

Section 5

SOCIO-ECONOMICS, POPULATION & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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Section 5: Socio-Economics, Population & Community Involvement

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Since the original Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) submission in November 2020, consultation with statutory consultees and community consultation events have taken place, which have helped to inform a revised design of the proposal.
- 5.1.2 This section also summarises figures from Economic and Tourism Impact Assessments, that have been carried out by BiGGAR Economics on behalf of the Applicant. This section should be read in conjunction with the accompanying ‘Commitment to Communities’ report submitted with the AI, and Section 5 of the original EIAR which sets out how the proposed development will support local communities through economic investment and employment.
- 5.1.3 Relevant planning policies are identified and briefly summarised, however detailed assessments are provided separately in the Planning Statement, which accompanies and supports the planning application to the Scottish Government under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989, in particular the updated Planning Statement which supports this AI submission.
- 5.1.4 To complete this assessment, baseline social and economic conditions are taken into consideration and from this, potential effects of the proposed development are highlighted, and mitigation methods are discussed in relation to the potential effects. Further to this, the economic, community, educational and environmental benefits of the development are discussed, alongside the potential impacts of wind farms on tourism.
- 5.1.5 This section includes information on the factors of population, in line with Regulation 4(3) of The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

5.2 Consultee Responses

- 5.2.1 The assessment study area will include all of Dumfries and Galloway but where statistics and information allow, a more localised assessment of 20km from the development site will be incorporated to assess the economic and social impacts of the proposed wind farm.
- 5.2.2 Consultee responses received via the ECU in relation to the Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm submission in November 2020, with regards to socio-economics and population matters are presented in Table 5.1 below.

Table 5.1 – Socio-Economics, Population & Community Involvement - EIAR responses

Consultee	EIAR Response	CWL Response
VisitScotland 27 th October 2021	Suggested that full consideration is given to the Scottish Governments 2008 research on the impact of wind farms on tourism. Given the importance of Scottish tourism to the economy, and of Scotland’s landscape in attracting visitors to Scotland,	CWL welcomed VisitScotland’s advice and commissioned BiGGAR Economics to carry out an independent Tourism Impact Assessment, specifically relating to the proposed development. This can be found in Appendix 5.1 of this Section of the AI. A summary of the findings can be found below in section 5.4.

	<p>VisitScotland would strongly recommend any potential detrimental impact of the proposed development on tourism – whether visually, environmentally and economically - be identified and considered in full.</p> <p>The importance of tourism impact statements should not be diminished, and that, for each site considered an independent tourism impact assessment should be carried out. This assessment should be geographically sensitive and should consider the potential impact on any tourism offerings in the vicinity.</p>	In relation to visual impacts, an updated landscape and visual impact assessment can be found in Section 6 of this AI submission.
<p>North Milk Community Council (NMCC)</p> <p>January 2021</p>	<p>Object to the proposed development.</p> <p>NMCC & residents are not convinced that long term jobs will manifest themselves once the wind farm is constructed, rather any servicing which the wind farm requires is more likely to be undertaken by contractors based elsewhere.</p> <p>CWL express laudable commitment to a ‘Buy Scottish’ policy however it is unclear that the turbines themselves will be Scottish-industry sourced as NMCC believes that currently there are no Scottish manufacturers of the intended very large typology turbines.</p>	<p>As part of the AI, CWL commissioned BiGGAR Economics to carry out an Economic Impact Assessment, specifically relating to the proposed development. This can be found in Appendix 5.2 of this Section of the AI. This document outlines how the proposed development will support jobs during construction and operation in both Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland as a whole.</p> <p>NMCC are correct that turbine components are no longer available from a Scottish manufacturer following the collapse of CS Wind. CWL have previously purchased turbine components from CS Wind for some of its operating wind farms and the Applicant continues to commit to a ‘Buy Scottish’ policy wherever possible for work on the proposed development including the civils work and turbine components should the opportunity arise. Section 5.14 below details some of the Scottish companies that we have worked with recently. CWL will also host ‘Meet the Buyer’ events where local businesses will be invited along to meet the applicant and find out more about potential partnerships/ contracts.</p>

5.3 Legislation, Policy and Guidance - Updates

Tourism: Scotland

- 5.3.1 Relevant guidance has been taken from National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) (2023) in relation to legislation, policy, and guidance on tourism in Scotland.
- 5.3.2 NPF4 outlines where development and infrastructure is needed in Scotland. The plan highlights six key principles, including ‘Just Transition’, that ensures the transition to Net Zero is fair and inclusive. As part of this transition, the plan emphasises the policy intention to encourage, promote and facilitate renewable energy in Scotland, allowing growth in the sector to contribute to national outcomes.
- 5.3.3 NPF4 Policy 11: Energy states a position of express support for wind farm development. It is important to note that the spatial and development management topic provisions within Policy 11 largely reflect those of the outgoing Scottish Planning Policy, but there are some significant differences. Of relevance to this chapter is the omission of references to tourism or tourism assessments in Policy 11, which is likely to be an acceptance of the lack of impact on tourism from wind farms, and as such a tourism assessment is no longer required.
- 5.3.4 Policy 30 is specifically related to tourism, this section of NPF4 aims to encourage and promote tourism that benefits local people, whilst being consistent with net zero and nature commitments.

5.4 Summary of Assessments

- 5.4.1 With reference to the EIAR consultee responses in Table 5.1, it was recommended by VisitScotland that a Tourism Impact Assessment was carried out to fully evaluate the effects of the proposal. Therefore, BiGGAR Economics have been commissioned by CWL to carry out an independent Tourism Impact Assessment, and the full report can be found in Appendix 5.1.
- 5.4.2 The assessment concluded that Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm is not expected to cause adverse effects on tourism behaviour in the local economy. The report also found that, although Moffat has a higher-than-average employment in the tourism related sectors, employment across other tourism related sectors, relating to tourist activities is less significant. This is due to visitors more likely to use Moffat as a stopping point due to its proximity to the motorway. It is therefore likely that while some people visit to experience attractions, much of the tourism activity is the result of travellers stopping in the area for the day. Consequently, it is unlikely that the proposed development will discourage tourists from visiting either the local or regional area, or Scotland as a whole.
- 5.4.3 Alongside The Tourism Impact Assessment, an Economic Impact Assessment was also produced by BiGGAR Economics, which can be found in Appendix 5.2. This replaces their previous report which supported the EIAR in November 2020. The new assessment takes into consideration the revised wind farm proposal of 60 turbines, and it summarises the direct, indirect, and induced benefits from the proposed development. It outlines estimates that the construction and development phase could generate up to £54.8 million and 883 job years in Dumfries and Galloway. For the operational phase, it was calculated how much of the operation and maintenance works could be performed by local suppliers. An analysis of the local economic structure and information from CWL suggested that around 36% of Opex could benefit businesses in Dumfries and Galloway. The operational phase could generate £4.6 million per annum and 52 jobs in Dumfries and Galloway through direct, indirect, and induced impacts (BiGGAR Economics, Economic Impact Assessment Section 5.1.2).

- 5.4.4 The proposed development will also contribute to local economic development through a community benefit fund, expected to be worth around £2.16 million per year as it is based on the Scottish Government guidance of £5,000 per MW. This is equivalent to collective community benefit payments worth around £86.4 million over the 40-year lifetime of the wind farm. These funds could provide significant wider social, educational, environmental, and economic benefits for the local communities, delivering legacy projects and long-term assets as well as supporting and creating employment. The community benefit fund could support 38 jobs throughout the operational period (BiGGAR Economics, Economic Impact Assessment, Section 5.1.3).

5.5 Potential Effects

- 5.5.1 The proposed development of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm can be split into three distinct phases: construction, operation, and decommissioning. It is envisaged that the construction of the wind farm will be completed within 18 months. The wind farm will operate for a period of 40 years, after which the site will be decommissioned, which will take up to 18 months.

Potential Construction and Decommissioning Impacts

- 5.5.2 Potential impacts that could arise during the construction and decommissioning of the proposed wind farm include the following:
- Economic impacts on the local community as a result of direct employment (over 250 jobs created).
 - Economic impacts on the local community as a result of indirect employment and increased spending ability.
 - Public safety management related impacts resulting from forestry felling and construction works.
 - Public access across the proposed wind farm site may be temporarily restricted.
 - Temporary traffic and transport impacts on the local community as a result of increased vehicles movements in the area (for details of the Traffic and Transport Assessment, see Section 12 of this AI).

Potential Operational Impacts

- 5.5.3 Potential impacts that could arise during the operation of the proposed wind farm include the following:
- Direct and indirect impacts on recreation and tourism as a result of changes in the landscape, views to and from the proposed wind farm site and personal opinion relating to the wind farm development.
 - Direct and indirect impacts on the perceived amenity value of the area depending on personal opinion relating to the wind farm development.
 - Direct employment created during the operation of the proposed wind farm (52 job years created in Dumfries and Galloway (BiGGAR Economics, Economic Impact Assessment, Section 5.1.2)).
 - Direct economic impacts for the local host communities through the establishment of an annual £2.16 million community benefits fund. This is equivalent to a total fund of around £86.4 million over the 40-year lifetime of the proposed development. These funds could provide significant wider social, educational, environmental and economic benefits and support for the local communities.
 - Direct economic impacts on the wider area through payments of £5.4 million per annum for business rates to Dumfries & Galloway Council.
 - Direct social and economic impacts on the area through potential community assets (as outlined in the Commitment to Communities Report).
 - Indirect economic impacts on the local community as a result of increased spending ability.

- Direct impact on education, through use of the wind farm as an educational resource and regular visits to the local schools.

5.5.4 Taking this into account, it is CWL's aim to ensure that the operation of the wind farm will not significantly disrupt the existing land use and, given evidence from other wind farms that occupy farm land and commercial forestry, there is no reason to believe that coexistence is not possible. The Scottish Governments ambitions for forestry and onshore wind can complement each other and there are many good examples of sites supporting both land uses (Scottish Government, Onshore Wind Policy Statement 2022).

5.6 Mitigation

Mitigation during design

5.6.1 As described in Section 3 of the AI, the proposed wind farm has been designed and further refined with potential impacts on the landscape and visual amenity in mind. While designing this site, the aim to reduce landscape and visual impacts whilst achieving the appropriate landscape fit, and avoiding areas constrained by other environmental considerations such as hydrology and ecology, has been at the forefront of the design process.

5.6.2 The Applicant has produced a Design and Access Statement to accompany the AI submission. This outlines the changes that have occurred since the original submission, and how it has been redesigned to become a 60-turbine wind farm proposal.

5.6.3 CWL have also extensively consulted with the communities surrounding the proposed site with regards to the proposal, along with community benefits and how these can be used to generate positive assets for those who need it.

Mitigation during the construction and decommissioning

Direct Employment

5.6.4 The Applicant will seek to ensure positive benefits remain in the local area during the construction of the proposed wind farm by endeavouring to use local labour, manufacturers and suppliers wherever possible. This is reinforced by their 'Buy Scottish' policy. This policy was designed to ensure that economic investment and employment from the wind farm during development, construction and operation stays within the local area, wider region, and Scotland.

5.6.5 During the construction and development of the proposed wind farm, Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm could generate:

- £54.8 million Gross Value Added (GVA) and support 883 job years in Dumfries and Galloway; and
- £206.8 million GVA and support 3,260 job years in Scotland

(BiGGAR Economics, Economic Impact Assessment Executive Summary).

Land Use

5.6.6 During construction, areas undergoing work, specifically around the turbine foundations, would be fenced off to protect stock, where appropriate. While land use within the proposed site boundary may undergo slight disruption during the construction of the wind farm, the land use itself will not change.

5.6.7 A 'phased construction' programme will be implemented minimising the scale of disruption at any one time. This 'phased construction' will comprise of the site being split into sections. Section one will have the basic infrastructure laid down first (access tracks, borrow pits, hardstands etc.) and once this is complete then the turbines can be constructed while section two undergoes the construction of basic infrastructure, and so on.

5.6.8 The phasing of the construction programme, both in terms of time and location, will be discussed and agreed with the landowners to minimise disruption to planned agricultural activities.

Risk to Public Safety

5.6.9 It is not envisaged that there will be a need for any diversion of Core Paths during the construction phase. Paths will be appropriately managed during construction for health and safety purposes. Signage and way markers would be deployed to assist walkers. At any crossing points there will be signage requesting that walkers call a banksman to help them cross the access track during the construction period.

5.6.10 The construction of the proposed wind farm must comply with the requirements of the Construction Regulations 2007. These regulations oblige the Developer to notify the Health and Safety Department Executive of the project, and to establish a safety management system encompassing risk assessment, design measures and management instructions to ensure the safety of construction and operational staff and the public.

5.6.11 To reduce the risk of traffic and transport-related matters on public safety, CWL will prepare two Traffic Management Plans (one for construction traffic, and one for abnormal load deliveries), and more information on this can be found in Section 12 of the AI.

Mitigation during Operation

Direct Employment

5.6.12 During the operation of the proposed wind farm, Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm could support 52 job years in Dumfries and Galloway and 84 job years in Scotland (BiGGAR Economics, Economic Impact Assessment Executive Summary). In terms of employment to ensure the smooth operation of the wind farm, it is expected that the following would be required:

- Wind turbine engineers.
- Supervisor engineers to maintain and manage the wind turbines during its operational phase; and
- Maintenance staff to maintain the wind farm site and undertake habitat management work as required.

5.6.13 These jobs will have a lifespan of 40 years as they are all associated to the operation of the wind farm.

Risks to public safety

5.6.14 CWL are an experienced wind farm operator and will adhere to the highest standards of operational safety at all times.

Visitor Centre

5.6.15 As part of the EIAR submission CWL proposed to build a visitor centre on the wind farm site. However, following consultation with community councils and local people it was highlighted that this perhaps was not something that the community really wanted to see built alongside the wind farm as it could potentially take

tourists away from visiting the local towns and villages. The Applicant has therefore withdrawn this offering as part of the AI and will look to discuss with the local communities how they can support the community with developing alternative community assets and long-term legacy projects, which will benefit the local host communities. Furthermore, the increase in the Community Benefit Fund commitment to £5,000 per MW, which we are committing to through this AI will help with the delivery of the long-term community assets, as required by the local people.

Enhancement of Shared Recreation Public Access

- 5.6.16 In the EIAR the Applicant proposed to construct a ‘Multi-Purpose Wind Farm Walk’, which would pass through the Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm site area and would have the potential to link to other nearby walking routes and core paths as well as offering circular walking routes from the previously proposed visitor centre.
- 5.6.17 There is a significant opportunity to enhance the recreation opportunities in and around the proposed Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm area.
- 5.6.18 There is a large existing path network within and around the proposed development. CWL is therefore proposing to maintain the paths that fall within the site boundary and to add signage where necessary to help walkers, hikers, horse riders, and cyclists to navigate around the wind farm site.
- 5.6.19 The applicant will look to include information/display boards at suitable locations along the route, displaying facts and figures about the turbines, route maps, and some health and safety guidelines since the paths are situated within an operational wind farm. The information boards are also a useful educational tool, as they can be used to display information about:
- The surrounding landscape; and
 - Local flora and fauna.
- 5.6.20 These plans will be discussed further with the Council’s Countryside Access Officer post consent.

5.7 Economic Benefits of the Development

- 5.7.1 CWL is committed to investing in Scotland, bolstering the Scottish Economy, as we operate a ‘Buy Scottish’ policy during the development, construction, operation and decommissioning of all our wind farms. Since 2006, CWL has invested over £500 million in its eight operational wind farms and its current under construction wind farm, increasing to £2 billion by 2025 should our three next-generation schemes be consented (Sanquhar II, Faw Side, and Scoop Hill Community Wind Farms).
- 5.7.2 CWL’s ‘Buy Scottish’ policy has been applied and implemented already for the Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm proposal in relation to the work undertaken to date during the development stages of the scheme. The development, construction and operation of the proposed Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm will provide a large volume of financial investment into the local and regional economies, throughout the 18-month construction phase and the 40-year operational lifetime of the wind farm. This is estimated to be an initial investment of £809 million through development and construction, and a further £25 million per annum to operate the wind farm. **Overall, Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm will provide economic investment of over £1.8 billion over its whole lifetime.**
- 5.7.3 The construction and development could generate 883 job years in Dumfries and Galloway, with 52 permanent and long-term jobs created from the operation and maintenance, needed to support the project

throughout. Expenditure via business rates to the local authority; rents, and contracts with contractors and sub-contractors during the construction phase, will also deliver a significant and positive financial boost to the local areas surrounding the wind farm.

- 5.7.4 The financial rewards and benefits of the development will positively impact the local communities both directly and indirectly, which will help to establish the wind farm as an asset amongst local businesses and local residents.
- 5.7.5 The percentage of investment into local areas from development, construction, operation and maintenance is improving year on year due to efforts by developers to use local firms to ensure that any benefits to the local economy are concentrated (RenewableUK, 2015).
- 5.7.6 The known and predicted financial spending at each stage of the development process for Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm is detailed in the following paragraphs.

Scoping, Pre-Planning and EIA Phases

- 5.7.7 The wind farm proposal has employed a variety of specialists and useful services, with preference given to local and Scottish companies wherever possible, as detailed in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2 – Investment During Planning Process

Investment, Consultants, Services	Company/Venue
Ecology & Ornithology Consultant	Starling Learning, <i>Lochwinnoch</i>
Landscape and Visual Consultant	Optimised Environments (OPEN), <i>Edinburgh</i>
Aviation Consultant	Aviatica Group, <i>Midlothian</i>
Borrow Pit Stone Testing	Grange Quarry and Concrete, <i>Lockerbie</i>
Cultural Heritage Consultant	Headland Archaeology, <i>Edinburgh</i>
Fisheries Consultant	River Annan Trust, <i>Lockerbie</i>
Hydrology, Hydrogeology & Geology Consultant	Natural Power Consultants Ltd, <i>Stirling</i>
Legal Services & Land Agents	Lindsays Solicitors, <i>Edinburgh</i> DWF, <i>Edinburgh</i> Turcan Connell, <i>Edinburgh</i> Brodies LLP, <i>Edinburgh</i> Bidwells, <i>Perth</i> Savills, <i>Edinburgh</i> Anderson Strathern, <i>Edinburgh</i> AMS Associates, <i>Cupar</i> CMS, <i>Edinburgh</i>
Transport Consultant	Collett, <i>Grangemouth</i>
Local Facilities & Services	Company/Venue
Hall Hire for Public Exhibitions and Community Council Meetings	Boreland Village Hall Beattock Village Hall Johnstonebridge Community Centre Moffat Town Hall Wamphray Village Hall

Advertising	Eskdale and Liddesdale Advertiser Dumfries and Galloway Standard Annandale Herald
Accommodation	Kagyu Samye Ling Monastery and Tibetan Centre - <i>Eskdalemuir</i> Black Bull - <i>Moffat</i> The Famous Star Hotel - <i>Moffat</i> Best Western - <i>Lockerbie</i> Buccleuch Arms - <i>Moffat</i> Hartfell House - <i>Moffat</i>
Local Amenities	Buccleuch Centre – Langholm Rumblin’ Tums – <i>Moffat</i> The Townhead Hotel – <i>Lockerbie</i> Annandale Services – <i>Johnstonebridge</i> Green Frog - <i>Moffat</i> Buccleuch Arms - <i>Moffat</i> Hartfell House - <i>Moffat</i>

Construction Phase

- 5.7.8 A significant investment of £809 million will be required to facilitate the development and construction of the wind farm.
- 5.7.9 CWL and the Applicant are committed to creating long-standing relationships with Scottish companies to construct wind farms and both ensure a strong focus on Scotland. The *‘Buy Scottish’* policy places a strong emphasis on employment and working with businesses in Scotland and the local region where the wind farm is located. This involves active engagement with Scottish civil, electrical and engineering contractors and suppliers to construct and maintain our wind farms.
- 5.7.10 CWL is proud to have worked with Scottish companies for their recent projects and are committed to continuing to use Scottish companies to deliver Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm. Civil Contractors, RJ McLeod, amongst others, have constructed our operational wind farms with RJ McLeod currently constructing CWL’s Sneddon Law Wind Farm near Galston, and electrical connections have been undertaken by Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) and Scottish Hydro; all utilising a Scottish-based workforce. Dumfries-based AMD Contract Services Limited constructed the access tracks for Sanquhar Community Wind Farm and took on the main civil works contract, enabling them to take on more staff and apprentices from the local area.
- 5.7.11 The Applicant will invite numerous Scottish civil, electrical and engineering contractors, to tender, with preference being given to companies based in Dumfries and Galloway as there will be a strong focus on using local civil and electrical companies.
- 5.7.12 In order to make Scottish companies and contractors aware of the opportunities Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm would provide, the Applicant will hold a *‘Meet the Buyer’* event, whereby local and regional suppliers, contractors and sub-contractors will be invited to learn about the project, register their details on the Contractor’s Database and confirm their potential for the supply of products and services for the construction of the wind farm.

- 5.7.13 Associated employment opportunities will also be made available for local people, through contracts for work such as fencing, road improvements/surfacing and local plant hire. Again, more information will be made available at the *‘Meet the Buyer’* event, where companies and individuals can register their interest and confirm their services. The Applicant can also assist with linking jobseekers and apprentices with potential employers as part of the *‘Buy Scottish’* initiative.
- 5.7.14 During the construction phase, the proposed Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm would support over 250 jobs, in both the construction and supply industry. As seen previously during the construction of Sanquhar Community Wind Farm where apprenticeships were provided to local people for plant hire operatives as undertaken by AMD Contract Services of Dumfries, this is an arrangement which the Applicant will strive to continue during the construction of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm providing more opportunities for apprenticeships for local people.
- 5.7.15 Table 5.3 outlines the work requirements during the construction period and the associated predicted economic benefits.

Table 5.3 – Predicted Services required during the construction period.

Contractor/Required Services	Details
Accommodation	Personnel working on the construction of the wind farm will require the use of local accommodation providers. It is anticipated that 250 people would be involved with the construction of the site.
Ecological Clerk of Works, Site Engineer and other professionals	To oversee and manage the construction works, monitoring requirements etc. local professionals/consultants will be appointed for these positions.
Electrical switchgear design	The wind farm requires complicated electrical system design and expensive equipment to be installed. The Energy Storage Facility will also require design and installation.
Fencing Contractors	Any alterations or temporary dismantling of fences marking land boundaries will be corrected/reinstated by a local experienced fencer. Dry stone wallers may be required, along with providers of gates, cattle grids and styles for walking routes.
Fibre optic communication design	The wind farm requires high specification communication devices both on and off site.
Fuel supplies and delivery	Machinery used during construction will require fuel supplies provided by a local distributor. Along with fuel for construction personnel vans, cars etc.
Grid capacity study	A detailed capacity study will be undertaken to identify the best location to connect the wind farm to the local grid distribution network. This will be carried out by Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN).
Local amenities	All workers during the construction period will require food, drink and other provisions, bringing trade to the local area.
Lightning protection survey and design	Electrical earthing studies will be required to analyse the conductivity of the soil and to design the correct lightning protection system.

Materials supply and delivery	Materials for the construction phase will be sourced from local suppliers where possible including bricks, mortar, sand, cement, concrete, stone, wood, steel, cabling, electricity poles, marker posts etc.
Meteorological mast installation	A company will be required to install the meteorological mast and monitoring equipment.
Power line design	All underground electrical cabling will need to be designed by a specialist company and accepted by SPEN, the Scottish Government and Dumfries & Galloway Council.
Track construction	New access tracks within the wind farm development and road improvements will be required. A local tarmac supplier will be required for local public road surfacing.
Security & Health and Safety	Security services may be required including CCTV cameras, security lighting and palisade security fencing. Fire alarms and extinguishers will also be required along with first aid kits and a defibrillator.
Signage	On-site signage will be required for the construction phase and information/display boards will be required on-site during the operational phase.
Sub-contractors	Electrical fitters, carpenters, painters & decorators, plumbers will be required during the construction phase for various tasks.
Substation design and construction	The substation houses all of the electrical and communications equipment and requires many sub-contractors and building supplies to complete it.
Turbine foundation design and construction	The final design of the foundations depends on the ground conditions and exact specifications. Local supplier required to mix and deliver concrete, or to construct and operate a temporary onsite batching plant.
Turbine manufacture and erection	Turbine manufacturer is to be confirmed, but potential suppliers include Siemens Gamesa, Vestas or Enercon.
Webcam design and installation	Webcam design/installation to be performed by a specialist company.

Operational Phase

5.7.16 Once the wind farm is complete and operational, investment to the local area and Scotland will continue. Over its 40-year operational life, over £1 billion will be invested into the local and Scottish economies which will include:

- Business Rates of around £5.4 million per annum to be paid to and Dumfries & Galloway Council.
- Operations and maintenance of the wind turbines including regular servicing.
- Operations and maintenance of electrical connection to the grid network.
- Funding for Community Benefits at £2.16 million per annum.
- Support of 52 job years in Dumfries and Galloway, 82 job years in Scotland (BiGGAR Economics, Economic Impact Assessment).
- Requesting that Civil contractors take on and fully train a minimum of six apprentices.

- Preference for employment and apprenticeships will be given to people from the local area, and then from the wider Dumfries and Galloway areas.

5.7.17 Furthermore, there will be additional indirect financial expenditure in terms of purchasing fuel, local accommodation and general amenities by the turbine engineers and the Applicant who will make regular visits to the site to monitor the wind farm's operation, for business purposes, meetings, as well as attending community events at the wind farm and in the local area.

5.7.18 The operation of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm will create and deliver a direct, positive and long-term economic benefit to the local area.

Employment Opportunities

5.7.19 Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm would provide new permanent jobs in the area, to operate and maintain the site through its 40-year operational life. This is in addition to the support and creation of permanent and temporary jobs arising from the project during construction, as described in the previous paragraphs.

5.7.20 The Applicant will also request that any Civil contractor takes on and fully trains a minimum of six apprentices, with preference given to people from the local area, and then from the wider Dumfries and Galloway areas. This will give school leavers and young adults from the community, opportunities to learn new skills by working on local projects, gain qualifications and thus increases their employment opportunities in the area.

5.7.21 Due to the proposed size of the development and from experience of operating other wind farm developments, it is anticipated that works would be required throughout the year, and for the entirety of the operational phase, on a wide variety of different tasks and responsibilities.

5.7.22 While maintenance will be required on the civil aspect of the scheme such as roads and hardstands, it will also be required on the ecological assets such as habitats, watercourse crossings and other environment assets such as trees and shrubs. Therefore, there are opportunities for local contractors to tender for works maintaining such assets throughout the lifetime of the wind farm.

5.7.23 Throughout the wind farms operational lifetime, the Applicant will look to aid with creating jobs, whether directly or indirectly from the wind farm, with preference always given to local people.

5.8 Community Benefits

5.8.1 As a company, CWL are extremely proud to support a wide variety of local events, community groups, schools, charities and community initiatives as part of the community benefits packages from the company's seven operational wind farms.

5.8.2 Up to the end of April 2023, CWL have donated over £8 million to the host communities of CWL's portfolio of onshore wind farm projects. Further information on the benefits which have already been provided to communities across Scotland is available in the separate 'Commitment to Communities' report which accompanies this AI.

5.8.3 The Applicant will continue CWL's commitment to communities by ensuring that community benefits and assets are generated and implemented as part of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm.

5.8.4 As part of the AI submission, CWL have committed to supporting the local host communities by awarding £5,000 per MW, which is a total of £2.16 million per annum. Over the 40-year operational life of the wind

farm, the local host communities will receive over £86 million in community benefits for use on community projects. The funding will be provided to support the economic, environmental and social requirements of local residents, businesses, charities and community groups throughout the operational lifetime of the wind farm.

5.8.5 Consultation has been held with the local authority, Community Councils, and community members, along with existing Development Trusts or local organisations, to discuss the funding and appropriate distribution amongst the host communities. This was done through scoping, public exhibitions and also through joint and individual presentations to the Community Councils. Further to this, Community Council Action Plans were reviewed, where publicly available, to give an idea of the deficiencies for specific community areas.

5.8.6 Further information on the proposed community assets is provided in the ‘Commitment to Communities’ report.

5.8.7 The Applicant will continue to liaise with local people and communities throughout the development and planning process of the wind farm and will look to move forward with further material benefits to the local host communities.

Shared Ownership

5.8.8 As presented in the Scottish Government’s Onshore Wind Policy Statement published in December 2022, *“Community benefit from, and shared ownership of, renewable energy developments have a key role to play in engaging communities and securing Scotland’s transition to net zero”*. CWL are open to the prospect of launching a feasibility study into shared ownership to gauge the level of enthusiasm for it from the local communities surrounding Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm.

Energy Funds

5.8.9 CWL has recently launched Energy Funds in East Lothian and in Dalry, North Ayrshire to help vulnerable residents to heat and power their homes.

5.8.10 In December 2022, CWL launched their East Lothian Energy Fund, which provided £1 million worth of grants to over 1,400 households to help with soaring energy costs, in collaboration with national advice charity, Advice Direct Scotland.

5.8.11 Following the success of the first energy fund, CWL has now launched its second energy fund scheme. The £300,000 Dalry Parish Energy Fund was set up in April 2023 and is again being run in connection with Advice Direct Scotland.

5.8.12 The Applicant and CWL are keen to explore the potential for setting up a similar fund for the host communities around the proposed Scoop Hill development, subject to planning consent being granted. This is something that will be explored further with the communities during the consultation process.

5.9 Educational Benefits

5.9.1 A key ethos for the Applicant and CWL is the education and training of local people to provide them with knowledge and skills for the future. This in turn assists them with seeking employment and improving the socio-economic levels of the local area.

5.9.2 Through their ‘Buy Scottish’ policy and working partnerships with a variety of companies and organisations, the Applicant will, through the development of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm, commit to supporting education and training resource requirements for residents of the local host communities for the lifetime of the wind farm.

5.9.3 A summary of each educational aspect surrounding CWL wind farms follows. For a full and detailed description, please see the ‘Commitment to Communities’ report which accompanies the AI.

Educational Wind Farm Site Visits

5.9.4 CWL already offer guided site visits for local schools and groups in conjunction with their operational wind farms, which enable the wind farm and its surrounding environments and habitats to be used as a teaching resource for pupils of all ages and abilities, and for adult groups who want to learn more about wind farms and renewable energy. This would be a service that is rolled out at Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm, once the wind farm is operational, so local schools and other groups can arrange to have a guided visit around Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm and learn about wind farms and renewable energy.

Primary and Secondary Schools

5.9.5 CWL value the creation of working relationships with local schools in conjunction with their operational wind farms. AI Plates 5.5 to 5.8 show examples of their previous work with various schools in Scotland.

5.9.6 As part of CWL’s ongoing commitment to the local communities and education, engagement with local schools has already commenced, as detailed in the AI Commitment to Communities, and we would look to continue to create working partnerships with the schools which are located in Moffat, Beattock, Johnstonebridge and Boreland to bring the educational benefits to a wider region.

Working Partnerships with Colleges

5.9.7 In conjunction with the CWL’s operational wind farms in North Ayrshire, a long-term partnership has been established with West College Scotland and Ayrshire College that offers engineering students a two week work placement with CWL, designed to teach both the ‘Project Development’ and ‘Technical’ aspects of the Company and our portfolio of wind farms.

5.9.8 The work placements are designed for students on engineering courses who wish to pursue careers within the renewable energy industry. The placements cover different areas of the business, including working with live data from our operational wind farms and project development such as wind farm site design and constraints assessments.

5.9.9 Following the success of these partnerships, CWL is seeking to establish a similar working partnership with Dumfries and Galloway College in Dumfries, in association with the proposed Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm. Dialogue is already underway with representatives at Dumfries and Galloway College to discuss the potential opportunities for educational and employability presentations at their campuses.

5.9.10 In conjunction with Developing the Young Workforce - Dumfries and Galloway (DYW D&G), CWL have provided careers related presentations which were delivered for students across several schools in Dumfries and Galloway.

5.9.11 CWL will continue to work alongside DYW D&G to deliver effective career events and provide educational benefits. For example, CWL attended Work Ready events at Sanquhar Academy, Moffat Academy and Langholm Academy in 2022 and 2023.

5.9.12 These talks provided pupils and students with an insight into the wide variety of careers in the renewable energy sector. The Applicant will strive to continue working with DYW D&G, in order to bring similar educational and careers presentations to the schools and colleges in the wider area of Dumfries and Galloway in which Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm will lie.

Educational Presentations

5.9.13 Educational presentations are also available for after school clubs, youth groups, local adult groups and any other community groups as desired by group leaders and members. Topics for the presentations can be on any subject related to the environment and are not limited to wind energy, but can include all types of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, climate change, recycling, the environment, sustainability and Eco-Schools initiatives. The Applicant is also keen to support local schools who are trying to achieve Eco School Status and thus be more environmentally friendly.

5.9.14 As mentioned above, careers related presentations are also available and have already been deployed through partnership work with DYW's Work Ready days. Through the progression of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm, CWL will ensure this service will continue to be offered to local schools and colleges in the area including but not limited to: Applegarth Primary School; Hutton Primary School, Beattock Primary, Johnstonebridge Primary and Moffat Academy.

5.9.15 The secondary school presentations CWL have provided, such as at Moffat Academy, focused on careers and the process of developing a wind farm. Talking about careers in the renewable energy sector is important for students to see how their interests and classroom subjects could link to lots of different career paths. We have also delivered sessions on turbine placement using different computer programmes and chaired debates between students on topics relating to climate change and renewable energy.

5.9.16 CWL have already demonstrated their commitment to educational benefits in the surrounding areas of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm and this engagement and support for education will continue throughout the development and operational phases of the project.

Engagement with Community Councils

5.9.17 Following the submission of the EIAR in November 2020 the Applicant intended to host a round of public exhibitions. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Applicant was unable to hold any in person meetings or exhibition events. The Applicant therefore produced an informative video for communities to view on YouTube and social media, as well as making sure as much information as possible was available on the Scoop Hill website alongside the video. Copies of the Non-Technical Summary were also printed and sent to the Community Councils so that they could be provided to local residents who requested information about the scheme.

5.9.18 Once restrictions had eased in the summer of 2021, the Applicant held four Public Exhibition events, where the community were informed of what the proposal entails and allowed residents to ask questions and provide feedback which has been used to inform the revisions as now outlined in the AI. Hard copies of the EIAR and all supporting documents and visualisations were available for public viewing at these Public Exhibitions which took place as follows:

- **Moffat Town Hall** - 8th July 2021 at 11:00 - 19:30
- **Beattock Village Hall** - 14th July 2021 at 11:00 - 19:30
- **Wamphray Village Hall** - 15th July 2021 at 10:00 - 16:00
- **Johnstonebridge Community Centre** - 21st July 2021 at 11:00 - 19:30.

5.9.19 Leaflet drops took place in the local area prior to the exhibitions, to inform the community of these events. The leaflets were hand delivered on the 25th and 26th May and then again on 30th June and 1st July 2021, to ensure that all areas would receive the information about the proposed development.

5.9.20 Following further consultation with statutory consultees and the local community during the rest of 2021 and into 2022, there was a number of design changes made to the proposed development.

5.9.21 Two members of the Projects Team organised and attended a joint Community Council meeting on the 19th January 2023 to provide a detailed update to representatives from the relevant Community Councils. A presentation was provided which explained the work which had been taking place over the last 12 months with details announced about the changes to the scheme and the revised 60-turbine layout. This was followed by an extensive Question and Answer session, which was appreciated by the Community Council representatives who attended.

5.10 Testimonials

Employment Benefits

5.10.1 AMD Contract Services Limited have been similarly grateful for the income and employment opportunities created by CWL. Director of AMD, Fraser Dykes, has stated:

“Thanks to renewable energy projects, and in particular, the work involved on Sanquhar Community Wind Farm, we have not only survived the Recession but have seen our company expand and develop. Community Windpower gave us the opportunity to take on the major civil works contract for their wind farm, something which is normally offered to bigger companies. Through this opportunity we have been able to provide a significant boost to the local economy and train up members of the local community.”

5.10.2 Glasgow-based civil contractor RJ McLeod has completed three projects for CWL, with the fourth project, Sneddon Law Community Wind Farm, currently under construction in East Ayrshire. In December 2022, RJ McLeod surveyed their employees working on-site at Sneddon Law, and found that 100% of the workers were Scottish, with 56% of the residing in the Kilmarnock postcode area, 16% from Glasgow, 6% from Dumfries and Galloway, 4% from Paisley, 1% from Motherwell and the remaining 17% were from other areas in Scotland. This indicates that a significant amount of steady local employment has been generated through this particular CWL-RJ McLeod partnership.

5.10.3 Speaking on the construction of Sneddon Law, Joint Managing Director at RJ McLeod, Bruce Clark, said: *“This is our fourth project with Community Windpower, who recognise the skills and experience of our staff and operatives as well as our track record of using local resources. We look forward to jointly delivering this important energy asset.”*

Community Benefits

5.10.4 The community benefits delivered by CWL's operational wind farms have been extremely well received by the local host communities. As part of the community benefits for Millour Hill Community Wind Farm, a

£300,000 Energy Fund in the parish of Dalry, North Ayrshire was launched in April 2023. It is a partnership between Advice Direct Scotland and the Dalry Parish Boundary Trust and aims to help the most vulnerable with their energy bills. Pamela Stewart, Deputy Chief Executive of Advice Direct Scotland, said:

“The funding support offered is invaluable in helping people within the Dalry area, especially those who are vulnerable. This is particularly important for those with disabilities or medical conditions that make reliance on medical equipment an expensive necessity. We are proud to be administering this second fund in partnership with Community Windpower and our new partners at the Dalry Parish Boundary Trust.”

5.10.5 Many residents have expressed their gratitude to CWL for the community benefits already provided to local communities as part of the fund for the operational Sanquhar Community Wind Farm, particularly funding for a local community newspaper, The Nithsdale Times.

5.10.6 A representative from the Nithsdale Times, praised the ‘important part Community Windpower has played in the daily running of our newspaper’.

Educational Benefits

5.10.7 CWL work in partnership with DYW D&G. Programme Manager at DYW D&G, Justin Thomas, commented that:

DYW D&G *“is delighted to be working closely with Community Windpower to inform our region’s young people about this sector which will carry hundreds of them into exciting and prosperous careers”* through the successful educational presentations at Wallacehall Academy and D&G College. Furthermore, the Applicant *“continues to build on its success, taking advantage of technological advances to ensure a continuous, sustainable industry for the future”* and will do so for Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm.

5.10.8 CWL has also received excellent feedback regarding the work placements held for students at Ayrshire College. Below are some examples of the comments received from students who have participated in the scheme:

“The two week placement with Community Windpower gave me a better understanding of the bigger picture i.e. locations, types of turbines used for those environments, which company has which responsibility, availability, and costs etc. I did learn a lot when I was on the placement in relation to the planning and operation of windfarms.” – Andrew Brown, former student.

“The placement with CWL gave me an invaluable insight into the planning and operation of windfarms in Ayrshire. Although employed as a service technician within the industry the experience at CWL helped me understand other aspects of the industry” – Miren Basabe-Kerr, former student.

“I took full advantage of the opportunity given to me to learn more about the wind turbine industry. The experience gained while working with the team at Community Windpower will help me as I work towards my goal of gaining employment within the sector” – Hamad Rafiq, Progressed to HNC Electrical Engineering at Ayrshire College.

5.10.9 The Applicant will continue CWL’s ongoing commitment to local groups, communities, schools, colleges, and businesses. Further information can be found in the Commitment to Communities Report, which supports this planning application.

Let’s Get Sporty

5.10.10 CWL has also funded sports sessions in a number of local primary schools, which have been delivered by community interest group Let’s Get Sporty (LGS). In the most recent block of sessions (Spring 2023), CWL funded 10 weeks of free physical education sessions for over 360 pupils from four local schools (Beattock, Moffat, Applegarth and Johnstonebridge Primary Schools). This is the third block of sports sessions that the Applicant has funded for local schools in close proximity to our in-development wind farms.

5.10.11 These sessions help students to develop an understanding of the importance of taking care of their physical health and provides them with information on health and wellbeing. In conjunction with these sessions, CWL also provides in-classroom sessions. These sessions aim to educate students about topics including: climate change, renewable energy, job prospects, etc. In March 2023, CWL staff attended a two-day session consisting of providing eight presentations to four different schools in the local area surrounding the Scoop Hill site.

5.10.12 To assist with the running of these sessions, a ‘Let’s Get Employed’ scheme is promoted by LGS, to provide individuals from local communities with valuable training and work experience to develop their employability skills. This is an incredible opportunity for local people to gain new experiences and broaden their skill sets.

5.10.13 Commenting on the launch of the sports outreach programme, Dayne Moore, Community Programme Manager at Let’s Get Sporty, said: *“We are delighted to be renewing our partnership with Community Windpower, continuing our legacy of providing school children with access to physical exercise and information on health and wellbeing. We are also excited to be able to provide young local people, through our Let’s Get Employed programme, with an incredible opportunity to develop their employability skills and gain new experiences.”*

5.11 Conclusion

5.11.1 This assessment provides an update to the information provided in the EIAR, provides the Tourism Impact Assessment as requested by consultees, and gives an overview of the potential benefits resulting from the development of the revised Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm proposal and the Developer’s ‘Buy Scottish’ policy which would be implemented.

5.11.2 Overall, Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm would have a positive impact on the socio-economic status in the area of Dumfries and Galloway, by creating employment and training opportunities thus helping to reduce unemployment rates; investing in the local economy; providing education and careers advice to local schools and colleges; and investing in community assets to improve the local area’s access to services and facilities.

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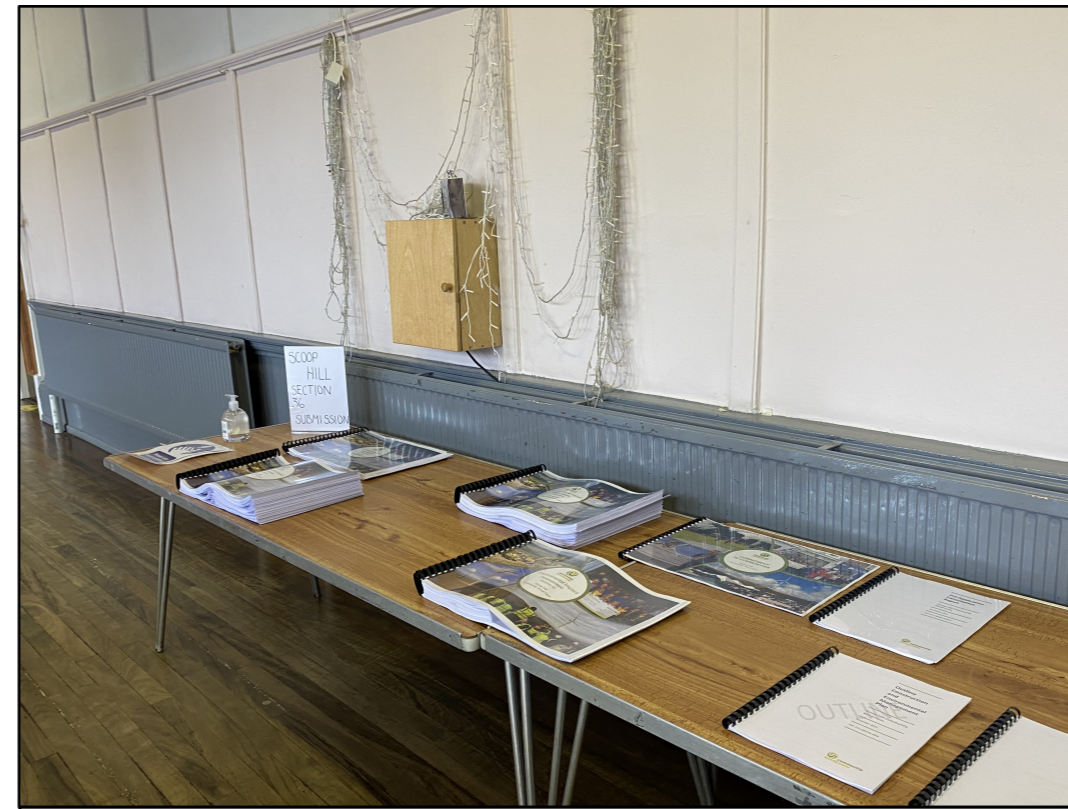
AI Plate 5.1- Public Exhibition Boards at Beattock Village Hall, Dumfries and Galloway, 14th July 2021



AI Plate 5.2- Public Exhibition Display Boards at Johnstonebridge Community Centre, Dumfries and Galloway, 21st July 2021



AI Plate 5.3- Public Exhibition Display Boards at Moffat Town Hall, Dumfries and Galloway, 8th July 2021



AI Plate 5.4- S36 Documents at a Public Exhibition, Moffat Town Hall, Dumfries and Galloway, 8th July 2021



AI Plate 5.5- Community Asset Donation of an E-bike, August 2021



AI Plate 5.6- Let's Get Sporty, Moffat Academy T-shirt delivery, March 2022



AI Plate 5.7- Let's Get Sporty T-shirt Delivery at Beattock Primary School, June 2022



AI Plate 5.8- Let's Get Sporty T-shirt Delivery at Johnstonebridge Primary School, June 2022



AI Plate 5.9- Let's Get Sporty T-shirt Delivery at Langholm Primary School, June 2022



AI Plate 5.10- Work Ready Day at Moffat Academy, October 2022



AI Plate 5.11- Community Donation to the Annandale Community Transport Services, March 2023



AI Plate 5.12- Let's Get Sporty Session, February 2023

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Appendix 5.1: Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm Tourism Impact Assessment

A report to Community Windpower
10th February 2023



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1.

Executive Summary

Scoop Hill is a proposed wind farm development in Dumfries and Galloway, approximately 5 km south of Moffat. This report by BiGGAR Economics has been commissioned by the developer, Community Windpower to assess any potential impact of the development on local tourism.

Research conducted by the Moffat Centre in 2008 examining the *potential* of onshore wind farms on tourism activity suggested there could be a limited impact on employment and economic activity as the number of wind farms in Scotland increased. In the intervening time since this study, onshore wind farm developments have grown substantially in Scotland and any impacts on tourism would now be evident. In 2021, BiGGAR Economics conducted research analysing the impact of 44 onshore wind farm developments in Scotland and the trends in tourism employment in the local areas in which they are situated. This found that no link between onshore wind farm development and tourism employment trends were evident, and in some areas tourism employment had actually grown. Furthermore, public attitude surveys continue to show strong support for onshore wind farm developments.

The publication of the Scottish Government's National Strategy for Economic Transformation in 2022 highlighted the country's issue of low productivity and the challenges this presents to the economy. The committed transition to a net zero economy represents a key opportunity for the country to boost productivity rates through the investment and creation of job opportunities in addition to creating new sustainable tourism opportunities. The development of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm will contribute to achieving these aims.

The largest settlement area in the vicinity of the proposed development is the town of Moffat. The town has independent stores along the town's main high street, outdoor attractions and recreational trails, accommodation providers and a close proximity to the M74. This location makes the town an ideal stop-off location for visitors on a longer journey and attracts day visitors. Moffat has an above average proportion of employment in tourism-related industries, particularly in relation to hospitality and accommodation facilities.

An assessment of the development of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm on tourism assets, accommodation providers and recreational routes found in the town of Moffat and within a wider 15 km radius of the proposed site finds that there is not expected to be any significant effect on tourism activity or behaviour.



2.

Study Approach and Methodology

To assess any potential impact of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm on tourism, this study uses a mixed analysis approach of examining existing literature and public data sources, supported by a site visit.

Scoop Hill is a proposed onshore wind farm development in Dumfries and Galloway, approximately five km south of Moffat. This report has been commissioned by the developer, Community Windpower, to assess any potential impact of the development on local tourism.

While there is no evidence that wind farms have had a negative effect on Scottish tourism or on tourism in areas where wind farms have been developed, this report has been commissioned to determine whether the development and operation of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm specifically will have any effect on tourism in the surrounding area.

2.1 Study Approach

Given the location of the proposed development and its proximity to the town of Moffat, the assessment focuses on this area. The local tourism context has been analysed with respect to the number of visitors to Dumfries and Galloway and how much of a draw Moffat is for visitors to the region. The importance of tourism as a source of employment for the area has been considered and compared with its importance for that of the country as a whole. This analysis was designed to provide insight on the importance of tourism for the local economy and the local area's role in the tourism proposition of the wider region and as a national tourist destination.

When assessing the impact of onshore wind farm developments on tourism, there are typically three areas of tourism activity that are focused on:

- tourism assets that draw visitors to the area;
- accommodation providers where visitors can stay during their visit; and
- recreational walking trails and routes.

Each of these aspects has been identified for the town of Moffat. Whilst this may not encompass every asset the town has to offer it highlights the key attractions. It is common practice when assessing any potential impacts of wind farm developments



to consider assets that lie within a 15 km radius of the site. Assets which fall within this location have been included as part of the tourism assessment.

An assessment was then made regarding whether the development and operation of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm would impact motivations for visiting Moffat and the local area.

2.2 Methodology

To carry out this assessment, a combination of research methods was used. This included data from publicly available statistics on tourism activity and employment and web searches of local attractions, accommodation providers and recreational routes. Evidence from these sources were also supplemented by a site visit to the local area in April 2022.

In order to assess effects on tourism and recreation assets, the features that make them distinctive and attractive were identified and assessed in terms of whether the development of the wind farm could alter such features, and thus motivations for visiting them.

For recreational assets, guidance provided by NatureScot (previously Scottish Natural Heritage)¹, on how to assess effects on recreational amenity has been followed. This takes into consideration a number of potential effects, including direct effect on facilities, such as limitation or restrictions on access, and effects on the intrinsic quality of the resources enjoyed by people.

The findings of this research are detailed in this report, which is structured as follows:

- section 3 summarises existing research on onshore wind farm developments and tourism and on public attitudes towards onshore wind farm developments;
- section 4 provides an overview of the economic and tourism policy context;
- section 5 outlines the local tourism economy within the vicinity of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm and how important this is for tourism regionally and nationally;
- section 6 describes the tourism proposition of Moffat, including attractions, accommodation providers and recreational routes;
- section 7 provides an assessment of any potential impacts of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm on tourism within the wider 15 km radius of the development, including Moffat; and
- section 8 draws together the main conclusions of the report.

¹ Scottish Natural Heritage (2018), Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook



3.



Wind Farms and Tourism

Existing evidence suggests no link between onshore wind farm developments and tourism employment and public attitudes towards their development are overwhelmingly supporting.

The relationship between wind farm development and tourism has been the subject of several studies. If impacts arising from onshore wind farms, such as landscape character or visual impacts, lead to changes in visitor behaviour or spending, it would be expected that there would be evidence of such changes in other areas where there has been onshore wind farm development. This section of the report looks at existing evidence on the topic in addition to evidence on public attitudes towards wind farm developments in Scotland and the UK.

3.1 The Economic Impacts of Wind Farms on Scottish Tourism

Often quoted, although now dated, is the study by the Moffat Centre at Glasgow Caledonian University published in 2008 on the potential effects of wind farms on tourism².

The study considered what could happen, based on surveys of tourists' perceptions, finding that, although there may be minor effects on tourism providers and a small number of visitors may decide not to visit Scotland in the future, the overall effect on tourism expenditure and employment would be very limited.

Since this study was completed, wind farms have become much more common in Scotland, and any negative effects on the tourism economy as a result of their existence would now be apparent.

3.2 Wind Farms and Tourism Trends in Scotland: Evidence from 44 Wind Farms

In 2021, BiGGAR Economics produced a report analysing the relationship between the construction of onshore wind farms and tourism employment at the national, regional and local level.³

Nationally, the report found that, whilst Scotland had experienced a significant increase in onshore wind energy (with the number of turbines increasing from 1,082

² Moffat Centre (2008), The Economic Impact of Wind Farms on Scottish Tourism

³ BiGGAR Economics (2021), Wind Farms & Tourism Trends in Scotland: Evidence from 44 Wind Farms



in 2009 to 3,772 in 2019), employment in tourism-related sectors had increased by 20%. At the local authority level, those which had seen the largest increase in onshore wind energy also experienced increases in tourism employment equal to, or greater than other areas across Scotland.

The report included case studies of 44 onshore wind farms constructed between 2009 and 2019. This included an updated analysis of 28 wind farms included in a previous report⁴ constructed prior to 2015, and 16 additional wind farms constructed between 2015 and 2019. The study reported on changes in tourism-related employment in the local areas within 15km of each wind farm. Of the 28 wind farms previously analysed, the surrounding local areas of 18 experienced an increase in tourism employment above the Scottish average in the years following the construction. Of the 16 local areas surrounding the additional 16 onshore wind farms, 11 experienced increases in tourism employment which outperformed the Scottish average. These results suggested that tourism employment in local areas across Scotland changed independently of wind farms located in the area.

The report concluded that, there was no pattern or evidence suggesting that the development of onshore wind farms in Scotland had any negative effects on the tourism economies of the country as a whole, local authority areas or the immediate areas surrounding wind farms.

3.3 Public Attitudes Towards Onshore Wind Farms

The proposition that wind farms could have an adverse impact on the tourism economy supposes that some tourists do not like wind farms and so could change their tourism behaviour to avoid experiencing them. Public attitudes to wind farm development are therefore relevant to a tourism impact assessment.

An opinion poll commissioned by RenewableUK in 2021 found that there is strong support for onshore wind in Scotland and for more wind farms to be built. The poll found that 70% of people in Scotland supported renewable energy projects, with this figure rising to 74% if they lived within five miles of an existing wind turbine.⁵ A 2022 RenewableUK poll found that there was majority support for onshore wind in every UK constituency, with 79% of people across the UK supporting onshore wind.⁶ Support for repowering wind farms is also high, with support in the south of Scotland highest at 78%. This suggests that public opinion of onshore wind farms in Scotland, and in the south of Scotland specifically, are overwhelmingly supportive.

⁴ BiGGAR Economics (2017), Wind Farms and Tourism Trends in Scotland

⁵ RenewableUK (2021). 'Poll shows majority of people in Scotland want planning system to enable more onshore wind farms.' Available at: <https://www.renewableuk.com/news/583064/Poll-shows-majority-of-people-in-Scotland-want-planning-system-to-enable-more-onshore-wind-farms-.htm>

⁶ RenewableUK (2022), 'Polling in every constituency in Britain shows strong support for wind farms to drive down bills.' Available at: <https://www.renewableuk.com/news/615931/Polling-in-every-constituency-in-Britain-shows-strong-support-for-wind-farms-to-drive-down-bills.htm>



The UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) also produce quarterly statistics tracking public attitudes towards energy infrastructure. In its Spring 2022 findings, 85% of the public supported renewable energy projects. Support for onshore wind projects specifically stood at 78%.⁷

⁷ BEIS (2022). Public Attitudes Tracker: Energy Infrastructure and Energy Sources. Winter 2021, UK.



4.

Strategic Context

National and regional strategies emphasise the need for Scotland's economy, including the tourism sector, to embrace the opportunities created by the country's transition to Net Zero.

4.1 Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation

In March 2022, the Scottish Government published Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation⁸, setting out the Scottish Government's priorities for the economy and the actions required to ensure opportunities to achieve a wellbeing economy are maximised over the next decade.

The strategy outlines the vision for the economy that by 2032, Scotland will be a nation of entrepreneurs and innovators, with considerably boosted productivity and a focus on opportunities which will transform the economy. As Scotland is currently below average in terms of productivity, the strategy emphasises the need to address barriers to productivity across the economy.

The transition to net zero is highlighted as a significant opportunity for Scotland to deliver positive employment, revenue and community benefits, increasing productivity in the economy and addressing poverty and the regional inequalities which hold Scotland back.

The just transition which the Scottish Government aims to achieve will mean investment to develop the existing strengths of the country, such as the provision of higher education and the energy sector. For Scotland to improve productivity across the economy and ensure the whole country benefits, existing sectors will be encouraged to embrace the opportunities that a net zero economy presents.

The economic strategy highlights the challenges faced by the tourism sector in particular as a result of Covid-related restrictions since 2020. As the sector recovers, the remaining net zero targets should provide the ambition to drive action and innovation which will improve the future productivity of the historically low productivity sector. In 2019, GVA per head of employment in sustainable tourism was £20,121 in Scotland⁹, while average GVA per job filled across the entire Scottish economy was £54,662.¹⁰ The strategy notes that the industry can address this low

⁸ Scottish Government (2022), Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation

⁹ Scottish Government (2022), Growth Sector Statistics

¹⁰ ONS (2021), Subregional Productivity: labour productivity indices by UK ITL2 and ITL3 subregions



productivity while recovering from the pandemic by embracing the chance to establish Scotland as a leader in sustainable and eco-tourism.

4.2 National Planning Framework 4

The fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4), a long-term plan which outlines where development and infrastructure is needed in Scotland, was approved by the Scottish Parliament in January 2023 and adopted by Scottish Ministers in February 2023. NPF4 aims to guide spatial development, set out national planning policies, designate national developments and highlight regional spatial priorities to 2045.

The framework highlights how planning can be a useful tool in delivering change which effectively addresses the challenges facing Scotland, such as global climate change and the lasting effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, while delivering solutions that reflect the long-term public interest and support a high quality of life in Scotland.

The plan for future places is set out in line with six overarching spatial principles, including:

- **Just transition:** empowering people to shape their places and ensure the transition to net zero is fair and inclusive;
- **Conserving and recycling assets:** making productive use of existing buildings, places, infrastructure and services, locking in carbon, minimising waste, and building a circular economy;
- **Local living:** support local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work and leisure locally;
- **Compact urban growth:** limiting urban expansion so we can optimise the use of land to provide services and resources, including carbon storage, flood risk management, blue and green infrastructure and biodiversity;
- **Rebalanced development:** targeting development to create opportunities for communities and investment in areas of past decline, and manage development sustainably in areas of high demand; and
- **Rural revitalisation:** encouraging sustainable development in rural areas, recognising the need to grow and support urban and rural communities together.

As part of the just transition principle, the plan outlines the aim to make Scotland's future places net zero, nature-positive and designed to reduce emissions, while ensuring that the journey to a net zero society will involve, and be fair to, everyone. As part of this transition, the plan emphasises the policy intention to encourage, promote, and facilitate renewable energy in Scotland, allowing growth in the sector to contribute to national outcomes.



4.3 Scotland's Energy Strategy and Just Transition

In January 2023, the Scottish Government published a draft strategy outlining the route map of actions that the government will take with the aim of delivering a flourishing net zero energy system that supplies affordable, resilient, and clean energy to Scotland's workers, households, communities and businesses. The strategy highlights the importance of transforming the way in which Scotland generates, transports, and uses energy if Scotland's ambitious climate change targets are to be met. In doing so, this will allow Scotland to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the energy sector, maximising the benefits to people, workers, communities, and economy, enabled by the vast resources of renewable energy in Scotland.

The strategy highlights the importance of onshore wind to meeting emissions targets and ensuring that the benefits generated by the energy sector are maximised, setting the ambition for more than 20GW of additional low cost renewable electricity generation capacity by 2030, including 12 GW of onshore wind.

4.4 Scotland Outlook 2030: Responsible Tourism for a Sustainable Future

In March 2020, just before the implementation of Covid-19 restrictions across the UK, the Scottish Tourism Alliance, a group of stakeholders in Scotland's tourism sector launched a strategy outlining the vision for the sector to 2030.¹¹ The strategy highlights that Scotland's tourism sector has the potential to be a positive force for sustainability, responsibility, innovation and technology. Tourism provides jobs and the ability to enrich communities and enable investment, collaboration and partnership. The mission laid out in the strategy, to grow the value and positively enhance the benefits of tourism across Scotland by delivering the very best for visitors, businesses, people, communities and the environment, will be delivered in line with four key priorities:

- **Passionate people:** attracting, developing and retaining a skilled, committed, diverse and valued workforce;
- **Thriving places:** creating and developing a sustainable destination together;
- **Memorable experiences:** providing the best, authentic and memorable experiences; and
- **Diverse businesses:** building business resilience, sustainability and profitability.

The strategy highlights that, for the Scotland's tourism economy to thrive, sustainability must be incorporated into its growth and development. By delivering a 21st century vision through sustainable tourism practices across the sector, the

¹¹ Scottish Tourism Alliance (2020), Scotland Outlook 2030: Responsible tourism for a sustainable future



tourism industry can meet changing tourism trends and improve productivity in the sector.

Since Scotland Outlook 2030 was published, Covid-19 and related restrictions have posed increased challenges to the sector. However, the aims outlined in the strategy remain the sector's priorities and the Scottish Government's long-term goals for the tourism sector. In 2021, the Covid-19 Tourism Recovery Programme was introduced by the Scottish Government.¹² Proposals on how to use funding were developed by the Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group (STERG) to accelerate recovery in the short term, and to provide the foundation for a sustainable recovery in the tourism sector, putting the country on track to achieve the ambitions outlined in Scotland Outlook 2030.

4.5 South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy

In September 2021, the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership published a Regional Economic Strategy¹³, outlining the aims of the organisations for the South of Scotland, including:

- supporting fairer, more meaningful work;
- creating affordable, desirable and energy-efficient homes and widening choice;
- improving the health and welfare of those who are most disadvantaged within the region;
- building the capability and capacity of social enterprises and the Third Sector;
- investing in social infrastructure and education to enhance life prospects;
- putting the environment and sustainability at the forefront of the region's growing economy;
- protecting, enhancing and enjoying the region's abundant natural capital; cultural and heritage assets and vibrant arts and festivals backdrop; and
- building wealth which benefits the local economy, communities and people

The ten-year strategy outlines the vision of the South of Scotland being a region which is 'green, fair, and flourishing'. As part of its aim to become a green economy leader, the partners will work to support piloted approaches to land use and natural capital; encourage a growing circular economy enabling local green jobs; and support enhanced, future-proofed energy networks and zero carbon technologies.

The strategy also highlights the partners' priorities of growing and diversifying the economy, in part through building upon the region's sectoral strength in the generation of renewable energy. The strategy also sets the priority of utilising the economic opportunities presented by the transition to net zero, noting that the region is well placed to develop renewable heat and power to support Scotland's net-zero targets and create green jobs.

¹² VisitScotland (2021), Covid-19 Tourism Recovery Programme

¹³ South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (2021), South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy



4.6 Strategic Context Summary

National and regional strategies highlight the requirement for a just transition to net zero in Scotland. A just transition which invests in Scotland's existing strengths as well as creating new opportunities will allow Scotland to improve productivity across the economy and create a wellbeing economy which tackles poverty and regional inequalities. The tourism industry in Scotland is a historically low productivity sector which has suffered significantly as a result of Covid-19. The need for recovery creates the opportunity to grow sustainability in the way the industry recovers, improving productivity in the sector and creating opportunities for the country to become a world leader in sustainable tourism. The development of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm will contribute to achieving the outcomes identified in each of these strategies.



5.

Local Tourism Economy

The largest settlement area to the proposed development is Moffat, approximately 5 km away. The town has an above average proportion of the workforce employed in tourism-related industries and is an attractive stopping location for long-distance travellers.

Moffat is a rural town based in the south of Scotland, in the local authority area of Dumfries and Galloway. The town has a population of 3,714¹⁴, accounting for 1.5% of the population of Dumfries and Galloway in 2020. This section examines the importance of tourism to the town, to Dumfries and Galloway and to Scotland.

5.1 Visitor Numbers

Between 2017 and 2019, the average number of visitors to Dumfries and Galloway each year was 6.5 million, accounting for 4.2% of all tourism in Scotland.¹⁵ The vast majority of visitors (88.6%) to Dumfries and Galloway were day visitors and domestic overnight tourism accounted for 10.8%. The remaining 0.6% of visitors to the region were international overnight visitors, with visitors coming from Europe (18,000) and North America (10,000).

Day visitors to Dumfries and Galloway spent an annual average of £239m, approximately £41.80 per day visitor. This is a greater spend than the average £24.70 spent per day visitor in Scotland. The most popular activities for day visitors to Dumfries and Galloway include visiting family, going out for a meal or drink, walking, sightseeing, watching wildlife and visiting historic sites. As detailed in section 6, Moffat has several attractions that fall under these classifications that attract visitors to the area.

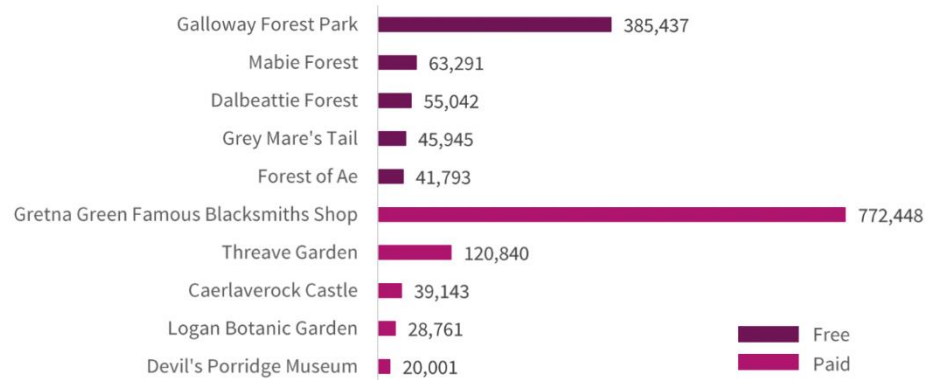
As shown in Figure 5.1, the 4th most visited free attraction in Dumfries and Galloway in 2019 was Grey Mare's Tail, a walking route north of Moffat town centre, attracting approximately 46,000 visitors.

¹⁴ Scottish Government (2022). *Moffat*. Available at: <https://statistics.gov.scot/atlas/resource?uri=http%3A%2F%2Fstatistics.gov.scot%2Fid%2Fstatistical-geography%2FS02001437>

¹⁵ Visit Scotland Insight Department (2021). Dumfries and Galloway Factsheet 2019



Figure 5-1 Top Five Free and Paid Visitor Attractions in Dumfries and Galloway, 2019



Source: Visit Scotland Insight Department (2021). Dumfries and Galloway Factsheet 2019.

In comparison to other rural areas of Scotland, such as Highland, the number of visitors coming to Dumfries and Galloway for walking-related activities is lower. Between 2016 and 2018, an average of 2.5 million day trips were made each year to Highland to go for either a short or long walk, compared to an average of 0.9 million day trips made to Dumfries and Galloway for the same reason.¹⁶ This suggests that recreational walking routes in Dumfries and Galloway may be less of a draw for tourists than it is for other rural areas of Scotland, although they will be used by local residents.

5.2 The Sustainable Tourism Sector

As tourism generates activity through the expenditure of visitors across various sub-sectors, some of which residents also spend on, the sector cannot be captured entirely by standard industrial codes (SICs) used by government statisticians.

In 2015, the Scottish Government defined the sustainable tourism sector using a number of SIC codes¹⁷ that encompass tourism-related activities. These include 14 sub-sectors across accommodation, food services, and attractions. Other sectors which tourists contribute to, such as retail and transport, are not included in the definition of sustainable tourism as these sectors are too significantly contributed to by residents to accurately reflect tourism activity in an area.

The sustainable tourism sector generated a total of £77.1 million GVA in Dumfries and Galloway in 2019, accounting for 1.7% of the total generated by the sector across Scotland that year.¹⁸

¹⁶ Great Britain Day Visitor Survey (2020)

¹⁷ Defined by the Scottish Government as SIC codes:55.1, 55.2, 55.3, 56.1, 56.3, 79.12, 79.9 91.02, 91.03, 91.04, 93.11, 93.199, 93.21 and 93.29.

¹⁸ Scottish Government (2022). Growth Sector Statistics.



5.3 Sustainable Tourism Employment

In Moffat, the sustainable tourism sector accounts for 25.3% of total employment. Of this total, almost half (45.8%) is accounted for by restaurants and food services. This sector, which will also be supported by residents, employs 110 people in Moffat, accounting for 11.6% of the total employment in the area. Hotels and similar accommodation accounts for 39.6% of tourism-related employment in Moffat and 10.0% of all employment, with 95 people in the area working in this sector.

Moffat's tourism-related employment suggests a higher-than-average use of local restaurants and cafes, as well as a higher number of people staying overnight in the area.

Moffat is located around 40km from the border between Scotland and England, next to the M74. The motorway, which connects Scotland and England, is a route often taken by tourists driving to visit Scotland. Consequently, Moffat's location means it is a stopping place for tourists travelling to and from Scotland. Trends in tourism related employment in the area support the suggestion that the area mainly benefits from tourists visiting for day trips or to stay overnight while travelling. Significant employment in restaurants and mobile food services and hotels and similar accommodation suggests that tourists are likely to stop and spend the night in Moffat, while lower employment across other sectors suggests that tourists are not motivated to visit the area because of tourist attractions.

The 15km area around the proposed development, which includes towns such as Lockerbie and Langholm¹⁹, experiences some similar trends in tourism related employment. Sustainable tourism accounts for 8.9% of total employment in the area. The majority of tourism-related employment is in restaurants and mobile food services, which employs 310 people in the area, equivalent to over half (57.4%) of tourism-related employment and 5.1% of total employment. Employing 130 people, the hotels and similar accommodation sector accounts for almost a quarter (24.1%) of tourism-related employment and 2.2% of total employment in the 15km area.

Tourism-related sectors account for a higher share of total employment in Moffat (25.3%) compared to the local area (8.9%), as well as Dumfries and Galloway (9.1%) and Scotland as a whole (8.0%). However, in the context of Dumfries and Galloway as a whole, Moffat accounts for a small share of total employment in the sector. Across Dumfries and Galloway, 5,880 people are employed in tourism related

¹⁹ Areas included in the local area: S01007654: Annandale East – 04, S01007655: Annandale East – 05, S01007656: Annandale West – 01, S01007646: Langholm and Eskdale – 01, S01007632: Lochmaben – 02, S01007633: Lochmaben – 03, S01007634: Lochmaben – 04, S01007635: Lockerbie – 01, S01007636: Lockerbie – 02, S01007637: Lockerbie – 03, S01007638: Lockerbie – 04, S01007639: Lockerbie – 05, S01007640: Lockerbie – 06, S01007566: Mid Nithsdale – 03, S01007567: Mid Nithsdale – 04, S01007641: Moffat – 01, S01007642: Moffat – 02, S01007643: Moffat – 03, S01007644: Moffat – 04 and S01007645: Moffat - 05



sectors. Of this, tourism employment in Moffat accounts for 4.1%, and tourism employment in the local area 9.2%.

Table 5.1 Tourism Related Employment, 2021

	Moffat	Local Area	Dumfries & Galloway	Scotland
Hotels and similar accommodation	95	130	1,250	37,000
Holiday and other short stay accommodation	5	10	140	3,250
Camping parks	10	15	300	3,000
Restaurants and mobile food service activities	110	310	2,750	104,000
Beverage serving activities	15	40	700	28,500
Tour operator activities	0	0	10	650
Other reservation service and related activities	0	0	20	1,625
Museum activities	0	0	110	4,500
Operation of historical sites and buildings	0	0	140	2,750
Botanical and zoological gardens and nature reserves	0	0	30	2,250
Operation of sports facilities	5	30	275	12,500
Other sports activities	0	5	60	4,250
Activities of amusement parks and theme parks	0	0	15	750
Other Amusement and recreation activities	0	0	80	4,000
Share of Total Employment	25.3%	9.0%	10.0%	8.5%

Source: ONS (2022), Business Register and Employment Survey: safeguarded access 2022 (note that the employment figures are rounded and so some sectors with very low levels of employment may be rounded to 0 in these statistics. In the case of Moffat for example, there is a museum, gardens, a nature reserve and trail, but associated employment in the relevant sectors is close to 0 and so has not been picked up in the rounded statistics)



6.

Moffat's Tourism Proposition

The rural town of Moffat is host to a number of outdoor attractions and walking trails with hotels, cottages and caravan parks able to host visitors.

This section provides a descriptive overview of the tourism assets, accommodation providers and recreational routes on offer to visitors to Moffat.

6.1 Tourism Assets



A web search of VisitScotland, supplemented by a visit to the town identified the following tourist attractions in Moffat.

6.1.1 Moffat Museum

Moffat Museum is a tourist attraction situated just off the main high street, next to the Black Bull Inn. The attraction exhibits Moffat's historic past and its transition to the modern era. It also has interactive activities for visitors. In 2013 the building was extended, which was part funded by the Clyde wind farm. The museum is open at weekends throughout the summer season (April to September), also weekdays during the months of July and August, and is free to all visitors.

6.1.2 Station Park

One of the first attractions on the southern road into Moffat is Station Park. The public park features a large pond which is used for paddleboarding and boating during the spring/summer months. It is also directly opposite a large public car park and is likely to be one of the first attractions seen by visitors to the area.

6.1.3 The Moffat Golf Club

To the left of the road into Moffat from the south is the Moffat Golf Club. The Club was founded in 1884 and features an 18-hole course that provides visitors with scenic views over the hills and landscape to the east of Moffat. The course is located high on Coats Hill and its close distance to the M74 makes the Club easily accessible for travellers.

6.1.4 Moffat Community Observatory

The Moffat Community Observatory is located in the South of Moffat. The observatory, which opened in 2021, allows visitors to view the night sky through a professional telescope and take part in bookable Introductory Astronomy sessions on nights with suitable visibility.

6.1.5 The Moffat Spitfire

A full-sized replicate of a spitfire plane is available for tourists to view in a residential area near to Station Park. The model replica sits in the garden of a former pilot officer and has a donation box which is used to raise money for the Royal Airforce



Benevolent Fund. The model will be left to Moffat town and highlights the war efforts of Air chief Marshall Hugh Dowding, a native of the town.

6.1.6 Craigieburn House and Gardens

Craigieburn House and Gardens is situated two miles east of Moffat, amongst the scenic landscape. It features an array of plants and walking routes for visitors and has historic links to Robert Burns.

6.1.7 Moffat Community Nature Reserve

The Moffat Community nature reserve is approximately 4 km from the Site of the proposed development and looks out onto the hills in the near distance. The reserve is free to visit and features a variety of birds and wildlife. The reserve often runs events and activities.

6.1.8 Grey Mares Tail Nature Reserve

Featuring one of the UK's highest waterfalls, the Grey Mares Tail nature reserve is amp for scenic walks and hikes just a short drive from the town centre. The scenic landscape is a key feature of the reserve and has views stretching as far south as the Lake District and Northumberland. Within closer range, views can be seen over Loch Skeen and the peaks of Lochcraig Head, Mid Craig and White Coomb. In addition to the walking trails, the reserve also features local wildlife.

The town of Moffat also has a number of local attractions that add to the unique offerings of the town centre. These include:

- Moffat Mill: a clothing store that also features a cafe, whisky shop and local Scottish souvenirs; and
- Old Well Theatre: a 70-seat theatre that showcases performances from the Upper Annandale Dramatic Society and other local performances. The theatre can also be hired for specific events.



6.2 Accommodation

Using an online search, 46 accommodation providers in Moffat were identified. This included:

- 20 hotels and B&Bs;
- 20 self-catered lodges/cottages located 0km and 9km from the proposed development;
- 3 hostels located between 6km and 10km away from the proposed development; and
- 3 caravan and campsites located between 5km and 6km from the proposed development.

The 20 hotels and B&Bs identified in Moffat were located between 4km and 8km from the proposed development. Many hotels and B&Bs in the area market themselves based on their proximity to Moffat's High Street and the independent



shops the town is known for. Other benefits of staying in hotels and B&Bs in Moffat included access to various walks around the area, views of the surrounding hills, and the historical significance of providers' buildings. Some advertised improved experiences from award winning restaurants and access to recreational facilities such as tennis courts and bowling greens. Multiple providers noted that they would be a good stopping point for travellers driving along the M74 between Scotland and England.

Hotels and B&Bs located in Moffat include:

- The Black Bull Inn;
- Queensberry House B&B;
- 29 Well Street;
- Buchan Guest House;
- Rockhill Guest House;
- Claremont Bed and Breakfast;
- Hartfell House & The Limetree Restaurant;
- Summerlea House Moffat Bed and Breakfast;
- Balmoral Hotel;
- Stag Hotel;
- Hazel Bank Bed & Breakfast;
- Rosebery House;
- The Buccleuch Arms Hotel;
- Annandale Arms Hotel and Restaurant;
- The Famous Star Hotel & Restaurant;
- Lime Tree House Guest House;
- Seamore House B&B;
- Dumcrieff House;
- Bonnington Hotel; and
- Auchan Castle.

The 19 self-catered lodges/cottages in Moffat were located between 0km and 9km from the proposed development. Of the self-catered accommodation, some market themselves based on their location within the hills around Moffat. A major selling point of multiple providers was the access they provided to either the High Street in Moffat or the walks surrounding the area. Providers also market themselves based on the ability to view local wildlife and the hills surrounding the area. One provider marketed itself based on the premium experience of renting a Grade-II listed manor house with access to the mansion's land and gardens. Two highlighted the ability to view Moffat's Dark Sky while visiting the area. Self-catered accommodation in Moffat included:

- Barnhill Bothy;
- The Wee Cottage;
- Hillend Guest Cottage;
- Heatheryhaugh Lodges;
- Moffat Mansion;



-
- Telford Manor House;
 - Dalwhinnie Lodge;
 - LochHouse Tower;
 - Holiday Cottage in Moffat;
 - Oaktree Apartments @ Moffat;
 - Wee Hartfell Cottage;
 - Dark Sky Cottage;
 - Kirsty Cottage;
 - Lazydays Cottage;
 - Ladyknowe Apartment;
 - Holm House Luxury Self Catering Cottage;
 - The Lodge;
 - Ram Lodge; and
 - Kirkview House.

The 3 caravan and campsites in Moffat were located between 5km and 6km from the proposed development. Of the caravanning and campsites in the area, some were marketed based on their proximity to the M74 as an ideal stopping point on the journey between Scotland and England. Proximity to the centre of Moffat was also a significant asset, as was access to the walks and cycling routes in the area. Another selling point was access to the grounds of the site, as well as additional recreational activities such as parks and access to onsite shops. One site was marketed based on the premium 'glamping' experience it provided. Caravan parks and campsites located in Moffat included:

- Moffat Camping & Caravanning Club Site;
- Moffat Manor Holiday Park; and
- Wigwam Holidays.

The 4 hostels located in Moffat were located between 6km and 10km away from the proposed development. Multiple providers marketed access to hostel grounds, as well as proximity to walks and biking routes around the area and the centre of Moffat, particularly the Southern Upland Way and the route between John O'Groats and Lands-End. The hostels also marketed themselves as ideal for large family groups, youth organisations and student societies.

The hostels include:

- Well Road Centre;
- Moffat Independent Hotel;
- Clarefoot Residence; and
- Rivox Bunkhouse.

6.3 Recreational Routes



Seventeen recreational trails within 15km of the proposed development were identified using an online search of Walkhighlands.com. Of these, 13 were located in and around Moffat and were located between 0km and 10km from the proposed development. Recreational trails in the area included:

- Wamphray Glen Circuit a 5km walk which passes through a wooded glen, and explores the site of an old motte and bailey, an old mill and an old church, near Moffat;
- Earshaig Lochans, a 2km route around various lochans;
- Gallow Hill, a 4km route which begins at Moffat's High Street, continuing up Gallow Hill above the town on a circular route;
- Moffat Riverside, a 5km circular route along the River Annan, starting at Moffat's High Street;
- Craigeiburn Forest, a 5km walk through a forest with views over Moffat Dale to the North;
- Archban and Frenchland, a 6km route to the North East of Moffat;
- Carrifran Wildwood, a 3km route where land management has taken place to re-establish native trees, allowing walkers to view the area as it would have been historically;
- Grey Mare's Tail and Loch Skeen, a 5km walk to see a 60m tall waterfall in the Moffat Hills, continuing up to Loch Skeen;
- Hartfell Spa, a 6km route up Hart Fell to a historic spa dating back to 1748;
- White Coomb by the Grey Mare's Tail, a 12km circular route up White Coomb, the tallest of the hills in Moffat, and towards Loch Skeen;
- Hart Fell Ridges horseshoe, a 13km route with steep slopes and ridges, with views of Blackhope Burn;
- Devil's Beef Tub circuit, a 23km circular route beginning in Moffat, which follows the River Annan, across hills to Annandale Head. The route is also also the first stage of the Annandale Way;
- Moffat to St Ann's, a 13km route also part of the Annandale Way, following forest tracks and field paths onto moorland; and
- The Southern Upland Way, a 344km route across Scotland from the Atlantic Ocean to the North Sea, a stage of which (Wanlockhead to Beattock), passes within 15km of the proposed development. Wanlockhead to Beattock is a 31km route passing across hills towards a forest.

The **A701 (north) driving route** is classified as a scenic route from Moffat to Edinburgh. The route passes by the edge of the 'Devil's Beef Tub' – a scenic tourist attraction in the hills, approximately 8km north of Moffat, that is noted for its unique formation, featuring a deep hollow.



7.

Tourism Impact Assessment

For each of the tourism attractions identified in this section, none are expected to face any impacts from the development of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm that will be substantial enough to change visitor behaviour.

Despite existing evidence suggesting there is no link between onshore wind farm developments and tourism employment, it is still important to consider whether this specific development could result in changes to tourism behaviour in the local area.

7.1 Moffat's Tourism Economy



7.1.1 Proximity to M74

Moffat's tourism economy benefits significantly from the town's proximity to the M74, the route taken by travellers driving across the border between Scotland and England. Moffat's close proximity to the motorway makes the town an ideal place for tourists travelling between the countries to stop for a day trip or overnight while on their journey. This significant reason to visit the town will not be impacted by the proposed development and so it is unlikely that the tourists coming to the area en route between countries will change their behaviour as a result of the proposed development's construction and operation.

While tourists travelling along the M74 have visibility of multiple existing wind farm developments, Moffat's tourism economy was growing prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. If the construction and operation of an onshore wind development in the area were going to prevent people from visiting Moffat, these effects would already be noticeable.

7.1.2 Retail Offering

A significant reason for tourists to visit Moffat as opposed to other towns located near the M74 is the retail offering in Moffat. The centre of the town is populated by independent shops, such as the **Moffat Mill** which sells local textiles, whisky, and hampers. The **Moffat Toffee Shop** is also a destination for tourists visiting the area. Moffat is also the location of antique shops such as **Lothlorien Antiques & Collectables Emporium** and craft shops such as **17 Reasons**. The offerings of these independent shops in Moffat will not be impacted by the proposed development. Consequently, it is unlikely that the benefits brought to the area by these independent shops in encouraging tourists to visit Moffat will be affected by the construction and operation of the proposed development.



7.2 Attractions

The tourist attractions identified earlier in this report suggest that Moffat's main attractions lie in its historic past, independent high street, nature reserves and scenic landscapes. Whilst these are attractions for tourists, they are also likely to be regularly visited by locals. The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) produced for the wind farm suggests that between 11 – 25 turbines could theoretically be visible from the town's main street.

The Moffat Museum is open through the months of April to September and only on weekdays during July and August. This suggests that tourism activity is seasonal in Moffat and centred on the summer months. This is supported by BiGGAR Economics' recent visit to the area in which **Station Park** was predominantly empty. This asset is likely to have some visibility of the proposed development however motivations for going for a walk around the park are unlikely to be deterred by the visibility.

The Moffat Golf Club is a popular attraction for locals and visitors and its location is a draw for many visitors. The course is easily accessible for travellers along the M74 and has a long history. The scenic views of the course may be altered by the visibility of the turbines with the ZTV suggesting that between 35 and 49 turbines could be visible. This is unlikely to deter from the recreational motivations for coming to the Club.

Of those assets that are inside attractions (**Moffat Mill** and **Old Well Theatre**), the proposed development is unlikely to have any effect on motivations to visit the attraction, particularly as the nature of the asset will not have changed.

In regards to the nature reserves of **Cragieburn Gardens, Moffat Community Reserve and Grey Mare's Tail Nature Reserve**, it is likely that the scenic landscape associated with these attractions may be affected by the development and operations of the turbines. It is also likely that the turbines will be more visible in higher locations, such as those from **Grey Mare's Tail**. However, as the proposed development is located 13km from the walking routes and the historic attractions of the reserve, it is not expected that the proposed development would change visitor motivations for climbing the trail.

Due to Moffat's status as a Dark Sky Town, the **Moffat Community Observatory** was opened in 2021. Should the proposed development have an impact on the visibility of the night sky, the observatory may experience some negative impacts on activity. However, there is little evidence that the status is a major reason why tourists visit. The status was included in the marketing of only two accommodation providers, suggesting that tourists are attracted to the area for other reasons. There is evidence which suggests that the area's proximity to the motorway and the shops available for day visitors in Moffat are more important visitor motivations.



7.3 Accommodation

The number of tourists staying overnight in Moffat due to the area's proximity to the M74 and its retail offering are unlikely to be impacted by the proposed development, meaning that for many accommodation providers in the area, visitor numbers are unlikely to change.



7.3.1 Hotels and B&Bs

Some accommodation providers benefit from their location on Moffat's High Street, providing guests with access to local restaurants and Moffat's retail offering. This includes the **Famous Star Hotel**, which markets itself as a significant attraction due to being the narrowest hotel in the world and a restaurant offering a wide range of traditional meals. The **Buccleuch Arms Hotel**, also located on the High Street, benefits from its historic building and has won awards for food, drink and hospitality. The **Balmoral Hotel** offers a relaxed and informal setting and offers guests the ability to stay in fully catered private cottages. **The Stag Hotel** highlights its credentials as an ideal base for visitors, situated on the High Street. **The Bonnington** markets itself based on its proximity to the centre of Moffat, as well as Moffat Golf Club and the local bus station. As the motivations to visit these providers, such as the significance of the buildings, catering and access to the High Street will not be affected by the proposed development, it is unlikely that they will experience any negative impacts.

Other providers marketed largely on their proximity to the centre of Moffat include **The Black Bull Inn** located close to the High Street, providing access to the centre of town for guests. The provider, which has been a hostelry since 1568, allows guests an old-fashioned Scottish ambience. Providers including **29 Well Street, Claremont Bed and Breakfast, Rockhill Guest House, Rosebery House, Seamore House Bed & Breakfast**, and **Summerlea House** all highlight the short distance to Moffat's restaurants and attractions such as the museum. **Hazel Bank Bed & Breakfast** is also located in the centre of Moffat and markets the access guests will have to the centre of town as well as surrounding walks. **Queensberry House** highlights how close it is to the centre of Moffat, as well as its tranquil setting in Moffat's conservation area. The providers' proximity to the centre of town and other attractions, as well as other motivations to visit such as access to catering will not be affected by the presence of a wind farm, so it is not likely to experience any negative effects as a result of the proposed development.

The Groom's B&B markets access to the providers garden, as well as the provision of catering while staying in the private cottage. **Buchan Guest House** is marketed as a 10-minute walk from the town of Moffat and provides guests with access to tennis courts and a bowling green. As the motivations to visit these providers, such as the additional activities guests have access to, would not be affected by the proposed Development, it is unlikely to experience any negative impacts.

Hartfell House & The Limetree Restaurant will have some visibility of the proposed development. However, the provider's most marketed asset, the award-winning



restaurant which both guests and non-residents can visit, would not be impacted by the proposed development.

The **Annandale Arms Hotel and Restaurant** markets its proximity to the centre of town and the M74, as well as its restaurant. The hotel also has two function suites, able to seat up to 120 delegates, with both available for conferences and parties. **Auchen Castle** is located approximately 8km from the proposed development, just West of the centre of Moffat. The hotel is primarily used as a wedding venue, featuring turrets, gilded staircases and gardens for wedding photos and events. **Dumcreeff House** offers guests exclusive use of the country mansion, with the choice between self-catered or fully staffed. The main motivation to visit these providers is their ability to host events and cater for large numbers of people. As this ability would not be impacted by the presence of a wind farm, and therefore it is unlikely they will experience any negative impacts as a result of the proposed development.

7.3.2 Self-Catered Accommodation

The benefits of staying at the **Dark Sky Cottage** include the provision of a fully equipped kitchen, broadband, and an outdoor space, as well as the proximity of the cottage to the centre of Moffat. The other provider, **Wee Hartfell Cottage**, highlights the 2-mile distance to Moffat's retail offering, as well as the cottage's proximity to walks around the area. Both providers also highlight Moffat's status as a Dark Sky Town in their marketing, noting that the area has special street lighting which allows visitors to observe the night sky without significant light pollution. The Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm Additional Information report sets out that a reduced lighting scheme has been approved by the Civil Aviation Authority and the Ministry of Defence. The major motivations to stay with these self-catered accommodation providers is unlikely to be impacted by the presence of a wind farm and so the proposed development would not be likely to have an impact on their visitor activity.

Providers which are largely marketed based their location at the centre of Moffat include **Holiday Cottage in Moffat, Oaktree Apartments @ Moffat, The Wee Cottage** and **Ladyknowe Apartment**. As the motivation to stay with these providers due to their proximity to Moffat's retail offering and local restaurants will not be affected by the proposed development, it is unlikely that these providers will experience negative impacts.

LochHouse Tower allows guests to experience a Border Pele Tower built in 1536, with access to the local nature reserve and walks such as the Annandale Way as well as the town of Moffat. **The Lodge** offers guests the ability access to Moffat, as well as hiking routes such as the Southern Upland Way. As the motivations to visit these providers, including experiencing the unique tower, staying close to the reserve and walks will not be impacted by the proposed development, it is unlikely that they will experience any effects.

As well as proximity to the centre of Moffat, **Heatheryhaugh Lodges** highlights the individual gardens available to guests staying with the provider. **Telford Manor House** features 11 rooms catering to large groups and families, and markets access



to the house's garden and barbecue. **Holm House** highlights the available garden with barbecue equipment. **Moffat Mansion** highlights the Victorian House's 7.6 acres of land with views across the parkland which visitors have access to. Similarly, **Hillend Guest Cottage** is marketed based on its views of the Moffat Water and Southern Upland Way, as well as the access guests receive to $\frac{3}{4}$ acre grounds. As well as its proximity to Moffat, **Barnhill Bothy**, located South of the town's centre, markets itself based on the access to 3 acres of grounds it provides to guests, and the ability to enjoy the tranquil setting. As visitors will still be able to access the gardens and grounds included in stays with these providers if the proposed development is constructed, it is unlikely that these providers will experience any impacts as a result.

Dalwhinnie Lodge is marketed based on its proximity to activities available in the area such as golfing and fishing. **Kirsty Cottage** highlights its location within Moffat, noting that the 250-year-old cottage is the perfect base to explore the area and take part in outdoor sports such as horse riding and mountain biking. **Lazydays Cottage** advertises on-site mini-golf and access to surrounding hiking and cycling routes. **Ram Lodge** highlights the interior design of the property by Chantillie House, as well as the access the lodge provides to walks such as the Southern Upland Way and local mountain bike routes and fishing ponds. **Kirkview House** highlights the historical significance of the building, which dates back to the 18th century, as well as the access the house provides to activities such as hiking and cycling.

7.3.3 Caravan Parks and Campsites

Moffat Caravanning Club Site, located near the High Street, will have visibility of the North side of the proposed development. However, given that there are three other caravan sites in the local area, the main benefit of visiting this caravan park as opposed to others is its proximity to the centre of Moffat. As this benefit will not be impacted by the proposed development, it is unlikely that the caravan park will experience any negative impacts.

Moffat Manor Holiday Park provides guests with access to a restaurant, bar and terrace, as well as a lounge area and a children's playground. Guests also have use of a games room. As the amenities which attract visitors to the site will not be impacted by the proposed development, it is unlikely that the provider will experience any negative impacts.

Wigwam Holidays is set in 100 acres of countryside outside the centre of Moffat, and markets itself as a "glamping" experience where visitors have access to the outdoor activities in the area, while experiencing the comforts of a luxury camping site. As these motivations to visit the site will not be impacted by the proposed development, the site is unlikely to experience any negative effects.

7.3.4 Hostels

Hostels located in the centre Moffat include **Clarefoot Residence, Moffat Independent Hostel**, and **The Well Road Centre**. The main reasons tourists may stay at these hostels include their location near the centre of Moffat, and their ability to

house large groups of people, such as university societies. The hostels also market themselves as a useful base for people visiting the area for walking and outdoor sports. As these assets will not be effected by the proposed development, it is unlikely that it will have a negative impact on visits to the hostels.

Rivox Bunkhouse is located West of the centre of Moffat, and highlights the access it provides to walking, mountain biking and cycling routes, particularly the route between John O'Groats and Lands-End. As the access provided to these activities will not be impacted by the proposed development, it is unlikely to have any impact on tourist behaviour that would prevent visitors from staying in the hostel.

7.4 Recreational Activities



7.4.1 Recreational Trails

Wamphray Glen circuit would pass through the site of the proposed development. However, the motivation to walk this route is related to visiting the site of an old motte and bailey, an old mill and an old church, suggesting that the construction and operation of the proposed development will not have an impact on tourists' decision to walk this route.

Multiple walking routes pass through Moffat's High Street. This includes **Gallow Hill**, which begins at the centre of Moffat before heading uphill and **Moffat Riverside** which continues along the River Annan. **Archbank and Frenchland** passes through the High Street, heading up to explore the fields and pastures located north east of Moffat.

Devil's Beef Tub Circuit also starts on Moffat's High Street. The route is one section of the **Annandale Way**, a 90km walking route, which also includes **Moffat to St Ann's**, which runs from the Moffat Hills South to the town of Annan. **Wanlockhead to Beattock** is also a part of a larger walking route, the **Southern Upland Way**. It is unlikely that walkers will stop walking the long routes as result of a wind farm in vision at one section.

Craigieburn Forest is located East of the centre of Moffat through the forest with views over Moffat Dale, located North of the proposed development. As the walk is known for views North of the proposed development, it is unlikely that it will have an impact on people walking the route.

Several routes are located North of Moffat, including Carrifran Wildwood, Grey Mare's Tail and Loch Skeen, Hartfell Spa, White Coomb by the Grey Mare's Tail and Hart Fell Ridges horseshoe. As these walks head further away from the proposed development than the town, it is unlikely that anyone will choose not to walk them as a result of the proposed development.

South of Moffat's centre is **Earshaig Lochans**, which follows a path round a small group of lochans, with benches and areas available for picnics. The views are around lochans West of the development, and a significant motivation to take the route is to



picnic along the way. The proposed development would not impact these motivations, and therefore it is unlikely to have an impact on the number of walkers taking the route.

When driving in from the north towards Moffat along the **A701 scenic route between Edinburgh and Moffat**, the incoming views of the town are likely to include intermittent visibility of up to 20-34 turbines. As visibility of operational wind farms along this road has not deterred visitors to Moffat, as shown by the growth in the area's tourism economy prior to 2020, it is not expected that additional visibility would result in tourists deciding not to visit Moffat.

7.5 Local Area

Beyond the town of Moffat, there are a number of tourism assets, accommodation providers and recreational activities that lie within 15 km of the site proposed for Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm.



7.5.1 Tourism Assets

When looking at the potential impacts of a wind farm development, assets within 15 km of the site are typically looked at. Whilst this report has so far identified those that are located in the town of Moffat, there are also attractions within the 15 km boundary, predominantly situated around Lockerbie/Lochmaben. These include:

- **Chariots of Fire Driving Centre:** at the south border of the site is the Chariot of Fire Driving Centre, providing horse riding and carriage driving activities and training from champion drivers;
- **Dryfesdale Lodge Visitor Centre:** featuring a memorial to the Lockerbie Air Disaster, located approximately 12 km from the site;
- **Lockerbie Golf Club;** the course is located on the edge of the Annandale hills approximately 10 km from the site with views over the Lake District;
- **Elshieleshields Tower:** a historic house where visitors can stay in the onsite bothy and make use of the onsite library for study or respite. It is located to the west of the M74, approximately 12 km from the site;
- **Eden Festival :** a popular music festival held in summer that is set in Raehills Meadows, approximately 7 km from the site;
- **Lochwood Tower/Castle:** a 16th century ruin approximately 4 km south-west of the site;
- **Samyeling Tibetan Buddhist Centre:** approximately 7 km to the east of the site is the Samyeling Tibetan Buddhist Centre, open for day visits, retreats, camping, and courses;
- **Manor Adventure:** an outdoor activity centre with onsite accommodation based in Lockerbie, approximately 9 km from the site;
- **Eskrigg Reseve:** a nature reserve with woodland walks and wildlife workshops approximately 12 km from the site; and
- **Carrifran Wildwood:** 9 km to the north-east of the site is the Carrifran Wildwood, a valley in the Moffat hills that has been restored by volunteers to improve the variety of plants and animals it is home to.

Significant motivations to visit these attractions include an interest in the history of the area. Visitors may also want to experience a music festival, learn about Buddhist practices, or engage in outdoor sports such as golf or horse riding. Such motivations would not be affected by the proposed development, so the local attractions are unlikely to experience any negative impacts.

For some of the attractions, a motivation may be to experience the scenic views. However, the outdoor attractions in the area are largely marketed based on their conservation activities, allowing visitors to experience and learn about the natural woodland in the area. This motivation to visit would not be impacted by the presence of a wind farm, and so it is unlikely that the proposed development would result in any negative impacts on these local attractions

7.5.2 Accommodation

Hotels and B&Bs

Outside of Moffat, 15 hotels and B&Bs in the local area were identified. Most accommodation providers were clustered around Lockerbie and Lochmaben, between 5km and 15km from the site.



- Located 0-5km from the site:
 - Nether Boreland.
- Located 5-10km from the site:
 - Days Inn by Wyndham Lockerbie Annandale Water;
 - Cauldholm Bed and Breakfast; and
 - Kagya Samye Ling Monastery Guesthouse.
- Located 10-15km from the site:
 - Bishopcleugh Farm B&B;
 - Bishopcleugh Guest House;
 - OYO Dryfesdale Hotel;
 - Corrie Lodge;
 - The Townhead Hotel;
 - Castlehill Farm Bed and Breakfast;
 - Kings Arms Hotel;
 - The Queens Hotel;
 - Somerton House Hotel;
 - Sure Hotel by Best Western Lockerbie; and
 - Crown Hotel Lochmaben.

Significant motivations to visit local hotels and B&Bs include the proximity of providers to the M74 and Lockerbie train station, which offers high-speed trains to Glasgow and Edinburgh, making providers ideal stopping places for travellers. Some providers highlighted their ability to host events such as weddings and birthday



parties for large numbers of people. Access to private gardens was a common benefit. Additional amenities were also highlighted by multiple providers, including use of trampolines, a private cinema and gaming room. Multiple providers highlighted their placement as ideal to access walks and cycling routes in the area. Others emphasised their quality restaurants and breakfast services. For one provider, the motivation to stay was the experience of living on a working farm, with a supply of fresh eggs and access to the fields. It would not be expected that any of these propositions would change as a result of the development of the wind farm. Consequently, it is unlikely that the proposed development would have a negative impact on hotels and B&Bs in the local area.

Self-Catered Lodges/Cottages

In the local area, 21 additional self-catered providers were identified. These providers were located between 0km and 15km from the site and are identified below.

- Located 0-5km from the site:
 - Dryfehead Bothy;
 - Riverside Cottage 4km
 - Over Phawhope Bothy 5km
 - Stables Cottage Self Catering Accommodation 5km

- Located 5-10 km from the site:
 - Davington Schoolhouse 6km
 - Curlew Cottage, New Bungalow Dinwoodie 6km
 - Blaeberry Cottage 6km
 - Raehills Estate 7km
 - Goodhope Holiday Cottages 8km
 - Balgray Cottages 9km
 - Georgefield Cottages 10km
 - Corncockle Estate 10km
 - Spedlins Castle 10km
 - Jamestown Cottage – Glendinning Farm Cottages 10km
 - The Old Schoolhouse – Glendinning Farm Cottages 10km

- Located 10-15km from the site:
 - Applegarth House 12km
 - Greenskyes Bothy 13km
 - Milngate Cottage 13km
 - Waterside Lodge 15km
 - Ropelawshiel Estate 15km
 - Burnfoot Holiday Cottages 15km.

Significant motivations to stay in the self-catered accommodation included the chance to relax overnight in private accommodation while travelling, with multiple



providers highlighting their proximity to the M74. Several accommodation providers included private gardens and patios available, with access to additional amenities including hot tubs. For one provider, the main motivation to visit was to experience staying in a 15th century castle, featuring a great hall and 4 acres of grounds including gardens and a lake. Multiple providers highlighted their accommodation as ideal for visiting local attractions and using as a base when planning to walk or cycle in the area, or take part in outdoor sports such as riding and fishing on the River Annan. One provider, located on a large estate, advertised the ability to take part in fishing, stalking and shooting on the grounds. It is not expected that any of these benefits would be impacted by the presence of a wind farm, and so it is unlikely that the proposed development would cause any negative impacts on local self-catering accommodation.

Three of the providers are bothies, one of which is located on the site of the proposed development and would be proximate to multiple turbines. As the bothies are quite far apart, with the closest alternative bothy over 8km away, it is unlikely that visitors would choose to stay somewhere else when walking in this area. Since the main benefit for all the bothies is that they provide shelter when staying in nature overnight, a benefit which would not be impacted by the proposed development, it is unlikely that they will suffer any negative impacts.

Caravan and Camp Sites & Holiday Parks

Three additional caravan parks and camp sites were located in the local area, between 4km and 15km from the site. These include: St Ann's Scout Campsite (6 km from the site) and Angecroft and Halleaths caravan parks (both 15 km from the site)

Benefits of visiting these sites were the access they provide to visitors wanting to explore the area and take part in outdoor activities such as walking and cycling. One provider highlighted the tranquillity and seclusion provided by the mature trees surrounded the park. One site, which is located in the Scottish Borders, highlights its positioning as ideal to explore the Scottish Borders countryside such as the vales of Selkirkshire. As these benefits would not be impacted by the presence of a wind farm, it is unlikely that the proposed development would negatively impact the local caravan and camp sites.

7.5.3 Recreational Trails

Four recreational trails were identified in the local area, located between 4km and 15km from the site.

Identified routes include:

- Bessie's Hill and Castle O'er, located 4km from the site. The route connects two iron-age forts, with views over River White Esk.
- Castle Hill and Mill Loch, located 14km from the site, leads through three local lochs;
- Eskrigg Nature Reserve circuit, located 14km from the site, begins at Lockerbie's town centre before leading through to the local nature reserve; and





-
- Castle Loch circuit, located 15km from the site, leads through a trail of wooden sculptures, ending at Lochmaben Castle.

As none of the major features of the recreational trails include the site of the proposed development, it is unlikely that it will have an impact on tourists' decision to take these routes.

7.6 Tourism Development

The Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm site itself will include trails that will provide access to the countryside for recreational users. Supplemented by on-site information for visitors, this will provide an additional tourism and recreation resource in the area.

In addition, the local community would receive £5,000 per MW in community benefits each year. This level funding could be used to achieve local priorities and support the existing tourism sector in the area by enabling the maintenance or improvement of both local attractions and the recreational trails most popular with visitors.



8.

Conclusion

The development of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm is not expected to cause adverse effects on tourism behaviour in the local economy.

Based on research into the tourism economy of Moffat and the local area surrounding the proposed Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm, supplemented by a site visit, this assessment found that the development of the wind farm is not expected to result in negative effects on the local tourism economy.

Moffat has higher than average employment in the tourism related sectors. The majority of this employment is concentrated in traditional hospitality sectors including mobile food services and hotels and similar accommodation. Employment across other tourism related sectors, relating to tourist activities and attractions, is less significant. This suggests that, while the area experiences tourism, visitors are more likely to visit for reasons other than the tourism offering in the area, such as its proximity to the motorway as a stopping point.

Across Dumfries and Galloway as a whole, Moffat accounts for a small share of total tourism related employment. While some tourists visit the area to engage in outdoor activities such as walking and cycling, these activities are more popular with tourists visiting other areas of Scotland, such as Highland.

Of accommodation providers in both Moffat and the wider local area, the most common attribute highlighted in their online marketing was their close proximity to the M74. Multiple providers marketed their accommodation as ideal stopping places for tourists to stay overnight while travelling. The area does not have an extensive tourist attraction offering, despite the number of accommodation providers. It is therefore likely that while some visit to experience attractions, much of the tourism activity is the result of travellers stopping in the area for the day.

The tourism economy of Moffat and the wider local area benefits largely from tourists travelling between Scotland and England. While some tourists visit to engage in outdoor sports, these activities are more significant to the tourism economies of other areas of Scotland such as Highland. It is therefore unlikely that the proposed development will discourage tourists from visiting either local or regional area, or Scotland as whole.

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Appendix 5.2: Economic Impact of Community Windpower's Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm

A report to
Community Windpower Ltd
10th February 2023





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1.

Executive Summary

Community Windpower's **Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm**, in Dumfries and Galloway, which is expected to have a capacity of **432 MW**, could generate during its construction and development:

- **£54.8 million Gross Value Added (GVA)** and support **883 job years in Dumfries and Galloway**; and
- **£206.8 million GVA** and support **3,260 job years in Scotland**.

Each year, the operation and maintenance of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm could generate:

- **£4.6 million GVA** and support **52 jobs in Dumfries and Galloway**; and
- **£6.8 million GVA** and support **84 jobs in Scotland**.

Scoop Hill Wind Farm will also make contributions to a community benefit fund aiding local economic and community development. It is expected to be worth around **£2.16 million each year**, which will amount to **£86.4 million over the 40-year lifetime** of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm.



2.

Introduction

2.1 Study Aims

Community Windpower commissioned BiGGAR Economics to assess the economic impacts of the proposed Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm in Dumfries and Galloway.

2.2 Report Structure

This report is structured as follows:

- Chapter 3 sets out the methodology that was followed in estimating the economic impacts of the proposed development;
- Chapter 4 provides a socio-economic context; and
- Chapter 5 sets out the economic benefits from Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm.



3. Methodology

This section sets out the methodology that was followed in assessing the economic impacts of the proposed development.

3.1 The Economic Impact of Wind Farms

3.1.1 A Best-Practice Approach

The analysis of the potential economic benefits from the construction and development of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm was based on industry best-practice. In particular, it relied on two studies conducted by BiGGAR Economics on behalf of RenewableUK in 2012¹ and 2015², which assessed the local, regional and national economic benefits from wind farms developed across the UK in recent years. These works, which were based on case studies of built wind farms, were the starting point in assessing the scope for economic impact at a local, regional and national level.

The analysis of economic impacts also benefitted from information on development and construction, and operations and maintenance costs from Community Windpower. The study further relied on BiGGAR Economics' experience working on onshore wind developments in the South of Scotland, as well as from an analysis of the economic structure of each of the study areas considered.

3.1.2 Study Areas

The assessment of economic impacts is conducted at the following geographical levels:

- Dumfries and Galloway; and
- Scotland.

Where economic impacts are reported at the level of each of these geographical areas, they are to be interpreted as inclusive (i.e. spending in Scotland includes any spending taking place in Dumfries and Galloway).

3.1.3 Approach to Economic Impact Assessment

This evidence and assumptions on the capacity to carry out contracts in a given study area are at the basis of the bespoke economic model that BiGGAR Economics uses to estimate the economic impact of onshore wind developments. In particular, as shown in Figure 3-1, the modelling exercise consists of four stages:

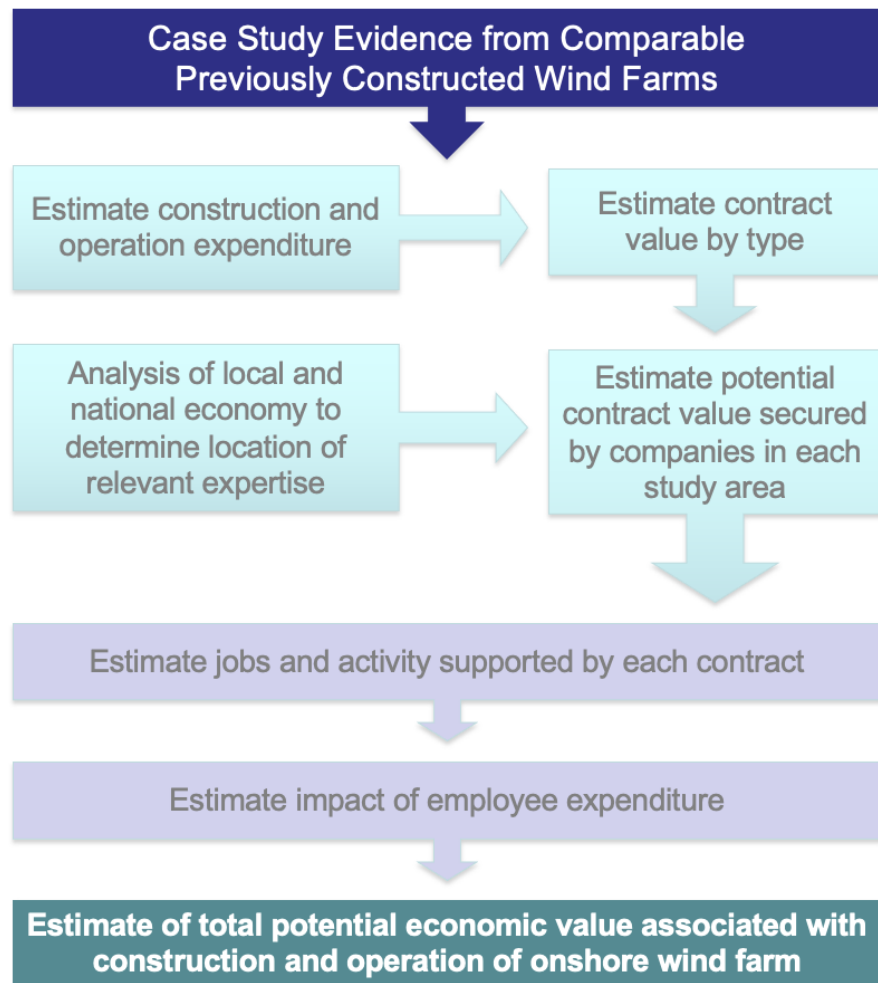
¹ Department of Energy & Climate Change and RenewableUK (2012), Onshore Wind, Direct & Wider Economic Impacts.

² RenewableUK (2015), Onshore wind: Economic impacts in 2014.



- estimation of total capital expenditure;
- estimation of the value of component contracts that make up total expenditure;
- assessment of the capacity of businesses in the study areas to perform and complete component contracts; and
- estimation of economic impact from resultant figures.

Figure 3-1 Approach to Direct and Indirect Economic Impact Assessment



The estimation of economic benefits is carried out in terms of the following three measures:

- Gross Value Added (GVA), a measure of economic output, which is usually defined as the value of an organisation's turnover minus any non-staff operational costs;
- years of employment (job years), a measure of employment that is used with reference to jobs that last over short time periods, such as during the construction of an onshore wind farm. A full-time job lasting two years would be two job years and one lasting six months would be 0.5 job years; and



-
- headcount employment, which is used when referring to impacts taking place on an annual basis.

Relying on these measures, the analysis of economic impacts considers three type of benefits:

- direct economic impacts: component contracts and the jobs they support;
- indirect economic impacts: wider spending in the supply chain; and
- induced economic impacts: spending of people employed in these contracts.

Having estimated the total turnover generated in each study area by each contract type, publicly available statistics are used to define economic impacts. In particular, direct GVA and employment are estimated by dividing the turnover generated by a contract in a given sector by the turnover per GVA and turnover per job for that sector, as sourced from the UK Annual Business Survey (ABS)³.

Indirect impacts are then estimated by multiplying direct GVA and employment impacts by Scottish Type 1 GVA and employment multipliers, as sourced from the Scottish Input-Output Tables⁴, minus one. Induced impacts are estimated by multiplying direct GVA and employment impacts by the difference between Type 2 and Type 1 multipliers.

³ Office for National Statistics (2020), UK Annual Business Survey, 2018 Revised.

⁴ Scottish Government (2020), 2017 Scottish Input-Output Tables.



4.

Socio-Economic Context

This section analyses the local area considered in the assessment of economic impacts in relation to their economic structure.

To introduce the geography included in the assessment, this chapter provides:

- estimates of current and future population (headcount and structure);
- a series of labour market indicators; and
- evidence on the industrial structure of each of the economies considered.

4.1 Demographics

In 2020, Dumfries and Galloway had a population of 148,300, accounting for 2.7% of the population of Scotland. Dumfries and Galloway has an older demographic composition compared to the national average, with a smaller working age population and a greater number of residents of retirement age.

Of the total population of Dumfries and Galloway, 16% were aged under 16 years old, in comparison to 17% across Scotland as a whole. The share of the population aged between 16-64 in Dumfries and Galloway was 58%, which was significantly below the national average of 64%. The proportion of residents in Dumfries and Galloway aged 65 and over was 26%, which was much greater than for Scotland as a whole (19%).

Table 4-1 Population, 2020 Estimates

	Dumfries and Galloway	Scotland
Total	148,300	5,466,000
0-15	16%	17%
16-64	58%	64%
65+	26%	19%

Source: National Records of Scotland (2021), Mid-2020 Population Estimates Scotland.

Over the period between 2018 and 2043, the population of Dumfries and Galloway is projected to decrease from 148,790 to 136,290, which is equivalent to a decrease of 8.4%. However, the population of Scotland is projected to increase by 2.5%, from 5,438,100 to 5,574,820 between 2018 and 2043.

The proportion of Dumfries and Galloway residents aged 16-64 years old is projected to decrease over time, with the share of working age population falling from 59% to 53% between 2018 and 2043. This is equivalent to a decrease of over 15,000 working



age people in Dumfries and Galloway, from 87,490 to 72,300. The share of the working age population is also projected to fall across Scotland as a whole, from 64% to 60% between 2018 and 2043.

The share of the population of Dumfries and Galloway accounted for by people aged 65 and over is projected to increase from 25% to 34% between 2018 and 2043. This is significantly greater than the national average, where the share of the population accounted for by people aged 65 and over is projected to increase to 25% of the total Scottish population by 2043, rising from 19% in 2018.

Table 4-2 Population Projections, 2018-2043

		Dumfries and Galloway		Scotland	
		2018	2043	2018	2043
Total		148,790	136,290	5,438,100	5,574,820
	0-15	16%	13%	17%	15%
	16-64	59%	53%	64%	60%
	65+	25%	34%	19%	25%

Source: National Records of Scotland (2020), Projected Population of Scotland 2018-based.

4.2 Economic Structure

Economic data for Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland provides evidence on their labour market performance and on their relative sectoral strengths. Evidence is provided across Table 4-3 and Table 4-4.

The economic activity rate in Dumfries and Galloway between April 2021 and March 2022 was 74.1%, which was lower than across Scotland where the economic activity rate was 76.5%. The unemployment rate in Dumfries and Galloway was 4.5% between 2021 and 2022, which was higher than in Scotland as a whole (3.5%). The median annual gross salary of residents of Dumfries and Galloway was £23,919 in 2021/22, which was significantly lower than across Scotland (£27,698). Differences in incomes are related to the productivity of a region's economic base.

Table 4-3 Labour Market Indicators

	Dumfries and Galloway	Scotland
Economic Activity Rate	74.1%	76.5%
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	3.5%
Median Annual Gross Income	£23,919	£27,698

Source: Office for National Statistics (2022), Annual Population Survey Apr 2021 - Mar 2022 and Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings – resident analysis 2021.



The economy of Dumfries and Galloway features a relatively larger share of those in employment working in agriculture, forestry, and fishing. In 2021, 13.1% of those employed in Dumfries and Galloway worked in these sectors compared to 3.4% in Scotland as a whole. Similarly, manufacturing was a relatively larger share of total employment in Dumfries and Galloway (9.2%) than in Scotland as a whole (6.8%).

The sector with the greatest level of employment in both Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland was human health and social work, accounting for 16.2% and 15.3% of total employment respectively. Wholesale and retail trade was the second largest employer in both Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland, comprising 16.2% and 14.1% of total employment respectively.

In 2021, construction accounted for 5.4% of total employment in Dumfries and Galloway and 6.0% across Scotland. Accommodation and food services was comparably represented in employment in both Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland, constituting 7.7% and 7.5% respectively.

Table 4-4 Industrial Structure, 2021

	Dumfries and Galloway	Scotland
Human health and social work	16.2%	15.3%
Wholesale and retail trade	16.2%	14.1%
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	13.1%	3.4%
Manufacturing	9.2%	6.8%
Accommodation and food services	7.7%	7.5%
Education	7.7%	8.3%
Construction	5.4%	6.0%
Transportation and storage	4.2%	4.1%
Professional, scientific, and technical activities	3.9%	6.4%
Public administration and defence	3.9%	6.3%
Administrative and support services	3.7%	7.7%
Real estate activities	2.3%	1.5%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	2.3%	2.4%
Other service activities	1.5%	1.8%
Water supply, sewerage, and waste management	0.9%	0.8%
Information and communication	0.8%	3.0%
Financial and insurance activities	0.5%	3.0%
Total Number of People Employed	64,920	2,617,000

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), 2022.



4.3 Summary of Socio-Economic Context

The population structure of Dumfries and Galloway is older than that of Scotland as a whole, with this trend expected to continue in the future, accompanied by an overall decline in the population. The region faces outward migration of young people in search of job opportunities and employment in sectors paying higher wages.

The development of a strong onshore wind industry in the area providing highly productive, high paying jobs, could reduce the need for outward migration and contribute to the Dumfries and Galloway's prosperity.



5.

Economic Benefits

This section sets out the economic benefits associated with Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm.

5.1 The Economic Impact of Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm

Scoop Hill is a proposed wind farm and energy storage development in Dumfries and Galloway. Community Windpower is proposing 60 turbines with total installed capacity of around 432 MW and an operational lifetime of 40 years. The proposal also includes the installation of battery storage with a capacity of 200 MW.

5.1.1 Construction and Development – Economic Impact

Based on the latest available cost estimates in the sector, it was estimated that the total construction and development costs for Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm could amount to more than £800 million. To estimate the economic benefits associated with it, this spending was split into five categories of contracts:

- development and planning;
- turbines;
- balance of plant
- grid connection; and
- battery storage.

The relative size of each of these contracts was estimated based on the construction and developments costs of wind farms that are in operation across the UK.

In this way, it was estimated that the largest share of costs could be associated with turbines contracts, which could be worth £442.1 million, equivalent to 52.1% of total Capex. Spending on the battery storage could amount to £200 million, which would be 23.6% of Capex. Spending on balance of plants contracts could account for 19.2% of Capex, followed by grid connection contracts (3.0%), and development and planning contracts, including finance and professional fees (2.1%).



Table 5-1 Value of CAPEX Contracts – Scoop Hill Wind Farm

	% of Capex	Value of the Proposed Development (£m)
Development and Planning (including finance and professional fees)	2.1%	18.1
Turbines	52.1%	442.1
Balance of Plant	19.2%	162.7
Grid Connection	3.0%	25.4
Battery Storage	23.6%	200.0
Total	100.0%	848.4

Source: BIGGAR Economics Analysis of RenewableUK (2015), Onshore Wind: Economic Impacts 2014 and more recent industry data. *totals may not add up due to rounding.

Assumptions on the ability of local, regional and national businesses to carry out these contracts were based on:

- the evidence from the 2015 RenewableUK study;
- the local economic structure of the study areas considered;
- information on suppliers from Community Windpower; and
- previous experience with onshore wind developments in the South of Scotland.

In this way, it was estimated that Dumfries and Galloway could secure around 9% of Capex contracts, with Scotland securing around 35%. The largest opportunity for Dumfries and Galloway was identified in the contracts associated with the balance of plant, £55.7 million of which could benefit local suppliers. Balance of plant contracts could also represent the largest opportunity for businesses across Scotland as a whole (£147.0 million).

Table 5-2 Development and Construction Expenditure by Study Area and Contract

	Dumfries and Galloway		Scotland	
	%	£m	%	£m
Development and Planning (including finance and professional fees)	13%	2.4	87%	15.7
Turbines	2%	10.7	17%	76.6
Balance of Plant	34%	55.7	90%	147.0
Grid Connection	35%	9.0	100%	25.4
Battery Storage	2%	4.0	16%	32.0
Total	9%	57.9	34%	218.8

*Totals may not add up due to rounding



Having estimated the size of the contracts that could be secured in each of the study areas, it was possible to estimate the direct GVA and direct employment associated with them. This was achieved by dividing the turnover generated in each study area by the turnover per GVA and turnover per job ratios of the sectors that would be carrying out each contract.

It was then necessary to consider those economic impacts that would take place across the supply chain (indirect impacts). These were estimated by applying Type 1 GVA and employment Scottish multipliers from the Scottish Input-Output Tables⁵ to direct GVA and employment. Since the multipliers refer to impacts at the level of the Scottish economy, these were weighted by 33% at the Dumfries and Galloway level, as done in similar assessments.

The spending of the salaries paid to those working for the contractors involved in the construction and development of Scoop Hill Wind Farm will further generate economic benefits. To estimate these, Type 2 Scottish multipliers were applied to the direct GVA and employment estimates. To account for the spending that would take place locally, Scottish multipliers were weighted by 70% at the Dumfries and Galloway level. This was based on internal analysis by BiGGAR Economics of the spending patterns of households across Scotland, which relied on the Office for National Statistics' Family Spending in the UK⁶.

Summing up the direct, indirect, and induced benefits from Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm, it was estimated that its construction and development could generate:

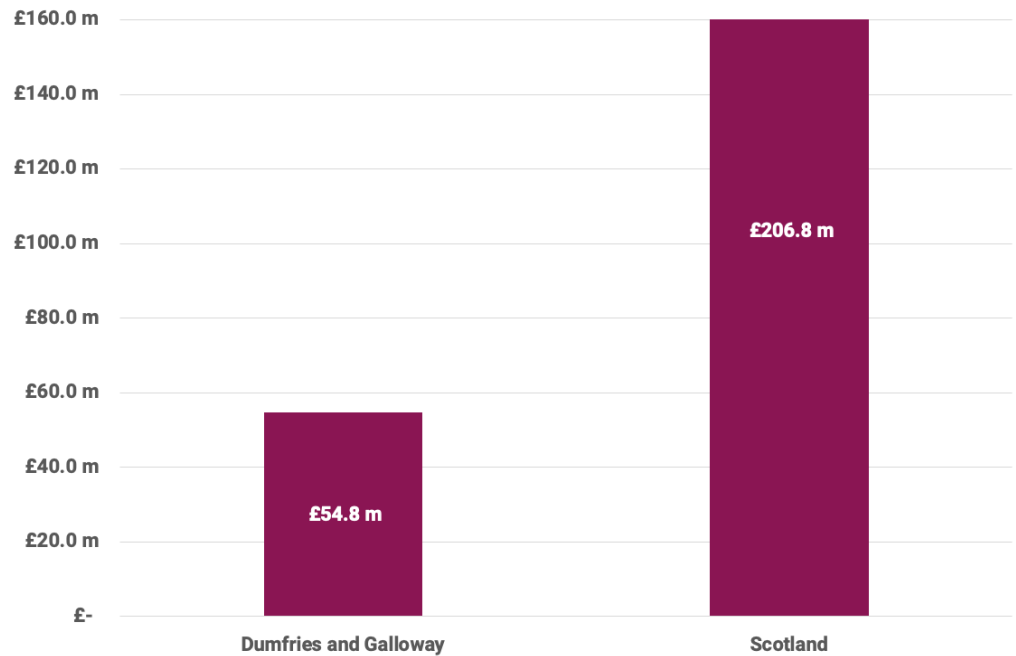
- **£54.4 million GVA and 883 job years** in Dumfries and Galloway; and
- **£206.8 million GVA and 3,260 job years** across Scotland.

⁵ Scottish Government (2020), Supply, use and input-output tables: 1998-2017.

⁶ Office for National Statistics (2019), Family Spending in the UK: April 2017 to March 2018.



Figure 5-1 GVA Impact - Construction and Development of Scoop Hill Wind Farm



Source: BIGGAR Economics Analysis

5.1.2 Operations and Maintenance – Economic Impact

The starting point in estimating the economic impact from operation and maintenance works was to estimate the total annual costs during Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm’s operation. It was estimated that total annual Opex could be around £18.3 million. This excludes non-domestic rates and community benefits, which are considered separately.

It was then necessary to estimate how much of the operation and maintenance works could be performed by local suppliers. An analysis of the local economic structure and information from Community Windpower suggested that around 36% of Opex could benefit businesses in Dumfries and Galloway, and 50% of those in Scotland as a whole.

Table 5-3 Operations and Maintenance - Expenditure by Study Area

	Dumfries and Galloway		Scotland	
	%	£m	%	£m
Operations and Maintenance	36%	6.5	50%	9.1

Having estimated total annual expenditure in Opex taking place in each study area, it was possible to apply turnover per GVA and turnover per job to estimate the direct GVA and employment supported by operational expenditure. Type 1 and Type 2 GVA

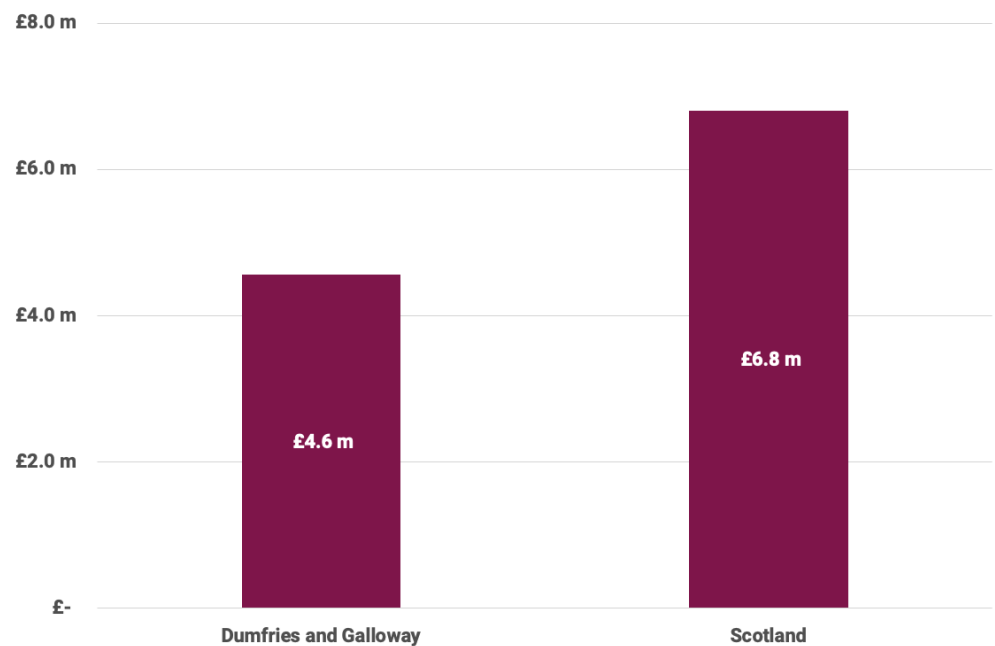


and employment multipliers were then applied to the estimates of direct GVA and employment impacts to estimate indirect and induced impacts.

Adding together direct, indirect and induced impacts, it was estimated that each year the operations and maintenance spend associated with Scoop Hill Community Wind Farm could generate:

- **£4.6 million GVA and 52 jobs** in Dumfries and Galloway; and
- **£6.8 million GVA and 84 jobs** across Scotland.

Figure 5-2 Operations and Maintenance GVA Impact – Scoop Hill Wind Farm



Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

5.1.3 Community Benefits

In addition to the economic benefits generated during its construction and operation, Scoop Hill Wind Farm will also contribute to local economic development through a community benefit fund. **The fund**, which will benefit communities in the immediate proximity of the wind farm, is expected to be **worth around £2.16 million each year**.

This is equivalent to **total cumulative community benefit payments** worth up to **£86.4 million over the 40-year lifetime of Scoop Hill Wind Farm**. These funds could provide significant wider social, educational, environmental and economic benefits for the local communities.

Based on the annual value of the community benefit fund, it was possible to estimate how many jobs could be supported in the local area. By dividing the total value of the annual community benefit payments by the turnover per job of the voluntary sector, it was estimated that **the community benefit fund could support 38 jobs throughout the operational period**.



5.1.4 Non-Domestic Rates

Scoop Hill Wind Farm would be liable for non-domestic rates, the payment of which would contribute directly to public sector finances. Whilst non-domestic rates are set at the national level, they are redistributed to local authorities and so considered to be local taxation.

Based on an estimated non-domestic rates liability of around £10,000 per MW, it was estimated that **Scoop Hill Wind Farm** throughout its operation **each year could contribute to public finances around £4.32 million**. The **cumulative value of the non-domestic rates over the wind farm's lifetime** could be up to around **£172.8 million**. These non-domestic rates, by providing an additional revenue stream, would support the delivery of local government services.

Whilst, the actual contribution would depend on variables such as the actual load factor and the potential for any relief from non-domestic rates, these estimates are broadly in line with the non-domestic rates liabilities of similar developments across the South of Scotland.

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