

Euchanhead Renewable Energy Development

A proposal for a renewable energy development in the National Forest Estate of Euchanhead and Polskeoch, south west Scotland



Euchanhead Renewable Energy Development Photomontage
- VP 4 Blackcraig Hill Turbine Tip Heights 230 m

About ScottishPower Renewables



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 £4m every working day between 2018-2022 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.

Site Summary - Key Facts



21 wind turbines

each around 6MW capacity

Up to 230m tip height

Installed capacity of around **126MW**

Annual energy generation is estimated at approximately **386.3 gigawatt-hours (GWh)**



Generating enough power for **100,000 homes⁽¹⁾**



Euchanhead
Renewable Energy
Development



Approximately 31.5MW energy storage capability providing stability services to the grid network



Access improvements to Allan's Cairn, Southern Upland Way circular route being created and improved access to the striding arch

Economic Benefits

Meet the Contractor events to allow local suppliers to learn about and discuss potential contract opportunities



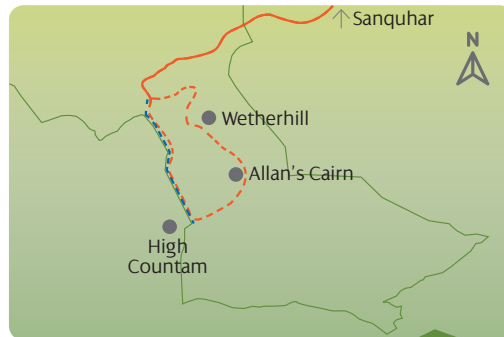
Local training and education

The development expenditure during the construction phase is estimated to be approximately £183 million, approximately £14.5 million of which would be spent in the local economy



During the 22 months' construction phase, the proposed Development is expected to support approximately 98 person-years of employment

During the operational phase, the proposed Development is expected to require between 3 and 5 new full time employees (engineers and technicians) locally and further posts would be created elsewhere in Scotland⁽²⁾



- Application Boundary
- Proposed temporary diversion during construction
- Southern Upland Way - Post construction will create additional circular route around Allan's Cairn
- Southern Upland Way

A package of enhancement measures is proposed to support recreational and tourism uses within the Site during the operational phase, focusing on users of and connections to the Southern Upland Way, with a new circular route being developed, and the path to the Colt Hill Striding Arch upgraded

Benefits to the Community

SPR's operational windfarms have, to date, contributed more than £15.5 million of support towards community initiatives close to our windfarms in Dumfries & Galloway and East Ayrshire. SPR's preferred approach is to empower local communities to determine how available funds are used to deliver the greatest benefit locally.

Some examples of projects supported include:

Tynron Community Hall Upgrades & Car Park repairs



Community purchase of local property to let to new residents

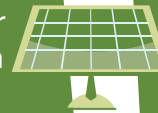


Replacement of old fencing at Moniaive Primary School with recycled plastic fencing

Contribution to salary at KPT development trust



Installation of Solar Panels at Glencairn Green Bowling



Sponsorship of local youth groups

Penpont CC Purchase of large Marquee for Gala event

Contribution to local upgrades in Kirkconnel & Kelloholm

Implementation of a Community Benefit Fund

SPR is proposing that the Eucharhead Renewable Energy Development will offer an associated community benefit package which could fund local projects as well as the opportunity to invest in the proposed Development

Euchanhead Renewable Energy Development Economic Impact

During the lifetime of the development, the development is expected to create opportunities in the area for businesses to supply services such as:

- Haulage and transport services
- Traffic management
- Materials supply, e.g. aggregates
- Plant and equipment hire
- Vehicle servicing / tyres
- Forestry services
- Fencing
- Fuel
- Security
- Waste management
- Building construction: electrical, plumbing, roofing, flooring, plastering, decorating and joinery services
- Signing and lighting
- Telecommunications
- Drainage
- Planting and seeding
- Cleaning
- Catering
- Accommodation

“For the twenty-odd years we’ve been carrying out work for SPR, our relationship has been completely positive. SPR’s business has not only benefitted us, but also those other local businesses, such as suppliers and builders merchants, who we use in order to acquire materials for the works.”

Niall Corrigan, William & Henry Alexander (Civil Engineering) Ltd.



Construction & Operation

Construction Phase:

- The construction phase will require foremen, engineers (of various disciplines), plant operators, electricians and other general site operatives
- It is estimated that this phase will employ 98 people at peak construction
- Other indirect local businesses such as builders merchants, restaurants, hotels and bars are likely to also experience an increase in business from the contractors working on the project

Operational Phase:

- The operational phase will employ between 3 and 5 people in new full-time jobs
- Various other local personnel will also be required for the successful and continued operation of the Renewable Energy Development for roles in maintenance, safety, security, community relations and landowner agreements
- Other locally associated roles will include material suppliers, local shops, accommodation, plant hire and environmental monitoring consultants

Climate Change & Carbon Reduction

The potential savings in CO₂ emissions due to the proposed Development replacing other electricity sources over the lifetime of the project are approximately:

- 173,840⁽⁴⁾ tonnes of CO₂ avoided annually compared with a fossil fuel-mix of electricity generation
- The development will repay the carbon emissions related to its construction in around 1.5 years



The development at Eucharhead will make an important contribution to reducing CO₂ emissions in Scotland. The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 sets out a net zero target by 2045 and further interim targets of reductions in CO₂ emissions of:

56% by 2020

75% by 2030 and

90% by 2040

These targets build on the Scottish Energy Strategy's (Scottish Government 2017) target of 50% of all energy (including transport, heat and electricity) being supplied from renewables by 2030.



Whitelee Windfarm, turbine tip heights 110m.

Environment

The Site is predominantly characterised by commercial forestry, with open areas dominated by acid grassland, dry and wet heath, marshy grassland, blanket bog and modified bog. The proposed Development has been designed to minimise the loss of more sensitive natural habitats where possible. A Habitat Management Plan is to be developed which would restore 23 hectares of modified and drained blanket peat bog using methods successfully used by SPR on windfarm developments resulting in a likely net gain in biodiversity.

Powering the Future

Onshore wind is by far the cheapest large-scale renewable energy source that can be deployed at significant scale⁽⁴⁾.

In June 2020, 81% of the public expressed support for renewable energy according to a Public Attitudes Tracker, published quarterly by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in August 2020⁽⁵⁾.



Whitelee Windfarm, turbine tip heights 110m.



Cover Image: Eucharhead Renewable Energy Development Photomontage - VP 4 Blackcraig Hill Turbine Tip Heights 230 m
Other Images: Eucharhead Renewable Energy Development Photomontage - VP 7 Minor road in Upper Shinnel Water Turbine Tip Heights 230m, Dersalloch Windfarm, Turbine tip heights 125m and Whitelee Windfarm, turbine tip heights 110m.

References

- (1) Eucharhead Renewable Energy Development EIA – Chapter 1: Introduction, 2020
- (2) Eucharhead Renewable Energy Development EIA – Chapter 14: Socio-economic recreation and tourism, 2020
- (3) Eucharhead Renewable Energy Development EIA – Chapter 1: Introduction, 2020
- (4) <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/onshore-wind-part-of-the-uks-energy-mix>
- (5) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/906452/BEIS_PAT_W34_-_Key_findings.pdf

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Better future, quicker

