



PROPOSED HOLLANDMEY RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

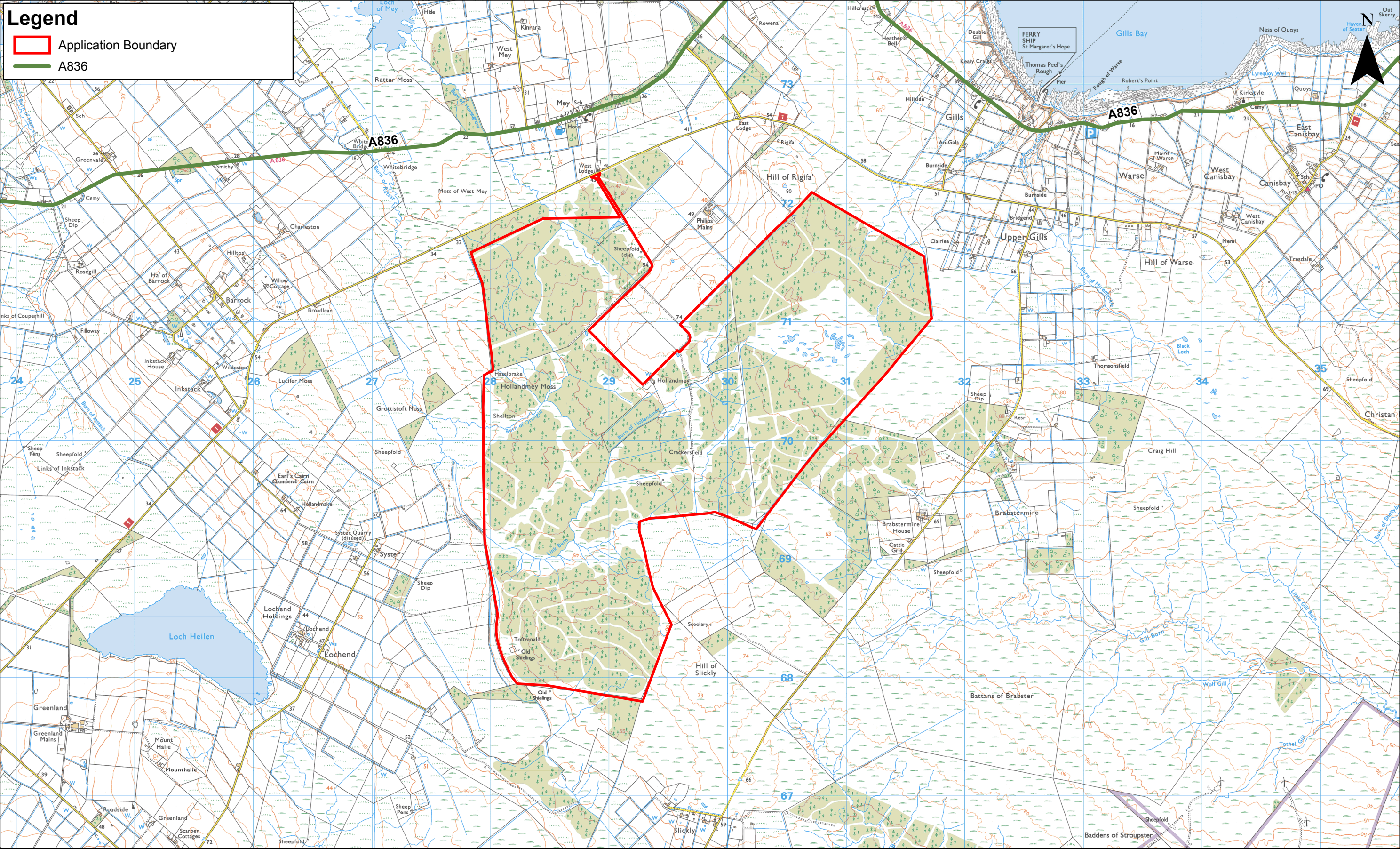
ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) is proposing to develop Hollandmey Renewable Energy Development near John o' Groats in the Highlands. The proposed Development is anticipated to comprise turbines with blade tip heights up to 149.9 metres and may include solar panels and an associated energy storage facility.

Site Location and Description

The Site is located approximately 8 km south west of John o' Groats and 16 km east of Thurso, situated within the north eastern part of the Caithness area of the Highlands. The Site lies within a Sweeping Moorland and Flows Landscape Character Area (LCA), which is described as a flat to gently undulating and smooth landform. The Site contains sections of Coniferous Woodland Plantation and is located within an area of carbon rich soils. The Phillip Mains Mire Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), an area of Class 1 Peatland, is in the north east area of the Site. The current land use is classified as agricultural/moorland/forestry.

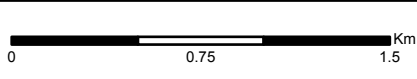
The area around the Site is characterised by small scale settled coastal seaboard and large scale, open and simple moorland.

The location of the proposed Development is within an area which has multiple existing and proposed windfarm developments. These include the operational Lochend Windfarm and Stroupster Windfarm, and the proposed Slickly Windfarm.



D	14/07/2020	AJ	RLB changed.
C	01/07/2020	AJ	RLB reverted to original.
B	22/05/2020	AJ	Application boundary updated.
Rev	Date	By	Comment

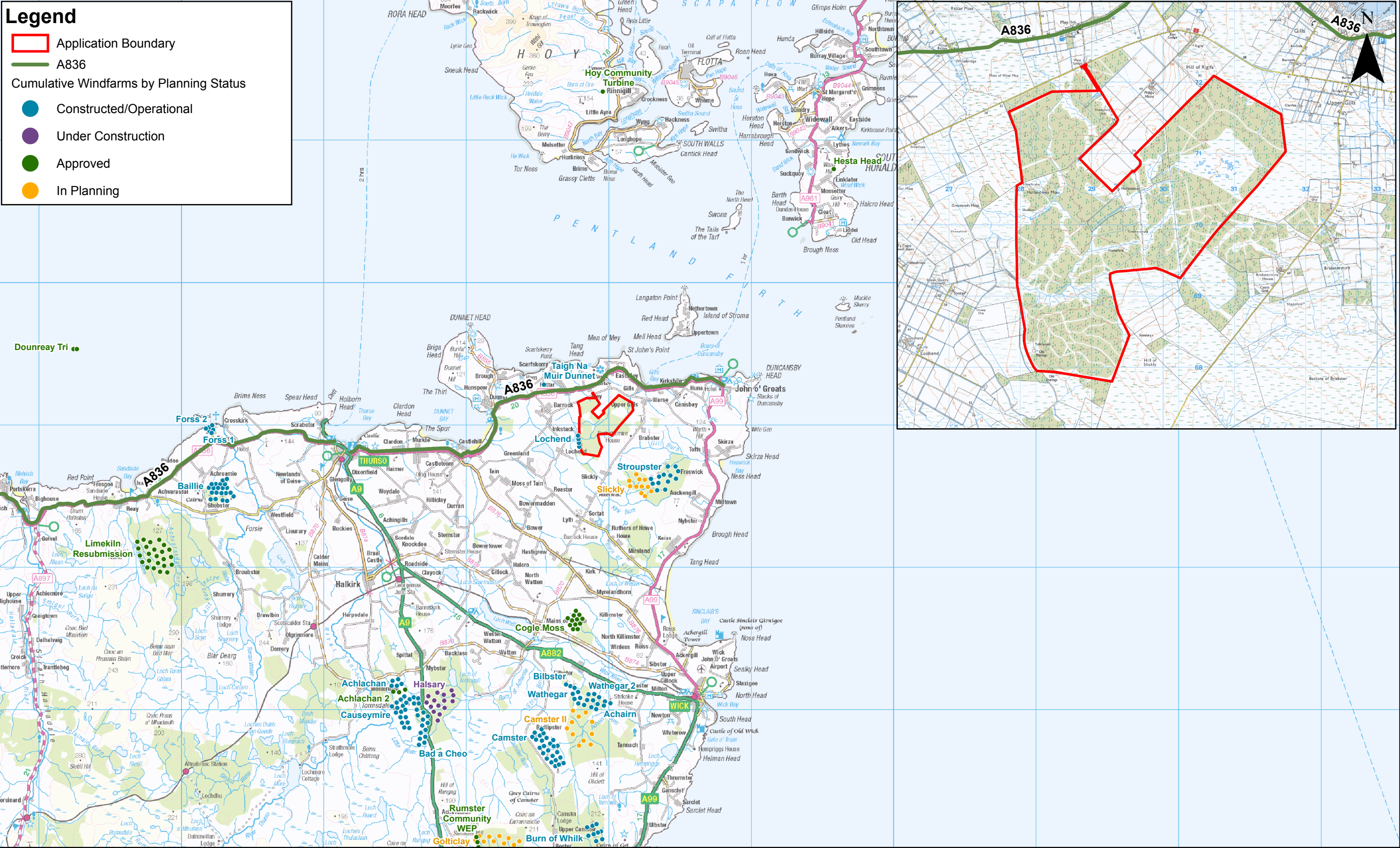
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Hollandmey Renewable Energy Development Application Boundary

Drg No	HMY_C_016	
Rev	D	Datum:
Date	14/07/2020	OSGB36
Figure	-	Projection: TM



	C	14/07/2020	AJ	RLB updated.	1:250,000 Scale @ A3		Hollandmey Renewable Energy Development Cumulative Windfarm Developments	Drg No		HMY_C_025	
	B	01/07/2020	AJ	RLB updated.				Rev		C	Datum: OSGB36
	A	27/05/2020	AJ	First Issue.	Date			14/07/2020	Projection: TM		
	Rev	Date	By	Comment	© Crown Copyright 2020. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence 0100031673.			Figure		-	

Project Description

Initial feasibility and design work indicate that the Site has the potential to accommodate in the region of 11 wind turbines of up to 149.9 metres to blade tip and an associated energy storage facility with solar park. It is anticipated that wind turbines of this scale will be required to ensure the commercial viability of the project.

The design will look to find an appropriate balance between optimising the energy yield and minimising the environmental effects. This will be important to maximise the contribution the proposed Development would make to the Scottish Government's renewable energy and climate change targets, and the response to the climate emergency. The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 set out a legally binding target of net-zero by 2045. The Scottish Climate Change Plan (SCCP) (2018), which is currently being revised to reflect the updated targets of the Climate Change Act, includes a target of 50% of Scotland's energy need to be met by renewable energy in 2030. The SCCP also included a goal for 100% of Scotland's electricity to be generated by renewables by 2020, which has yet to be met so it is important that there is increased investment in renewable energy developments to avoid falling further behind.



In addition to the wind turbines, the proposed Development may include solar panels and 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.

At this time, the preferred access route from a suitable port to the A836 has yet to be confirmed. However, a range of potential access route options are being explored and the final route will be selected with regard to transport and environmental constraints and consultation with key stakeholders.

Construction of the proposed Development is anticipated to commence in summer 2022 and will take approximately 22 months.

There is no proposal to limit the lifetime of the proposed Development. Therefore, the assessment of potential effects on all aspects will consider the operational phase of the proposed Development without time limitations. The principle of decommissioning the entire project will therefore not be assessed. Should decommissioning of any of the proposed Development be required, e.g. as a result of failure of a wind turbine beyond economic repair, any effects would be of lesser magnitude than those resulting from the construction phase of the proposed Development and, as such, effects associated with the decommissioning phase have been scoped out of further assessment. Should consent be granted, it is anticipated that there would be a condition which would deal with the requirement to remove turbines if they become non-operational for a defined period of time.

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 consider specific aspects of the proposed Development.

The technical subject areas that are proposed to be scoped into the EIA are:

- hydrology, hydrogeology, geology and soils;
- forestry;
- access, traffic and transport;
- cultural heritage;
- noise;
- ecology and biodiversity;
- landscape and visual;
- ornithology;
- socio-economics;
- shadow flicker;
- solar glint and glare;
- telecommunications;
- aviation; and
- peat and carbon balance.

The EIA process will be used to inform the layout and the 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.

Consultation

Stakeholder consultation is an important component of the EIA process. To inform the EIA, consultation is being undertaken with statutory and non-statutory consultees to identify relevant baseline information and key issues or concerns that these consultees wish to raise. It is envisaged that consultation will continue throughout the EIA process, for example to discuss proposed mitigation.

SPR acknowledges that there is uncertainty regarding the evolving COVID-19 situation and the impact that it may have. The company recognises that this is a public health issue and is committed to protecting the health and well-being of all involved. SPR will regularly review their processes and make adjustments to reflect the latest advice from the Scottish and UK governments. Given the current restrictions on public events and social gatherings, SPR is adopting innovative ways of engaging with communities and the public to inform them about the Hollandmey Renewable Energy Development.

Feedback provided via the pre-application public consultation will be captured and reported in a statement of community consultation to be provided to the Scottish Government alongside the application for consent.

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 the Scottish Ministers under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. We anticipate that this application will be submitted in Winter 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:

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