be part of the industry's success. As a major infrastructure development, the Proposed Development has the potential to create employment opportunities. If consent is granted, jobs would be created both during construction and after completion, and in support of, operation and maintenance activities. Further details on the socio-economic benefits of the Proposed Development are further discussed in **Chapter 12: Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation** of the EIAR.
67. New development can bring increased opportunities for local companies to gain new business. The Applicant would work with local businesses that are able to provide a variety of skills and services during the construction phase and the operational lifetime of the windfarm. This may include services such as ground and road maintenance, catering, building trades and plant hire. The Applicant would host 'Meet the Contractor' events prior to construction, aimed specifically at small to medium businesses, to provide an opportunity for them to discuss the types of contracts being let during construction and operation.
68. Enhancement measures were considered by the Applicant and discussed with FLS during the design process. The Applicant is proposing to implement a number of recreational enhancements as part of the Proposed Development. Enhancement measures currently being proposed by include:
- provision of waymarkers or signposts along the existing core paths located within the Site Boundary;
 - Improve the condition of sections of the existing core paths located within the Site Boundary;
 - provision of bins and seating areas within the Site Boundary; and
 - provision of information boards along the Old Road through Straiton heritage path within the Site Boundary to inform readers of the heritage of the route.
69. The Applicant is committed to working with local stakeholders and consultees to identify additional recreational improvement and enhancement opportunities, where these are within the Site Boundary or if on third party land they will be subject to the approval of landowners.
70. Further detail on enhancements is provided in **Chapter 4: Development Description** and **Chapter 12: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism** of the EIAR.

5 Conclusions

71. Although not a statutory requirement for a Section 36 application, in line with best practice for the consenting process of a major application a programme of pre-application community consultation has been undertaken by the Applicant. This consultation process has been heavily influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, which prevented traditional face-to-face consultation events held in the community from taking place. Instead, in line with the Scottish Governments temporary guidance during the pandemic, the Applicant has undertaken public consultation via a Public Consultation Leaflet and an online PIE, to ensure that members of the communities near to the Proposed Development are fully aware of the proposals and to provide the opportunity for them to give feedback and for relevant comments to be considered in the EIA and iterative design process.
72. The Applicant would continue to liaise with the local community during the Section 36 application process and the construction and operational stages of the Proposed Development.

5.1.1 Publication of the EIAR

The Applicant has a duty to undertake statutory publication of the EIAR in accordance with Part 5 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and the Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation and the provisions of the Coronavirus Act 2020, Government advice is that hard copies of the application and EIAR should not be placed on public display. The application documents are being made available online via the ECU website as normal, and hard copies are being made available to specific statutory consultees.

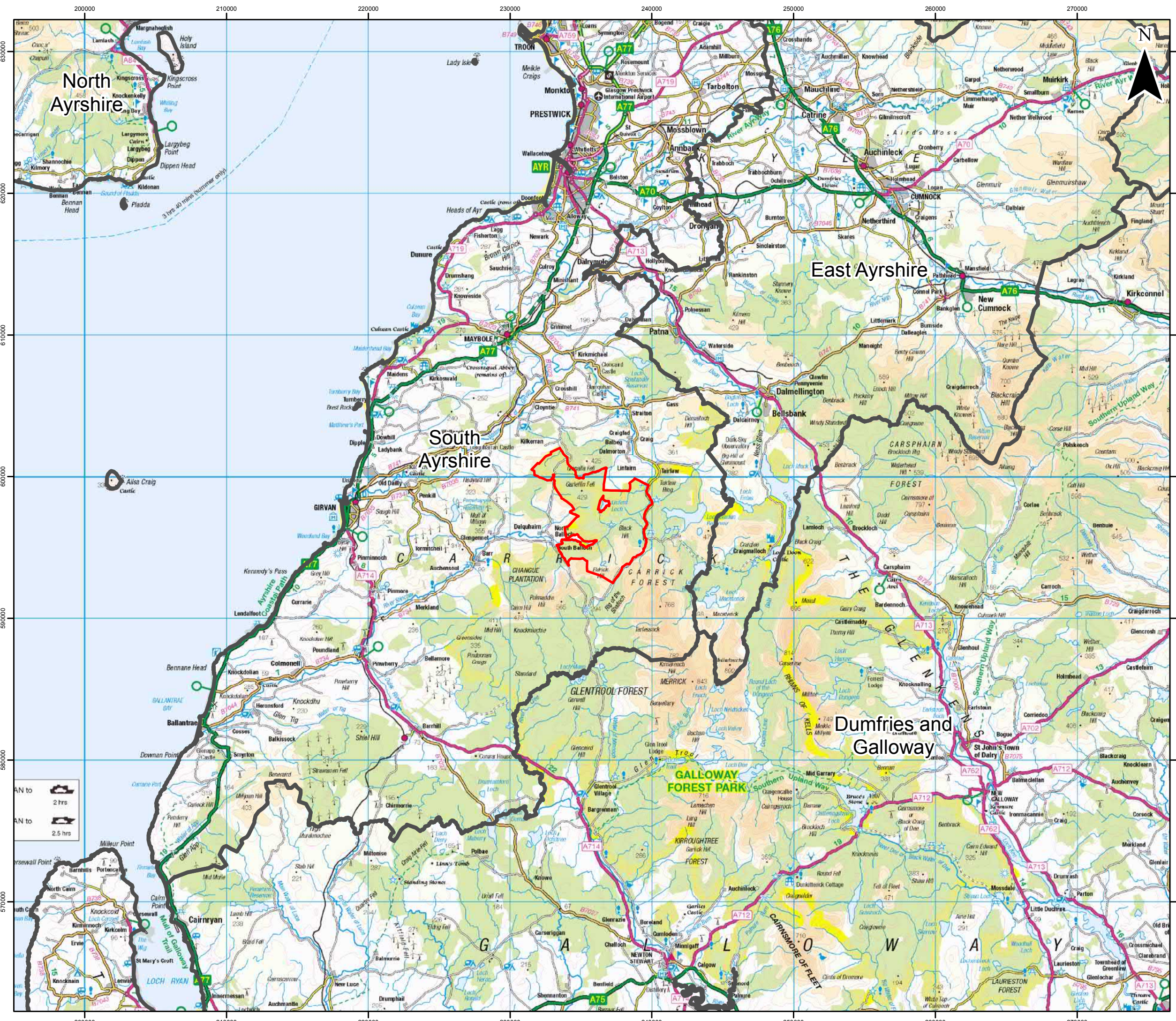
A notice will be published as follows:

- on the SPR project website;
- in the Scotsman;
- in the Edinburgh Gazette;
- in the Ayrshire Post; and
- in the Ayrshire Advertiser/Carrick Herald.

In addition to the formal notifications of the application, the Applicant has:

- made available a Non-Technical Summary of the EIAR and USB of the entire application submission to the local Community Councils on request;
- made available free of charge further copies of the Non-Technical Summary of the EIAR;
- made available hard copies of the application documents on request (at a cost to cover printing);
- maintained a dedicated email address (carrickwindfarm@scottishpower.com), phone number and postal address to receive comments relating to the proposed Development; and
- maintained ongoing contact, through email, postal and telephone conversations with local residents and Community Councils.

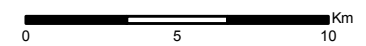
Appendix A: Figures



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Local Authority Area

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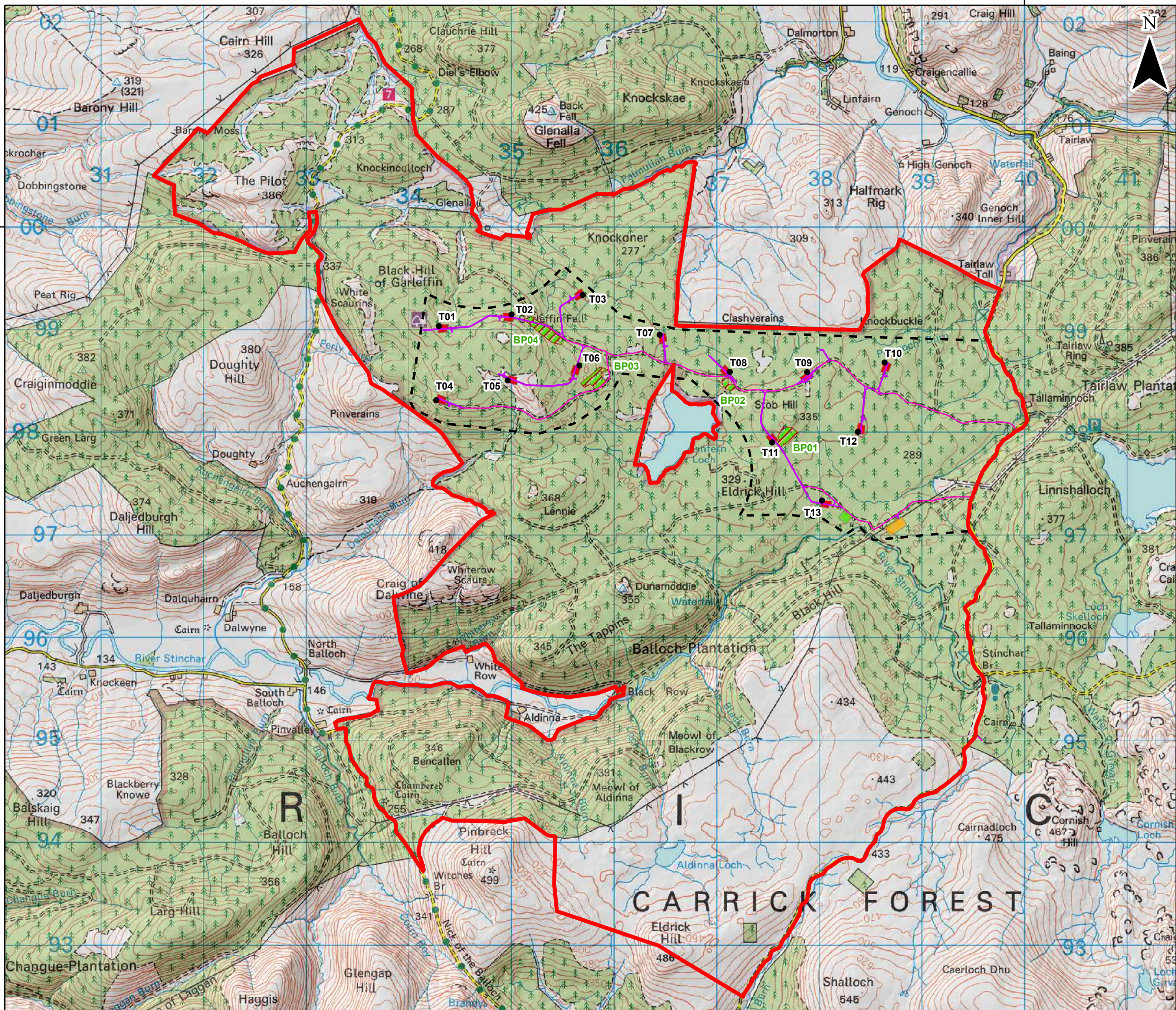
Rev	Date	By	Comment
A	22/10/2020	CE	First Issue.



Carrick Windfarm
 Figure 1.1 Site Location Plan

Drg No	CARRICK-WSP-I-087
Rev	A
Date	22/10/2020
Scale	1:250,000 @ A3

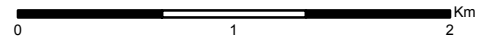
AN to 2 hrs
 AN to 2.5 hrs



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Proposed Turbine Location
- Developable Area
- Carrick Access Track - New Construction
- Carrick Access Track - Forestry Track to be Upgraded
- Substation Compound
- Construction Compound
- Hardstanding and Crane Pad
- Proposed Borrow Pit Search Area

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Rev	Date	By	Comment
B	18/11/2020	PM	Second Issue.
A	23/10/2020	PM	First Issue.



Carrick Windfarm
Figure 1.2: Site Layout

Drg No	CARRICK-WSP-I-136
Rev	B
Date	18/11/2020
Scale	1:35,000 @ A3

Appendix B: Public Consultation Leaflet



Carrick Windfarm Public Consultation Leaflet

Why are we contacting you?

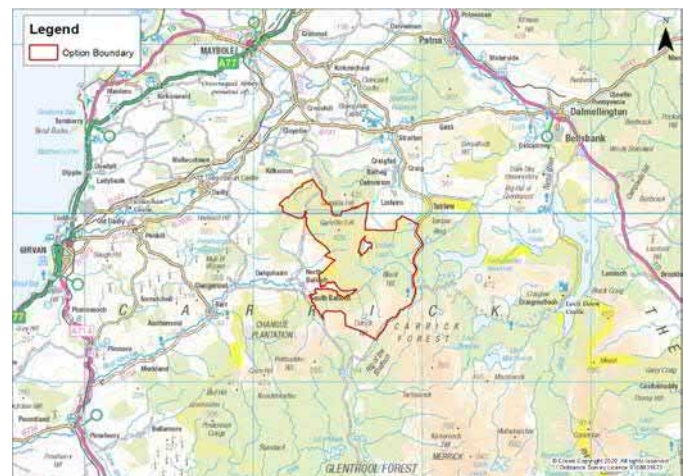
ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) is investigating the potential to develop a windfarm within an area of the Carrick Forest, South Ayrshire as shown on the plan. Design work is in the early stages, however the Proposed Development could comprise of up to 17 wind turbines, with a maximum height to blade tip of up to 200 metres, along with an energy storage facility.

Early consultation is key to the way we develop our projects. We believe in open consultation with communities and stakeholders to inform the design process, however current COVID-19 legislation¹ prevents face-to-face consultation and this may not be permitted for the foreseeable future. SPR remains committed to undertaking meaningful and wide-reaching consultation during this difficult and challenging time. We are therefore contacting you to provide you with information on our proposal and to let you know how you can provide feedback.

Who are we?

SPR is part of the ScottishPower group of companies operating in the UK under the Iberdrola Group, one of the world's largest integrated utility companies and a world leader in wind energy. ScottishPower now only produces 100% green electricity – focusing on wind energy, smart grids and driving the change to a cleaner, electric future. The company is investing over £4 million every working day² to make this happen and is committed to speeding up the transition to cleaner electric transport, improving air quality and over time, driving down bills to deliver a better future, quicker for everyone.

SPR is at the forefront of the development of the renewables industry through pioneering ideas, forward thinking and outstanding innovation. Its ambitious growth plans include expansion of its existing onshore wind portfolio, investment in



new large scale solar deployment and innovative grid storage systems including batteries. The company is also delivering the Iberdrola Group's offshore windfarms in the Southern North Sea off East Anglia. With over 40 operational windfarms, SPR manages all its sites through its world leading Control Centre at Whitelee Windfarm, near Glasgow.

ScottishPower Renewables in south-west Scotland.

SPR has been working alongside communities across the UK for nearly two decades and has to date contributed more than £36 million in benefit funds to support initiatives and projects for those communities local to our windfarm sites, with more than £6.3 million going directly to South Ayrshire. With established sites nearby, SPR has a history of working positively with local communities within the region. We are 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.

¹ Scottish Government (2020). The Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020. Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2020/124/contents/made>

² Between 2018 and 2022

Drivers for renewable energy

The UK Government and the Scottish Government have both declared a 'climate emergency' and are committed to ensuring that an increased proportion of electricity is generated from renewable energy sources in order to meet carbon emission targets. The Scottish Climate Change Bill (2018) introduced a target of net zero gas emissions by 2045 at the latest, with Scotland becoming carbon neutral by 2040. Scotland will also have to reduce emissions by 70% by 2030 and 90% by 2040. These are currently the most ambitious statutory targets in the world.

Powering your community

SPR is committed to being a responsible developer of renewable energy and strive to be good neighbours 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 the development of Carrick Windfarm progresses, we will engage with communities, stakeholders and the local councils to understand how benefits could be delivered to best meet the needs of the local area, should the Proposed Development be consented.

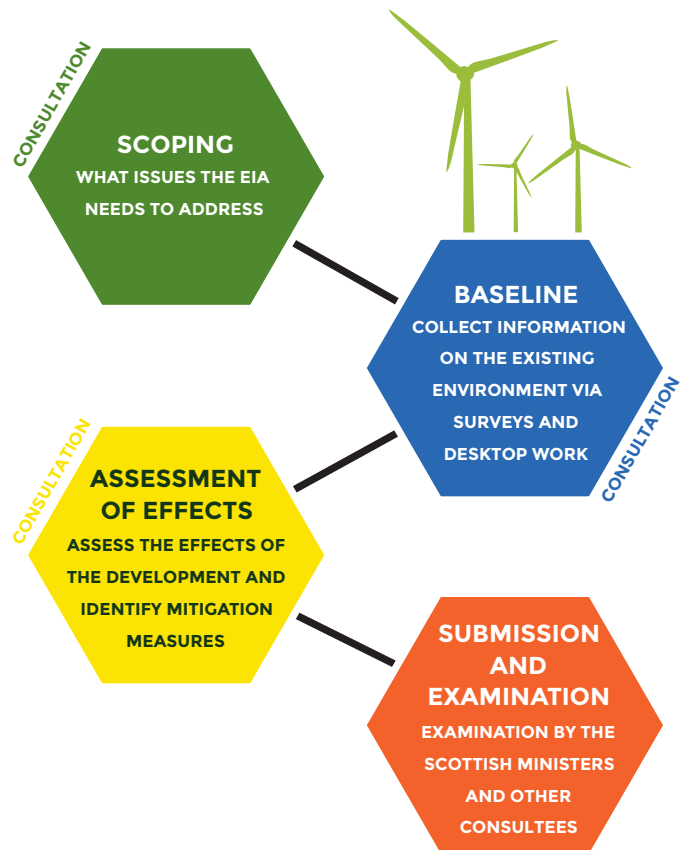
Environmental Impact Assessment and Design

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for the Proposed Development and will be informed by the EIA Scoping Opinion which SPR has requested via the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit. This Scoping Opinion will confirm the environmental aspects that are to be assessed and a summary of the key stages of the EIA process are provided in the diagram on the right.

We have been undertaking bird surveys in the vicinity of the Site since September 2018 and collecting bat activity and wind data since 2019. We will also be undertaking a range of further environmental surveys throughout the course of this year (when possible in line with government guidance) to ensure that the potential environmental effects are fully understood and avoided or mitigated. We will also give careful consideration to how this Proposed Development fits within the existing landscape considering its visibility from other key viewpoints in the surrounding area and how it 'fits' with surrounding windfarms in the area.

Next steps

We will use findings from environmental surveys, technical studies and consultation feedback to continue to shape the design of the Proposed Development ahead of submitting an application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, which we anticipate to be by the end of 2020.



CONTACT

If you require more information on the Proposed Development, have a query or wish to provide feedback, please contact us directly:

PROJECT E-MAIL:

carrickwindfarm@scottishpower.com

POST:

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

WEBPAGE:

www.scottishpowerrenewables.com



Whitelee Windfarm, turbine height 110 metres; the turbines proposed for this development are up to 200 metres.

Appendix C: Online PIE Webpage

Appendix C: Online PIE Webpage



Onshore Wind

CARRICK WINDFARM

The Carrick Windfarm Online Public Information Event is now live - [find out more!](#)



Onshore Wind

Home > Onshore Wind > Scotland > Windfarms in Development > Carrick Windfarm > Carrick Windfarm Public Information Event

| CARRICK WINDFARM PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENT

Public Information Event

Welcome to the Carrick Windfarm Public Information Event. In June, we contacted you to introduce our proposal to develop a windfarm within part of the National Forest Estate's Carrick Forest, South Ayrshire. As a face-to-face consultation event is not possible at present, we have created an online Public Information Event to provide an update on the environmental surveys, consultation and technical work we have undertaken to inform and refine the windfarm design. We welcome [your feedback](#) on this more detailed proposal.

Please click on each of the banners in the photograph below to navigate through the exhibition pages. If you have any questions or wish to make comments on the Proposed Development, we request that these be submitted via the [feedback form](#) available by 17:00 on 4 November 2020.



Quick Links

- [Banner 1: Introduction](#)
- [Banner 2: Site overview, key facts and development process](#)
- [Banner 3: Landscape and Visual Considerations](#)
- [Banner 4: Environmental Impact Assessment](#)
- [Banner 5: Benefits of Proposed Development](#)
- [Banner 6: FAQs](#)
- [Feedback Form](#)

Appendix D: Online PIE Leaflet



View of the Proposed Development from west of south Balloch, Stinchar valley

Carrick Windfarm

Online Public Information Event

14 October – 4 November 2020

Why are we contacting you?

ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) is undertaking further public consultation on the proposal to develop Carrick Windfarm. This leaflet provides details on the consultation format and timings, advises how you can engage in the process, and identifies where further information on the Proposed Development may be obtained.

The Proposal

SPR intends to apply to the Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 at the end of 2020 to construct and operate a windfarm in Carrick Forest, South Ayrshire. This is anticipated to comprise of up to 13 wind turbines with blade tip heights of up to 200 metres, associated onsite infrastructure and an Energy Storage Facility (i.e. battery). The Proposed Development has the potential to deliver up to 72.8 megawatts of renewable power, and approximately 20 megawatts of energy storage.

Previous Consultation To Date

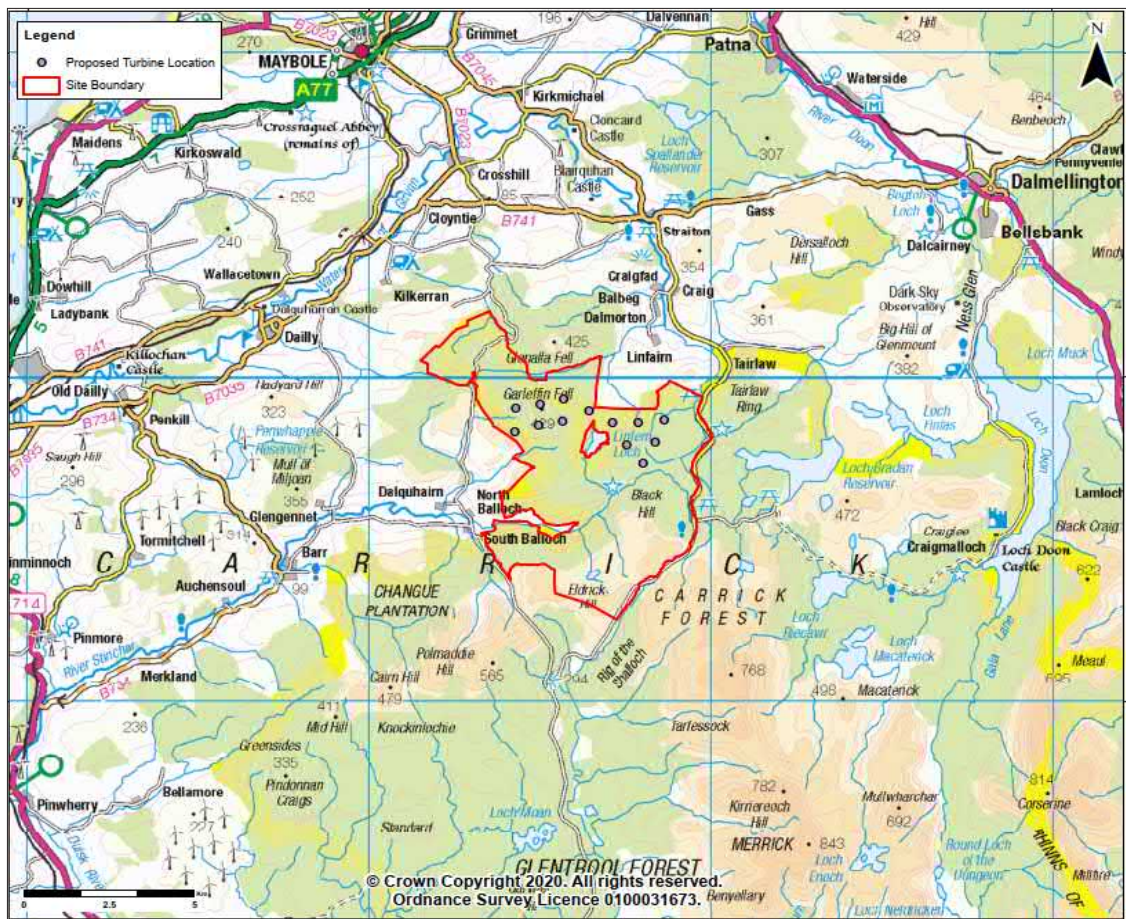
An Environmental Impact Assessment scoping exercise was undertaken in May 2020 with a range of local and statutory stakeholders. We undertook our first public consultation in June 2020 whereby we sent you a leaflet to introduce the proposal and invited your comment, and from which valuable feedback was received. Since then, we have been reviewing feedback received from the public and other consultees which has helped to support a range of environmental and technical studies and assessments.

As a result of these activities, we have now updated the design of the Carrick Windfarm proposal and wish to share this updated design with you.

Project Changes Since Previous Consultation

Since we presented our initial design layout in the Carrick Windfarm Scoping Report in May 2020, the following changes have been made to the layout:

- The number of wind turbines has been reduced from 17 to 13, reducing landscape and visual effects from a number of sensitive locations.
- The position of wind turbines and infrastructure has been refined to minimise impacts on peat, ecological and ornithological receptors.
- The reduction in the number of turbines has increased separation between wind turbines and residential properties, therefore reducing potential impact on residential amenity and noise.
- A wind turbine has been removed and other locations refined in the south of the Site to improve the view from Shalloch on Minnoch and reduce the proximity of wind turbines to the Merrick Wild Land.



Community benefits

As a responsible developer, SPR strives to be good neighbours in all aspects of our work. We are committed to South Ayrshire, and in particular, to maximising opportunities for local communities to benefit from our projects.

SPR is proud to support local communities, helping them to deliver their long term aspirations. Our community benefit funds across the UK total more than £37 million to date, with over £7 million benefitting communities throughout South Ayrshire.

What further consultation is taking place?

Due to Government guidance issued as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, face to face consultation is unfortunately not possible at present.

We will therefore be hosting a Public Information Event online to provide more information on our Proposed Development. This event will contain all of the information that would have been presented in a traditional information day. This can be accessed via the Carrick Windfarm website page or by entering Carrick Windfarm into your internet browser's search bar.

www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/carrickwindfarm

The following information will be made available on the website to view and download from 14 October 2020:

- Information on the benefits, design and environmental assessment work of the Proposed Development;
- Visualisations of how the wind turbines will look in the landscape from key viewpoints;
- A map showing the areas where the wind turbines may potentially be visible from the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV); and
- A section with answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS).

How can I get involved and make comments?

The Public Information Event website will include a feedback form where comments and questions, or requests for further information, can be sent directly to the Project Team.

The event will be live from 14 October, and we ask that you send any questions or comments on the event materials by 4 November 2020. We will respond to any enquires sent. If you have concerns about the Proposed Development, or would like to speak with the Project Team directly, we can make arrangements to do this via a one-to-one telephone or video call.

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

Project Team Contact Details

If you require to have any of the document contained within the Public Information Event emailed or posted to you then please contact the Project Team by email or in writing at the contact details below. These contact details can also be used for requests for any further information, submitting comments or asking questions on the Proposed Development at any time.

Email

carrickwindfarm@scottishpower.com

Call

0141 614 9084

Post

ScottishPower Renewables, Carrick Windfarm Project Team, 9th Floor ScottishPower Headquarters, 320 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5AD.

Appendix E: Newspaper Print and Digital Adverts



Up in arms The campaign group will meet with the council later this month

Campaigners hope for breakthrough at meeting

A meeting to discuss the future of the CEVIC building in Catrine is set to take place later this month, The Post can reveal.

East Ayrshire Council will meet their counterparts from the Save the CEVIC Campaign group in the Marriage Suite, Rotheray House, Cumnock on Monday, October 19, starting at 1.30pm.

The council aims to use the CEVIC as part of their early years childcare expansion plans.

But if that goes ahead, then it would leave serious question marks over the future of the village nursery on nearby Newton Street. The existing CEVIC building was formerly occupied by the Catrine Community Trust and was used

for a variety of education and community-related purposes.

However, plans have been drawn up to transform the CEVIC into a nursery, catering for 64 children.

Villagers fear that the nursery site on Newton Street could be sold off. The campaign group last week issued 11 demands to the council in an attempt to save the building in its current form.

A campaign spokesperson added: "If the proposed meeting on October 19 is to confirm that all has been agreed (the 11 points) and will be implemented immediately, then it will be a worthwhile meet and we can move onto Stage 2 - establishing what the village really wants."



Positive cases Workers at Emergency One in Cumnock are self-isolating after testing positive for Covid-19

Virus outbreak at Emergency One factory

Small number of cases at business

PAUL BEHAN

A firm was last week at the centre of a COVID-19 outbreak.

The Post has learned that the NHS Ayrshire and Arran Test and Protect team carried out contact tracing at Emergency One.

Emergency One in Cumnock is involved in the manufacture, service and support of specialist Fire and Rescue Service appliances.

They are based in Caponacre Industrial Estate.

In a statement from Joy Tomlinson, Joint Director of Public Health, she confirmed that a "small number of cases" had been connected to the business.

She said: "NHS Ayrshire & Arran Test and Protect team is carrying out COVID-19 contact tracing related to the Emergency One factory in Cumnock, following a small number of cases connected to the business.

"Those who have been identified as close contacts through this process have already been contacted directly by the Test

and Protect Team and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. Emergency One management have been working closely with us to ensure they have all the support necessary to protect their workforce. While Emergency One has physical distancing and hygiene processes in place, the business is voluntarily closing the main building where they operate for a 14-day period. This is in order to minimise the risk of further cases in the staff group and wider community and to support Test and Protect."

The statement goes on: "Staff members and their families are being advised to be extra vigilant and, if they develop any of the symptoms of a fever, new persistent cough or loss of taste or smell, they should self-isolate immediately and arrange a test.

"Information on how to book a test is available on the NHS Inform website: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/>. All relevant Public Health measures are in place and our Public Health Team is working with East Ayrshire Environmental Health Officers to manage and monitor the situation."

Nursery closes after two staff test positive for Covid-19

STUART WILSON

An Ayr nursery has closed after two staff tested positive for coronavirus.

Doonfoot Primary's early years centre has been shut for a fortnight following the scare.

Children and staff at risk of catching the virus have been contacted by the NHS and told to stay at home for the duration.

Doonfoot Primary remains open, the council has confirmed.

Lynne McNiven, Director of Public Health, said: "NHS Ayrshire Arran's Health Protection Team, along with South Ayrshire Council, can confirm that a very small number of cases connected to an early years establishment in South Ayrshire have tested positive for Covid-19.

"We have immediately undertaken a careful risk assessment to identify any children and staff who may have had contact with the confirmed cases.

"We appreciate this is a very worrying time.

"However, we would like to assure people that every measure is being taken to protect children and staff."

Carrick Windfarm Public Information Event

ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) is undertaking further public consultation on the proposal to develop Carrick Windfarm, within the National Forest Estate's Carrick Forest, South Ayrshire. The Proposed Development is anticipated to comprise of up to 13 wind turbines with blade tip heights of up to 200 metres, associated onsite infrastructure and an Energy Storage Facility (i.e. battery).

Following the initial public consultation activities undertaken earlier this year, a Public Information Event on the Proposed Development will be available online from 14 October 2020 on the project website at:

www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/carrickwindfarm

The online Public Information Event will identify how the design of the Proposed Development has been amended to take on board public and consultee feedback, as well as the findings of the environmental studies and assessments that have been completed.

The online event will include a link to a feedback form where comments and questions, as well as any requests for further information, can be submitted directly to the Project Team. Alternatively, you may contact the Project Team by:

Emailing: carrickwindfarm@scottishpower.com

Calling: 0141 614 9084

Writing to:

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

If you have any questions or wish to make comments on the Proposed Development, we request that these be submitted via the feedback form by 17:00 on 4 November 2020. Alternatively, you may do so by emailing or writing to the Project Team.

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SCOTTISHPOWER RENEWABLES

Proposed Carrick Windfarm Public Information Event

Please review and submit your comments and questions on the proposals via the feedback form on the project website by 4 November 2020

[Click here to find out more](#)



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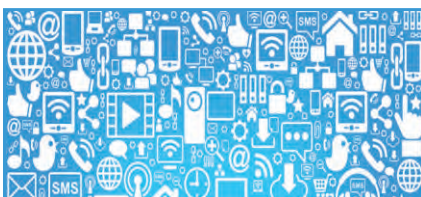
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Carrick Windfarm

Public Information Event

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www.scottishpowerrenewables.com



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Proposed Carrick Windfarm Public Information Event

Please review and submit your comments and questions on the proposals via the feedback form on the project website by 4 November 2020.

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EXCLUSIVE



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Buzzworks boss: 'this will drive people to house parties'

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Coronavirus LIVE: 'Return to pandemic peak this month' if new rules not followed

1 hr ago 20



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39 mins ago




'Gutted' and 'heartbroken' -



Appendix F: Feedback Form

Appendix F: Feedback Form

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Scotland

Windfarms in Development

- Aireloch Windfarm Extension
- Clauonaie Windfarm
- Carrick Windfarm**
- Carrick Windfarm Public Information Event
- Carrick Windfarm - Introduction
- Carrick Windfarm - Site Overview, Key Facts and Development Process
- Carrick Windfarm - Landscape and Visual Considerations
- Carrick Windfarm - Environmental Impact Assessment
- Carrick Windfarm - Benefits of the Proposed Development
- Carrick Windfarm - FAQs

CARRICK WINDFARM - FEEDBACK FORM

The project team can be contacted with any queries or comments regarding the proposed Carrick Windfarm by using the feedback form below or via email at carrickwindfarm@scottishpower.com by 17.00 on 4 November 2020.

*Required fields. If you do not wish to share your full address, please input the locality in which you reside.

* Name:


* Address Line 1:

Address Line 2:

Address Line 3:

* Email:

Telephone:

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Carrick Windfarm - Feedback Form

- Cumberhead West Windfarm
- Earnghall Renewable Energy Development
- Eucharhead Renewable Energy Development
- Harestones South Windfarm Extension
- Hollandney Renewable Energy Development
- Kilgalloch Windfarm Extension
- Sherdram Renewable Energy Development
- Windfarms Under Construction
- Operational Windfarms
- England

* Community interest:

Community council representative

Local resident

Local business

Other

If other, please specify:

Has the level of information provided on the exhibition site been sufficient?

Yes

No

Are you supportive of increasing renewable energy development in Scotland?

Yes


No

Don't know

Are you supportive of the proposed Carrick Windfarm development?

Yes

No

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Wales

Northern Ireland

Ireland


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

Do you have further questions or concerns that you would like to discuss in detail with the Carrick Project Team directly?

Yes

No

Questions, comments or requests for further information:

I'm not a robot 

Please refer to our [Privacy Policy](#) to understand how your data is treated once submitted via this form.

Carrick Windfarm Project Team

ScottishPower Renewables
9th Floor
320 St Vincent Street
Glasgow
G5 5AD

carrickwindfarm@scottishpower.com

info@scottishpowerrenewables.com

