



Planning Statement

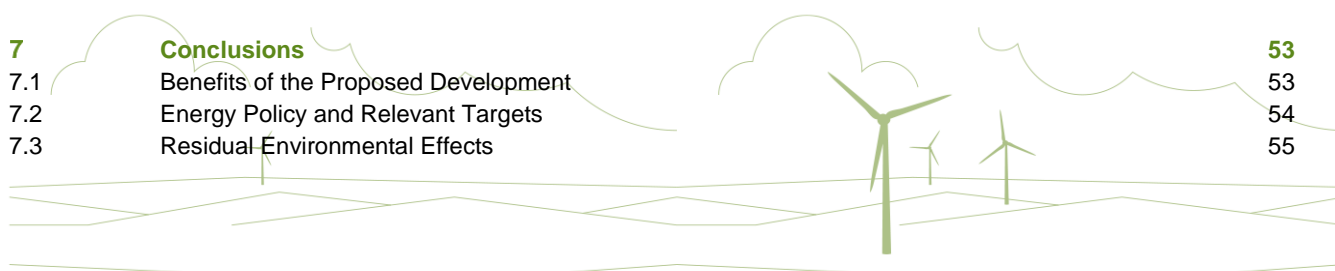
Kilgallioch Windfarm Extension



**SCOTTISHPOWER
RENEWABLES**

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Executive Summary

1. The UK and Scottish governments have set ambitious climate change targets. The Scottish Government declared a climate emergency in May 2019. The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 legislates the requirement for a 100% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2045; with 56% reduction by 2020, 75% by 2030 and 90% by 2040. ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) is helping to lead the fight against climate change by developing renewable energy projects, such as this application for an extension to an existing windfarm.
2. 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 £4m every working day in 2019 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. With over 40 operational windfarms, SPR manages all its sites through its world leading Control Centre at Whitelee Windfarm, near Glasgow.
3. The proposed Development Site is located within the Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC) area, except for approximately 10.8 km of the access track corridor, which is located in the South Ayrshire Council (SAC) area. It forms an extension to the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm, north west of Eldrig Fell (226m AOD), which has been operational since 2017 and has a capacity of up to 239 megawatts (MW). The proposed Development is located on land approximately 6.8 km north east of New Luce and 9.5 kilometres (km) north west of Kirkcowan and covers an area of approximately 752.8 hectares (ha).
4. It would comprise 11 wind turbines which would generate around 62 MW, 20 MW of ground mounted solar arrays, and associated site infrastructure such as substation and access tracks. It would produce around 82 MW or 165 GWh of electricity annually. This equates to the annual power consumed by approximately 44,000 average UK households. It is anticipated that the proposed Development would have a carbon payback period of approximately 2.6 years, when compared to the fossil fuel mix of electricity generation.
5. The proposed Development benefits from access to an existing grid connection meaning that construction of this project could commence promptly (subject to receipt of planning permission). At present, it is anticipated that the 2020 renewable energy targets will not be met. As such, the proposed Development presents an opportunity to make a meaningful and swift contribution to resolving the deficit that is likely to occur post 2020.
6. SPR intends to submit an application for the proposed Development under Section 36 of the 1989 Electricity Act. The application does not seek to limit the lifetime of the proposed Development. In support of the application, SPR has undertaken an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and produced its findings in this EIA Report. The EIA Report informs readers of the nature of the proposed Development, likely significant environmental effects and measures proposed to protect the environment, during site preparation, construction, and the operation of the proposed Development.
7. By using the latest turbine technology, each turbine at the proposed Development could produce around 5.6 MW. The latest solar technology would be used in order to maximize the potential of that resource. This would help to deliver new renewable energy capacity which is needed to help the UK and Scottish Government meet its climate goals, address the climate change emergency and provide low-carbon power that assist in the reduction of consumer bills.
8. The energy capture estimated for the proposed Development is the result of the overall positive impact of accommodating larger rated capacity and the larger rotor (swept area) available at higher hub heights whilst respecting environmental impacts. The resultant efficiency, economics and commerciality of the scheme would enable SPR to reduce the cost of energy from the proposed Development, giving a positive benefit to consumers in terms of electricity cost. In recent years, the onshore wind industry has experienced the reduction in supply of smaller turbines across Europe due to lack of demand from mainland Europe, where the tendency is to install turbines at higher tip heights (e.g. 175 – 240 m to blade tip). Therefore, it is highly unlikely that a range of smaller turbines (e.g. 120 m to blade tip) would be available at competitive prices by the time the proposed Development is ready to be constructed, if consented. Larger turbines facilitate the maximisation of onsite generating capacity and must be accepted if onshore wind is to continue to make a contribution to both the UK and Scottish Government's renewable energy targets.

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9. During the construction and development phase, the windfarm component of the proposed Development could generate up to £18.6 million Gross Value Added (GVA) and 289 years of employment in Scotland (including £4.0 million GVA and 60 years of employment in Dumfries and Galloway and South Ayrshire). During its operations, the windfarm component could generate up to £0.6 million GVA per year and 9 jobs in Scotland (including £0.4 million GVA per year and 6 jobs in Dumfries and Galloway and South Ayrshire). The solar installation would generate additional economic benefits during construction and operation.
 10. The proposed Development includes the offer of a package of benefits including community investment which has the potential to create important net economic benefits. To date, SPR's operational windfarms have voluntarily contributed more than £32 million of support towards community initiatives across the UK. The Kilgallioch Community Fund was established to distribute community benefit funding arising from the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm and will distribute over £1 million to local initiatives each year throughout the operational lifetime of that windfarm. For this proposed extension to Kilgallioch SPR would hold discussions with local stakeholders to decide which communities would be appropriate to participate in any community benefits offered. It is expected that any community benefit fund and potential income streams from an opportunity to invest could provide a source of long term revenue which could be used to support community projects. Local communities would have the flexibility to choose how the money is spent and prioritise it on the things which matter most to them. SPR would keep local communities informed about these benefits 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 offered.
 11. The potential for effects on a wide variety of environmental factors have been considered through the Environmental Impact Assessment process. Where identified, the significant environmental effects of the proposed Development have been mitigated, as far as reasonably possible, through an extensive process of design iteration. The proposed Development makes efficient use of the existing network of access tracks that are already located onsite for the operational Kilgallioch Windfarm. The proposed Development includes mitigation and enhancements relating to Hydrology, Geology, Hydrogeology and Soils; Ecology and biodiversity; Ornithology; Noise; Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; Access, Traffic and Transport; and construction. These would ensure that the proposed Development is delivered in an appropriate manner which would benefit the environment in a wide variety of ways.
 12. The proposed Development is located in an area which is considered to be suitable for windfarm development in the context of Scottish Planning Policy. It is acknowledged that the proposed Development would result in significant cultural heritage, landscape, and visual effects. This is expected from any renewable energy development, including wind turbines of this kind and an inevitable consequence of the development process. However, given the careful design process and benefits associated with the proposed Development; the cultural heritage, landscape and visual impacts of the proposed Development are considered to be acceptable. There would be no overwhelming or overbearing residential visual effects from the proposed Development.
 13. The proposed Development is for a commercial scale renewable energy development which would deliver clean energy to the national grid at a low cost. If the issue of the climate emergency is to be addressed then developments such as the proposed Development must come forward and, subject to environmental considerations, be consented to meet the need for clean energy at a reasonable cost. The proposed Development is considered to be an important opportunity to contribute to the Scottish Governments ambitious targets for renewable energy; by optimising the capacity of an operational site whilst respecting the environmental constraints and sensitivities of the Site and the surrounding area. As such, it would make a valuable contribution to the fight against climate change. The proposed Development for which consent is sought is considered to be acceptable.

1 Introduction

14. The UK and Scotland's current climate change ambitions are amongst the highest in Europe. The Scottish Government declared a climate emergency in May 2019 and has recently passed the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 which has passed into law the requirement for a 75% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2030 and 90% reduction by 2040. This is supported by 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. Furthermore, on 27 June 2019, Dumfries and Galloway Council set up a Climate Emergency Cross Party Working Group which will oversee implementation of a 12-point plan focusing on actions to reduce carbon emissions in the region.
 15. ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Ltd (SPR) is leading the UK in the operation and development of renewables and fully supports the fight against climate change and, to this end, proposes to develop an extension to the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm. This extension would be a fully integrated renewable energy solution in direct response to meeting national and international climate change targets. As well as contributing to targets for renewable energy, the project would provide opportunities for community investment and create further employment opportunities in the local area.
 16. The existing Kilgallioch Windfarm was consented in 2013 and has been operational since 2017. It consists of 96 turbines with an operating capacity of up to 236 megawatts (MW). The Applicant proposes to extend the existing windfarm by 11 wind turbines of up to 180 metres (m) in height to blade tip, with an installed capacity of around 62 MW, together with associated infrastructure and around 20 MW of installed co-located solar energy development. Throughout this document, the construction and operation of the extension to the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm is referenced as "the proposed Development".
 17. The proposed Development Site is located within the Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC) area, with the exception of approximately 10.8 km of the access track corridor, which is located in the South Ayrshire Council (SAC) area. The proposed Development is located on land approximately 6.8 km north east of New Luce and 9.5 kilometres (km) north west of Kirkcowan and covers an area of approximately 752.8 hectares (ha).
 18. The proposed Development is described in further detail in **Chapter 2** of this Planning Statement.
 19. The proposed Development would exceed 50MW, therefore, the Applicant is seeking consent under the terms of Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) ("s.36"), and for a direction for deemed planning permission under Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997).
 20. Additionally, the proposed Development constitutes a Schedule 2 development as provided for by the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations). Therefore, the application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report ("EIA Report") which has been undertaken by ITP Energised in accordance with the EIA Regulations. The EIA Report presents information on the identification and assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed Development.
- ## 1.1 Purpose of this Planning Statement
21. The application for the proposed Development is submitted to the Scottish Ministers under Section 36 (S36) of the Electricity Act 1989 (the 1989 Act). The applicant, by way of the S36 process, requests that the Scottish Ministers issue a S36 Consent in respect of the proposed Development, together with a Direction under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended (the 1997 Act) that planning permission is deemed to be granted for the proposed Development.
 22. This Planning Statement sets out the background and policy and planning considerations relevant to the proposed Development. It is structured as follows:
 - **Chapter 1** includes the introduction to the Planning Statement, provides the framework for decision making and provides background information on the applicant;
 - **Chapter 2** provides a brief description of the Site and the location of the proposed Development and a description of the proposed Development itself including key features of mitigation which are embedded in design;
 - **Chapter 3** outlines the benefits of the development;

- **Chapter 4** sets out the Planning Assessment for the proposed Development. It summarises the matters which are considered to be relevant to the decision making process – the Key Considerations for determination of the application; and
- **Chapter 5** contains a conclusion in respect of the planning case for the proposed Development.

1.2 Statutory Framework

23. As identified previously, the application for the proposed Development requires to be made under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 because the installed capacity would exceed 50 MW.
24. SPR is a licensed electricity generator in terms of the Electricity Act 1989. As a consequence of this, SPR is obliged when formulating proposals of 10 MW or more to have regard to the duties imposed upon it by Schedule 9(3)(1)(a) (see **Appendix 1**). In formulating proposals, it shall have “*specific regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features or special interest in protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest*”. Furthermore, in terms of sub-paragraph (b), SPR is under a duty to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects. In addition, Schedule 9 also imposes duties to avoid impact on fisheries and fish. The Applicant has fulfilled all these duties by undertaking the project formulation as reported in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report accompanying the application. The EIA process encompasses consideration of all the matters set out in Schedule 9(3)(1)(a). Indeed, the EIA process has a broader topic range than that contained in the sub-paragraph. Furthermore, where significant effects are found as part of the EIA process, appropriate mitigation is proposed. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report accompanying the application sets out in detail how the Applicant has approached the design of the scheme and how very careful consideration has been given throughout that process to the matters that are listed in sub-paragraph (1)(a). The Applicant has fulfilled the statutory requirements of Schedule 9.
25. In addition, Schedule 9 also imposes duties upon the Scottish Ministers when determining Section 36 applications. They are obliged to have regard to desirability of the matters mentioned in paragraph (a) of sub-paragraph (1) and must also have regard to the extent to which the Applicant has complied with their duties to mitigate any effects on those resources. Again, the Scottish Ministers can be satisfied that the EIA process has been undertaken appropriately and addresses these matters comprehensively.
26. In addition to the above processes, the fact that the proposed Development is a Schedule 2 development requires the Applicant to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment and also to report the outcome of that process through the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 set out the legal requirements of the process. As part of the process, SPR have applied for a Scoping Opinion in terms of Regulation 12 and have provided an Environmental Impact Assessment Report which complies with the requirements of Regulation 5. Regulation 5 also incorporates further information requirements as set out in Schedule 4. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report has set out in detail how compliance with these provisions has been considered and achieved. In addition, the Environmental Impact Assessment Report has included measures to avoid, prevent and reduce identified effects and also offset certain significant effects. It has also identified where it may be appropriate for further monitoring to be undertaken.
27. The EIA Regulations also impose duties upon the Scottish Ministers in the context of their decision making. The Ministers have to assess whether the information that has been provided is adequate and; if necessary, request further information. In terms of decision making, Regulation 21 sets out an extensive list of matters which the Scottish Ministers have to undertake during the decision making process. The list includes reference to the obligations of the Scottish Ministers in terms of Regulation 4 to examine the information (Regulation 4(1)(c)) and also to reach a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the proposed Development on the environment (Regulation 4(1)(d)).
28. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report demonstrates SPR’s compliance with the requirements both set out in Schedule 9 and also in terms of the EIA Regulations.
29. In terms of determinations under Section 36, there are no specific statutory presumptions that apply. As identified above, there are considerations which have to be taken into account and dealt with both in terms of Schedule 9 and under the EIA Regulations. In that context, Section 36 decision making incorporates consideration of a wide policy framework which will include elements of National Energy Policy, National Planning Policy and Guidance and also the Local Development Plan

and other Guidance. All these matters are material and should be taken into account in the decision making process. The ultimate weight of any particular factor in the decision making process is a matter for the decision maker.

1.3 The Applicant

30. Kilgallioch Windfarm Extension is being proposed by ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Ltd (SPR).
31. 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 in 2019 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.
32. ScottishPower Renewables 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 as part of an international pipeline of projects across Europe and the USA.
33. With over 40 operational windfarms, SPR manages all its sites through its world leading Control Centre at Whitelee Windfarm, near Glasgow.

2 The Development

2.1 The Site

34. The proposed Development Site is located within the Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC) area with the exception of approximately 10.8 km of the access track corridor, which is located in the South Ayrshire Council (SAC) area. It forms an extension to the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm, north west of Eldrig Fell (226m AOD), which has been operational since 2017 and has a capacity of up to 239 megawatts (MW). The proposed Development is located approximately 6.8 km north east of New Luce and 9.5 km to the north west of Kirkcowan. The Site itself is centred on British National Grid (BNG) reference BNG (223950, 570150).
35. The proposed access route onto the Site would be from the A714, heading south along existing forestry and Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm access tracks.
36. The Site is owned by a private landowner and Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) own the forested area in the north western section of the Site and up to the Site access.
37. The main development area of the Site is predominantly comprised of a mixture of moorland and grassland, reflecting the patchy distribution of peat soils across the Site, and current land use is limited to low-density sheep and cattle grazing. Derelict farm buildings and steadings, at High Eldrig, are located within the eastern extent of the Site. The northern boundary of the Site is adjacent to the Kirkcowan Flow Special Area of Conservation (SAC)/Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). A Scheduled Monument, Wood Cairn, is located on the summit of Eldrig Fell, in the south east of the Site. The Tarf Water, which is part of the River Bladnoch SAC (designated principally for its populations of Atlantic Salmon) flows south and east along the western and southern boundaries of the Site.
38. The proposed Development Site benefits from the following circumstances:
- there are no international or national statutory designations for landscape in, or within close proximity of, the main development area of the Site;
 - it has good access from the public road network particularly for longer blades which allows consideration of larger turbines to make the best use of the expected wind resource; and
 - there are no residential properties within 2 km of the proposed turbine locations.
39. The location of the Site is presented in **Figure 1.1** of the **EIA Report**.

2.2 The Surrounding Area

40. The surrounding area is rural, with the land predominantly used for agriculture and commercial forestry purposes. The operational Kilgallioch Windfarm is located immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the proposed Development Site and extends to the north. Existing turbines are located adjacent to the area proposed for development. There are also several other consented and operational wind energy developments in the local areas (see **Chapter 3** of the EIA Report).
41. The nearest sizeable settlements to the main development area of the Site are; New Luce located approximately 6.8 km to the south west, and Kirkcowan located approximately 9.5 km to the south east and Barrhill located approximately 10 km to the north.
42. The closest landscape designations to the Site is the South Ayrshire Scenic Area (SA), which lies over 5 km to the north of the Site within the Duisk Valley. The Dumfries and Galloway Regional Scenic Areas (RSAs) – Galloway Hills, Rhins Coast and Mochrum Lochs are all over 10 km to the north east and south of the Site.
43. Whilst not specifically recognised as landscape designations the Galloway Forest Park and Dark Sky Park are valued recreational destinations as recognised within the DGC Local Development Plan; and are located approximately 16.4 km to the east of the nearest proposed Development turbine. The mapped Wild Land Area (WLA) also lies to the east within the centre of Galloway Forest Park area.
44. There is one scheduled monument within the Site.

45. There are three nature conservation designations are located within 5 km of the proposed Development:
- Kirkcowan Flow Special Area of Conservation (SAC)/Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – immediately adjacent to the Site (north and north east of the Site boundary);
 - River Bladnoch SAC – immediately adjacent to the Site (west and south west of the Site boundary); and
 - Blood Moss SSSI – 2.8km from the Site.
46. The Site is not statutorily designated at international or national levels for ornithological interests. The nearest designated areas for birds are the Glen App and Galloway Moors Special Protection Area (SPA) (approximately 7.5 km west at its nearest point) which is designated for breeding hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*).

2.3 Description of the Proposed Development

47. The proposed Development is a Renewable Energy Development that intends to make the best use of available renewable energy technologies to maximise and optimise the renewable energy potential of the Site. For this consent application, SPR intend to construct a blend of renewable energy technologies, including 11 three-bladed horizontal axis wind turbines, up to 180 m tip height, with a combined rated output in the region of 62 megawatts (MW) and approximately 20 MW of ground mounted solar arrays producing a combined total output of approximately 82 MW or 165 GWh of electricity annually. This equates to the annual power consumed by approximately 44,000 average UK households.
48. Almost two thirds of the access tracks for the proposed Development would use existing infrastructure, whether upgrading of existing farm tracks or tracks used within the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm. All new access tracks have been designed to avoid sensitive environmental receptors, would be made of locally sourced stone from the onsite borrow pits and have a typical running width of approximately 5m, with an average stone thickness of 500 mm. As a result, the proposals have maximised efficiency, minimised environmental impact and reduced the cost of generation.

2.3.1 Proposed Infrastructure

49. Careful consideration has been given to the layout of the proposed Development, which is demonstrated in the design evolution of the scheme, this is set out in the EIA Report **Chapter 3 Siting and Design**. The layout for the proposed Development is described in detail in **Chapter 4 Development Description** of the EIA Report and is shown on **Figures 4.1 a-d**. Additional details on construction methods are provided in the outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) included in EIA Report **Technical Appendix 4.1**. Where realistically possible, existing infrastructure, in particular the access tracks and construction areas, have been utilised.
50. The design process described in the EIA Report **Chapter 3 Siting and Design** sets out why the proposed Development in this form presents the best possible balance between turbine productivity and environmental effects. It is considered to be the most productive array and would contribute significantly to Scottish Government targets for renewable energy production.
51. Each Chapter of the EIA Report takes an appropriate and topic specific approach to assessment of the proposed Development within the parameters identified. The EIA Report provides a maximum case assessment for each discipline and presents enough information for consultees and the decision makers to comment on and determine the application within the parameters of the proposed Development.
52. The proposed Development includes the following associated infrastructure:
- 11 turbines;
 - turbine foundations;
 - crane hardstandings;
 - transformer/switchgear housings located adjacent to turbines and solar arrays;
 - solar photovoltaic modules;
 - access tracks (existing, upgraded or new as required);
 - watercourse crossings (existing, upgraded or new as required);
 - underground electrical cabling to the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm substation;
 - permanent anemometer mast and Lidar compound;
 - up to two temporary Power Performance Masts;
 - closed- circuit television mast(s);

- communication mast(s);
 - permanent operations building;
 - up to two borrow pit search areas; and
 - a temporary construction compound area.
53. The proposed Development would also require relatively small amounts of felling (5.87ha) to facilitate construction and upgrade of access tracks.
54. The layout for the proposed Development is presented in EIA Report **Figures 4.1a-d**. Typical details for the proposed infrastructure are shown on EIA Report **Figures 4.3-4.12**. As stated above, the proposed Development also comprises four areas identified for solar development, ranging from approximately 3.8 to 13.5 ha in area with the potential for an installed capacity of approximately 20 MW. An indicative layout is provided within **Figure 4.7** of the EIA Report. The design and layout of the solar element of the proposed Development would be finalised and confirmed prior to construction.
55. It is proposed that the wind turbine components would be delivered to King George V Dock, Glasgow. A preliminary Route Survey assessment has determined that, based on the wind turbine components considered, transport loads would follow a predetermined route which from the dock proceeds to M8; joins M74 and proceeds south onto M6; U turn to the south of Carlisle at Junction 44 or 42 (Police dependent) and proceed northbound on the M6 and M74; diverge from the M74 and proceed westbound on the A75; depart the A75 to the west of Newton Stewart and proceed north via an unclassified minor road and continue north on the A714; and depart the A714 at the site access track junction and proceed to site via a private haul road (see **Figure X**).
56. The proposed Development would be accessed directly from the existing Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm access junction off the A714 at Wheeb Bridge. The existing access junction would be widened to accommodate the proposed larger blades and towers.
57. The electrical power produced by the individual turbines and solar array(s) would be fed back to the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm substation, via underground cables parallel to new and existing access tracks, for onward connection to the national electricity network. The substation compound is located within the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm site, as shown on **Figure 4.2** of the EIA Report. The indicative cable route from the proposed Development to the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm substation is also shown in **Figure 4.2**.
58. There is no proposal to limit the lifetime of the proposed Development. Therefore, the assessment of all technical areas considers the effects of the operational phase of the proposed Development, without time limitations. Should decommissioning of any of the proposed Development be required, or part thereof, it is considered that the environmental effects of decommissioning would be similar to, or less than, those during construction. With the exception of habitat loss which would have already occurred under the construction phase. If, during the operational lifespan of the Proposed Development there is potential for repowering, for example, to increase the efficiency of the proposed Development, this would be subject to a new and separate application. The proposed Development would result in reduced carbon emissions. The EIA Report carbon calculations spreadsheet is provided in **Technical Appendix 15.1**. A summary of the anticipated carbon emissions and carbon payback of the proposed Development are provided in **Table 2.1**.

Results	Exp.	Min	Max.
Net emissions of carbon dioxide (t CO ₂ eq.)	170,638	131,278	196,639
Carbon Payback Period of proposed Development Comparison			
Displacing Coal-fired electricity generation (years)	1.3	0.9	1.7
Displacing Grid-mix of electricity generation (years)	4.7	3.3	6.0
Displacing Fossil fuel - mix of electricity generation (years)	2.6	1.8	3.4

Table 2.1: Summary of carbon payback of the proposed Development

2.3.2 Design Development

59. The proposed Development Site was included within the original Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm application in February 2010, but later removed from the revised scheme and addendum submitted to the Scottish Ministers for determination, following consultee responses to the initial layout.
60. The following matters were raised at that point by consultees in relation to the proposed Development Site:
- potential landscape effects on the wildness characteristics of the non-forested area to the south east of the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm;
 - potential visual effects from the Southern Upland Way near Knockniehourrie, in views east towards the Galloway Hills;
 - potential hydrological effects on the Kirkcowan Flow SAC, due to potential hydrological connectivity between areas proposed for construction activity and land within the SAC.
61. Following the construction and operation of the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm it is the opinion of SPR and its technical advisors that the matters raised to the original application can now be successfully addressed through changes to the baseline environment, careful design and best practice construction practices. These changes are addressed further within the relevant technical EIA Chapters (**Chapters 6 to 14** of the EIA Report) and summarised below:
- Cumulative developments, most notably the Operational Kilgallioch, Airies and Balmurrie Fell Wind Farms, have been built since the original application for Kilgallioch Windfarm, and are now operational. These, in combination with the older Artfield Fell and Arecleoch windfarms, have reduced the wildness characteristics of the moorland area in which the site is located, and hence the sensitivity of the area to the addition of further wind turbines. Whilst the potential for significant cumulative effects increases the susceptibility of the Site area, on balance, the widespread existing baseline of operational development close to the Site reduces the potential for significant effects.
 - Careful design of turbines within the Site has avoided locating turbines on the more distinctive Eldrig Fell which is more elevated and serves to maintain a degree of separation between the existing Aries and the proposed Development from key views such as from Knockniehourrie to the west and Hill of Ochilree to the east.
 - Further surveys of peat and vegetation have provided a more detailed picture of hydrological connectivity with the Kirkcowan Flow SAC. Turbines and associated infrastructure have been purposefully designed to avoid areas and habitats with hydrological connectivity, limiting the potential for effects on the Kirkcowan Flow SAC.
62. The known environmental and technical constraints within the proposed Development site were identified as part of the early stage constraints mapping. It is important to note that the identification of a constraint did not necessarily result in the exclusion of that area from the potential development envelope; rather it meant that careful thought and attention was paid to the constraint and the design altered appropriately.
63. The key constraints which were considered during the design process included:
- topography;
 - identified landscapes and visual constraints;
 - presence of ornithology receptors;
 - protected habitats and species;
 - ground conditions (including peat);
 - presence of watercourses;
 - presence of cultural heritage features;
 - location of residential properties – potential impacts on residential visual amenity, and proximity to noise sensitive receptors;
 - aviation;
 - telecommunications links;
 - key recreational and tourist routes; and
 - forestry.
64. Further surveys of peat and vegetation have provided a more detailed picture of hydrological connectivity with the Kirkcowan Flow Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Turbines and associated infrastructure have been purposefully designed to avoid areas and habitats with hydrological connectivity, eliminating the potential for effects on the Kirkcowan Flow SAC.
65. The identification of constraints continued throughout the design evolution process as more detailed surveys refined the development envelope.
66. As a consequence of this process, there have been nine main design iterations to the infrastructure layout of the proposed Development in order to avoid, reduce or offset the potential environmental effects associated with the proposed

Development as well as maintaining a financially viable development proposal. In addition to these main design iterations (shown on EIA Report **Figures 3.3, 3.9, and 3.10**) there has been additional micrositing to refine the design. These were prompted by the following issues/aspirations:

- Avoiding known environmental constraints as established through desk study
- Avoiding additional environmental constraints identified via site surveys, including NVC, protected mammals, geological, cultural heritage, peat depth, landscape and visual
- Maximising generating capacity and re-use of existing infrastructure

67. These design iterations are discussed in detail in EIA Report **Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design**. Fundamental to that process was identifying, understanding, and therefore avoiding key environmental constraints. As a result, finding the appropriate balance between minimising potential environmental constraints and maximising generation capacity.

2.3.3 Mitigation and Compensation Measures Assumed to Form a Part of the Proposed Development

68. The EIA Report assumes certain measures form an inherent part of the proposed Development and as such, in effect form a part of the proposals and would be carried out as a matter of course (notwithstanding consultees may request such measures be tied to the grant of any consent by planning condition).

CEMP

69. An Outline CEMP, at **Technical Appendix 4.1** of the EIA Report, sets out the principles and procedures for environmental management during construction of the proposed Development. Should consent be granted for the proposed Development, a site-specific CEMP would be prepared based on the principles of the Outline CEMP. The content of the CEMP would be agreed with DGC and SAC, in consultation with relevant consultees and enforced via a planning condition.

70. The CEMP shall describe how the Principal Contractor (PC) would ensure suitable management of, but not limited to, the following environmental issues during construction of the proposed Development:

- noise and vibration;
- dust and air pollution;
- surface and groundwater;
- ecology and ornithology (including protection of habitats and species);
- agriculture (including protection of livestock and land);
- cultural heritage;
- waste (construction and domestic);
- details of the size, location and volumes to be extracted from borrow pits;
- pollution incidence response (for both land and water); and
- Site operations (including maintenance of the construction compound, working hours and safety of the public).

71. To ensure all mitigation measures outlined within this EIA Report are carried out onsite, the CEMP would form an overarching document for all site management requirements, including:

- Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP);
- Construction Methodology Statement (CMS)
- Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP) (including monitoring, as appropriate);
- Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP);
- Peat Management Plan; and
- Water Management Plan (WMP).

72. The CEMP would be prepared to take account of Good Practice during Windfarm Construction (SNH 2015), Guidelines for Onshore and Offshore Windfarms (2010) and provides the construction activities methodology pertinent to the EIA, or any update to these documents.

73. During the construction phase, an Archaeological Watching Brief would be maintained and SPR would engage an ECoW onsite. The services of other specialist advisors would be retained as appropriate, to be called on as required to advise on

specific environmental issues. The PC would ensure construction activities are carried out in accordance with the mitigation measures outlined in the EIA Report and any planning conditions, and this would be monitored by SPR and the ECoW.

CTMP

74. Prior to the commencement of development, a detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) would be agreed with the Council and Transport Scotland. The CTMP would be developed using experience gathered during the construction of recent projects including Kilgallioch Windfarm:

75. The following measures could be included within CTMP during the construction phase.

All materials delivery lorries (dry materials) would be sheeted to reduce dust and stop spillage on public roads;
Specific training, audit and disciplinary measures would be established to ensure the highest standards are maintained to prevent construction vehicles from carrying mud and debris onto the carriageway;
Appropriate traffic management measures would also be put in place at the Site access junction to advise drivers to slow down and be aware of turning traffic;
Directional signage could be provided to enforce delivery routes;
Requirement for all drivers to attend an induction to include a safety briefing, the need for appropriate care and speed control, particularly in sensitive areas, identification of specific sensitive areas, identification of the specified route, and the requirement not to deviate from the specified route; and
A Travel Plan to encourage lift sharing /crew bus access to site for construction staff.

Habitat Management Plan

76. A Habitat Management Plan (HMP) would be implemented during the construction and operation phases that would focus on restoration of wet modified bog through the blocking of drains in areas where historical drainage channels are more concentrated. The HMP is outlined in **Technical Appendix 8.7**, and includes for two separate areas (defined as Units 1 and 2) consisting of poor quality wet modified bog habitat primarily as a result of historical drainage practices that would benefit from positive management to improve the quality. Both units are located within the adjacent Kirkcowan Flow SAC and peatland restoration works undertaken as part of the proposed Development are expected to have a positive impact on the overall site condition of the SAC and SSSI. The aims of the HMP are summarised as:

- Aim 1: Restore Conditions of Modified Blanket Bog; and
- Aim 2: Improve Quality of Modified Blanket Bog Habitat.

Forestry

77. As a result of the construction of the proposed Development, there would be a minor net loss of commercial forestry. The proposed Development would require commercial woodland to be felled in order to facilitate the new access track connecting the main development area of the proposed Development with the existing access track within the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm. The requirements of which would be undertaken in close consultation with FLS and documented in the Forestry Plan.

78. As a result of the construction of the proposed Development, there would be a net loss of woodland area. In order to comply with the criteria of the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy, off-site compensation planting would be required. The Applicant is committed to providing appropriate compensatory planting. The extent, location and composition of such planting to be agreed with Scottish Forestry, considering any revision to the felling and restocking plans prior to the commencement of operation of the proposed Development.

Proposed Community Investment/Benefit

79. SPR is committed to offering a package of community benefits to local communities that could include the opportunity to invest in the operational development. SPR would hold discussions with local stakeholders to decide which communities would be the appropriate 'Community Organisations' to participate.

80. Further information setting out the potential benefits of this is provided at **Chapter 3** of this Planning Statement.

3 Benefits of the Development

3.1 Renewable Electricity Generation

81. The Scottish and UK Governments are committed to the long-term decarbonisation of electricity generation and the Scottish Government declared a climate emergency in May 2019. ScottishPower is aligned with the Scottish Governments commitment by generating 100% renewable energy. The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 amends the Climate Change Act 2009 by setting legally binding targets of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 at the latest, and reduce emissions by 56% by 2020, 75% by 2030 and 90% by 2040. These are currently the most ambitious statutory targets in the world.

82. These targets remain challenging –however if consented the proposed Development would make an important contribution to Scotland’s Climate Change Plan to become carbon neutral by 2040 and reduce emissions.

83. The proposed wind turbines would have a combined rated output in the region of around 62 MW and around 20 MW of ground mounted solar arrays producing a combined output of around 84 MW or approximately 165 GWh of electricity annually. This equates to the annual power consumed by approximately 44,000 average UK households.

3.2 Habitat Management Plan

84. As outlined in **paragraph 76** above, the proposed Development includes a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) which would implement positive land management for the benefit of landscape and nature conservation. The HMP outlines the aims and objectives of the land management that would be implemented during the operation of the proposed Development. This would be achieved by a range of management practices, such as improving degraded bog habitats, rewetting of drained peat and management and control of native and non-native species. These peatland restoration works are expected to have a positive impact on the overall site condition of the SAC and SSSI, as well as benefits to ecology (including improvements to priority habitat) and ornithology.

3.3 Archaeological Enhancement Measures

85. A package of archaeological enhancement measures is proposed that would promote the archaeological interest of the proposed Development site to the wider public. The provision of a network of tracks would improve accessibility to this part of the Tarf Water landscape and to the historic landscape that is preserved within the proposed Development site. The Southern Upland Way (SUW) passes close by, to the west of the proposed Development site and it is proposed that the provision of publicity of the historic medieval/post-medieval farms would provide an opportunity for users of the SUW to avail themselves of the improved access provision to explore these well-preserved archaeological sites.

86. Additionally, an airborne Lidar survey of the moorland would be commissioned with the aim to provide an accurate and detailed topographical record of the surviving archaeological remains of the historic landscape within the study area. The Lidar survey would be undertaken to a standard and level of detail that would provide a baseline record of the surviving earthwork remains that would provide the Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeology Service with a resource that could facilitate future management and monitoring of the cultural heritage resource of the historic farming landscape. The Lidar data would be available for public consultation and research. This would be similar to the Lidar survey undertaken at Baillie and Burn o’ Whilks Windfarms, located in Caithness.

3.4 Capital Expenditure Associated with the Development

87. **Chapter 13 Socio-economics, Tourism, and Recreation** of the EIA Report finds that it is anticipated that construction of the windfarm component of the proposed Development could generate up to £18.6 million Gross Value Added (GVA) in Scotland (including £4.0 million GVA in Dumfries and Galloway and South Ayrshire). During its operations, the windfarm component could generate up to £0.6 million GVA per year in Scotland (including £0.4 million GVA per year in Dumfries and Galloway and South Ayrshire). The solar installation would generate additional economic (unquantified) benefits during construction and operation.

88. This is considered to be a positive benefit of the proposed Development.

3.5 Employment Opportunities

3.5.1 Construction

89. During the 22 months' construction phase, the proposed Development is expected to support 289 years of employment in Scotland (including 60 years of employment in Dumfries and Galloway and South Ayrshire). Information from other projects developed by SPR indicates that a wide selection of supply chain businesses could expect to benefit from the investment in the local and Scottish economy, including haulage, aggregates supply, forestry services, building services, fencing, and security. SPR is committed to employing good practice measures with regard to maximising local procurement which is evident from the procurement of towers from CS Wind, Campbeltown for the construction of Beinn an Tuirc 3 Windfarm.

3.5.2 Operation

90. During the operational phase, the proposed Development is expected to generate up to 9 jobs in Scotland (including 6 jobs in Dumfries and Galloway and South Ayrshire). The solar installation would generate additional economic (unquantified) benefits during construction and operation. Additional benefits would accrue to the local supply chain as a result of services supplied to the operation of the proposed Development.

3.6 Community Benefit and Investment

91. As stated in Chapter 2 of this Planning Statement, SPR is committed to offering a package of community benefits that could include the opportunity for the community to invest in the proposed Development.

92. To date, SPR has voluntarily contributed more than £32 million in community benefit funding across the UK, including almost £5.8 million to communities in Dumfries and Galloway and over £5.9 million to South Ayrshire communities.

93. The nature of the benefits associated with community benefit funding can be illustrated by the community benefit funding from the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm.

94. Community benefit funding from the operational Kilgallioch Windfarm is distributed by the Kilgallioch Community Benefit Company, which has 12 local volunteer directors who decide on grant awards and a third party which provides administrative support. The Kilgallioch Community Fund is divided into local and regional elements with 60% shared equally between the local communities of Old Luce, New Luce, Kirkcowan and Barrhill, and the remaining 40% available to a wider area of benefit covering the Wigtownshire and South Carrick areas.

95. The Kilgallioch Community Fund has supported a variety of activities and initiatives from supporting local clubs and societies, improved energy efficiency and providing employment opportunities. Examples include:

- £9,899 to Hub Dumfries and Galloway to improve energy efficiency and home heating for the elderly;
- £9,764 to Balloch Wood Community Venture for the creation of two new footpaths incorporating a 7.5m bridge over Balloch Burn in Creetown;
- £9,194 to Stranraer Development Trust towards the salary of a project administrator, to support the Stranraer Oyster Festival;
- £10,000 to Glentroll and Bargrennan Community Trust to part-fund a project manager to manage an asset transfer of the former Glentroll Primary School and oversee implementation of the business plan;
- £9,740 to Stranraer Rotary Coastal Path Group as a contribution to improvements on the Mull of Galloway Trail;
- £18,200 to Barrhill CIC to employ a village handyman, whose role includes garden and handyman services to residents of Barrhill aged 65+;
- £6,720 to Girvan Community Sports Hub to fund a six-month employability pilot project seeking to identify, recruit, train and support six young people into employment in the South Carrick area.

96. Whilst the specifics of these effects cannot be quantified at this stage due to uncertainty as to the quantum of funding that would be available, it is clear that the proposed package of community benefit, including returns from any community investment offer taken up, could offer real socio-economic benefits to the local community.

3.7 Carbon Savings

97. During operation, the proposed Development would contribute to a beneficial effect on local and global air quality, by avoiding emissions due to the generation of electricity by burning fossil fuels. A carbon assessment has been undertaken to estimate the potential savings in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by the proposed Development replacing other electricity

sources. The proposed Development has a payback time of approximately 2.6 years. The turbines would have a displacement of around 65,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year over a fossil fuel mix of electricity (2.6 million tonnes assuming a 40 year lifetime for the purposes of the carbon calculator). The solar array would have a displacement of around 5,214 tonnes of CO₂ per year over a fossil fuel mix of electricity (208,560 tonnes assuming a 40 year lifetime). This would positively contribute to meeting Scotland's targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

3.8 Non-domestic Rates

^{98.} It is expected that the proposed Development would contribute in the region of £0.7 million annually in non-domestic business rates per annum which would benefit the public sector. Further details are provided in **Section 13.6.4.3 of Chapter 13: Socioeconomics, Tourism, and Recreation** of the EIA Report.

4 Renewable Energy Policy Context

99. As set out in **Chapter 1** of this Planning Statement, given the proposed Development would exceed 50 MW in generating capacity it must be considered under S36 of the Electricity Act 1989. The Act contains a number of requirements. In summary, the requirement is to consider what effects the proposed Development would have on a range of environmental matters and to what extent has the applicant sought to mitigate any such effects. It is not a test that has to be passed or can be failed. The wording is clear that the developer shall have regard to the desirability of preserving a number of features and reasonably do what they can to mitigate effects on the features. The decision maker is required to have regard to the desirability of the features and the extent to which the developer has sought to mitigate effects.
100. The proposed Development has thoroughly assessed the matters which are raised in Schedule 9 and has, where appropriate, identified significant effects and reasonable mitigation of those effects. The EIA has considered matters which are not covered by Schedule 9 as well as those which are covered. It is submitted that the requirement to have regard to the preservation of matters stated in Schedule 9 has been met and that the requirement to reasonably mitigate effects has also been met through the EIA process.
101. The S36 approach to determination is set in the context of legislation which seeks to support electricity developments which might be considered to be nationally important (i.e. in excess of 50 MW). In the decision-making process it is; therefore, material to consider the extent to which the proposed Development may contribute to national policy both in terms of energy and planning. Against that background, the Planning Statement seeks to identify the relevant provisions of Energy Policy, National Planning and Development Plan Policy.
102. The statutory presumption in relation to the Local Development Plan is not triggered in Section 36 applications (see **paragraph 6** of this Planning Statement). The entirety of policy is relevant, and material and it is a matter of attributing weight and balancing the benefits against the environmental disbenefits.
103. This Chapter of the Planning Statement sets out and provides the renewable energy policy which sets the context for the framework in which the proposed Development is being brought forward. It then considers the way in which the proposed Development could assist in meeting the relevant Government targets for renewable energy. It then goes on to consider the relevant Scottish planning policy contained in the National Planning Framework 3 (NPF) and Scottish Planning Policy (SPP). This Chapter then considers the relevant Development Plan policy. Finally, this Chapter considers the balance of the issues which have been considered.

4.1 International, UK, and Scottish Climate Change and Renewable Energy Policy

104. **Appendix 2** of this planning Statement sets out the International, UK and Scottish policy framework for the proposed Development. The key policies for the consideration of the application for the proposed Development are considered to be The Climate Change Plan, the Scottish Energy Strategy 2017, The Scottish Onshore Wind Energy Policy Statement 2017 and The Electricity Generation Policy Statement together with the latest climate change targets. The following text sets out the current Scottish Government Energy Policy, the current Scottish targets and the progress towards those targets.

4.1.1 Current Scottish Government Energy Policy

105. In December 2017 the Scottish Government published two energy policy documents, comprising the following:
- the Scottish Energy Strategy 'The Future of Energy in Scotland'; and
 - the OWPS.
106. Together, these policy documents represent the Scottish Government's intended energy and climate change strategy for the period to 2050. Further information in respect of these documents is contained in the following text.

The Scottish Energy Strategy (SES) 2017

107. The Scottish Government published its Scottish Energy Strategy (SES 2017) in December 2017. The SES 2017 sets out a vision for a strong and sustainable low carbon economy. SES 2017 describes the Scottish Government's vision for the future energy system in Scotland beyond 2020 looking forward until 2050 as "a flourishing, competitive local and national energy sector, delivering secure, affordable, clean energy for Scotland's households, communities and businesses". The vision is guided by three core principles namely:

- A whole system view;
- An inclusive energy transition; and
- A smarter local energy model.

108. The main document was published alongside the OWPS. This document provides focus for onshore wind.

109. The SES 2017 advises that for Scotland to meet the domestic and international climate change targets, the Government will set a new 2030 'all-energy' target for the equivalent of 50 % of Scotland's heat, transport and electricity consumption to be supplied from renewable sources. The SES 2017 sets two new targets for the Scottish energy system by 2030 which are as follows:

- *"The equivalent of 50% of the energy for Scotland's heat, transport and electricity consumption to be supplied from renewable sources;*
- *An increase by 30% in the productivity of energy use across the Scottish economy".*

110. Reaching 50% in the 13 years from the publication of the SES 2017 will be challenging, despite the good progress being made with the equivalent of 17.8% being met by renewable sources in 2015, and the SES 2017 acknowledges this.

111. The longer term target is further articulated on page 34 where it is stated: *"Scotland's long term climate change targets will require the near complete decarbonisation of our energy system by 2050, with renewable energy meeting a significant share of our needs."* However, these targets may need to be increased in light of the recent legislated climate change targets.

112. The SES refers to "Renewable and Low Carbon Solutions" as a strategic priority (page 41) and states *"we will continue to champion and explore the potential of Scotland's huge renewable energy resource, its ability to meet our local and national heat, transport and electricity needs – helping to achieve our ambitious emissions reduction targets"*.

113. The SES considers solar and advises that *"solar PV can make an important contribution to Scotland energy needs"*. It advises that there is the potential to power the equivalent of 50,000 homes through solar power. The SES is clear that there is the potential for the combination of storage with wind and solar assets to be a valuable solution for the energy system as a whole, as it would offer the potential for demand to be locally managed.

114. In the section on Onshore Wind, SES 2017 advises that *"onshore wind is now amongst the lowest cost forms of power generation of any kind, and is a vital component of the huge industrial opportunity that renewables create for Scotland"*. Onshore wind is identified as being required to play a vital role in the future of Scotland, helping to decarbonise electricity, boosting the economy and meeting demand. The SES 2017 notes that in order to achieve the targets it means developers and communities working together and striking the right balance between environmental impacts, local support, benefit and where possible economic benefits deriving from community investment.

115. The SES goes on to cross refer to further detail in relation to onshore wind as contained within the OWPS which as noted, has been published alongside the SES. The SES therefore, in addition to setting new stretching renewable energy and electricity targets, gives unequivocal strong policy support for the further development of onshore wind. In essence there is a renewed and enhanced impetus being imparted, rather than just a continuation of previous support.

Onshore Wind Policy Statement (OWPS) 2017

116. The Onshore Wind Policy Statement (OWPS 2017) reaffirms the existing Scottish Government's onshore wind policy set out in previous publications. The Ministerial Foreword is clear that there is no question that onshore wind has played a dominant and hugely successful role in contributing to the targets. It notes that onshore wind plays a valuable role in the empowerment and reward of local communities which are located near developments. The document focuses on the need to support development in the right places including, where acceptable, the inclusion or larger turbines, with effects and impacts of proposed developments being considered on their merits. The need to strike the right balance between environmental effects and impacts, local support and economic benefits is highlighted. It includes separate sections on the following key priority areas:

- route to market;
- repowering;
- a strategic approach to development;

- barriers to deployment;
- protection for residents and the environment;
- community benefits; and
- shared ownership.

117. The section on Route to Market makes it clear that the Scottish Government expect *“onshore wind to remain at the heart of a clean, reliable and low carbon energy future in Scotland”*. Onshore wind is to remain *“crucial in terms of meeting the goals for a decarbonised energy system”*. The Scottish Government is clear that the approach taken in the OWPS 2017 means that *“Scotland will continue to need more onshore wind development and capacity, in locations across landscapes where it can be accommodated”*.
118. The OWPS invites *“applicants to explain clearly how environmental impacts have been balanced against energy yield during design iteration, and reported as part of the information provided in support of applications”*.
119. **Chapter 3 Siting and Design** of the EIA Report sets out the design evolution process and sets out the expected yield associated with the turbines for the proposed Development.
120. The OWPS is clear that innovative solutions such as the integration of energy storage within onshore windfarm proposals not only help improve the ability of variable generators, such as onshore wind, to manage generation and demand but can also help grow the supply chain. The OWPS (2017) states: continuing support for innovation – for example, the development of smarter networks, active management and storage technology – can have a positive effect on the integration and economics of onshore wind generation. Innovation in the onshore wind sector can help the Scottish supply chain to grow, creating jobs and opportunities, and securing Scotland’s position as a hub for innovation and investment.
121. The Onshore Wind Policy Statement (OWPS 2017) is supportive of community investment. The OWPS advises that the Scottish Government’s ambition is to see a significant increase in community investment in renewable energy projects in Scotland which would put energy into the hands of local communities and deliver a lasting economic asset to communities across Scotland. The document is clear that *“All stakeholders stand to benefit from this goal being achieved, and from the greater partnership working that it can engender across a range of renewables developments”*. In addition, in the Chapter on Community Benefits the OWPS 2017 advises that *“As of November 2017 over £12 million [in community benefit payments] has been paid out over the preceding 12 month period”*.
122. The OWPS 2017 is clear that the Scottish Government is keen to see a significant increase in shared ownership of renewable energy projects delivering long lasting economic assets to communities across the country. Community investment provides the opportunity for this to occur.
123. The Applicant acknowledges that whilst progress to achieving renewable energy targets is considered to be an important material consideration; community investment/benefits arising from renewable energy developments are not but are set out in this Planning Statement to highlight the contribution they can make to local communities.

Climate Change Plan, The Third Report on Proposals and Policies 2018-2032

124. The Scottish Government published the Climate Change Plan, The Third Report on Proposals and Policies 2018-2032 (CCP 2018) in February 2018 which sets out Scotland’s decarbonisation plans to 2032. The Executive Summary advises that the CCP 2018 sets out how Scotland can deliver its target of 66 % emissions reductions, relative to the baseline for the period 2018-2032.

The Climate Emergency

125. In May 2019 the Scottish Government declared a climate emergency. At the same time in Westminster the Environment Secretary acknowledged a climate change emergency.
126. In a speech to the Scottish Parliament, the Climate Change secretary stated:

“The Climate Change Committee has been stark in saying that the proposed new targets will require “a fundamental change from the current piecemeal approach that focuses on specific actions in some sectors to an explicitly economy wide approach”. To deliver the transformational change that is required, we need structural changes across the board: to our

planning, procurement, and financial policies, processes and assessments. And as I've already said, that is exactly what we will do".

127. She went onto say that:

"subject to the passage of the Planning Bill at stage 3, the next National Planning Framework and review of the Scottish Planning Policy will include considerable focus on how the planning system can support our climate change goals".

128. National Planning Policy in the form of NPF3 and SPP also recognise the benefits which renewable energy developments can bring. NPF3 support Governments energy policy initiatives through the land use planning system. SPP seeks to ensure Development Plan policy for renewable energy developments takes a balanced approach, encouraging the right development in the right place. To this end it sets out a formula for local authorities to create a 'spatial framework' within their development plans which sets out areas which might be considered suitable for onshore wind development based on a range of identified criteria. It encourages development which contributes to sustainable economic development. Details of relevant parts of the NPF3 and SPP can be found in **Chapter 5**. It should be noted that NPF3 and SPP were prepared prior to the publication of the current Scottish Government policy in the form of SES and the OWPS. It is anticipated that when NPF3 and SPP are updated they will reflect the drive for renewables contained in the SES and the OWPS 2017 in line with the Minister's comments on the climate change emergency. Both of which have shown a clear direction of travel towards increasing the amount of renewable energy required in order to meet binding targets, and that wind energy (along with solar) will continue to play an important part in meeting those targets.

Programme for Government – 2019-20

129. The Scottish Government published the Government Programme for 2019-20 entitled 'Protecting Scotland's Future' on 3 September 2019. In the Introduction from the First Minister, with reference to the 'Climate Emergency', it states "*this Programme for Government sets out some of the next step in Scotland's journey to net zero emissions and raises our ambition in light of the emergency we face. We are leading the world in setting challenging targets but we must also redouble our efforts to meet them*".

130. The Introduction also refers to the preparation of the National Planning Framework 4 and confirms that an updated Climate Change Plan will be prepared that will take full account of the advice of the UK Committee on Climate Change.

131. The Executive Summary (page 10) addresses "*ending Scotland's contribution to climate change*" and states that "*Our response to the global climate emergency requires us to accelerate our good work*" and reference is made to the recently established Climate Emergency Response Group (CERG).

132. Chapter 1 of the Programme entitled 'Ending Contribution to Climate Change' makes it clear that Scotland is facing a climate emergency and key points include the following:-

Reference is made to Scotland already having committed to some of the toughest emissions reductions in the world and adopting a net zero emissions target by 2045 and underlines the Government's ambition that Scotland will no longer contribute to global climate change.

Scotland has a unique opportunity to be at the forefront of global action; and

This Programme for Government commits to vital early action to accelerate Scotland's journey towards net zero.

133. With reference to the CERG, '12 specific asks' are set out and these include:

"Making regional land use plans for maximising the potential of every part of Scotland's land to contribute to the fight against climate change...

Completion of plans for how Scotland generates the renewable electricity needed to reach net zero. In this regard reference is made to the next Energy Statement which is to set out the extent to which renewable and low carbon energy generation will need to combine in order to meet net zero and that this will then be monitored on an annual basis."

134. Page 38 also states that the Scottish Government is making a number of other major commitments in response to the climate emergency and in terms of 'planning' this will include the fourth National Planning Framework (NPF 4) which will help to radically accelerate reduction of emissions.

135. Therefore, although the radical planning policy options are still emerging, the direction of travel in terms of how planning will be used to tackle climate change is clear and this cannot be ignored in the consideration of proposed Development.

The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019

136. This Act, which amends the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 25 September 2019. It set a legally binding target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 at the latest, and to reduce emissions by 56% by 2020, 75% by 2030 and 90% by 2040. These are currently the most ambitious statutory targets in the world.

4.1.2 Progress to the Scottish Renewable Energy & Electricity Targets

137. The Electricity Sector has been a focus for change in climate change policy and Governments have set increasingly ambitious targets for electricity generation by means which does not produce Carbon Dioxide (a recognised Greenhouse Gas). In Scotland, whilst the Electricity Sector is largely decarbonised, it is recognised going into the future that additional electricity generation capacity is required as ambitious targets to decarbonise the heat and transport sectors are set. These targets are set out in this Section of the Planning Statement. The targets that are set for renewable energy are described in **Appendix 2** of this Planning Statement. As it is acknowledged that the proposed Development would not be contributing energy to the national grid until after 2022, post 2020 targets are of more relevance to the proposed Development. **Table 4.1** sets out the relevant targets.

Target	Current position
Overall renewable energy target – total Scottish energy consumption from renewables 50% by 2030	19.1% in 2017
Renewable Electricity Target – Gross electricity consumption from renewables 100% by 2020	76.3% in 2018

Table 4.1: Scottish Renewable Energy Targets

(Source Energy Statistics for Scotland Q2 2019 Figures)

139. Chapter 1 of the Routemap for Renewable Energy in Scotland Update 2015 (see **Appendix 2** of this Planning Statement) states that the 2020 renewables target of 100 % equates to the equivalent of circa 16 GW of installed capacity. The most recent Renewable Electricity Planning Statistics for Scotland advise that as of September 2019, Scotland had in the region of 11.6 GW of installed renewable energy capacity the majority of which was wind generation projects. The total renewable energy capacity, by stage in Scotland was as follows:

- planning applications – 4.2 GW;
- projects awaiting construction – 7.6GW;
- projects under construction –1.2GW; and
- operational projects – 11.6 GW.

140. The information provided shows that there is a significant shortfall against the Scottish 2020 renewable electricity generation target as the ‘operational’ and ‘under construction’ figures together equate to 12.8 GW of the required 16 GW. It is considered that many of the schemes which are awaiting construction are historic and are no longer viable and therefore will not be built. It can also be argued that some of the schemes which are in planning are no longer viable and will never be built, even if consented.

141. It is recognised that the targets which have been set by the Scottish Government are a target and not a cap, as set out in the letter from the Chief Planner to the Heads of Planning (2015). This letter advises that the Scottish Government target to generate at least 100 % of gross electricity consultation from renewables by 2020 does not place a cap on the support for renewable energy development, which includes onshore windfarms, should the target be reached.

142. As the 2020 targets are anticipated to be unmet, the proposed Development (which would not be operational before 2020), would make a valuable contribution to meeting any shortfall in the 2020 target, thereby reducing the length of time it remains unmet. In addition, it is repeatedly stated that the 2020 target is not a cap.

143. The international, UK and Scottish contexts set a framework of ambitious targets which should be met and exceeded if possible. It is considered that the international, UK and Scottish Renewable Energy Policy are all important considerations

and should be afforded significant weight in the decision making process. This approach is supported by the Reporter in the case of Windy Edge Appeal Decision (Reference PPA-140-2055, June 2016) who stated that: *“It seems to me that there is no doubt that there is strong support in Scottish Government planning and energy policy for further renewable energy developments, including new commercial scale wind farms”*.

144. Since Windy Edge the Scottish Government has published the SES 2017 and the OWPS 2017. These documents are clear that there is an intensification of the need for renewable energy developments and in particular onshore windfarm developments. There is a clear need for new projects to come forward as quickly as possible to meet the demand. This interpretation has been supported in the case of Pencloe Windfarm 2018 (Reference WIN-140-4) where the Reporter stated:

“I see no sign that the Scottish Government is slackening the pace; rather, the latest policy statements on energy and onshore wind indicate that the effort is being intensified. The latest target of generating 50% of energy from renewable sources by 2030 is a deliberately challenging one, which may require around 17GW of installed capacity by that date. The newly adopted Scottish Energy Strategy and the accompanying Onshore Wind Policy Statement are explicit that onshore wind will continue to play a vital role in that regard.

The Scottish Government’s latest energy strategy expects onshore wind to help decarbonise Scotland’s electricity, heat and transport systems, boost the economy, and meet demand.

I can only conclude that the Scottish Government remains firmly committed to the development of onshore wind energy, and that the relative success achieved so far in pursuit of renewable energy targets is not a persuasive argument against the future approval of new such schemes”.

145. The proposed Development would have an installed capacity of around 82 MW, which would make an important contribution to Scottish Government targets on renewable energy and carbon emission reductions. The announcement of new climate change targets in September 2019 has been made since the Pencloe decision and this further intensifies the clear need for renewable energy which is set out in a number of documents referred to by the Pencloe Reporter.

146. The proposed Development supports Scottish Government’s desire to see substantial growth in renewables (including onshore wind) with reducing dependence on financial support mechanisms, as set out in the SES 2017 and OWPS 2017. This is a challenging set of policy objectives, but the proposed Development seeks to meet these objectives whilst also ensuring the proposed Development is acceptable in terms of environmental impact and residential amenity considerations. The impacts of the proposed Development are considered in the EIA Report and summarised in this **Chapter 4** of Planning Statement.

4.1.3 The proposed Developments contribution to targets and national policy objectives.

147. It is expected that each wind turbine would have a rated capacity of between 5-6 megawatts (MW) giving a total installed capacity of around 62 MW. The proposed solar development would also generate around 20 MW giving a total energy output for the proposed Development of around 82 MW or 165 GWh of electricity annually. This equates to the annual power consumed by approximately 44,000 average UK households¹ (which is more than the half of the 74,687 homes in Dumfries and Galloway in 2017² (based on National Records of Scotland 2018).

148. In recent years, the onshore wind industry has experienced the reduction in supply of smaller turbines across Europe due to lack of demand from mainland Europe, where the tendency is to install turbines at higher tip heights (e.g. 175 – 240m to blade tip). Therefore, it is highly unlikely that a range of smaller turbines (e.g. 120m) would be available at competitive prices by the time the proposed Development is ready to be constructed. Larger, more productive turbines need to be considered if onshore wind development is to continue to make a contribution to both the UK and Scottish Government’s renewable energy targets.

149. Significant weight should be attached to the strong support of the Government for the development of renewable energy. The proposed Development draws considerable support from the policy material discussed in this Chapter and **Appendix 2** of this Planning Statement. In particular it would make a meaningful contribution towards targets for renewable energy and it is considered to be commercially viable in no small part due to the increased efficiency and additional production a larger

¹ Calculated using the most recent statistics from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) showing that annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,800 kWh (BEIS, 2019).

² Dumfries and Galloway Council Area Profile. Nrscotland.gov.uk. (2019). Available at: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/council-area-data-sheets/dumfries-and-galloway-council-profile.html#dwellings> [Accessed 27 Nov. 2019].

turbine would facilitate. This would help to deliver new onshore wind and solar capacity required to help the Scottish Government meet its climate goals and provide low-carbon power that will keep consumer bills down. In the event that the 2020 targets are not achieved, the proposed Development would contribute significantly to making up the shortfall and help create the circumstances which make future targets more achievable. In the increasingly unlikely event that the 2020 targets are met then the proposed Development would contribute significantly to post 2020 targets.

5 National Planning Policy

5.1 National Planning Framework (NPF3)

150. The National Planning Framework 3 (“NPF3”) was published on 23 June 2014. NPF3 is a long-term strategy for Scotland and is the spatial expression of the Government’s Economic Strategy and plans for development and investment in infrastructure. It is expected that the targets relating to renewable energy and the reduction of greenhouse gases which are stated in NPF3 will be updated and extended in the next version of NPF, following the lead given by the Energy Strategy. Together, NPF3 and Scottish Planning Policy SPP (2014), applied at the strategic and local levels, are intended to help the planning system deliver the Scottish Government’s vision and outcomes for Scotland and to contribute to the Government’s central purpose. SPP is further considered below.
151. The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 puts the NPF3 on a statutory footing and provides the national context for development plans and planning decisions, as well as informing programmes of the Scottish Government, public agencies and local authorities.
152. High level support for renewables is provided through the “vision” which is referred to as inter alia:
- A successful, sustainable place – *“we have a growing low carbon economy which provides opportunities...”*;
 - A low carbon place - *“we have seized the opportunities arising from our ambition to be a world leader in low carbon generation, both onshore and offshore...”*;
 - A natural resilient place - *“natural and cultural assets are respected; they are improving in condition and represent a sustainable economic, environmental and social resource for the nation...”*.
153. Further support is provided in Chapter 3 “A Low Carbon Place” which sets out the role that Planning will play in delivering the commitments set out in ‘Low Carbon Scotland: The Scottish Government’s Proposals and Policies’. It states that *“the priorities identified in this spatial strategy set a clear direction of travel which is consistent with our world leading climate legalisation”*.
154. The introduction to Chapter 3 states that the Scottish Government’s ambition “is to achieve at least an 80% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020” and paragraph 3.7 states onshore wind is “...recognised as an opportunity to improve the long-term resilience of rural communities.”. Paragraph 3.15 goes on to advise that the Scottish Government are aiming to achieve at least 500 MW of renewable energy in community and local ownership by 2020. The proposed Development is being brought forward with the opportunity for community investment.
155. Paragraph 3.7 of NPF3 states that the planned approach to onshore wind energy development has ensured that the proposed Development largely avoids internationally and nationally protected areas. It is also recognised that, whilst opinions about onshore wind in particular locations can vary, there is strong public support for wind energy as part of the energy mix.
156. In the section ‘Scotland tomorrow’, the Scottish Government 2020 targets of a reduction of 12 % in the total final energy demand, 30 % of overall energy demand from renewables and the generation of at least 100 % of gross electricity consumption are reaffirmed and the Electricity Generation Policy Statement 2013 sets out how these targets will be met.
157. Paragraph 3.9 states that *“We are making good progress in diversifying Scotland’s energy generation capacity, and lowering the carbon emissions associated with it, but more action is needed. Maintaining security of supplies and addressing fuel poverty remain key objectives. We want to continue to capitalise on our wind resource...”*.
158. In presenting an application that maximises the potential of an existing windfarm site to increase the capacity to generate electricity from two different renewable sources whilst respecting environmental considerations it is submitted that the proposed Development is seeking to capitalise on existing infrastructure and on the renewable energy resource of south west Scotland. Thereby meeting the aspirations of NPF3 paragraph 3.23 which states that *“onshore wind will continue to make a significant contribution to diversification of energy supplies”*. Note that NPF3 makes no reference to solar or the renewable energy mix.
159. In conclusion, it is clear that onshore wind development is recognised as a key technology in the energy mix which will contribute to Scotland becoming a low carbon place which in turn will be a key part of the ‘vision’ for Scotland (as set out at

paragraph. 1.2 of NPF3). Furthermore, the Scottish Government has made it unequivocally clear that it wants to continue to “*capitalise on our wind resource*”. The proposed Development would contribute to the 2020 renewable electricity and energy targets as set out in NPF3 and to longer term Government policy objectives and targets which have developed significantly since the NPF3 was adopted. There is now a greater imperative for the consenting and deployment of renewables (see **Section 4.1** above).

160. NPF3 provides strong support for developments such as the proposed Development.

5.2 Scottish Planning Policy

161. The SPP was published on 23 June 2014. The purpose of SPP is to set out national planning policies which reflect Scottish Government Ministers’ priorities for the operation of the planning system, and for the development and use of land. As is the case with NPF 3 it is expected that the targets relating to renewable energy and the reduction of greenhouse gases which are provided in the current SPP will be updated and extended in the next version of SPP, following the lead of Energy Policy contained in the SES and OWPS.

5.2.1 SPP Vision

162. The introduction of SPP sets out planning outcomes which are designed to explain how planning should support the vision of the SPP. Three of the four are considered to be relevant to the consideration of the proposed Development. These are:

- Outcome 1: A successful sustainable place;
- Outcome 2: A low carbon place; and
- Outcome 3: A natural resilient place.

163. Outcome 2 is perhaps the most relevant and it explains that NPF3 will facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy, particularly by supporting diversification in the energy sector. Paragraph 18 of SPP refers to the 2009 Act which sets a target of reducing greenhouse emissions by at least 80 % by 2050 and an interim target of reducing emissions by at least 42 % by 2020. This target has now been met, however the Scottish Government has announced further carbon emission targets in the 2017 Climate Change Plan as described in **Appendix 2** of this Planning Statement. This sets out the requirement, in Section 44 of the 2009 Act, for all public bodies to act in the following ways:

- in the best way calculated to contribute to the delivery of emissions targets in the 2009 Act;
- in the best way calculated to help deliver the Governments climate change adaption programme; and
- in a way that it considers is most sustainable.

164. In the cases of Corlic Hill Windfarm (Reference PPA-280-2022, May 2016) and Windy Edge Windfarm (Reference PPA-140-2055, June 2016) the Reporters placed significant weight on the benefits of projects with the potential to generate substantially less than the proposed Development (16 and 22.5 MW respectively compared to 82 MW). In the case of Corlic Hill the Reporter found that the output of the proposed windfarm represented “*a valuable contribution to Scottish, UK and international targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction and the use of renewable energy*”. He went on to conclude that “*it would also potentially assist in providing greater security of supply in the Scottish energy market by potentially displacing imported energy*”.

165. It is submitted that the proposed Development would make a valuable contribution to Scottish, UK and international targets for greenhouse gas emission reduction, and the use of renewable energy.

5.2.2 SPP Principle Policies

SPP sets out 2 Principal Policies – Sustainability and Place Making. In the context of sustainability paragraph 24 states that: “*The Scottish Government’s central purpose is to focus government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth*”. Where sustainable economic growth is defined as: “*building a dynamic and growing economy that will provide prosperity and opportunities for all, while ensuring that future generations can enjoy a better quality of life too*”.

166. Paragraph 4 of SPP is clear that the planning service should seek to focus on outcomes, maximising benefits and balancing competing interests. It is submitted that the proposed Development does achieve a balance of maximising the potential of the Site whilst respecting the environmental constraints and the impact on landscape.

5.2.3 SPP Presumption in Favour of Development

167. SPP creates a presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development. Sustainable development is focussed on throughout the SPP. Paragraph 28 advises that: *“the planning system should support economically, environmentally and socially sustainable places by enabling development that balances the costs and benefits of the proposal over the longer term. The aim is to achieve the right development in the right place; it is not to allow development at any cost”*.
168. As set out above, the proposed Development satisfies the principles set out at paragraph 29 of SPP and it would assist in delivering Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 – indicating that overall the proposed Development is consistent with sustainable development. SPP sets out a clear presumption in favour of proposals that contribute to sustainable development. Furthermore, the proposed Development is considered to be acceptable when considered against the development management considerations in relation to renewable energy developments as set out at paragraph 169 of SPP.
169. The proposed Development would contribute to sustainable development and as a result, paragraph 33 of SPP is engaged and the planning balance should be ‘tilted’ in its favour i.e. in favour of giving consent.
170. It is submitted that the proposed Development is considered to be appropriately located and balances the environmental effects with the energy benefits in an acceptable manner. This is evidenced in the overall planning appraisal undertaken from **Section 5.2.5** which outlines that the significant impacts that would arise would not significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits.

5.2.4 SPP Development Management

171. Paragraph 29 of SPP assists by setting out that policies and decisions should be guided by a number of principles. Those of relevance are listed in Table 4.2 below together with a summary response of the extent to which the proposed Development is consistent or otherwise with the respective principle:

Policy Principal	Kilgallioch Windfarm Extension
Giving due weight to net economic benefit.	There would be net positive socio-economic effects, as summarised in Chapter 13 Socioeconomics, Tourism and Recreation of the EIA Report.
Respond to economic issues, challenges and opportunities, outlined in local economic strategies.	The proposal fits with the drive to encourage renewable energy development in Dumfries and Galloway (and South Ayrshire) and would provide local and national economic benefits. See Section 5.2.8 of this Planning Statement for further details.
Supporting good design and the six qualities of successful places.	Limited relevance - but a successful layout has been achieved that fits with landscape character and local context without unacceptable effects. See Section 5.2.8 of this Planning Statement for further details.
Making efficient use of existing capacities of land, buildings and infrastructure including supporting town centre and regeneration priorities.	The proposed Development is adjacent to the operational Kilgallioch Windfarm and as such, makes efficient use of the existing land by maximising the use of the existing access tracks, operation compound and substation. This practice would minimise the creation of infrastructure and associated environmental impact. The proposals maximise the capacity of an existing site.
Supporting delivery of infrastructure, for example transport, education, energy, digital and water.	The proposal would deliver energy infrastructure.
Supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation including taking account of flood risk.	The proposed Development would help to support climate change mitigation by replacing fossil fuel energy generation with renewable energy, thereby reducing emissions of climate changing gases. A flood risk assessment was undertaken to support the design of the proposed Development.
Improving health and well-being by offering opportunities for	The proposal would provide opportunities for recreation on access tracks; see Chapter 13 Socioeconomics, Tourism and Recreation of the EIA Report for further details.

Policy Principal	Kilgallioch Windfarm Extension
social interaction and physical activity, including sport and recreation.	
Having regard to the principles for sustainable land use set out in the Land Use Strategy.	The Land Use Strategy (2016-21) is a key commitment in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. The Strategy cross refers to development plans and their policies such as landscape protection, biodiversity, and renewable energy development which, through planning decision making will help deliver the Strategy and the principles for sustainable land use. Table 1 of SPP sets out spatial framework requirements for onshore wind development in three groups. The proposal would contribute positively to climate change action and demonstrate care for the landscape by being predominantly in a 'Group 3' location. This is discussed in detail in Section 5.2.7 below.

Table 4.2: Scottish Renewable Energy Targets

173. The remaining principles in SPP relate to town centre and regeneration priorities and specifically housing, business, retail uses, and waste management and resource recovery etc. and are of no relevance to the proposed Development.
174. Under the heading Development Management, Paragraph 32 of SPP states, *“the presumption in favour of sustainable development does not change the statutory status of the Development Plan as the starting point for decision-making. Proposals that accord with up-to-date plans should be considered acceptable in principle and consideration should focus on the detailed matters arising”*.
175. Paragraph 33 of SPP advises that if the Development Plan is over five years old, the relevant policies are out of date; if there are no relevant policies then the presumption in favour of sustainable development is a significant material consideration. As the Local Development Plan was adopted in October 2019 this requirement is not triggered; however, it is not given primacy as the application for consent is made under the Electricity Act 1989.
176. Therefore, in this case, the following can be concluded:
- the Development Plan is up to date but it is not given primacy as the application for consent is made under the Electricity Act;
 - as set out in Table 4.2 above, the proposed Development is considered to be in line with the principles set out in paragraph 29 of SPP; and
 - as set out throughout the Planning Statement and EIA Report, it is considered the benefits of the proposed Development would outweigh its impacts.
177. Accordingly, the presumption in favour of sustainable development is a material consideration and the planning balance should be tilted in its favour.
178. SPP goes into specific details of individual topics. An analysis of these and the degree to which the proposed Development meets the requirements is provided below.

5.2.5 SPP Scheduled Monuments

179. SPP paragraph 145 relates to Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and is applied only to such designated sites. The SPP Glossary definition for SMs advises that they are:

“Archaeological sites, buildings or structures of national or international importance. The purpose of scheduling is to secure the long term legal protection of the monument in the national interest, in-situ and as far as possible in its existing state and within an appropriate setting”.

180. Paragraph 145 of SPP states:

“Where there is potential for a proposed development to have an adverse effect on a scheduled monument or on the integrity of its setting, permission should only be granted where there are exceptional circumstances. Where a proposal would have a

direct impact on a scheduled monument, the written consent of Scottish Ministers, via a separate process is required in addition to any other consents required for the development”.

181. It is understood from paragraph 145 of SPP, and the definition of SMs in the accompanying glossary, that SMs should be preserved within an ‘appropriate setting’; and, that development proposals should avoid adverse effects on the ‘integrity’ of those settings. The EIA Report **Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage** predicts a residual effect of **Moderate** significance on the setting of one Scheduled Monument: Wood Cairn, cairn, Eldrig Fell (SM1953), noting in paragraph 72 that *“The integrity of the hilltop setting would be uncompromised, and it would remain possible for any visitor to read the integrity of the wider landscape setting”.*

182. Taking account of the existing baseline of windfarm development in the area, it is considered that the integrity of the SM is not jeopardised by the proposed Development. The SM has open views across the surrounding area, the majority of which already include turbines; these being visible in most directions in views from the SM. Therefore, views out over the surrounding landscape from the SM are retained and are not obscured or obstructed. Additionally, views of the SM are not affected as the SM remains the most dominant feature on the hilltop and easily recognisable to any visitor. As such, the integrity of the SM’s setting (considered to be the appreciation of views to and from the SM and its hilltop location) would not be compromised by the introduction of the proposed Development in the surrounding landscape.

5.2.6 SPP A Low Carbon Place

183. SPP contains a number of subject policies; one of these is A Low Carbon Place. The importance that the role of NPF3 places on the transition to a low carbon economy is highlighted in paragraph 152. Paragraph 153 of SPP advises that terrestrial planning facilitates the development of renewable energy technologies, links generation with consumers and guides new infrastructure to appropriate locations. It advises that efficient supply of low carbon and low cost generation of electricity from renewable resources are vital to reducing greenhouse gases. It also advises that renewable energy presents a significant opportunity for associated development, investment and growth in the supply chain.

184. In Paragraph 154 the SPP states (inter alia) that:

“The planning system should:

- *support the transformational change to a low carbon economy, consistent with national objectives and targets, including deriving:*
- *30% of overall energy demand from renewable sources by 2020*;*
- *11% of heat demand from renewable sources by 2020; and*
- *the equivalent of 100% of electricity demand from renewable sources by 2020;*
- *support the development of a diverse range of electricity generation from renewable energy technologies - including the expansion of renewable energy generation capacity - and the development of heat networks;*
- *guide development to appropriate locations and advise on the issues that will be taken into account when specific proposals are being assessed;”*

185. * It should be noted that the Scottish Government now have a target of 50 % of overall energy demand to be met from renewable sources by 2030. The proposed Development would make a valuable contribution towards meeting targets set out in SPP and beyond.

5.2.7 SPP Onshore Wind Spatial Framework

186. Onshore wind is specifically considered in SPP starting at paragraph 161. SPP advises that Planning Authorities should set out in the Development Plan a spatial framework identifying areas likely to be most appropriate for onshore windfarms where there is the greatest potential for onshore wind development. Table 1 of SPP, which sets out the spatial framework requirements, is provided as Table 5.1.

Group 1: Areas where wind farms will not be acceptable:

National Parks and National Scenic Areas.

Group 2: Areas of significant protection:

Recognising the need for significant protection, in these areas wind farms may be appropriate in some circumstances. Further consideration will be required to demonstrate that any significant effects on the qualities of these areas can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation.

National and international designations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage Sites; • Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites; • Sites of Special Scientific Interest; • National Nature Reserves; • Sites identified in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes; • Sites identified in the Inventory of Historic Battlefields. 	Other nationally important mapped environmental interests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas of wild land as shown on the 2014 SNH map of wild land areas; • carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat. 	Community separation for consideration of visual impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an area not exceeding 2 km around cities, towns and villages identified on the local development plan with an identified settlement envelope or edge. The extent of the area will be determined by the planning authority based on landform and other features which restrict views out from the settlement.
<p>Group 3: Areas with potential for wind farm development: Beyond groups 1 and 2, wind farms are likely to be acceptable, subject to detailed consideration against identified policy criteria.</p>		

Table 5.1: Spatial Frameworks

188. In terms of Table 1, above, approximately 60% of the Development Site falls within Group 3 'Areas with potential for wind farm development' with the remainder falling within Group 2 'Areas of significant protection' due to areas of Class 1 peat (based on the SNH Carbon and Peatlands Map (2016)) being present within the west, central and far south eastern parts of the Development Site. However, it is considered that significant effects on such peat have been overcome through the design evolution and mitigation measures (see **Chapter 7: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils** of the EIA Report).

189. Accordingly, the Development Site, in effect, is considered to function as a site within Group 3: 'Areas with potential for wind farm development'. This approach was taken by the Reporter in the Cnoc an Eas Wind Farm decision (PPA-270-2155). The Reporter set out in para. 111 that:

“the Appeal site straddles an ‘area of significant protection’ (Group 2) and an ‘area with potential for wind energy development’ (Group 3). The Group 2 area is identified as such on the basis of SNH’s Carbon and Peatland Map, which shows peat and carbon rich soils within the site boundary. However, there is no issue with this constraint at the Appeal site, so it can be reasonably regarded as Group 3 in terms of the Spatial Framework.”

190. In conclusion, the application site does not lie within any 'Group 1' areas, or within any national and international designations for ecology, ornithology, cultural heritage or wild land (Group 2 areas). The site is predominantly located within Group 3 and the design approach and site specific surveys have sought to identify and avoid areas of deep peat and priority peatland habitat. Accordingly, the Site is considered to have the properties of a site within Group 3: 'Areas with potential for wind farm development'.

5.2.8 SPP Assessment of criteria set out in Paragraph 169

191. Para. 169 of SPP states that proposals for windfarms should always take into account Spatial Frameworks for wind energy developments. It adds that considerations will vary relative to the scale of a proposal and area characteristics, but are likely to include:

- *“net economic impact, including local and community socio-economic benefits such as employment, associated business and supply chain opportunities;*
- *the scale of contribution to renewable energy generation targets;*
- *effect on greenhouse gas emissions;*
- *cumulative impacts – planning authorities should be clear about the likely cumulative impacts arising from all of the considerations below ...;*
- *impacts on communities and individual dwellings, including visual impact, residential amenity, noise and shadow flicker;*
- *landscape and visual impacts, including effects on wild land;*
- *effects on the natural heritage, including birds;*
- *impacts on carbon rich soils, using the carbon calculator;*
- *public access, including impact on long distance walking and cycling routes and scenic routes identified in the NPF;*
- *impacts on the historic environment, including scheduled monuments, listed buildings and their settings;*
- *impacts on tourism and recreation;*
- *impacts on aviation and defence interests and seismological recording;*
- *impacts on telecommunications and broadcasting installations, particularly ensuring that transmission links are not compromised;*

- *impacts on road traffic;*
- *impacts on adjacent trunk roads;*
- *effects on hydrology, the water environment and flood risk;*
- *the need for conditions relating to the decommissioning of developments, including ancillary infrastructure, and site restoration;*
- *opportunities for energy storage;*
- *the need for a robust planning obligation to ensure that operators achieve site restoration.”*

192. These criteria cover and go beyond the matters which are identified in Schedule 9 for consideration in S36 applications.

193. The following text of this Planning Statement summarises the key findings of the environmental effects of the proposed Development which are presented in the EIA Report submitted as part of the application in the context of the 19 criteria set out above. This demonstrates that the matters referred in Schedule 9 of the 1989 Act have been considered by the Applicant. This Section of the Planning Statement considers the technical tests for the proposed Development and for ease of reference they are ordered as per the 19 criteria set out in SPP paragraph 169.

Net Economic Impact (Criterion 1, SPP Paragraph 169)

194. SPR have a clear track record of delivering economic benefit as a result of their developments across Scotland and in particular the south west. The BVG Report (September 2017) 'Economic Benefits from Onshore Wind' (BVG Associates, 2017), sets out some of the economic benefits that have been realised as a result of the investments that SPR have made in south west Scotland. From this it is evident from recent SPR experience, including the eight windfarms in south west Scotland subject of the BVG report, that suppliers of a wide range of goods and services within Dumfries and Galloway, South Ayrshire and Scotland as a whole would obtain benefit from the proposed Development. The eight windfarms recently constructed will result in a £1.6 billion lifetime investment with 66% of this within the UK. The study showed that, for these windfarms alone, investment in the local area amounted to £257 million, in addition to which the schemes generated £297 million GVA and created 7,768 local full time equivalent (FTE) jobs. Other economic benefits include direct payment to community benefit schemes amounting to over £59 million over the 25-year lifetime of the windfarms.

195. As noted previously, **Chapter 13: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism** of the EIA Report anticipates that the windfarm component of the proposed Development could generate up to £18.6 million Gross Value Added (GVA) and 289 years of employment in Scotland (including £4.0 million GVA and 60 years of employment in Dumfries and Galloway and South Ayrshire). During its operations, the windfarm component could generate up to £0.6 million GVA per year and 9 jobs in Scotland (including £0.4 million GVA per year and 6 jobs in Dumfries and Galloway and South Ayrshire). The solar installation would generate additional economic benefits during construction and operation.

196. Should the proposed Development gain planning permission SPR is committed to offering a package of community benefits to local communities that would include the opportunity for the community to invest in the operational development. SPR would discuss with local stakeholders which communities would be the appropriate 'Community Organisations' to participate.

197. If the community were to invest in the proposed Development it is expected that any proposed income streams could provide a long term, flexible revenue which could be used to support community projects local to the proposed Development. 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.

198. As noted in **paragraphs 91 to 96** above, a package of community benefits would be made available, should the proposed Development gain consent.

Contribution to Renewable Energy Generation Targets (Criterion 2, SPP Paragraph 169)

199. As discussed in **Sections 4 and 5** of this Planning Statement, the proposed Development would assist with the achievement of the UK and Scottish Government policies which set targets for renewable electricity generation. The proposed Development would make a valuable contribution to the current targets. Governments at Westminster and Holyrood have made clear their ongoing commitment to the decarbonisation of electricity generation and the proposal would contribute to this policy objective.

200. The proposed Development would have a total installed capacity of around 82 MW (subject to technology procurement). This means that the proposed Development would produce approximately 165 GWh of electricity annually; which equates to the power consumed by approximately 44,000 homes.

201. The scale of the proposed turbines and inclusion of ground mounted solar arrays means that potential of the Site is being maximised to its full generation potential while carefully balancing the environmental impacts to ensure that the proposed Development is environmentally acceptable.

202. It is concluded that the proposed Development would make a valuable and meaningful contribution to government targets. This view is in keeping with Reporters and Scottish Ministers decisions on other renewable energy projects.

Effect on Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Criterion 3, SPP Paragraph 169)

203. The proposed Development would make a valuable and significant contribution towards UK national generation targets and the reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases, principally Carbon Dioxide in becoming carbon neutral in less than three years. The proposed Development would make Scotland, and therefore the UK, less reliant on imported and price-volatile fossil fuels by generating energy to supply domestic needs of households.

204. The potential savings in CO₂ emissions due to the proposed turbines replacing other electricity sources over its lifetime (assumed to be 40 years for the purpose of the carbon calculator) are approximately:

- 132,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year over coal-fired electricity (5.28 million tonnes assuming a 40-year lifetime for the purposes of the carbon calculator);
- 36,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year over grid-mix of electricity (1.44 million tonnes assuming a 40-year lifetime for the purposes of the carbon calculator); or
- 65,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year over a fossil fuel mix of electricity (2.6 million tonnes assuming a 40-year lifetime for the purpose of the calculator).

205. The solar array would have a displacement of around 5,214 tonnes of CO₂ per year over a fossil fuel mix of electricity (208,560 tonnes assuming a 40 year lifetime). It is concluded that the proposed Development would make a valuable and meaningful contribution to the reduction of Greenhouse gas emissions.

Cumulative Impacts (Criterion 4, SPP Paragraph 169)

206. The cumulative impact of the proposed Development has been considered in the EIA process. In particular it has been considered in the context of landscape, ecology, ornithology, noise, and cultural heritage and is addressed in Chapters 6, 8, 9, 10, and respectively. The windfarms within 20 km of the proposed Development considered in the EIA Report include the following:

- Arecleoch (operational);
- Arecleoch Extension (in planning);
- Aries Farm (operational);
- Artfield Fell (operational);
- Balmurie Fell (operational);
- Carscreugh (operational);
- Chirmorie (consented);
- Clauchrie (in planning);
- Glen App (operational)
- Glenchamber (operational);
- Kilgallioch (operational);
- Mark Hill (operational);
- Stranoch 1 (consented); and
- Stranoch 2 (in planning).

Landscape

207. The potential for cumulative impacts as a result of the proposed Development is carefully considered in the EIA Report at **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment**. That chapter concludes that on balance, when considering the addition of the proposed Development to the consented situation, the degree of change predicted for the proposed Development against the existing baseline is not significant.

208. It advises that the cumulative magnitude of change in all instances is Negligible resulting in a Not Significant cumulative effect.

Ecology and Ornithology

209. The potential for cumulative impacts as a result of the proposed Development on ecology and ornithology are considered in the EIA Report at **Chapter 8: Ecology** and **Chapter 9: Ornithology** respectively. In the case of both no significant cumulative impacts are predicted as a result of the proposed Development.

Cultural Heritage

210. **Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage** of the EIA Report considered schemes that are under construction or operational within the environmental baseline. Developments that are consented but not yet under construction and those that are the subject of valid planning applications were considered as being potential additions to the baseline and are considered in the cumulative impact assessment.
211. The chapter concludes that there would be no new cumulative impacts in addition to those predicted as a result of the proposed Development alone. There are no developments that are at the application stage that would, in combination with the proposed Development, give rise to significant adverse effects on additional cultural heritage assets considered in this assessment.

Noise

212. The potential for noise to cause an unacceptable impact cumulatively has been carefully considered as part of the design process in the EIA Report at **Chapter 10: Noise**. The low operational noise limit predicted for the proposed Development acting alone (30 dB L_{A90}) ensures that even if operational noise from other windfarm developments resulted in noise at receptor locations at 40 dB L_{A90}, the addition of the proposed Development would not add significantly to overall noise levels. As such, and as agreed with DGC, detailed cumulative noise predictions were not required, and the cumulative operational noise is determined to be not significant.

Summary of Cumulative Impacts

213. It is concluded that the cumulative effects of the proposed Development are considered to be acceptable.

Impacts on Communities and Individual Dwellings (Criterion 5, SPP Paragraph 169) Economic Impact

214. The proposed Development offers the opportunity for economic benefit to the local community. As noted in **paragraphs 91 to 96** above, a package of community benefits would be made available, should the proposed Development gain consent.
215. Benefits would accrue from the scale and nature of the proposed income streams, which would include the proposed Development, and, depending on the choices made, could have a positive effect on the physical and mental wellbeing of local residents as well as economic benefits. The long-term nature of the income, arising from community benefit, would allow the community to plan ahead, to draw in other sources of match funding to maximise the benefits and investment projects could be designed to match local priorities.

Landscape - Residential Visual Amenity

216. Some significant landscape and visual effects, as a result of any proposed renewable energy development incorporating wind turbines, are unavoidable. Wind turbines proposed within 2km of residential properties has the potential to cause significant visual effects on properties.
217. In this instance, the upland landscape of the Site and immediately surrounding landscape context is sparsely populated, with extensive areas of either remote moorland or commercial coniferous woodland with few individual properties. There are no properties within 2 km of the proposed turbine locations. As such, due to the absence of receptors there was no requirement to undertake a Residential Visual Amenity Study for the proposed Development.

Noise

218. The potential for noise to impact on the local community and individual properties has been carefully considered as part of the design iteration process. **Chapter 10: Noise** of the EIA Report concludes that construction activities would be a sufficient distance from residential receptors to avoid significant impacts. As such, no specific mitigation measures are considered to be required other than that deemed necessary under normal best practice.
219. An operational noise limit of 30 dB LA90 was derived for the proposed Development which would ensure noise from the proposed Development does not add significantly to cumulative noise from other consented windfarms in the area, and to ensure that cumulative noise levels remain within relevant ETSU-R-97 noise limits. The results of the assessments undertaken in support of the EIA indicate that operational noise levels at the nearest residential receptors are at least 3 dB below the adopted 30 dB L_{A90} noise limit, and therefore no significant operational effects are predicted.

Shadow Flicker

220. The Scottish Government Online Guidance (Scottish Government, 2014) refers to 10 rotor diameters as the distance above which shadow flicker should not be a problem, any properties within this area are assumed to be most at risk of shadow flicker effects. The potential for the proposed Development to result in shadow flicker was scoped out of the EIA as there are no properties within 1,500 m of each of the Proposed Development turbine locations. Further details are available in **Chapter 14: Other Issues** of the EIA Report.

Private Water Supplies

221. Consultation with Dumfries and Galloway Council's (DGC's) Environmental Health Officer identified no known Private Water Supplies within influencing distance of any proposed infrastructure. No Private Water Supplies were identified from other desk study or Site survey works. Further details are available in **Chapter 7: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils** of the EIA Report.

Traffic

222. **Chapter 12: Access, Traffic and Transport** of the EIA Report considers the impact of the proposed Development on the local community. The proposed Development would be accessed directly from the existing Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm access junction off the A714 at Wheeb Bridge. The existing access junction would be widened to accommodate the proposed larger turbines.
223. Discussions with SPR were held to review the transport experiences of the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm site. These discussions centred around likely points of origin for materials to assist in developing a suitable study network.
224. Strategic access to the A714 is available from the A75 trunk road network to the south. Access between the A75 is made either through the town of Newton Stewart or via a bypass of the town to the west. All construction traffic would be diverted along this bypass to reduce the impact on the local population as far as possible.
225. The A714 does not have any pedestrian or cyclist infrastructure near the site access junction and as such, active travel activity is considered to be very low at this location.
226. A review of the Sustrans cycle network plan of the United Kingdom indicates that there are no National Cycle Routes on the A714 or within the vicinity of the site. The Dumfries and Galloway Council cycle map indicates that the nearest cycle network interaction with the proposed delivery route is located at the junction between the A75 and Newton Stewart bypass.
227. A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) would be prepared prior to the commencement of the proposed Development and this CTMP would be agreed with Dumfries and Galloway Council.
228. The assessment confirms that effects would not be significant and that they would be transitory in nature and are confined to the construction period only. No long lasting detrimental transport or access issues are associated with the proposed Development.

Summary of impacts on communities and individual properties- criterion 5 of SPP of Paragraph 169

229. No significant effects have been identified through the EIA process in respect of potential impacts on communities and individual dwellings. It is acknowledged that careful management of construction traffic would be required and this would be achieved via the CTMP.
230. In summary, the package of community benefits would result in positive impacts to the activities it supports. In addition, significant impacts are not anticipated in relation to residential visual amenity, noise, shadow flicker, private water supplies or traffic.
231. It is therefore concluded that there are no effects on local communities and individual dwellings that mean that the proposed Development is unacceptable.

Landscape and Visual Impacts (Criterion 6, SPP Paragraph 169)

232. An assessment of the landscape and visual impacts (LVIA) of the proposed Development has been undertaken as part of the EIA process. The assessment is included in the EIA Report at **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment**.

Visual Effects

233. The assessment of effects on views has been informed by a series of 17 viewpoints that were selected, in agreement with SNH and Dumfries and Galloway Council, to represent visibility from a range of receptors and distances throughout the study area. **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment** advises that all of the significant visual effects are identified as typically occurring within 3-4 km from the nearest proposed turbine. These are limited to the following viewpoints: Viewpoint 01 - Eldrig Fell; Viewpoint 02 - SUW (Knockniehourie); Viewpoint 03 - SUW (Craig Airie Fell); and Viewpoint 04 - SUW (West of Derry). In all other areas, the EIA Report concludes that effects on visual receptors would be Not Significant.
234. The limited visual effects are considered to be acceptable when considered against the benefits of the scheme.

Impact on Landscape Character

235. The LVIA has identified significant effects for localised parts of the landscape character areas that cover the Site and its immediate surroundings.
236. **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment** concludes that the addition of the proposed Development would increase the extent of a 'landscape with windfarms' characteristic for the immediately surrounding landscape context and the historic land-use characteristic within the localised site area would be partly diminished. Significant effects within the Plateau Moorland with Forest LCT (17a), Glentroot unit would extend to around 2-3 km from around the site boundary. The significant effects are highly localised in this way because the introduction of large scale wind turbines, associated infrastructure and solar array to an area of moorland landscape that already contains such an extensive amount of other large-scale windfarm development substantially moderates the magnitude of change in the wider area of the host LCT and also at the neighbouring edges of other nearby LCTs.
237. At greater distances, the effect on landscape character would not be significant due to the level of screening from intervening landform such as upland ridgelines and interconnecting hills that contain views of the Site from the surrounding landscape.
238. The effects of the proposed Development on landscape character are considered to be acceptable.

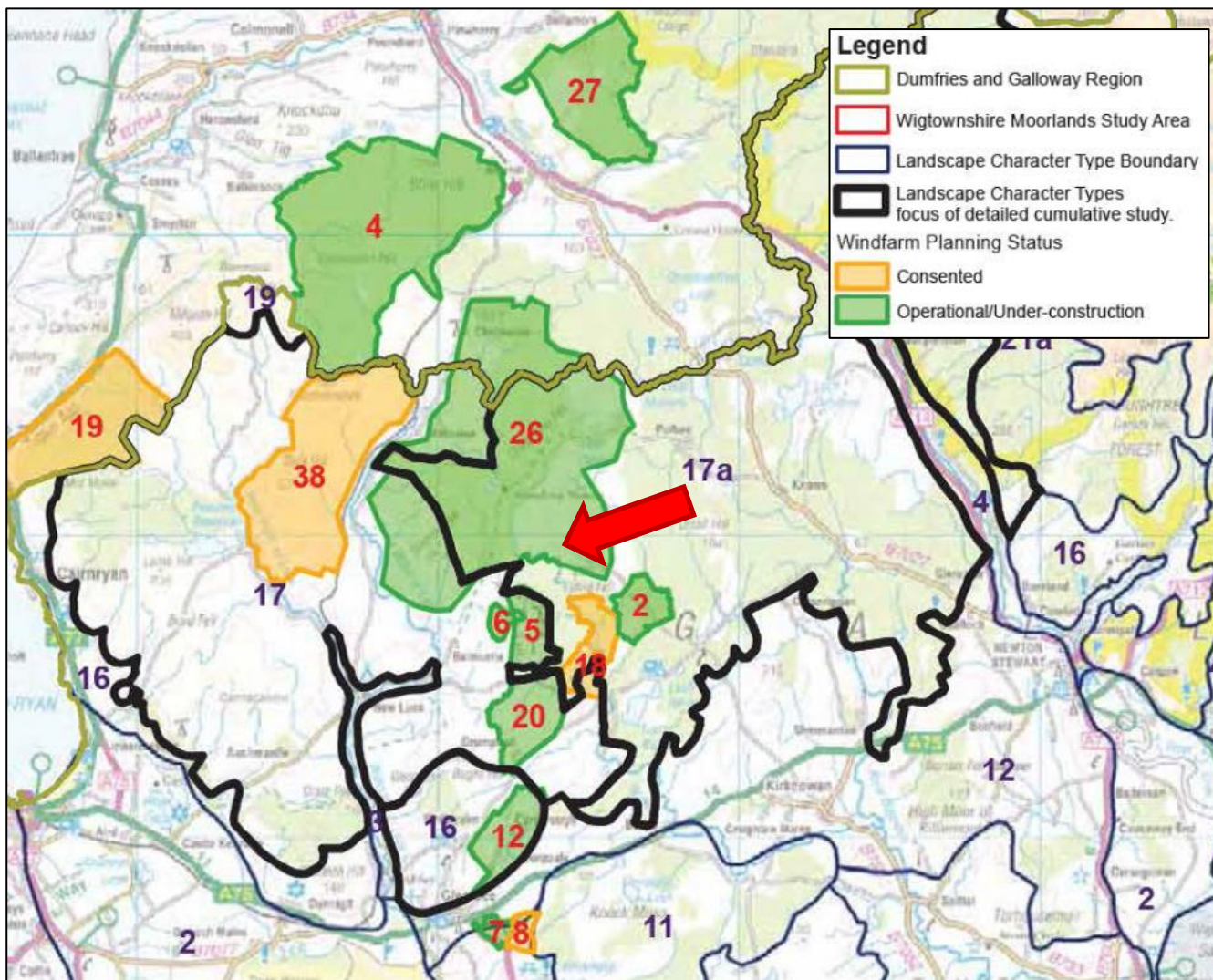
Impact on Landscape Designations

239. The Site is not located in any area designated for landscape reasons. The following designated areas are considered in the EIA Report at **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment**.
- Dumfries and Galloway Regional Scenic Areas (RSAs) – Galloway Hills, Rhins Coast and Mochrum Lochs;
 - South Ayrshire Scenic Area (SA) – the SAs are not named, the closest part of the SA lies to the north of the site within the Duisk Valley; and
 - Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) – there are 3 GDLs within the 20 km study area - Castle Kennedy GDL; Lochryan GDL; and Glenapp GDL.
240. None of the landscape designations within the 20 km study area were found to have significant effects as a result of the proposed Development. It is also considered that the Galloway Forest Park, Merrick Wild Land Area or Dark Sky Park do not have potential for significant effects.

Landscape Capacity

241. The Dumfries and Galloway *Wind Farm Landscape Capacity Study* (DGWLCS) was adopted in June 2017 and formed part of the DGC 2014 Local Development Plan (prior to it being superseded by the LDP2). The DGWLCS is currently annexed to supplementary guidance which is intended to be approved by DGC and then submitted to the Scottish Government. It is therefore an important document.
242. The proposed Development is located within the Plateau Moorlands with Forest (17a) LCT, Glentroot unit, which the DGWLCS has assessed as having a High sensitivity to the very large typology development (>150 metres high).
243. In the section on 'Scope for additional larger typologies' DGWLCS states that "*There is some limited scope to consolidate the association of existing more successfully sited large wind farm development with extensive, sparsely settled landscapes with a predominantly simple landform and land cover by directing new wind farm developments to similar landscapes*". The proposed Development site shares these expansive, sparsely settled, simple landform and simple land cover landscape characteristics advocated as suitable for additional larger typologies by DGWLCS.

244. The EIA Report **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment** considers that the proposed Development site clearly fits with the DGWLCs advice to “consolidate” ... “by directing new wind farm developments to similar landscapes”, not least due to the Site being included within the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm on Figure 8 of the LDP Wind Energy SG. In this way it is contended that the DGWLCs has acknowledged that the proposed Development site area lies within the ‘successfully sited’ Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm area. In addition, the design process for the proposed Development sought to ensure that the proposed turbines would be a good fit with existing turbine development in the area.



Graphic 1: Extract from *Figure 8 of the Dumfries and Galloway Wind Farm Landscape Capacity Study* (DGC, 2017). Proposed Development location shown by red arrow.

245. In summary, it is considered that there is scope for windfarm development within the landscape. The proposed Development would appear set back into the core area of the broad upland plateau and would appear to sit within the large scale commercial forestry that often creates a forested skyline from many views in the surrounding area.

246. From the surrounding landscape, the proposed Development would appear on the skyline, in a similar way to the existing windfarm development and would therefore relate to the same pattern of development and characteristic of the plateau landscape, creating a consistent image that limits visual confusion and reinforces the appropriateness of the location for windfarm development.

247. It is considered that the landscape is capable of accommodating the proposed Development, and that significant effects on the existing landscape character or visual amenity are limited in number and extent.

Summary of Landscape and Visual Impacts - Criterion 6 of SPP Paragraph 169

248. **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment** of the EIA Report advises that whilst there would be some significant effects identified on both landscape and visual receptors within the study area, it is evident from this assessment that due to the site selection and careful design, the extent of significant landscape and visual effects have been minimised.

249. It is acknowledged that there would be significant impacts on landscape and visual amenity as a result of the proposed Development. The design has been subject to a comprehensive review process, to ensure that as far as reasonable landscape and visual impacts of the proposed Development have been mitigated and avoided.

250. The final design of the proposed Development has minimised effects within the wider landscape resource and ensured that the proposed Development has an appropriate landscape fit within the scale of the host landscape types and wider surrounding landscape context. It is considered that there is capacity for the proposed Development in this part of Dumfries and Galloway.

251. For the reasons that are set out in the DAS, the EIA Report and this Planning Statement the proposed Development is considered to be, on balance, acceptable in landscape terms.

Effects on the Natural Heritage, Including Birds (Criterion 7 SPP Paragraph 169)

252. The Site is not located within any international, national or local ecology or ornithological designations. **Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity** of the EIA Report identifies the ecology designated sites in the vicinity of the proposed Development. It advises that there are no statutory designated sites within the Site, other than a small overlap with the SAC. There are three statutory designated sites within a 5 km radius of the Site which are detailed in **Table 8.4** and illustrated in **Figure 8.1** of the EIA Report.

253. **Chapter 9: Ornithology** of the EIA Report advises that the nearest designated areas for birds are the Glen App and Galloway Moors Special Protection Area (SPA) (approximately 7.5 km west at its nearest point) which is designated for breeding hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*).

254. An extensive suite of ecology and ornithology surveys have been undertaken and the results of these have been provided in the EIA Report at **Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity** and **Chapter 9: Ornithology** respectively. The presence of ecological features have been carefully considered as part of the design iteration process for the proposed Development; as outlined in **Chapter 3: Siting and Design**.

255. In the case of ecology, it is concluded that there would be no significant impacts on any ecological features subject to the inclusion of the appropriate mitigation which is detailed in the EIA Report. This includes habitats and fauna. It is anticipated that the implementation of a Habitat Management Plan would focus on restoration of wet modified bog that would lead to a net positive impact during construction and operation. In the case of ornithology, it is concluded, the likely effects of the proposed Development are not significant under the terms of the EIA Regulations. The non-significant effects which have been predicted on natural heritage, including birds, are considered to be acceptable.

256. The impacts of the proposed Development on natural heritage resources are therefore considered to be acceptable.

Impacts on Carbon Rich Soils, Using the Carbon Calculator (Criterion 8, SPP Paragraph 169)

257. EIA Report **Chapter 14: Other Issues** provides data on the effects of carbon emission from construction anticipated as a result of the proposed Development.

258. Each unit of renewably generated electricity would displace a unit of conventionally generated electricity, therefore, saving power station emissions. Table 14.3.1 of the EIA Report provides a breakdown of the estimated emissions displaced per annum and over the assumed (for the purposes of calculation) 40-year lifespan. The online calculation tool³ (project reference J8AL-WNTQ-CUND) Version 1.6.0 is the current model and was used in this assessment.

³ <https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/CarbonCalculator/index.jsp>

259. The calculations of total carbon dioxide emission savings and payback time for the proposed Development indicates the overall payback period of the proposed Development, over a 40-year period, would be approximately 2.6 years, when compared to the fossil fuel mix of electricity generation.
260. This means that the proposed Development is anticipated to take around 31 months to repay the carbon exchange to the atmosphere (the CO₂ debt) through construction of the wind turbine element of the proposed development; the Site would in effect be in a net gain situation following this time period and can then claim to contribute to national objectives. Although the proposed solar array cannot be accounted for within the carbon calculator (as the construction of the solar infrastructure would not include the removal of carbon (peat) from the Site), it would support potential savings in CO₂ emissions due to the decreased requirement for other electricity sources and would also support the 'net zero' carbon targets.
261. All except one of the turbine locations and most associated infrastructure locations have avoided areas of deep peat. Some peat excavation and disturbance would be unavoidable, and appropriate management, restoration and re-use proposals are discussed in **Chapter 7: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils** of the EIA Report (specifically **Section 7.7** and **Technical Appendix 7.1: Outline Peat Management Plan**).
262. The impacts of the proposed Development on carbon rich soils have been carefully considered and avoided, and are considered to be acceptable. The carbon calculator has been used to calculate the carbon payback which is considered to be acceptable.

Public Access (Criterion 9, SPP Paragraph 169)

263. There are no Core Paths recorded by Dumfries and Galloway Council within close proximity to the proposed site access or access tracks. DGC core path 504 is the route of the SUW which the access track from the north would cross near Laggangarn (see EIA Report **Figure 4.13**). Kilgallioch windfarm already crosses the SUW at that point. The routes of core paths would not be altered in any way as a result of the proposed Development.
264. Wider afield, there are long distance recreational walking routes within 20 km of the Site, including the SUW and Ayrshire Coastal Path.
265. However, the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 conferred general access rights over much of rural Scotland. The lack of any designated or recorded paths across the Site does not necessarily preclude the right of the public to use the area for recreational purposes including for walking, cycling and horse riding.
266. It is expected that members of the public may use parts of the site for recreation informally. The EIA Report at **Chapter 13: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism** has assessed the potential for impacts upon these receptors.
267. Part of the Southern Upland Way (SUW), which passes through the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm, may be affected by construction works associated with the proposed Development. Mitigation is discussed in **Chapter 13, Section Error! Reference source not found.** and includes the adoption of an access plan and the provision of information by the SUW Rangers (who are supported by the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm) in relation to any temporary diversions or other measures required during construction of the proposed Development.
268. Once operational it is not expected the proposed Development would have an impact on users' enjoyment of the route. Indeed, the proposed Development could increase opportunities for public recreation access due to new/upgraded tracks providing local recreational access to this section of the SUW and to other features of interest within the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm site (e.g. Laggangarn Stones).
269. The impact of the proposed Development on public access is therefore considered to be acceptable.

Impacts on the Historic Environment (Criterion 10, SPP Paragraph 169)

270. Predicted impacts upon Scheduled Monuments are discussed in relation to SPP Scheduled Monuments (from **paragraph 179**) above. This section therefore discusses the remainder of potential impacts on the historic environment.
271. **Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage** identifies that there are a number of archaeological features on the Site and immediate area. The layout of the proposed Development has been designed as far as possible to avoid direct effects on the identified heritage assets within the Site and all but one of the assets of high sensitivity (High Eldrig Farmstead) have been avoided. In

the case of the High Eldrig Farmstead, the proposed track layout to the southern borrow pit search area has been routed to avoid the most sensitive archaeological remains around High Eldrig Farm and to make use of an existing farm access track. Three assets of medium sensitivity would be directly affected by the proposed Development.

272. Mitigation measures have been set out in **Chapter 11** of the EIA Report that would avoid potential direct effects on three heritage assets where elements of the extensive former farmstead field systems lie in close proximity to the proposed Development infrastructure. A need for archaeological investigation mitigation has been identified in relation to these three cairnfields and for one small structure, a possible shieling, that are likely to be directly affected by the proposed Development.
273. Archaeological enhancement mitigation measures are set out in **Chapter 11** of the EIA Report that would benefit the archaeological record by providing a pre-development topographic Lidar survey of the archaeological landscape affected by the proposed Development. That survey would serve as a permanent archive record of the current baseline condition of the component parts of the historic landscape, facilitating future monitoring of the condition of the assets and providing a dataset for future archaeological research.
274. As a result of the design evolution and mitigation proposed, **Chapter 11** of the EIA Report predicts significant impacts are limited to one long-term effect of major significance on the historic landscape within the Site. All effects would last for the duration of the operational phase of the proposed Development.

Impacts on Tourism and Recreation (Criterion 10, SPP Paragraph 169)

275. The impacts of the proposed Development on tourism and recreation are considered in **Chapter 13: Socioeconomics, Recreation and Tourism** of the EIA Report. It undertakes a review of published reports which consistently find that there is no conflict between visitors and the development of onshore windfarms. These documents include:
- Glasgow Caledonian University, Moffat Centre, Cogentsi (2008) The economic impact of Windfarms on Scottish tourism. A Report for Scottish Government;
 - ClimateXchange (2012) The Impact of Wind Farms on Scottish Tourism; and
 - BiGGAR Economics (2016) Windfarms and Tourism Trends In Scotland– A Research Report.
276. The EIA assessed the potential for impacts upon: tourism/recreation assets, tourism accommodation, and recreational trails. In all cases, no significant effects were predicted.
277. The impact of the proposed Development on tourism and recreation is considered to be minimal and therefore acceptable.

Impacts on Aviation and Defence Interests and Seismological Recording (Criterion 12, SPP Paragraph 169)

278. The EIA Report considers the potential for the proposed Development to impact upon aviation and defence interests in **Chapter 14: Other Issues**. From the consultation which has been undertaken and subsequent analysis it is concluded that the proposed Development, would not have an effect on aviation, from either physical obstruction or radar interference.
279. No seismological effects are predicted as a result of the proposed Development.

Impacts on Telecommunications and Broadcasting Installations (Criterion 13, SPP Paragraph 169)

280. The potential impact of the proposed Development on telecommunications and broadcasting installations was also assessed in EIA Report **Chapter 14: Other Issues**. It concluded, through consultation, that the proposed Development, would have no effect on any telecommunication interests.

Impacts on Road Traffic (Criterion 14, SPP Paragraph 169) and Impacts on Adjacent Trunk Roads (Criterion 15, SPP Paragraph 169)

281. The EIA Report **Chapter 12: Access, Traffic and Transport** considers the potential for the proposed Development to have a significant impact on road traffic and adjacent trunk roads. It concludes that the proposed Development would not result in significant adverse effects with regards to Site access, traffic and transportation.
282. With regards to abnormal loads associated with turbine deliveries, ScottishPower Renewables have used their recent experience from Kilgallioch Windfarm to consider load routing. In line with their past experience, it is proposed that a dual port strategy is considered for the delivery of the wind turbine components.

283. It is proposed that the primary port used for the delivery of wind turbine components would be King George V Dock in Glasgow. This port has ample adequate facilities for accommodating the proposed loads and the access route from the dock to the A714 has been the subject of upgrade works for these loads and has been agreed by Transport Scotland previously. Access from King George V docks would be via the M8, M74, M6, A75 and A714. Loads would undertake a U-turn at Carlisle at M6 Junction 42 or Junction 44 to allow direct access onto the A75.
284. A secondary port option using the port of Cairnryan is also considered. This port is significantly smaller and improvement works to the road network from the port gate to the A714 access junction would be required. The Port of Cairnryan has some restrictions including limited water depth and port handling facilities/component storage and may limit the use of this facility. Access from Cairnryan would be via the A77, A751, A75 and A714.
285. Chapter 12 concludes that the proposed Development would lead to increased traffic volumes on a number of roads in its vicinity during the construction phase. However, there are no road capacity issues with the local network and ample spare capacity exists within the trunk and local road network to support construction traffic required.
286. No significant impacts are predicted on road traffic or adjacent trunk road network; which is therefore considered to be acceptable.
287. Note that public access is discussed in relation to Criterion 9 above.

Effects on Hydrology, the Water Environment and Flood Risk (Criterion 16, SPP Paragraph 169)

288. The potential for significant impacts on soils, geology and the water environment as a result of the proposed Development are considered in the EIA Report at **Chapter 7: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils**. Good practice measures would be applied in relation to pollution risk, sediment management, peat management and management of surface runoff rates and volumes. This would form part of the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) to be implemented for the proposed Development and would be agreed prior to construction, an outline of which is provided in **Technical Appendix 4.1: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan**.

Hydrology

289. The proposed Development is located within the catchment of the River Bladnoch, which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), principally for Atlantic salmon, and the designation includes the Tarf Water adjacent to the site. Some of the proposed access tracks to turbines would require new watercourse crossings to be constructed. Nine proposed new water crossings are proposed, with one existing crossing, on the farm track in the south east of the Site, requiring to be upgraded. The online SEPA Flood Map shows most of the Site as being outside any area of identified flood risk however there are anecdotal reports of localised flooding in the south east of the Site.

Geology

290. There are no geological SSSIs or GCR sites within the Site or within 1 km from the proposed turbines and other infrastructure. Parts of the west, central, and far south east Site areas are identified as being within areas of Class 1 Peat based on the SNH Carbon and Peatlands Map (2016). Peat depth surveys were undertaken to identify the extent depth and nature of peat across the Site and peat depths were recorded as varying from nil to over 3 m. Areas of deep peat are avoided by all proposed turbine locations and most Site infrastructure, although several short stretches of access track would need to cross deep peat. No turbines are sited on areas of peat which extend into the Kirkcowan Flow SSSI/SAC which is adjacent to the northern Site boundary. It is also noted that the SSSI/SAC is up-gradient from the Site.

Soils

291. Habitats indicative of potential groundwater dependence have been identified across much of the Site. However, it is considered there is limited potential for substantial groundwater to be present near the surface, feeding the observed habitats. Furthermore, given the pattern of wetland habitats identified, it is clear that the habitats are likely to be mainly or entirely surface-water dependent, with those within the potentially high GWDTE category being located along surface watercourses and drainage routes.

Conclusion on potential impacts to the water environment

292. The iterative design process for the proposed Development has ensured embedded mitigation, including appropriate buffering of sensitive watercourses, minimising the need for new watercourse crossings, and avoiding elevated peat slide risk in siting turbines. Standard good construction and design practice has also been considered as embedded mitigation,

including detailed pre-construction site investigations, agreement and implementation of a CEMP, and appropriate design of watercourse crossings, regulated under the CAR licensing regime.

293. As a result of mitigation, both in relation to design iterations and additional mitigation such as the CEMP, potential impacts have been assessed as negligible to minor, and not significant. This is considered to be acceptable.

The Need for Conditions Relating to the Decommissioning of Developments (Criterion 17, SPP Paragraph 169)

294. There is no proposal to limit the lifetime of the proposed Development. Should consent be granted, it is anticipated that there would be a condition which would deal with the requirement to remove turbines/solar or any associated equipment if they become non-operational for a defined period of time.

Opportunities for Energy Storage (Criterion 18, SPP Paragraph 169)

295. Energy Storage is not included in the proposed Development. Any opportunity for energy storage would be connected directly to the Kilgallioch Windfarm substation.

The Need for a Robust Planning Obligation to Ensure that Operators Achieve Site Restoration (Criterion 19, SPP Paragraph 169)

296. There is no proposal to limit the lifetime of the proposed Development. Should consent be granted, it is anticipated that there would be a condition which would deal with the requirement to remove turbines, solar or associated equipment if they become non-operational for a defined period of time or in the event of the proposed Development being decommissioned.

5.2.9 SPP A Natural, Resilient Place

297. SPP contains a number of subject policies; one of these is A Natural, Resilient Place. NPF3 makes it clear, from paragraph 193, that the planning system plays an important role in protecting the natural environment; stating at paragraph 194 that the planning system should:

- *“facilitate positive change while maintaining and enhancing distinctive landscape character;*
- *conserve and enhance protected sites and species, taking account of the need to maintain healthy ecosystems and work with the natural processes which provide important services to communities;*
- *promote protection and improvement of the water environment, including rivers, lochs, estuaries, wetlands, coastal waters and groundwater, in a sustainable and co-ordinated way;*
- *seek to protect soils from damage such as erosion or compaction;*
- *protect and enhance ancient semi-natural woodland as an important and irreplaceable resource, together with other native or long-established woods, hedgerows and individual trees with high nature conservation or landscape value;*
- *seek benefits for biodiversity from new development where possible, including the restoration of degraded habitats and the avoidance of further fragmentation or isolation of habitats; and*
- *support opportunities for enjoying and learning about the natural environment”.*

298. As discussed at **paragraphs 235 to 238** above, the design of the proposed Development has ensured that potential impacts upon landscape character have been avoided or minimised to an acceptable level.

299. Similarly, adverse impacts upon other aspects of the natural environment have been minimised.

300. As outlined in **paragraph 76** above, the proposed Development includes a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) which would implement positive land management for the benefit of landscape and nature conservation. The HMP would be implemented during the construction and operation phases to restore wet modified bog through the blocking of drains in areas where historical drainage channels are more concentrated.

301. The HMP relates to two separate areas (defined as Units 1 and 2). The identification of the most suitable area(s) was subject to considerable thought, with determining factors including linkages with other areas of biodiversity value, quality of potential results (in biodiversity terms), and viability. As such, two areas were chosen that currently consist of poor quality wet modified bog habitat that are located within the adjacent Kirkcowan Flow SAC. The peatland restoration works undertaken as part of the proposed Development are expected to have a positive impact on the overall site condition of the SAC and SSSI, as well as benefits to ecology (including improvements to priority habitat) and ornithology.

302. In so doing, the HMP is designed to deliver the aspirations outlined in SPP paragraph 194.

5.2.10 SPP Conclusions

303. The proposed Development would meet the principles set out in SPP (paragraph 29). It would assist in the delivery of the outcomes which are identified in SPP and are considered to be consistent with sustainable development. The proposed Development is considered to satisfy the criteria which are set out at paragraph 169 of SPP. The proposed Development is in an area which has the potential for windfarm development subject to the satisfaction of the relevant criteria. The relevant criteria have been considered and addressed through the EIA process. It has been concluded that, although there are significant impacts to cultural heritage, landscape character, and visual amenity as a result of the proposed Development, these are considered acceptable when the benefits associated with the proposed Development are considered on balance.

304. SPP also sets out a clear presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development. Reference has been made to the application of the presumption in various Appeal cases and these are set out in this Planning Statement. It is submitted that weight should be attached to the meaningful contributions the proposed Development would make to meeting sustainability targets.

305. The proposed Development has been considered against the criteria set out in paragraph 169 of SPP. No significant effects have been found as a result of the proposed Development in respect of any of the criteria with the exception of cultural heritage and landscape and visual. The significant landscape and visual effects have been found to be limited to approximately 3-4 km of the Site. These impacts are considered to be contained and localised. It is concluded in the LVIA that the landscape is capable of accommodating the proposed Development. The Cultural Heritage impacts have been mitigated as far as possible.

306. It is concluded that, when the significant impacts that the proposed Development may have and the benefits it is designed to bring are considered in the whole, that the proposed Development is acceptable and should gain consent.

5.2.11 Scottish Government Online Guidance on Large Photovoltaic Arrays 2011

307. The Scottish Government's policy advice on large scale Solar installation is contained in online advice with regard to large photovoltaic arrays. This advice encourages planning authorities to consider the potential of solar development in further detail, with a view to *"identifying large arrays of ground mounted PV as appropriate uses for certain urban and rural area development plan land allocations"*.

The guidance further identifies a number of 'typical planning considerations' which are considered likely to be relevant in determining planning applications for solar developments. These are identified as– landscape/visual impact, ecological impacts, archaeology, impact on communities, glint and glare impacts, aviation matters and decommissioning. Where appropriate these issues have all been considered within the EIA Report, no significant effects are identified as a result of the solar development.

6 Local Development Plan

308. The proposed Development Site is located within the DGC area therefore the Development Plan comprises of the:

- DGC Local Development Plan 2 (“LDP2”) (adopted 3 October 2019); and
- draft Wind Energy Development: Development Management Considerations.

309. In addition, approximately 10.8 km of the access track corridor is located in the SAC area therefore the following documents are relevant insofar as they relate to this element of the proposed Development:

- South Ayrshire Local Development Plan (“SALDP”) (adopted 23 September 2014); and
- Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (adopted December 2015).

310. This Section provides an assessment of the proposed Development against the relevant provisions of the Development Plans. **Appendix 3** sets out the relevant policies in full and should be read alongside this Chapter.

6.1 Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2), adopted October 2019

311. DGC adopted the LDP2 in October 2019, and is therefore considered to be a relevant and up to date Local Development Plan, noting that the weight to be attached to it may decrease in the context of the revisions in SPP and NPF 3 to reflect SES and OWPS and the 2019 Planning Act (if the DGLDP is no longer consistent with them).

312. The Vision Statement in the LDP answers the question of “what will Dumfries and Galloway look like in 20 years’ time” noting that there will be “A viable rural economy and community characterised by (*inter alia*) a range of renewable energy developments”.

313. The key DGC LDP2 policy for the proposed Development is **Policy IN1: Renewable Energy**, which states that:

“The Council will support development proposals for all renewable energy generation and/or storage which are located, sited and designed appropriately. The acceptability of any proposed development will be assessed against the following considerations:*

- *landscape and visual impact;*
- *cumulative impact;*
- *impact on local communities and individual dwellings, including visual impact, residential amenity, noise and shadow flicker;*
- *the impact on natural and historic environment (including cultural heritage and biodiversity);*
- *the impact on forestry and woodlands;*
- *the impact on tourism, recreational interests and public access.*

To enable this assessment sufficient detail should be submitted, to include the following as relevant to the scale and nature of the proposal:

- *any associated infrastructure requirements including road and grid connections (where subject to planning consent);*
- *environmental and other impacts associated with the construction and operational phases of the development including details of any visual impact, noise and odour issues;*
- *relevant provisions for the restoration of the site;*
- *the scale of contribution to renewable energy generation targets;*
- *effect on greenhouse gas emissions; and*
- *net economic impact, including local and community socio-economic benefits such as employment, associated business and supply chain opportunities.*

** Acceptability will be determined through an assessment of the details of the proposal including its benefits and the extent to which its environmental and cumulative impacts can be satisfactorily addressed”.*

314. The policy states that DGC will support development proposals for all types of renewable energy generation which are located, sited and designed appropriately; considering factors such as the benefits of the project and the extent to which its environmental and cumulative impacts can be satisfactorily addressed.

315. DGC makes reference to the Scottish Government's energy policy in para. 3.20-3.22 which shows DGC is aware of the importance to be attached to the Government's targets and focus on decarbonisation. Para 3.21 acknowledges that the "planning system is seen as an essential element of the Scottish Government's approach to meeting statutory climate change targets" and states that "to support the transformational change to a low carbon economy, the Council proposes to prepare a Regional Energy Strategy". In addition, para 1.11 of the LDP2 states that "the overarching principle of the Plan is that all development proposals should support sustainable development, including the reduction of carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions". This reference to climate change provides a context within which to consider the policies below.

316. Paras. 4.102 to 4.106 of the DGC LDP2 set out the Council's vision in terms of infrastructure. Renewable and wind energy are dealt with first. The LDP2 acknowledges that the Scottish Government is committed to increasing the amount of electricity generated by renewable sources and that the renewable energy field is constantly evolving, including the emergence of 'energy hubs' where:

"more than one energy source is located on a site, such as solar and wind energy production. This is a developing field but there are local examples such as Glenmuckloch where it is proposed to incorporate a pumped hydro storage scheme with a wind farm. This will ensure greater efficiency by enabling energy to be stored during highly productive periods then fed into the grid when demand is high" (para. 4.104).

317. The proposed Development would be a further example of an energy hub by expanding an existing operational windfarm, co-locating wind turbines and solar, and feeding the electrical power produced by the turbines and solar arrays to the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm substation.

318. A further emerging change that para. 4.104 refers to is "improving the efficiency of existing wind farm schemes for example, through blade extensions, modifications to the turbines or repowering". The expansion of the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm is also considered to improve efficiency as the proposed Development would re-use and share existing infrastructure where possible. This includes sharing much of the access track and connecting to the existing Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm substation, thus maximising efficiency and reducing the cost to the consumer. In addition, the Applicant is applying for consent in perpetuity with the intention to repower in the future to increase the efficiency of the proposed Development. This approach is supported by SPP, para. 174, which states "Proposals to repower existing wind farms which are already in suitable sites where environmental and other impacts have been shown to be capable of mitigation can help to maintain or enhance installed capacity, underpinning renewable energy generation targets. The current use of the site as a wind farm will be a material consideration in any such proposals". Accordingly, the Applicant is pre-empting the evolution of existing technologies and the intention to repower would be in line with national planning policy.

319. Policy IN1 provides a general framework for the assessment of all forms of renewable energy. The supporting policy text in para 4.106 states:

"The Council has been supportive of the development of renewable energy and continues to be supportive of a diverse range of renewable energy sources. However support for renewable energy proposals must be balanced against the impacts that such developments can have on the environment and communities ... Factors such as the scale of the proposal and its potential impact on the surrounding areas will be taken into account. In all cases, particular attention will be paid to the need for sensitive siting and design, including the consideration of reasonable alternatives by the developer".

320. The EIA Report assesses the potential impact on the surrounding area and sets out how the design evolution has resulted in a sensitively sited and designed proposed Development.

321. The policy also provides a list of criteria against which applications will be considered. The matters raised these criteria have been addressed in the context of SPP; therefore, the commentary in respect of the criteria is not repeated here.

322. In addition, **Policy IN2: Wind Energy** relates specifically to wind turbine development and states:

"Assessment of all Wind Farm Proposals

The Council will support wind energy proposals that are located, sited and designed appropriately. The acceptability of any proposed wind energy development will be assessed against the following considerations:*

Renewable energy benefits

The scale of contribution to renewable energy generation targets, effect on greenhouse gas emissions and opportunities for energy storage.

Socio-economic benefits

Net economic impact, including local and community socio-economic benefits such as employment, associated business and supply chain opportunities.

Landscape and visual impacts

- The extent to which the landscape is capable of accommodating the development without significant detrimental landscape or visual impacts, including effects on wild land; and
- That the design and scale of the proposal is appropriate to the scale and character of its setting, respecting the main features of the site and the wider environment and that it addresses fully the potential for mitigation.

Cumulative impact

The extent of any cumulative detrimental landscape or visual impact or impacts on existing patterns of development from two or more wind energy developments and the potential for mitigation.

Impact on local communities and residential interests

The extent of any detrimental impact on communities, individual dwellings, residents and local amenity, including assessment of the impacts of noise, shadow flicker, visual dominance and the potential for associated mitigation.

Impact on infrastructure

The extent to which the proposal addresses any detrimental impact on road traffic, adjacent trunk roads and telecommunications, particularly ensuring transmission links are not compromised.

Impact on aviation and defence interests

The extent to which the proposal addresses any impacts arising from location within an area subject to potential aviation and defence constraints, including the Eskdalemuir Safeguard Area.

Other impacts and considerations

- a) the extent to which the proposal avoids or adequately resolves any other significant adverse impact on the natural environment, including biodiversity, forests and woodland, carbon-rich soils, hydrology, the water environment and flood risk, the historic environment, cultural heritage, tourism and recreational interests and public access.
- b) the extent to which the proposal addresses any physical site constraints and appropriate provision for decommissioning and restoration.

Further details on this assessment process, including its application to smaller wind farms and more detailed development management considerations, are provided through supplementary guidance on Wind Energy Development. This will also include separate mapping of the constraints relevant to the considerations above.

The Spatial Framework Map** (Map 8) provides strategic guidance. However, it must be read in conjunction with the supplementary guidance and its Appendix, the Dumfries and Galloway Wind Farm Landscape Capacity Study. The landscape capacity study is a supportive study, the consideration of which does not replace the need to assess the landscape or visual impacts of individual proposals.

* Acceptability will be determined through an assessment of the details of the proposal including its benefits and the extent to which environmental and cumulative impacts can be addressed satisfactorily.

** The Spatial Framework Map relates to one turbine or more over 20 metres”.

323. Similar to Policy IN1; this policy states that the Council will support development proposals for wind energy, and it also provides a list of criteria against which applications will be considered. The matters raised these criteria have been addressed in the context of SPP; therefore, the commentary in respect of the criteria is not repeated here.
324. It is difficult to determine accurately whether the Site falls within “Areas of Significant Protection” or “Areas with potential for wind farm development” on Figure 8 of the LDP2. However, as discussed in detail at **paragraph 244**, the DGWLCs identifies the Site as being included within the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm on Figure 8 of the LDP Wind Energy SG. Therefore, it is contended that DGC has acknowledged that the proposed Development site area lies within the ‘successfully sited’ Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm area. In addition, the design process for the proposed Development sought to ensure that the proposed Development avoided and minimised potential effects upon the environment wherever possible.
325. The following DGC LDP2 policies are also considered to be relevant to the proposed Development:
- Policy OP1: Development Considerations?
 - Policy OP2: Design Quality and Placemaking
 - Policy NE1: National Scenic Areas
 - Policy NE2: Regional Scenic Areas
 - Policy NE3: Areas of Wild Land
 - Policy NE4: Sites of International Importance for Biodiversity
 - Policy NE5: Species of International Importance
 - Policy NE6: Sites of National Importance for Biodiversity and Geodiversity
 - Policy NE8: Trees and Development
 - Policy NE11: Supporting the Water Environment
 - Policy NE14: Carbon Rich Soil
 - Policy NE15: Protection and Restoration of Peat Deposits as Carbon Sinks
 - Policy HE1: Listed Building
 - Policy HE3: Archaeology
 - Policy HE6: Gardens and Designed Landscapes
 - Policy T1: Transport Infrastructure
 - Policy CF4: Access Routes

- Policy ED10: Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere
- Policy ED11: Dark Skies

326. These policies are provided in full in **Appendix 3** of this Planning Statement for ease of reference. An assessment of the proposed Development against these policies is contained in Table 6.1 below.

6.2 DGC Wind Energy Development: Development Management Considerations Draft Supplementary Guidance & Appendix C Wind Farm Landscape Capacity Study

327. As part of drafting the now adopted LDP2, DGC issued a Draft Supplementary Guidance (“the Draft SG”) for consultation in January 2018. The purpose of the SG is to provide further detail in support of the development management considerations in Policy IN2.

328. The Draft SG is to be reported to Committee on 19th November 2019, after which it is due to be submitted to the Scottish Ministers for approval. The SG is not due to be adopted until early/mid 2020 and is currently a material consideration in the context of LDP2.

329. The Dumfries and Galloway Wind Farm Landscape Capacity Study (DGWLCS) forms an appendix to the Draft SG and updates the Landscape Capacity Study adopted 22nd June 2017 (“the 2017 LCS”). The 2017 LCS has been considered as part of the EIA Report (especially in Chapter 6). In summary, both the 2017 and draft LCSs recognise there are remaining opportunities for windfarms in the host landscape character area. The proposed Development site is located adjacent to the existing Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm turbines and is considered to fit with the ‘clear pattern of wind farm development’ described. The map of the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm on Figure 8 includes all of the proposed Development site area (this operational development is also reflected on map 5 (Very Large typology spatial framework map) of the LDP Wind Energy SG). In this way DGWLCS has acknowledged that the proposed Development site area lies within the “*successfully sited*” Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm area. It is considered therefore that the proposed Development Site clearly fits with the DGWLCS advice to “*consolidate*” ... “*by directing new wind farm developments to similar landscapes*”.

6.3 South Ayrshire Council Local Development Plan (SACLDP), adopted September 2014

330. Approximately 10.8 km of the access track corridor is located in the South Ayrshire Council area therefore the following documents are relevant insofar as they relate to this element of the proposed Development:

- South Ayrshire Local Development Plan (“SACLDP”) (adopted 23 September 2014); and,
- Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (adopted December 2015).

331. The following LDP2 policies are of most relevance to the proposed Development and assessed in Table 6.1 below:

- Renewable Energy
- Wind Energy
- Natural Heritage
- Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere
- Landscape Quality
- Landscape Protection
- Woodland & Forestry
- Water Environment
- Historic Environment
- Archaeology
- Landuse and Transport

6.4 Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (adopted December 2015)

332. South Ayrshire Council’s Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (“the SG”) sets out a spatial strategy for wind energy and provides guidance to developers on how the policy criteria within the LDP will be applied. The SG is only relevant insofar as it relates to the proposed access track.

333. Page 14 of the SG states that “*during the assessment of a proposal applicants will be required to provide a transport assessment of possible impacts, and will require to show the suitability of the route for future construction traffic*”. **Chapter 12** of the EIA provides such an assessment.

334. Page 22 of the SG makes reference to borrow pits and states “*The Environmental Statement or planning submission should provide sufficient information to address [the Scottish Government’s approach to the use of borrow pits for windfarm construction materials]*”. Please see **Chapter 4** of the EIA.

335. Page 22 of the SG also deals with forestry and states “a strong presumption in favour of protecting South Ayrshire’s woodland resources will be applied. Developers will be required to demonstrate how through initial site selection or windfarm design they have sought to minimise or avoid woodland losses”. Please see **Chapter 14** of the EIA Report.

336. Overall, the proposed access tracks are considered to be in line with the SG, the provisions of which have been taken into account throughout the EIA Report.

6.5 Review of the proposed Development against the relevant DGC LDP2 & SACLDP policies

337. Table 6.1 identifies the matters which are raised in the DGC LDP2 that are considered to be relevant to the proposed Development. It responds in summary to the issues that are raised in the relevant policies.

Issue	Local Development Plan Reference	Response
<p>Overarching Policies</p>	<p>DGC LDP2 Policy OP1: Development Considerations Policy OP2: Design Quality and Placemaking</p> <p>SACLDP Renewable Energy Wind Energy</p>	<p>Policy OP1 and Policy OP2 is an overarching policy comprising a number of principles and provisions that are also contained within Policies IN1 and IN2 (discussed above in Section 6.1) which deal directly with renewable and wind energy developments. Accordingly, these policies are not considered further as Policies IN1 and IN2 are of more relevance to the proposed Development.</p> <p>Renewable Energy: This Policy supports proposals for generating and using renewable energy as part of existing developments if they will not have a significant harmful effect on residential amenity, the appearance of the area and its landscape character, biodiversity and cultural heritage, as set out below. The proposed access track corridor would have no impact on any of these issues, as discussed below.</p> <p><i>Residential Amenity</i> - Considering the nature of the proposed access track, residential amenity would not be impacted.</p> <p><i>Appearance of the Area and its Landscape Character</i> - Some commercial plantation woodland would need to be felled in order to facilitate the new access track connecting the main development area of the proposed Development with the existing access track within the Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm. The proposed Development is located on an upland landscape and the scale and characteristics of the upland landscape are considered suitable for windfarm development. The areas of forestry required to be removed in the construction of the proposed Development would be limited and restricted to the proposed access tracks to the north of the proposed site area.</p> <p><i>Biodiversity</i> - The proposed access tracks have been designed to avoid any sensitive environmental receptors, would be made of locally sourced stone from the onsite borrow pits and have a typical running width of approximately 5 m, with an average stone thickness of 500 mm.</p> <p><i>Cultural Heritage</i> - There would be no harmful effects on cultural heritage. The proposed access track is considered to be in accordance with this Policy as it would facilitate the extension of an existing windfarm without resulting in significant harmful effects on the surrounding area.</p> <p>Wind Energy: The proposed access track is considered to be in accordance with this Policy for the reasons set out above in relation to LDP Policy: Renewable Energy.</p>

Issue	Local Development Plan Reference	Response
		The proposed Development meets the requirements of these policies.
Landscape and visual impact	<p>DGC LDP2 Policy NE1: National Scenic Areas Policy NE2: Regional Scenic Areas Policy NE3: Areas of Wild Land Policy ED11: Dark Skies</p> <p>SACLDP Landscape Quality Landscape Protection</p>	<p>Policy NE1: The proposed Development is considered to be in accordance with Policy NE1 as it would not affect the integrity of any National Scenic Areas (NSAs) due to separation distance.</p> <p>Policy NE2: The proposed Development is not located within a Regional Scenic Area (RSA) however there are three RSAs located within the 20km LVIA study area: Galloway Hills; Rhins Coast; and, Mochrum Lochs. As set out in Chapter 6 of the EIA, Table 6.7.2, the RSAs were not included in the detailed LVIA assessment due to distance from the Site and the fact the proposed Development would be seen on the skyline in the immediate context of other operational windfarms at closer range. Therefore, the proposed Development is considered to be in accordance with Policy NE2 as the factors taken into account in designating the areas would not be significantly affected.</p> <p>Policy NE3: The Merrick Wild Land Area (WLA) is located approximately 20.7 km from the nearest turbine of the proposed Development and theoretical visibility is limited to the west facing slopes and summit of the Merrick. Therefore, it is concluded that the wildness qualities of the WLA could not be significantly affected by the proposed Development and no further assessment was undertaken in the LVIA. The proposed Development is therefore considered to be in accordance with Policy NE3 as it is demonstrated that it would not have any significant effects on the WLA.</p> <p>Policy ED11: The Policy states that the Council supports the designation of the Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park (“the Dark Sky Park”) and will assess proposals for development on their merits, securing levels of lighting that are appropriate to the nature of the development, contribute to sustainable development, and do not adversely affect the objectives of the Dark Sky Park designation. The Dark Sky Park is located approximately 16.4 km to the east of the nearest proposed Development turbine with the Dark Sky Park Buffer Zone boundary lying approximately 11.7 km to the east of the nearest proposed Development turbine. Chapter 3 of this document set out the merits of the proposed Development.</p> <p>Structures of 150 m or taller require to be lit with visible aviation lighting in accordance with Article 222 of the UK Air Navigation Order (ANO) 2016. In the case of wind turbines, the lights are usually mounted on the nacelle of the wind turbines and, at least three (to provide 360 degree coverage) low-intensity (32 candela) red lights at an intermediate level of half the nacelle height on the tower.</p> <p>It is proposed that visibility sensors are installed on the proposed Development turbines in line with the <i>2017 CAA Policy Statement</i> so that where visibility is restricted to 5 km or less from all the turbines in the proposed Development, the lights would operate at 2000 candela. Where visibility is greater than 5 km from all the turbines, the nacelle obstruction lights would be dimmed to 200 candela. Further details are provided in Section 14.2.4, Chapter 14: Other Issues of the EIA Report.</p>

Issue	Local Development Plan Reference	Response
		<p>The principle of lighting is deemed appropriate to the nature of the proposed Development considering the height of the turbines and the associated safety requirement for lighting. As set out in Chapter 14 of the EIA Report, the Applicant proposes to explore the possibility of installing an aircraft detection lighting system.</p> <p>Chapter 6 of the EIA Report provides a detailed assessment of the predicted impacts of the proposed Development on the Dark Sky Park and no significant effects are predicted.</p> <p>Overall, the proposed Development would not adversely affect the objectives of the Dark Sky Park designation and it is considered to be in accordance with Policy ED11.</p> <p>The above points also respond to SACLDP policies Landscape Quality and Landscape Protection. The proposed Development meets the requirements of these policies.</p>
<p>Biodiversity</p>	<p>DGC LDP2 Policy NE4: Sites of International Importance for Biodiversity Policy NE5: Species of International Importance Policy NE6: Sites of National Importance for Biodiversity and Geodiversity Policy ED10: Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere</p> <p>SACLDP Natural Heritage Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere</p>	<p>Policy NE4: The proposed Development is in accordance with Policy NE4 as it is not considered to have any significant effects on an existing or proposed Special Protection Area (SPA), existing or candidate Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Ramsar site.</p> <p>Policy NE5: The proposed Development is in accordance with Policy NE5 as it is not considered to have an adverse effect on a European Protected Species.</p> <p>Policy NE6: The proposed Development is in accordance with Policy NE6 as it is not considered to adversely affect the integrity of any Sites of Special Scientific Interest or other national nature conservation designations due to the distance between the designations and the proposed Development. Please see Chapter 8 of the EIA Report for further detail.</p> <p>Policy ED10: This policy states that the Council supports the designation and aims of the Biosphere and will encourage development that demonstrates innovative approaches to sustainable communities and the economy, and supports the enhancement, understanding and enjoyment of the area as a world class environment. The Biosphere is a non-statutory designation that in itself has no formal status within the planning system.</p> <p>The proposed Development is located within a ‘transition zone’ which is defined across the wider surrounding landscapes of South Ayrshire and Galloway, where people live and work to make the best use of local resources. The transition zone is described in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Windfarm Position Statement as follows:</p> <p><i>“it is the view of the Partnership that wind farm developments within the Biosphere could be acceptable in the transition zone, where substantial community engagement has demonstrated that the majority of communities are supportive of the proposed development and it can be shown that the environmental impact of the development is minimal and effective mitigation can be achieved”.</i></p>

Issue	Local Development Plan Reference	Response
		<p>In terms of Policy ED10 itself, the Applicant is committed to sharing the benefits from its operational windfarms with local communities and would explore ways in doing so in this instance with the community. In addition, as set out in the EIA Report, limited significant environmental effects are predicted as a result of the proposed Development and it would make a significant contribution in meeting currently unmet renewable energy targets.</p> <p>The above points also respond to SACLDP policies Natural Heritage and Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere.</p> <p>The proposed Development meets the requirements of these policies.</p>
<p>Woodland and Forestry</p>	<p>DGC LDP2 Policy NE8: Trees and Development</p> <p>SACLDP Woodland & Forestry</p>	<p>Policies NE8 and Woodland & Forestry: As a result of the construction and operation of the proposed Development, there would be a net loss of woodland area. The area of stocked woodland in the Development Area would decrease by up to 5.8 ha. In order to comply with the criteria of the Scottish Government's 'Control of Woodland Removal Policy', off-site compensation planting would be required. The Applicant is committed to providing appropriate compensatory planting. The extent, location and composition of such planting would be agreed with Scottish Forestry, considering any revision to the felling and restocking plans prior to the commencement of operation of the proposed Development.</p> <p>The proposed Development meets the requirements of these policies.</p>
<p>Hydrology and Geology</p>	<p>DGC LDP2 Policy NE11: Supporting the Water Environment Policy NE14: Carbon Rich Soil Policy NE15: Protection and Restoration of Peat Deposits as Carbon Sinks</p> <p>SACLDP Water Environment</p>	<p>Policy NE11: Chapter 7: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils of the EIA Report assesses the potential impacts of the proposed Development on the water environment. The proposed Development is not considered to result in deterioration of (or impede improvements to) the status of a waterbody as set out in the Solway Tweed River Basin Management Plan (2015). Permanent new watercourse crossings would be required at nine locations (one new open arch/bridge and eight new culverts) and at one additional location the existing water crossing would need to be upgraded. As set out in Chapter 7, appropriate mitigation measures would be put in place to protect habitats and passage of fauna. The iterative design process for the proposed Development has ensured embedded mitigation, including appropriate buffering of sensitive watercourses and minimising the need for new watercourse crossings. Standard good construction and design practice has also been considered as embedded mitigation, including detailed pre-construction site investigations, agreement and implementation of a CEMP, and appropriate design of watercourse crossings, regulated under the CAR licensing regime. Potential effects on hydrological, geological and hydrogeological receptors, taking account of embedded mitigation, have been assessed as negligible to minor, and not significant. However, some additional specific mitigation measures have been proposed to further reduce effects. These include: ensuring that working platforms are formed so that surface runoff drains away from watercourses; establishing and demarcating working areas and corridors; and implementing a Habitat Management Plan to facilitate re-wetting of peat in the vicinity of artificial drains across a specified area of the Site. The proposed Development is considered to be in accordance with Policy NE11 for the reasons set out above.</p>

Issue	Local Development Plan Reference	Response
		<p>Policy NE14: The proposed Development is considered to be in accordance with Policy NE14. Please see Policy NE15 below.</p> <p>Policy NE15: This policy states that: <i>“Developments proposed affecting peat deposits not already designated for habitat conservation reasons may be permitted in the following circumstances: ... Where renewable energy generating development is proposed and it can be demonstrated (in accordance with the Scottish Government’s ‘carbon calculator’ or other equivalent independent evidence) that the balance of advantage in terms of climate change mitigation lies with the energy generation proposal”</i></p> <p>Chapter 14 of the EIA details the calculations used to work out carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the proposed Development and considers impacts in relation to carbon and peatland. Windfarms in upland areas tend to be sited on peatlands which hold stocks of carbon and so have the potential to release carbon into the atmosphere, in the form of CO₂ if the peat is disturbed. In order to minimise the requirement for the extraction of peat, the Site design process has avoided areas of deeper peat (> 1m) where possible. Where areas of deep peat cannot be avoided floating tracks are proposed rather than hard infrastructure. The Site design process is described in Chapter 3 of the EIA Report. The proposed Development is expected to take around 31 months (2.6 years) to repay the carbon exchange to the atmosphere (the CO₂ debt) through construction of the windfarm; the Site would in effect be in a net gain situation following this time period and can then claim to contribute to national objectives of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and meeting the ‘net zero’ carbon targets by 2050. Although the proposed solar array cannot be accounted for within the carbon calculator (as the construction of the solar infrastructure would not include the removal of carbon (peat) from the Site), it would support potential savings in CO₂ emissions due to the decreased requirement for other electricity sources and would also support the ‘net zero’ carbon targets. The proposed Development is therefore considered to be in accordance with Policy NE15 as it would make a significant contribution to climate change mitigation.</p> <p>The above points also respond to SACLDP policy Water Environment.</p> <p>The proposed Development meets the requirements of these policies.</p>
<p>Historic Environment</p>	<p>DGC LDP2 Policy HE1: Listed Building Policy HE3: Archaeology Policy HE6: Gardens and Designed Landscapes</p> <p>SACLDP Historic Environment Archaeology</p>	<p>Policy HE1: The proposed Development is considered to be in accordance with Policy HE1 as any impacts upon the settings of four listed buildings are considered to be neutral (see Chapter 11 of the EIA Report).</p> <p>Policy HE3: Chapter 11 of the EIA Report sets out an assessment of the proposed Development in terms of archaeology. A need for archaeological investigation mitigation has been identified in relation to three cairnfields and for one small structure, a possible shieling, that are likely to be directly affected by the proposed Development. Archaeological enhancement mitigation measures are set out in Chapter 11 that would benefit the archaeological record by providing a pre-development topographic Lidar survey of the archaeological landscape affected by the proposed Development. The survey would serve as a permanent archive record of the current baseline condition of the component parts of the historic landscape, facilitating future monitoring of the condition of the assets and providing a dataset for future archaeological research. The</p>

Issue	Local Development Plan Reference	Response
		<p>proposed Development is therefore considered to be in accordance with Policy HE3. The proposed Development has been designed, as far as possible, to avoid heritage and archaeological assets and mitigation measures are proposed (see Chapter 11, para. 11.7.2.3). In addition, the proposed Development would result in a long-term benefit in the form of a Lidar survey.</p> <p>Policy HE6: There are two non-inventory designed landscapes (NIDLs) from which there is some degree of predicted theoretical visibility of the proposed Development. As concluded in Chapter 11, it is predicted that any impacts on the settings of the NIDLs would be neutral. In addition, there are three Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) within the 20 km LVIA study area - Castle Kennedy GDL; Lochryan GDL; and Glenapp GDL. Castle Kennedy GDL was not included in the detailed LVIA due to its distance from the proposed Development and the limited extent of ZTV. The remaining GDLs were also not included in the detailed assessment as there is no theoretical visibility of the proposed Development and therefore no potential for significant effects. The proposed Development is therefore considered to be in accordance with Policy HE6 as it would not impact upon any NIDLs or GDLs.</p> <p>The above points also respond to SACLDP policies Historic Environment and Archaeology.</p> <p>The proposed Development meets the requirements of these policies.</p>
<p>Transport</p>	<p>DGC LDP2 Policy T1: Transport Infrastructure Policy CF4: Access Routes</p>	<p>Policy T1: Chapter 12: Access, Traffic and Transport of the EIA Report concludes that there would be no significant adverse effects upon the strategic or regional network as a result of the proposed Development.</p> <p>Policy CF4: The proposed Development would be accessed directly from the existing Operational Kilgallioch Windfarm access junction off the A714 at Wheeb Bridge. The existing access junction would be widened to accommodate the proposed larger turbines. Strategic access to the A714 is available from the A75 trunk road network to the south. Access between the A75 is made either through the town of Newton Stewart or via a bypass of the town to the west. Recent experience has diverted all construction traffic along this bypass to reduce the impact on the local population as far as possible. The proposed Development is considered to be in accordance with Policy CF4 because any obstruction to access would only occur during the construction phase and therefore be temporary and reversible.</p> <p>The proposed Development meets the requirements of these policies.</p>

Table 6.1: DGC LDP2 & SACLDP Policy Review

6.6 The Balance of Issues

357. When the issues set out in **Section 5** are considered in the context of National Energy and Planning Policy and Local Planning Policy it becomes clear that the focus for any decision becomes a balance between the Cultural Heritage and Landscape and Visual impacts of the proposed Development (as the only significant residual environmental effects) against the potential benefits of the project. The proposed Development is not located within a National Park or National Scenic Area and is, therefore, not in an area where wind turbines or other forms of renewable energy are unacceptable under the terms of SPP.

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358. The Site is not nationally or internationally designated, nor is it within a nationally important mapped area for wild land. The proposed wind turbines would be beyond 2 km from the nearest properties; with New Luce being the closest settlement at approximately 7 km from the nearest proposed Development turbine. The Site includes a small area, west of Eldrig Loch, which is identified as priority peatland which has been carefully considered in the comprehensive design evolution process. The layout of the proposed Development incorporates embedded mitigation which has limited the impact of the proposed Development on peat. The proposed Development is considered to have an acceptable impact on peat.
359. Significant landscape and visual effects are an expected part of any renewable energy development featuring wind turbines. The manner in which the proposed Development has been designed has sought to avoid significant effects on the most sensitive landscapes and viewpoints. The residual significant landscape and visual effects are commensurate with the scale and nature of the proposed Development and are considered to be acceptable.
360. Enhancements to the water environment, biodiversity, and ornithology are anticipated as a result of the implementation of the HMP. Additionally, the archaeological enhancement measures proposed would provide the opportunity for knowledge of the Site to be improved and shared.
361. It is considered likely that the proposed Development would generate in the region of approximately 165 GWh per annum (annual energy production). The promotion of renewable energy, and its supply to the national grid, would contribute towards the aim of a low carbon economy set out clearly in National Policy.
362. Utilising existing infrastructure would facilitate construction and operation of the proposed Development, thereby allowing inroads to be made against the balance of the 2020 targets that are anticipated to be unmet.
363. The scale of the proposed turbines, at 180 m to blade tip (in addition to the 20 MW of ground mounted solar arrays), means that potential of the Site is being maximised to its full generation potential while carefully balancing the environmental impacts.
364. A project of this scale would create local economic benefits, both during construction and operation. Local businesses, trades, suppliers, construction firms and hoteliers would see increased trade and the applicant is committed to offering the community the opportunity to invest in the proposed Development if they wish to do so. In addition, the potential economic benefits associated with the proposed Development as a result of the community investment process offer valuable financial support to the community. The offer provides the community with the opportunity to invest in the future of the local area. The benefits could be used for long term investment in the local community.
365. Overall the proposed Development would have beneficial economic impacts, which include local and community socio-economic benefits such as employment and associated business and supply chain opportunities. The potential economic benefits are considered to be substantial sums of money which are demonstrable and clearly linked to the proposed Development.
366. As such, the proposed Development would have significant beneficial impacts in relation to realising climate change targets and economic benefits, whilst maximising the generating capacity of an existing site. These benefits are considered to outweigh the adverse impacts related to cultural heritage and landscape and visual which have been avoided and mitigated as far as practicable. SPR has had regard to the duties imposed upon it by Schedule 9(3)(1)(a) of the Electricity Act 1989 and the EIA process has been undertaken appropriately and addressed environmental matters comprehensively.
367. The proposed Development meets the requirements of both Local Development Plans relevant to the scheme (in addition to national policies), therefore it is concluded that the proposed Development is acceptable and should gain consent.

7 Conclusions

368. This Planning Statement has considered renewable energy policy and has identified the renewable energy targets which have been set out in **Chapter 4**; which also identifies where Scotland is positioned in respect of meeting existing renewable energy targets. Global climate change is widely recognised as one of the greatest environmental, social and political challenges facing the world today and has been recently declared as a climate ‘crisis’ or ‘emergency’. The proposed Development would make a meaningful contribution to the Scottish Government’s uncapped target of generating the equivalent of 100% of electricity demand from renewable sources beyond 2020. While the UK Government is clear that they expect the generation of renewable energy to become more self-sufficient, Scotland continues to support the existing framework to meet ambitious targets.

369. The viability of sites is critical to the ability to meet targets. The design process has sought to maximise the viability of the proposed Development. It has carefully considered the scale of the turbines in order to maximise the generating capacity of the proposed Development within the technical and environmental constraints that exist on the site and in the surrounding area. In so doing, it forms a logical extension to the operational Kilgallioch Windfarm and maximises the use of existing infrastructure. Crucially, the proposed Development benefits from access to an existing grid connection . This means that there is no hindrance to the delivery of the proposed Development as a result of grid network issues and as such would be able to make a swift and meaningful contribution to the remaining, assumed to be unmet, 2020 targets.

370. There is a clear need to intensify the drive for renewable energy production and onshore renewable energy plays an important part of meeting the renewable energy targets. Developments such as the proposed Development, which are considered to be environmentally acceptable and maximise the potential opportunity of a site, need to be consented.

371. The UK Government’s objective to cut carbon emissions (at a low cost) combined with the Scottish Government’s ambitious targets mean that large onshore wind sites with good wind resource, which are well located in terms of infrastructure, including grid connection, along with limited significant environmental impacts, should be developed. The proposed Development fulfils these requirements with an estimated carbon saving of as follows (for the turbines alone):

- 132,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year over coal-fired electricity (5.28 million tonnes assuming a 40-year lifetime for the purposes of the carbon calculator);
- 36,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year over grid-mix of electricity (1.44 million tonnes assuming a 40-year lifetime for the purposes of the carbon calculator); or
- 65,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year over a fossil fuel mix of electricity (2.6 million tonnes assuming a 40-year lifetime for the purpose of the calculator).

372. The solar array would have a displacement of around 5,214 tonnes of CO₂ per year over a fossil fuel mix of electricity (208,560 tonnes assuming a 40 year lifetime)

373. The proposed Development is located in a site which is considered to be suitable for windfarm development in the context of Table 1 of SPP.

7.1 Benefits of the Proposed Development

374. The benefits of the proposed Development can be summarised as follows:



7.2 Energy Policy and Relevant Targets

375. The benefits of the proposed Development in respect of its contribution to Energy Policy and relevant targets, as well as the expected energy generation potential of the Site are set out in **Chapter 3** of this Planning Statement.

376. It is anticipated that the proposed Development would provide a valuable contribution to renewable energy and decarbonisation targets with a total installed capacity of around 82 MW (based on currently available technologies and subject to technology procurement). This means that the proposed Development would produce approximately 165 GWh of electricity annually. This equates to the power consumed by approximately 44,000 homes.

7.2.1 Economic Impacts

377. The total economic value of the renewables industry within Dumfries and Galloway is not known, but some data are available for the south west Scotland region. One of the most recent studies, which was undertaken in 2018 by independent renewable energy analysts, BVG Associates looked at economic benefits created by eight ScottishPower Renewables onshore windfarms in south west Scotland commissioned between 2016 and 2017. The windfarms have a combined capacity of 474 MW and would have a £1.6 billion lifetime investment, 66% of this would be in the UK. The study showed that, for these windfarms alone, investment in the local area amounted to £257 million, in addition to which the schemes generated £297 million GVA and created 7,768 local full time equivalent (FTE) jobs. Other economic benefits include direct payment to community benefit schemes amounting to over £59 million over the 25 year lifetime of the windfarms.

378. **Chapter 13: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism** of the EIA Report advises that during the construction and development phase, the windfarm component of the proposed Development could generate up to £18.6 million Gross Value Added (GVA) and 289 years of employment in Scotland (including £4.0 million GVA and 60 years of employment in Dumfries and Galloway and South Ayrshire). During its operations, the windfarm component could generate up to £0.6 million GVA per year and 9 jobs in Scotland (including £0.4 million GVA per year and 6 jobs in Dumfries and Galloway and South Ayrshire). The solar installation would generate additional economic benefits during construction and operation. This is considered to be a positive benefit of the proposed Development.

7.2.2 Proposed Community Investment/Benefit

379. SPR is committed to offering a package of community benefits that could include the opportunity for the community to invest in the proposed Development. Whilst the specifics of these effects cannot be quantified at this stage due to uncertainty as to the quantum of funding that would be available, it is clear that the proposed package of community benefit, including returns from any community investment offer taken up, could offer real socio-economic benefits to the local community.

7.2.3 Other Benefits

380. In addition to the economic benefits of the proposed Development set out above the proposals include for:

- a carbon payback period of 2.6 years for the proposed Development;
- the turbines would displace 65,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year over a fossil fuel mix of electricity (2.6 million tonnes assuming a 40 year lifetime for the purposes of the carbon calculator);
- the solar array would displace 5,214 tonnes of CO₂ per year over a fossil fuel mix of electricity (208,560 tonnes assuming a 40 year lifetime);
- the project makes efficient use of existing land and infrastructure such as tracks which limits the amount of new track required to facilitate the proposed Development;
- improves access tracks which could be used under the right to roam;
- maximises the generating capacity of an existing windfarm site, through the introduction of additional turbines and solar photovoltaic modules; and
- an airborne Lidar survey of the moorland with the aim of providing an accurate and detailed topographical record of the surviving archaeological remains of the historic landscape. The Lidar data would be archived with both the Council's HER and with the National Record of the Historic Environment administered by HES and available for public consultation and research.

7.3 Residual Environmental Effects

381. This Section is supported by **Section 5.2.8** which sets out a detailed consideration of the environmental effects of the proposed Development on a topic by topic basis, based on the criteria set out in Paragraph 169 of SPP 2014.

382. The scoping and consultation effort alongside further survey work highlighted some key issues which required careful consideration including:

- the positioning of turbines with respect to archaeological and ecological constraints;
- the positioning of turbines with respect to peat deposits onsite;
- the positioning of turbines with respect to the closest properties to the Site;
- the potential for cumulative effects;
- the composition of turbines in views from key viewpoints; and
- the manner in which the turbines would be accommodated in and respect the landscape into which they would be placed.

383. These issues have been carefully considered alongside technical and economic matters including:

- spacing turbines appropriate to the swept rotor area so they would capture the wind efficiently as an array;
- the size of turbines and energy generation potential to make an economic proposal;
- the need to create cost efficient road access to turbine positions; and
- the manner in which to treat forestry onsite to minimise felling requirements for the proposed Development.

384. Environmental and technical factors as well as advice from consultees and members of the public continually fed into the design process. Taking all these main issues into account a final design for the proposed Development was agreed which could be subject to final EIA.

385. The EIA considered the effects of the proposed Development on a topic by topic basis. Its purpose was designed to expose the potential for significant environmental effects from the proposed Development and thereby understand the need for mitigation, where required or possible, concluding with an understanding of what residual effects would be. The conclusions of the EIA are presented by independent consultants in the EIA Report which accompanies the application. The findings in the EIA Report identify the required mitigation as integral to the proposed Development. The findings of the EIA Report are briefly set out in **Table 7.1** which summarises the findings of the EIA Report.

Topic	Summary of mitigation	Residual Environmental Effect
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design 	Limited significant effects

Visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design 	Limited significant effects
Hydrology, Geology, Hydrogeology and Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Use of floating roads where areas of deep peat cannot be avoided Minimising dewatering requirement by timely and efficient excavation and subsequent concrete pouring and backfilling. Surface water to be drained away from watercourses Adoption of Construction Environmental Management Plan Adoption of Habitat Management Plan Adoption of Peat Management Plan 	Not significant
Ecology and Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Appointment of a suitably qualified Ecological Clerk of Works Adoption of Construction Environmental Management Plan Adoption of Habitat Management Plan 	Not significant
Ornithology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Adoption of a Bird Protection Plan 	Not significant
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of Construction Environmental Management Plan 	Not significant
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further survey to identify and record individual cairns. Avoidance where possible (preservation in situ) Excavation to a strategy and standard acceptable to DGCAS (preservation by record) Adoption of a watching brief to a strategy and standard acceptable to DGCAS (Preservation by record) 	Limited significant impacts
Access, Traffic and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of a Construction Traffic Management Plan 	Not significant
Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	Not significant
Other Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	Not significant

Table 5.1: Summary of Environmental Effects

395. The EIA Report sets out a number of mitigation measures, including embedded mitigation as part of the design process and the inclusion of a CEMP, should consent be forthcoming. As a result, the proposed Development would not result in any significant adverse effects on Hydrology, Geology, Hydrogeology and Soils; Ecology and biodiversity; Ornithology; Noise; Access, Traffic and Transport; Socio-economics, Recreation, and Tourism; aviation, defence, shadow flicker, television; and residential amenity. In addition to this there is the potential for economic benefits to arise as a result of the proposed Development.

396. The proposed Development has the potential to make a valuable contribution to the targets that have been set by the Scottish Government for the production of renewable energy and reduction of carbon emissions. The proposed Development would also make valuable community and socio-economic benefits which are described in this Planning Statement.

397. The national planning policy is supportive of the proposed Development. The proposed Development is considered to be acceptable when assessed against the criteria set out in SPP at paragraph 169. In the context of the DGC LDP2 and

SACLDP it is concluded that the proposed Development is acceptable. In reaching this conclusion regard has been had to the potential for significant effects on the identified criteria. The proposed Development is considered to be in accordance with the Development Plans.

^{398.} The proposed Development has addressed the criteria set out in Schedule 9 of the 1989 Act taking into account other policy considerations including the relevant Development Plan. On this basis, it is requested that the S.36 consent is granted and deemed planning permission is forthcoming in order that the benefits identified in this Planning Statement can be delivered.

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