



# PROPOSED EUCHANHEAD RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

**ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) is proposing to develop Eucharhead Renewable Energy Development near Sanquhar in Dumfries and Galloway.**

**The proposed Development is anticipated to consist of approximately 20 wind turbines with blade tip heights of up to 225 metres and an associated energy storage facility.**

## Site Location and Description

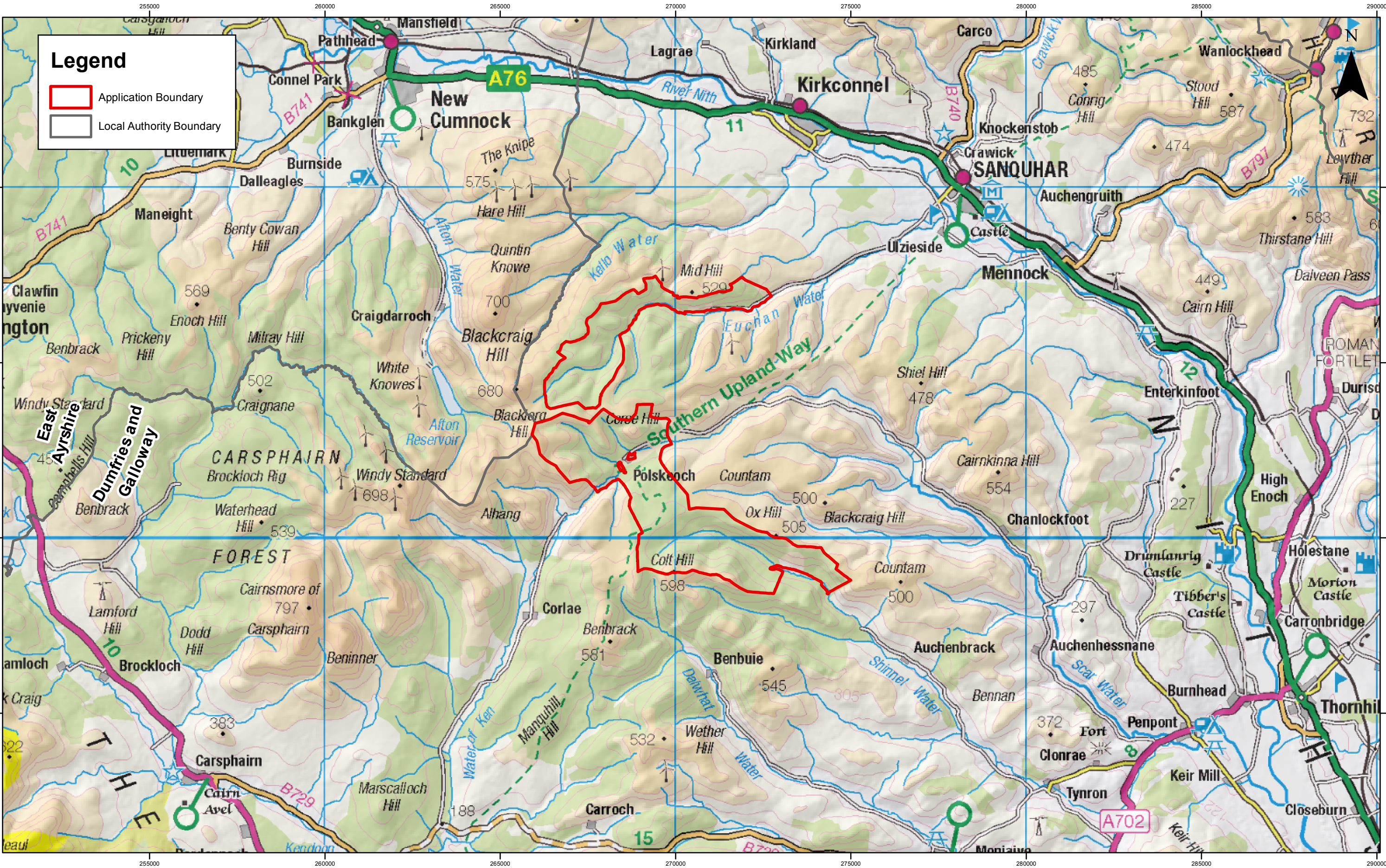
The Site of the proposed Development comprises three separate commercial forest blocks located to the south west of Kirkconnell and Sanquhar. The woodland forms part of the National Forest Estate, which is managed by Forestry and Land Scotland on behalf of Scottish Ministers.



The northern part of the Site comprises approximately 680 hectares of commercial forestry known as Eucharhead. The land is characterised by steeply sloping ground to the east and more undulating hills to the west.

The southern part of the Site encompasses two forest blocks known as Polskeoch and Shinnelhead. Extending to approximately 1660 hectares in total, the topography is undulating across the whole of the area. It incorporates the steep-sided domed shaped hills of Carnine, Polskeoch Rig, and the northeast flank of Lorg Hill to the north, Troston and Wether Hill to the south, with the valley of Polskeoch Burn between.

The location of the proposed Development is within an area which has several existing, and proposed, windfarm developments. These include the operational Sanquhar Community Windfarm and Whiteside Hill Windfarm, and the proposed Lorg and Sanquhar II windfarms.





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## Project Description

Initial feasibility and design work indicate that the site has the potential to accommodate in the region of 20 wind turbines of up to 225 metres to blade tip and it is anticipated that turbines of the scale will be required to ensure the commercial viability of the project.

Optimising the site design to achieve the best balance between highest possible energy production while minimising environmental effects will be important to maximise the contribution that the proposed Development will make towards the Scottish Government's renewable energy and climate change targets and the response to the climate emergency. These targets include the requirement for 50% of Scotland's overall energy consumption to come from renewables by 2030.



A concept layout has been prepared to illustrate how this number and scale of wind turbines could be accommodated on the Site.

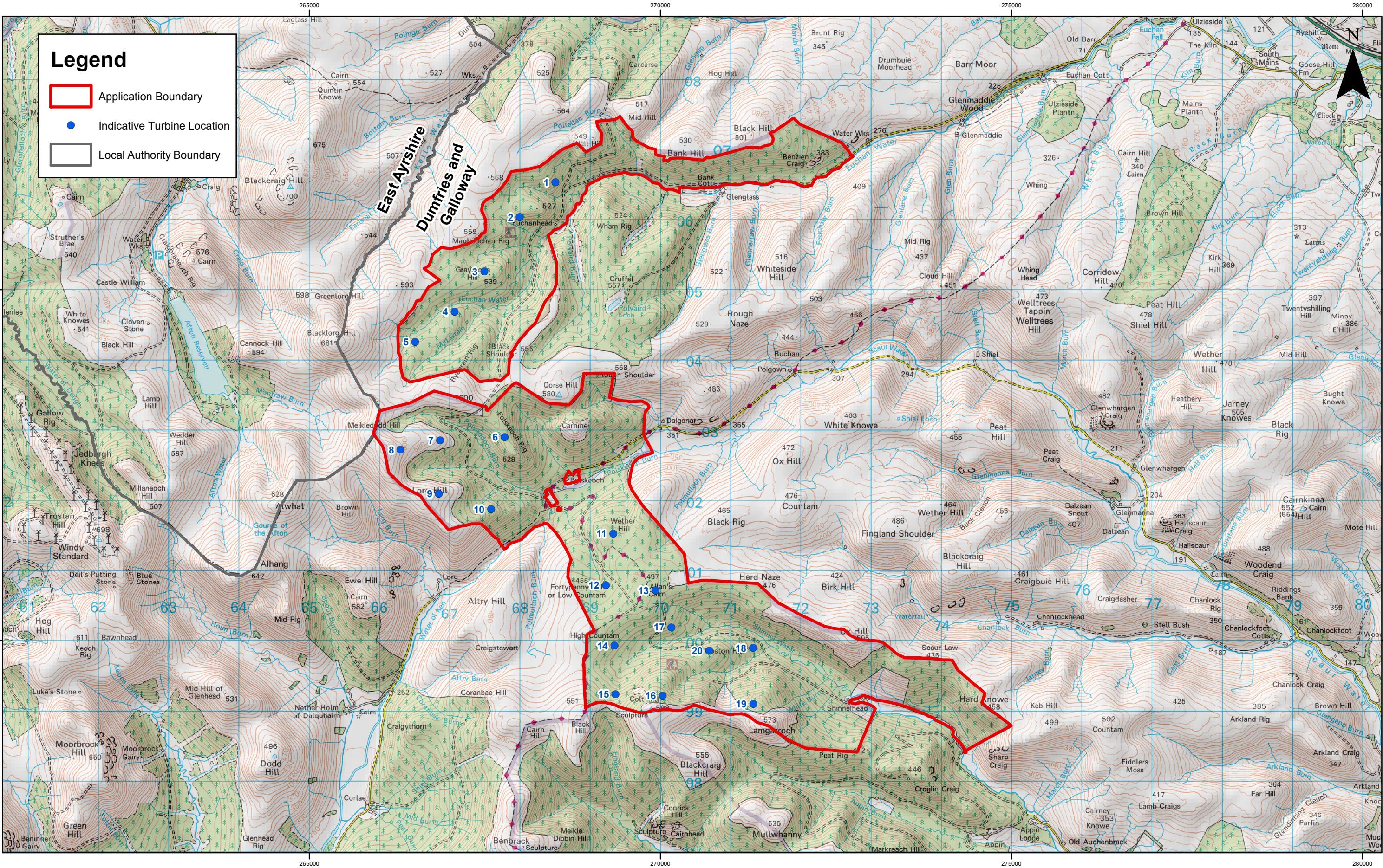
In addition to the wind turbines, the proposed Development will include an energy storage facility. This will be used to store the green electricity produced by the wind turbines and could be used to smooth out variances between wind resource and electricity demand. It can also be used to provide services to help stabilise the operation of the local electricity network.

The proposed Development will also include construction of new, and upgrading of existing, onsite access tracks to provide access to all wind turbine locations, a substation control building and a construction compound. On site borrow pits may also be developed.

It is anticipated that the turbines will be delivered from a suitable port via the A76. At this time, the preferred access route to the site from the A76 has yet to be confirmed. However a range of potential site access options are being explored and the final route will be selected with regard to transport and environmental constraints and discussion with landowners.

It is estimated that construction of the proposed Development will take approximately 22 months, followed by commissioning and testing. Construction of the proposed Development is anticipated to commence in summer 2022.







# Environmental Impact Assessment

SPR is committed to ensuring that its operations have the minimum adverse effect on the local environment. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) forms a key part of the development of the proposal and is made up of a series of technical studies that look at specific aspects of the proposed Development.

The technical subject areas that may potentially be subject to significant environmental effects as a result of the proposed Development proceeding and are therefore proposed to be scoped into the EIA are set out below.

- Landscape and visual impact
- Terrestrial ecology
- Ornithology
- Hydrology, hydrogeology and geology
- Peat and carbon balance
- Archaeology and cultural heritage
- Noise
- Traffic and transport
- Forestry

Consultation will be undertaken to agree the scope and content of the EIA and the methodologies for undertaking the required studies.

From initial baseline work and consultations, particular interest has been noted on the cumulative landscape and visual impacts of the proposed Development.

The EIA process will be used to inform the layout and design of the proposed Development. The results of the EIA will be presented in an EIA Report that will be submitted with the application for consent.



## Public Consultation

We are proposing to hold two rounds of public information days in communities located close to the proposed Development.

Details of the first round of these public information days is set out below:

Tynron Village Hall	Sanquhar Town Hall
Main Street, Tynron	Church Road, Sanquhar
DG3 4JZ	DG4 6DE
Monday 17 February	Tuesday 18 February
3pm to 7pm	2.30 pm to 6.45pm

The above information days will be used to introduce the development proposals and concept design to the public and seek feedback that can then input into this design and the EIA process.

A second round of information days will be held when the majority of the environmental studies and assessments have been completed and the design of the proposed Development is nearing finalisation. These events will be used to demonstrate how public and consultee feedback has been taken on board and to provide an opportunity for further comment on the final layout design.

## Section 36 Application

Due to the size of the project, an application for permission to construct and operate the proposed Development will be made to Scottish Ministers rather than to Dumfries and Galloway Council. We anticipate that this application will be submitted in late 2020.

## Contact Information

We welcome your comments on the proposed Development. If you have any comments, feedback or would like to find out more information about the project, please contact the project team by emailing:

[euchanheadrenewables@scottishpower.com](mailto:euchanheadrenewables@scottishpower.com)