Harestanes South Windfarm Extension

A proposal to extend the operational Harestanes Windfarm in the National Forest Estate, South West Scotland.



Better future, quicker

About ScottishPower Renewables

ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) is part of the ScottishPower group of companies operating in the UK under the Iberdrola Group, one of the world's largest integrated utility companies and a world leader in wind energy.

ScottishPower now only produces 100% green electricity – focusing on wind energy, solar and battery storage, 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



Economic Benefits



Benefits to the community and Recreational Enhancements

SPR's operational windfarms have, to date, contributed more than £7.8 million of support towards community initiatives close to our windfarms in Dumfries & Galloway⁽³⁾. SPR's preferred approach is to empower local communities to determine how available funds are used to deliver the greatest benefit locally. In addition, SPR is proposing to implement enhancements to the local recreational facilities near Harestanes South*:

Provision of information boards regarding the Proposed Development; Provision of a shelter with tools for bike maintenance and a place to shelter / picnic



Promotion of family friendly / beginner biking routes or horse-riding routes around the proposed windfarm using existing forest tracks;

Support for the employment of seasonal ranger to assist with the management of core footpaths in the area.

Electric vehicle charging points in Ae Forest Carpark;

Financial support to facilitate the purchase of E-bikes for rental at the Recreational Centre

Harestanes South Windfarm Extension 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:

- During construction the proposed Development could support, in net terms, approximately 52 jobs in Dumfries & Galloway and Estimated 155 jobs nationally (for Scotland as a whole)
- 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:

- During the operational phase, the proposed Development is expected to require between 3 and 5 new full-time employees (engineers and technicians) at the local level. Additional benefits would accrue to the local supply chain as a result of services supplied to the operation of the proposed Development.
- Other locally associated roles will include material suppliers, local shops, accommodation, plant hire and environmental monitoring consultants

Climate Change & Carbon Reduction

The potential to support the Green Recovery and savings in CO2 emissions due to the proposed development replacing other electricity sources over the lifetime of the windfarm are approximately:



- 115,135⁽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, operation & decommissioning in around 3.5 years

The development of Harestanes South will make an important contribution to reducing CO2 emissions. In Scotland, The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 was passed in September 2019 which 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.

Environment and Infrastructure

The Site is an existing commercial forest and is predominantly covered by Sitka spruce plantations. An Outline Habitat Management Plan (OHMP) is proposed for the Development which will enhance the nature conservation value of the renewable energy site.

The existing infrastructure at the Operational Harestanes Windfarm and Forestry is to be utilised when possible:

- 79% of the windfarm will utilise existing forestry tracks to reduce earthworks
- Existing water crossings are to be used & upgraded for new cable routes
- Limiting movements to specific corridors avoiding sensitive receptors such as deep peat
- The existing Operational Harestanes Windfarm substation will be upgraded to provide grid connection.

Powering the Future

Onshore wind is by far the cheapest large-scale renewable energy source that can be deployed at significant scale⁽⁵⁾. 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⁽⁶⁾.





References

(1) Percentage derived from: Operational Harestanes recorded Capacity factor/yield (136MW x 8,760 hours/year x 0.241 = 287,117MWh) & Harestanes South forecast capacity factor/yield (45 MW x 8,760 hours/year x 0.26 (BEISS capacity factor) = 102,492MWh)
(2) BEIS; Sub-National Electricity and Gas Consumption Statistics, Jan 2018 (based on average household consumption of 3781KWh)
(3) Harestanes South Windfarm Extension EIAR – Chapter 4: Development Description, 2020
(4) Harestanes South Windfarm Extension EIAR – Chapter 13: Other Issues - Carbon Report, 2020
(5) https://www.gov.uk/guidance/onshore-wind-part-of-the-uks-energy-mix
(6) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/906452/BEIS_PAT_W34_-_Key_findings.pdf
(7) "Subject to Agreement

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Cover Image: Harestanes South Windfarm Extension Photomontage, turbine tip heights 200m. Other Images: Whitelee Windfarm, turbine tip heights 110m & the existing Operational Harestanes, turbine tip heights 120m.