



Cumberhead West Wind Farm

Part of a Coordinated Strategy for the Future of the Hagshaw Wind Cluster

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION REPORT

NOVEMBER 2020



A joint venture between:



Pre-Application Consultation Report

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report accompanies a Section 36 consent application being made by Cumberhead West Wind Farm Ltd (the Applicant) to the Scottish Ministers which seeks consent under the Electricity Act 1989 (and requests associated deemed planning permission) to construct and operate the Cumberhead West Wind Farm on the western part of Cumberhead Forest which lies approximately 4.3 km to the west of Coalburn in rural South Lanarkshire.
- 1.2 The Proposed Development comprises 21 wind turbines, of up to 200 m blade tip height when vertical, and associated infrastructure. Each turbine will be around 6 megawatts (MW) in power rating, giving a combined generating capacity of around 126 MW. The Proposed Development will also include around 40 MW of energy storage output capacity.
- 1.3 The Proposed Development forms one component of a wider strategy for the future of the Hagshaw Cluster of wind farms. More information on the Hagshaw Cluster can be found in Chapter 1 of the EIA Report.
- 1.4 In accordance with best practice, a programme of pre-application community engagement has been undertaken by the Applicant. This Report gives details of the various ‘virtual’ meetings, correspondence, online consultation and other discussions which have taken place with the local community. The Report also details the findings of that work and illustrates the ways in which community engagement has helped identify potential issues arising from the emerging proposal and, where appropriate, shape the final proposal which is now the subject of the Section 36 application.
- 1.5 The Applicant is grateful to residents and local representatives for their input into the pre-application community engagement process and for their assistance in facilitating discussions, particularly given that physical public information events could not be undertaken due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions being in place at the time of the consultation process. Further details of how this was managed are provided below.

2. The Applicant

- 2.1 Cumberhead West Wind Farm Ltd (the Applicant) is a joint venture between local business 3R Energy Solutions Ltd (3R Energy) and ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Limited (SPR).
- 2.2 3R Energy was established in 2009 to help farms and rural businesses benefit from renewable energy technology, with its head office situated at Lanark Auction Market. As a local company 3R Energy is committed to working with communities closest to the Hagshaw Cluster for the long term to develop and deliver successful projects which create significant and tangible benefits for the local area.
- 2.3 ScottishPower Renewables is part of the ScottishPower group of companies operating in the UK under the Iberdrola Group, one of the world’s largest integrated utility companies and a world leader in wind energy. ScottishPower now only produces 100% green electricity – focusing on wind energy, smart grids and driving the change to a cleaner, electric future. The company is investing over £4m every working day¹ to make this happen and is committed to speeding up the transition to cleaner electric transport, improving air quality and over time, driving down bills to deliver a better future, quicker for everyone. With over 40 operational windfarms, ScottishPower Renewables manages all its sites through its world

¹ Between 2018 - 2022

leading Control Centre at Whitelee Windfarm, near Glasgow. SPR has long been involved in the Hagshaw Cluster, having owned and operated Scotland's first wind farm at Hagshaw Hill since 1996.

3. Pre-Application Consultation

3.1 Who has been consulted?

- 3.1.1 The Applicant initially wrote to key stakeholders including the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU), South Lanarkshire Council (SLC), local Councillors, Douglas Community Council, Coalburn Community Council, Lesmahagow Community Council, and the constituency MP and MSP in June 2020 to advise them of the emerging plans for the Proposed Development, submission of the EIA Scoping Report, and proposed community consultation arrangements in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.1.2 The Applicant subsequently wrote and agreed the proposed community consultation arrangements with both the ECU and SLC in early July 2020. The community consultation arrangements agreed are set out in Table 3.1 below. Section 3.2 details how the agreed consultation strategy was delivered. The consultation strategy took cognisance of the COVID-19 restrictions that were in place at that time requiring social distancing which meant that face-to-face consultation was not possible. The consultation strategy was tailored to the local circumstances of the site and accords with the following legislation and guidance governing public consultation on development projects during the pandemic:
- The Electricity Works (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020; and
 - Coronavirus (COVID-19): planning guidance on pre-application consultations for public events.

Table 3.1 – Pre-Application Community Consultation Strategy agreed with ECU and SLC

Consultation Activity	Description
PAC advert in local newspaper – Lanark Gazette	An advert explaining the PAC process for the project and the various ways in which people can make their views known, as well as where to go to find the relevant information. This will include a cut-off date (21 days) for comments so that the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) process can be finalised.
Project information boards available to view on website	Make consultation boards available as a slide deck on the developer website – ensure link to the boards are well publicised on website.
Online survey	Put a feedback form online for people to fill in and with option to email or print and post back.
Mail drop to properties within 2 km of the site	A summarised copy of project information on the boards generated as a leaflet to be mail dropped to properties within 2 km of the site.
Telephone/Videocall appointments	Provision for people to book a telephone / video conference appointment to talk through the plans and ask any questions they may have – slots can be booked through the project team. Notes taken during the call will be included in the PAC report (refer to Table 4.1 and Section 5).

Consultation Activity	Description
Email address	Provision of an email address for people to contact with queries and to provide a response. Register of comments received and responses given will be included in the PAC report (refer to Table 4.1).
Video conference meetings for community councils	Lesmahagow, Coalburn and Douglas community councils will be offered video conference meetings to attend with the project developer and the developer's consultants to discuss the proposals in detail.

- 3.1.3 Upon agreement of the above measures with ECU and SLC, the Applicant wrote again to local Councillors, Douglas Community Council, Coalburn Community Council, Lesmahagow Community Council, and the constituency MP and MSP on 26 August 2020 to formally advise them of the detail of the Applicant's proposed consultation strategy and included a link to the public consultation website (Appendix 2), along with a copy of the consultation leaflet (Appendix 4), and newspaper notice (Appendix 1). An offer to set up a virtual meeting or tele-conference was also made in this correspondence.
- 3.1.4 A number of other discussions have been held with neighbouring properties and local groups to ensure that the local community is aware of the Proposed Development. These further discussions are summarised within Section 5.
- 3.1.5 Additionally, the Applicant has commissioned consultants, Ironside Farrar Ltd (IF), to explore options for how the community benefit contributions from the Proposed Development (and related 3R/SPR Hagshaw Cluster projects) could be managed and what they could be directed towards. IF have consulted with local individuals, politicians, community councils and other local organisations during August and September 2020 and their subsequent public consultation exercise on community benefits is currently planned to go live in late 2020. Findings from the initial consultations undertaken to date on community benefit proposals have been generally positive.

3.2 Community Consultation Strategy

- 3.2.1 The project website (<https://www.3renergy.co.uk/cumberhead-west>) inclusive of the pre-application project information boards, online feedback form and project email address went live on 24 August 2020, the same day leaflets were posted to properties within 2 km of the site for arrival on 25 August 2020. The PAC advert was included in the Wednesday 25 August 2020 edition of the Lanark Gazette. Community Councils and local politicians were emailed on 26 August 2020 with a link to the project website and to offer an opportunity to book video conference meetings.
- 3.2.2 The newspaper advert is provided in Appendix 1, the Project Summary section of the project website and Feedback Form are provided in Appendix 2, the Project Information Boards from the website are provided in Appendix 3, with a copy of the leaflet sent to properties within 2 km of the site included in Appendix 4.
- 3.2.3 It was made clear by the Applicant that the purpose of the PAC exercise is not to replace the formal application consultation process in which representations can be made to the Scottish Ministers via the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit. This was explained during discussions and in the newspaper advert.

4. Community Consultation Feedback and Applicant Response

- 4.1 A total of 5 responses were received from the local community in response to the online consultation exercise. A summary of the comments received is presented in Table 4.1, along with the Applicant's response.
- 4.2 As explained in Table 4.1 below, the final layout of the Proposed Development has altered, and one turbine has been removed, as part of the design iteration process between publication of the pre-application community consultation website (August 2020) and submission of the S.36 Application (November 2020). These layout alterations were made in response to comments received during the pre-application public consultation process and in response to the findings of peat survey work. Chapter 2 of the EIA Report provides further details on design iteration.

Table 4.1 – Feedback from the Community and Applicant's Responses

Comments Received	Applicant's Response
One response from a local resident recommended that access road signage should be made sufficient such that wind farm related traffic avoids local roads. Resident made comment on the number of turbines in the area and that it was important local benefits were delivered. The resident provided ideas for community benefit projects.	The Applicant held a detailed telephone discussion with the local resident who provided this response on 20 October 2020 who confirmed they are, in general, supportive of the Proposed Development and keen to understand how the local area can benefit from the project. The Applicant can confirm its commitment to community benefits being delivered locally and would highlight the ongoing IF consultation referred to in section 3.1.5 in this regard. The Applicant can also confirm that appropriate signage will be installed, and briefings be provided to all contractors, to ensure that all construction traffic enters and exists the site via J11 of the M74.
Two responses came from properties closest to the site raising some concerns about impact of the wind farm on their properties, extent of views towards turbines and what mitigation measures might be available.	The Applicant has had positive discussions with these properties and has amended the layout of the Proposed Development to reduce proximity of the turbines to the closest receptors to the north and north-east (refer to EIA Report Chapter 2). The Residential Visual Amenity Study contained within Appendix 6.5 of the EIA Report concludes that the final layout of the Proposed Development would not result in overbearing effects on any of the closest residential properties assessed. The Proposed Development also complies with noise and shadow flicker guidelines at all uninvolved locations.
One local property left a message at the 3R Energy office towards the end of the consultation period to discuss comments/ thoughts/ community benefit.	The Applicant returned the call but a mutually convenient date is still to be arranged to have a detailed discussion regarding the Proposed Development.
One owner of a local property raised concerns over impact on amenity but was also interested to understand more about benefits to the area and establishing a positive working relationship with the Applicant.	The Applicant has had positive discussions with this property owner regarding the Proposed Development and establishing a working relationship. In terms of amenity, the Residential Visual Amenity Study contained within Appendix 6.5 of the EIA Report concludes that the final layout of the Proposed Development would not result in overbearing effects on any of the closest residential properties assessed. The Proposed Development also complies with noise and shadow flicker guidelines at all uninvolved locations.

- 4.3 Table 4.1 summarises the comments received as part of the pre-application consultation exercise, along with the Applicant's response as to how this feedback has been incorporated into the Proposed

Development. The additional community benefits that would accrue for the local area as a result of the Proposed Development are substantial and some of the above comments/feedback recognised the significant opportunities this would create for the local area. The initial findings from the community benefit consultation exercise currently being undertaken by IF (see Section 3.1.5) have also been positive in this regard.

- 4.4 In terms of the amenity points raised, as noted above, the feedback received has helped shape the design of the Proposed Development and resulted in the alteration of the wind farm layout, as described in Chapter 2 of the EIA Report, to reduce proximity of the turbines to the closest receptors to the north and north-east. The Residential Visual Amenity Study contained within Appendix 6.5 of the EIA Report concludes that the final layout of the Proposed Development would not result in overbearing effects on any of the closest residential properties assessed, and the Proposed Development complies with noise and shadow flicker guidelines at all uninvolved locations. The Applicant considers that the proposal strikes an appropriate balance between maximising renewable generation from the site to ensure subsidy-free economic viability and delivery of a strong Community Benefit package, whilst ensuring environmental impacts remain within acceptable limits. The pre-application consultation exercise has helped identify the issues that are important to the local community and to refine the layout of the Proposed Development which is now the subject of this Section 36 application.
- 4.5 The Applicant confirms that the company will continue to liaise with the local community during the Section 36 application process and during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.

5. Other Forms of Consultation

5.1 Discussions with Douglas & Coalburn Community Councils

- 5.1.1 The Applicant is in regular dialogue with representatives of Douglas and Coalburn Community Councils on a range of matters and the Applicant has sought to ensure that both Community Councils have been fully appraised of the Proposed Development during such discussions. As a result, neither Community Council considered it necessary to set up a virtual meeting to discuss the Proposed Development specifically.

5.2 Virtual Meeting with Lesmahagow Community Council

- 5.2.1 The Applicant held a video conference meeting with representatives of Lesmahagow Community Council on 8 September 2020 to inform the Community Council of the Proposed Development. The Applicant gave an overview of the main components of the Proposed Development and estimated project timelines. The discussions then centred on the Community Benefit arrangements for the Proposed Development and opportunities to support projects and groups within and around Lesmahagow.

5.3 Other Meetings, Discussions etc.

- 5.3.1 The Applicant also held a video conference meeting with the three local Councillors for the Clydesdale South Ward and the local MP on 17 July 2020 to discuss the Proposed Development. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the local elected members of the Proposed Development and to discuss local priorities and issues.
- 5.3.2 A number of other telephone discussions have been held with residents closest to the site to inform them of the emerging development proposal and to discuss any comments which they may have.

- 5.3.3 Pre-application consultation with the ECU, SLC, and other statutory and non-statutory consultees is addressed within Chapter 4 and Appendix 4.1 of the Proposed Development EIA Report.
- 5.3.4 The separate IF community benefits consultation exercise (see Section 3.1.5) should also be recognised here, despite it being ongoing at the time of writing. That consultation process is specifically focussed on obtaining comments and feedback on the community benefit opportunities for the Proposed Development (and adjoining 3R/SPR projects), particularly with a view to delivering real improvement to the physical and recreational environment of Coalburn, Lesmahagow, Douglas, and surrounding areas. The separate IF community benefits consultation exercise aims to build on the community benefit comments and feedback obtained from the Proposed Development consultation exercise set out in this Report. As such, a number of discussions are ongoing with representatives of the local community and with SLC and other organisations to explore a range of potential options to maximise the use of the community benefit contributions from local wind farm developments to the benefit of the local area.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 Although not a statutory requirement for a Section 36 application, in line with best practice for the consenting stage of major development projects, a programme of pre-application community engagement has been undertaken by the Applicant in accordance with COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time of the consultation process. The Applicant has undertaken a number of exercises to ensure that the communities in closest proximity to the site are fully aware of the emerging development proposal and to ensure that the Applicant is aware of the views of the local communities in order to best design the finalised development scheme to mitigate any concerns wherever possible.
- 6.2 The Applicant has taken cognisance of all responses received and wherever possible has sought to adjust or amend the proposals to take on board the comments received, whilst ensuring that the Proposed Development remains economically viable. The Applicant would like to reiterate their thanks to the local community for their input into the pre-application community engagement process, particularly given that physical public information events could not be undertaken due to COVID-19 restrictions being in place at the time of the consultation process.
- 6.3 The Applicant confirms that the company will continue to liaise with the local community during the Section 36 application process and during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.

Appendix 1 – Newspaper Advert

(Extract from Lanark Gazette published on 25 August 2020)

Classified

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public & Legal Advertising August Bank Holiday Deadlines Thursday 27th August at 5pm

for papers published
Monday 31st August to Thursday 3rd September
Whilst every effort will be made to meet your needs, deadlines may be revised. For confirmation of publication day please ask when booking.
We will be closed
on Monday 31st August
For details call 0207 023 7931
or email publicnotices@jpimedia.co.uk
Dates and times were correct at time of publication, but could be subject to change.



PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTICE

Cumberhead West Wind Farm

3R Energy and ScottishPower Renewables are hosting a consultation website into proposals to submit an application to the Scottish Ministers for Consent under Section 36 of The Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate the Cumberhead West Wind Farm. The site occupies the western part of Cumberhead Forest which lies to the west of Coalburn and south-west of Lesmahagow. Proposal includes: the installation of around 22 wind turbines and associated infrastructure, substation and energy storage capacity. The wind farm would have a total generating capacity of up to 132 megawatts (MW) (plus around 40MW of energy storage capacity).

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions requiring social distancing, face-to-face consultation is unfortunately not possible at present. In lieu of holding in person public information events, we have developed an online consultation website to provide details about the Proposed Development and the progress to date, and to answer any questions or receive any comments members of the public may have. The project website will go live on 26th August 2020 and can be accessed here: <https://www.3renergy.co.uk/cumberhead-west>

The project team will also be available for virtual meetings / telephone calls on request for a 21 day period following the launch of this website, ending on 16th September 2020. To book a call with a member of the project team to discuss any comments or questions you may have, or to request further information, please contact the following email address: cumberheadwest@3renergy.co.uk

Written comments can be made on the electronic feedback form available on the website, separately in writing to 3R Energy at the address below or comments can be submitted by email to: cumberheadwest@3renergy.co.uk. All comments should be submitted to 3R Energy within 21 days of the date of this advert, no later than 16th September 2020.

N.B. Any comments made are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. Once the Section 36 Consent application is submitted there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit at that time.

3R Energy Lanark Auction Market Hyndford Road Lanark, ML11 9AX
Tel. 01555 660244
Web. www.3renergy.co.uk/cumberhead-west



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Appendix 2 – Public Consultation Website & Feedback Form



Cumberhead West Wind Farm

Public Information Website

Introduction

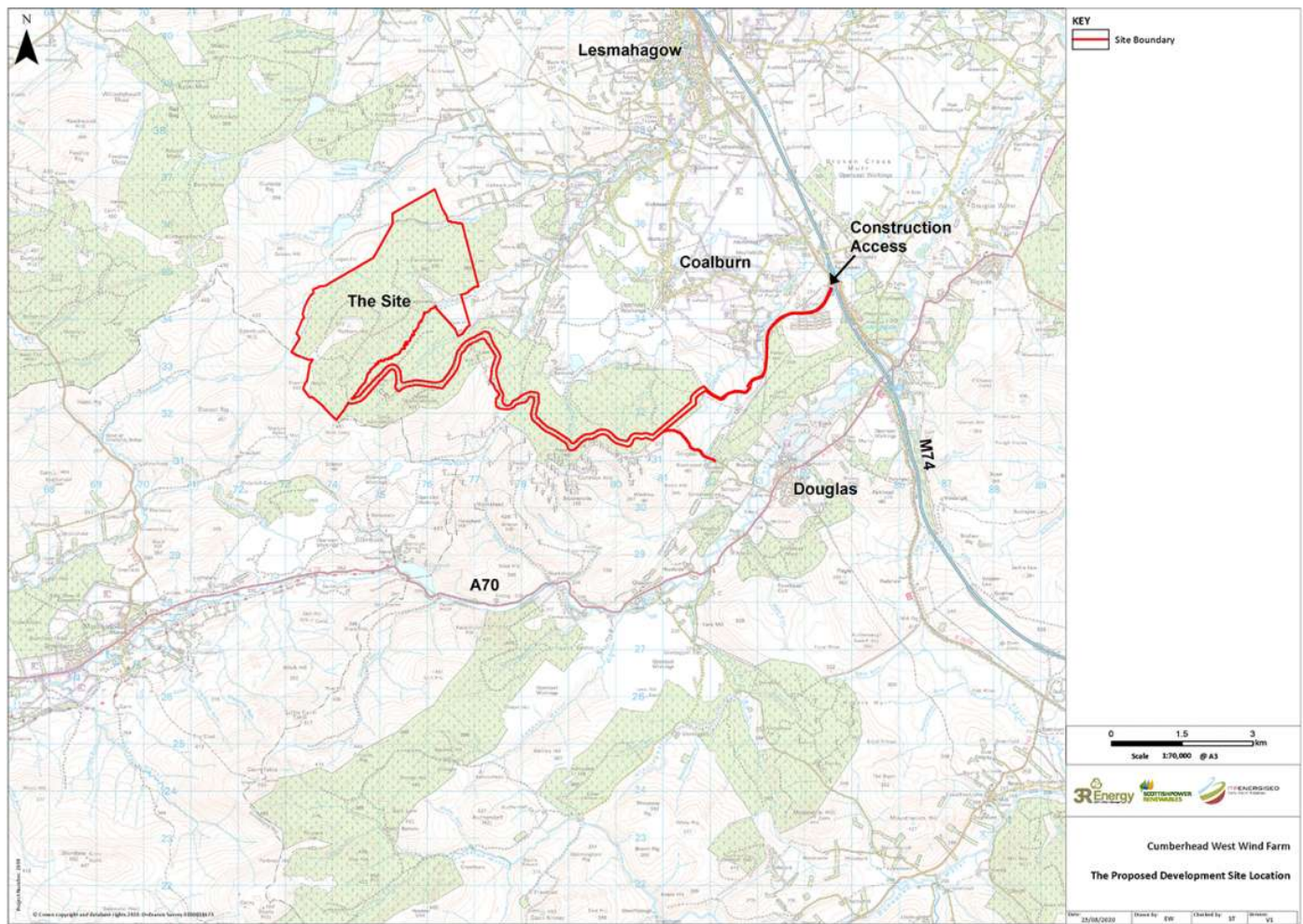
Welcome to the Cumberhead West Wind Farm public information website. Your comments are an integral part of our development process, and we actively encourage your engagement.

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions requiring social distancing, face-to-face consultation is unfortunately not possible at present. In lieu of holding in person public information events, we have developed this online consultation website to provide details of the proposed scheme and the progress to date, and to answer any questions you may have. This form of community consultation has been agreed with the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit and South Lanarkshire Council as being an appropriate alternative to a public event in the current circumstances.

Project Summary

Cumberhead West Wind Farm Ltd (hereafter referred to as “the Applicant”) is a joint venture between 3R Energy and ScottishPower Renewables (https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/cumberhead_west_windfarm.aspx). The Applicant intends to apply to the Scottish Ministers for permission to construct and operate Cumberhead West Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as the “Proposed Development”).

The Proposed Development site adjoins an established cluster of wind farms around Hagshaw Hill (known as the 'Hagshaw Cluster') in rural South Lanarkshire – see Hagshaw Cluster information board below. The site is located approximately 3.9 km to the west of Coalburn, 5.6 km to the south-west of Lesmahagow, and 7.7 km west north-west of Douglas (distances to the nearest proposed wind turbine) – see location plan below.



Download a high resolution version of the map here (/index.php/download_file/view/484/227)

The site comprises a main development area of approximately 932 hectares (ha) of the existing Cumberhead Forest, consisting of commercial coniferous plantation and existing forestry tracks. The site boundary also includes the site access track (from junction 11 of the M74 motorway along existing and proposed tracks to the southern corner of the site) which is approximately 16 km long, as well as an existing access road leading to Station Road at Douglas West which together comprise an area of 134 ha.

The Proposed Development will consist of approximately 22 wind turbines up to 200 m blade tip height, each with a generating capacity of approximately 6 megawatts (MW) – the same size as the turbines approved for the repowering of the nearby Hagshaw Hill Wind Farm. Associated infrastructure will include site access, access tracks, crane hardstanding, underground cabling, on-site substation and maintenance building, energy storage compound, temporary construction compound(s), laydown areas, concrete batching plant, potential excavations/borrow workings and a met mast(s).

The Applicant intends to submit an application for the Proposed Development to the Scottish Ministers via the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. The application will be supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) as required by the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the EIA Regulations).

Community Benefit

The Proposed Development has the potential to generate up to £660,000 each year, and up to £19.8m over its lifetime, to support local groups and projects in the communities closest to the site.

We are keen to hear your ideas on how the revenue from the project can be used to enhance the local area and deliver projects that provide lasting benefit. As the wind farm project progresses we will continue to engage with local communities, stakeholders and South Lanarkshire Council to determine how benefits could be delivered to best meet the needs and aspirations of the local area.

Renewable Energy Targets

The UK Government and the Scottish Government have both declared a ‘climate emergency’ and are committed to ensuring that an increased proportion of electricity is generated from renewable energy sources in order to meet carbon emission targets.

The Scottish Climate Change Bill (2018) introduces a target of net-zero gas emissions by 2045 at the latest, with Scotland becoming carbon neutral by 2040. Scotland will also have to reduce emissions by 56% by 2020, 70% by 2030 and 90% by 2040. These are currently the most ambitious statutory targets in the world. If consented, the Cumberhead West Wind Farm will make a meaningful contribution towards meeting these targets.

Project Information Boards

More detailed information about the project can be found by clicking on the information boards below:

The Applicant

[\(/index.php/download_file/view/493/227\)](/index.php/download_file/view/493/227)

The Proposed Development

[\(/index.php/download_file/view/489/227\)](/index.php/download_file/view/489/227)

Project Benefits

[\(/index.php/download_file/view/486/227\)](/index.php/download_file/view/486/227)

Environmental Impact Assessment

[\(/index.php/download_file/view/485/227\)](/index.php/download_file/view/485/227)

Landscape & Visual

[\(/index.php/download_file/view/492/227\)](/index.php/download_file/view/492/227)

Hagshaw Cluster

[\(/index.php/download_file/view/487/227\)](/index.php/download_file/view/487/227)

To download a set of high resolution maps click here (/index.php/download_file/view/491/227)

Comments and Feedback

Comments can be made by completing the feedback form below or can be submitted separately in writing to 3R Energy using the postal address at the foot of this webpage, and the project team will respond to any questions you may have. Comments can be submitted until 16th September 2020.

The project team will also be available for virtual meetings / telephone calls on request for a 21 day period following the launch of this website, ending on 16th September 2020. To book a call with a member of the project team to discuss any comments or questions you may have, please contact the following email address: **cumberheadwest@3renergy.co.uk** (mailto:cumberheadwest@3renergy.co.uk)

Any comments made at this stage are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. There will be further opportunity to make comments on the Proposed Development direct to the Scottish Ministers following submission of the application to the ECU later this year.

Any personal information we receive from you will be used by us to measure public opinion in relation to our proposal only. The information will be used by us in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and will not be sold, transferred or otherwise disclosed to any third party, unless such disclosure is required by law.

Name Required

Address Line 1 Required

Address Line 2 Required

Address Line 3 Required

Email Required

Telephone

Community interest Required

- ☐ Community council representative
- ☐ Local resident
- ☐ Local business
- ☐ Other

If other, please specify

Questions, comments or requests for further information:

Please type the letters and numbers shown in the image.



Click the image to see another captcha.

Submit

Thank you for visiting our website

Call us

L01555 660244

Email

info@3renergy.co.uk (mailto:mailto:info@3renergy.co.uk)

3R Energy

Lanark Auction Market
Hyndford Road
Lanark
ML11 9AX



(<https://www.facebook.com/3REnergy>)



(<https://twitter.com/3REnergy>)



Appendix 3 – Project Information Boards from Website

Cumberhead West Wind Farm

The Applicant

Cumberhead West Wind Farm Ltd (the Applicant) is a joint venture between local business 3R Energy Solutions Ltd (3R) and ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Limited (SPR).

3R Energy was established in 2009 to help farms and rural businesses benefit from renewable energy technology, with its head office situated at Lanark Auction Market. As a local company 3R Energy is committed to working with communities closest to the Hagshaw Cluster for the long term to develop and deliver successful projects which create significant and tangible benefits for the local area.

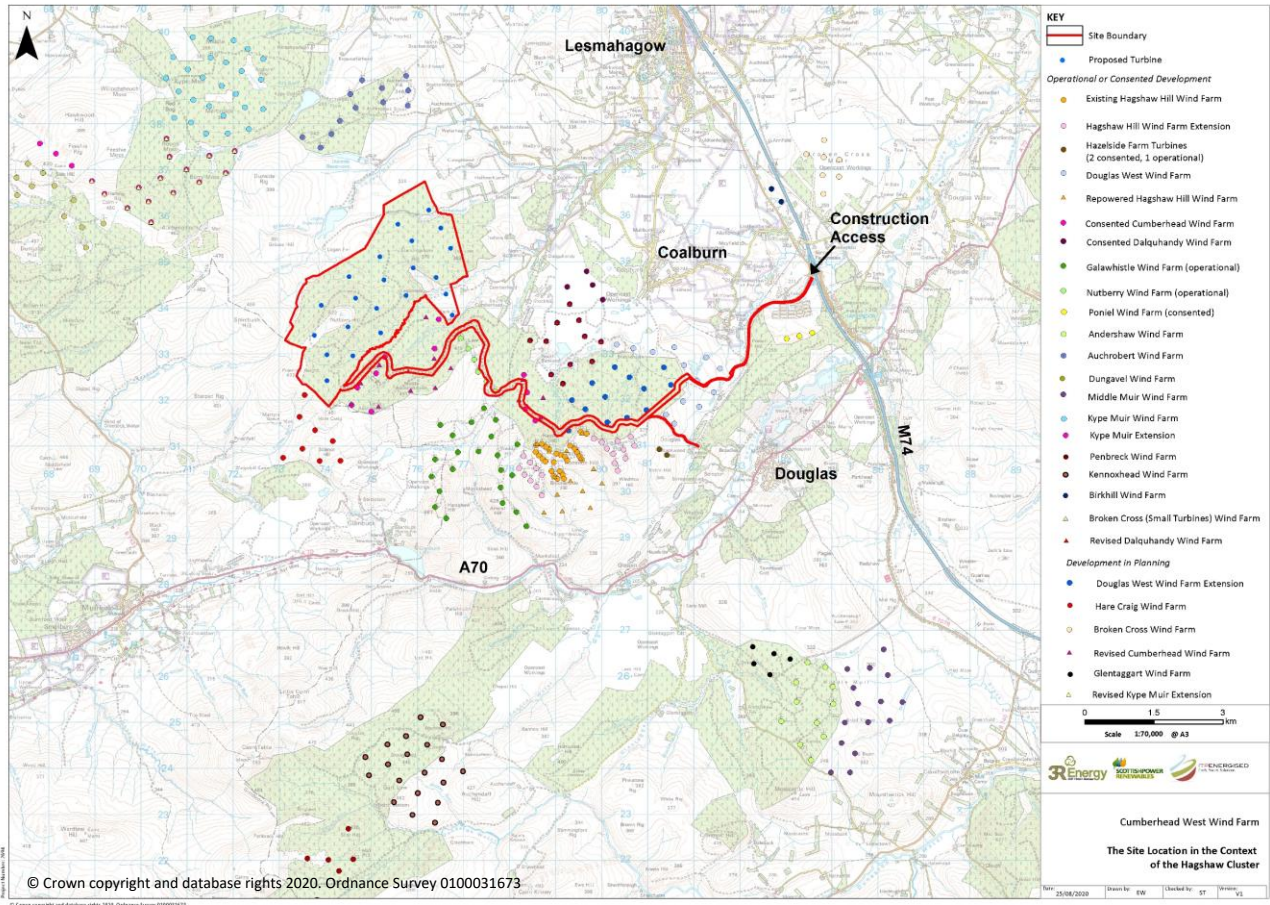
ScottishPower Renewables is part of the ScottishPower group of companies operating in the UK under the Iberdrola Group, one of the world’s largest integrated utility companies and a world leader in wind energy. ScottishPower now only produces 100% green electricity – focusing on wind energy, smart grids and driving the change to a cleaner, electric future. The company is investing over £4m every working day to make this happen and is committed to speeding up the transition to cleaner electric transport, improving air quality and over time, driving down bills to deliver a better future, quicker for everyone. With over 40 operational windfarms, ScottishPower Renewables manages all its sites through its world leading Control Centre at Whitelee Windfarm, near Glasgow. SPR has long been involved in the Hagshaw Cluster, having owned and operated Scotland’s first wind farm at Hagshaw Hill since 1996.

Background

The Applicant intends to apply to the Scottish Ministers for permission to construct and operate Cumberhead West Wind Farm at site centre British National Grid (BNG) NS 75229 34481. The location of the site in the context of the Hagshaw Cluster can be seen on the plan below. The key characteristics of the proposed development are also summarised in the table beneath.

Cumberhead West Wind Farm forms one component of a wider strategy for the future of the Hagshaw Wind Cluster. 3R Energy will shortly undertake a separate community consultation exercise exploring the possibility to develop an outdoor tourism destination within the Hagshaw Cluster. This initiative aims to capitalise on the new wind farm infrastructure that will be accessible directly from the M74 motorway, less than 40 mins from Glasgow, by developing a regional tourism asset that will drive new economic opportunities for the area. A ‘*South Lanarkshire Glentress*’ is the current model being explored and the forthcoming community consultation aims to identify the level of support locally for such an initiative and to scope out other ideas and opportunities within each local village to provide infrastructure, create new business opportunities and ways to harness economic, social and health benefits from a new outdoor recreation asset on the doorstep.

The Site Location in the Context of the Hagshaw Cluster



Cumberhead West Project Characteristics	Technical Details
Number of Turbines	Around 22
Turbine Capacity	Around 6 megawatts
Maximum Blade Tip Height	200 metres
Maximum Rotor Diameter	155 metres
Maximum Blade Length	76 metres
Total Generating Capacity	Around 132 megawatts
Total Energy Generation per Annum	Around 340 gigawatt hours
Community Benefit per Annum	Up to £660,000
Operational Life	30 years

Cumberhead West Wind Farm

The Scheme

An application for Section 36 Consent under the Electricity Act 1989 for approximately 132 megawatts (MW) of generation capacity plus around 40 MW of energy storage capacity is being prepared for the Cumberhead West Wind Farm at present, with the target of submitting the application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit later this year.

Technical Details

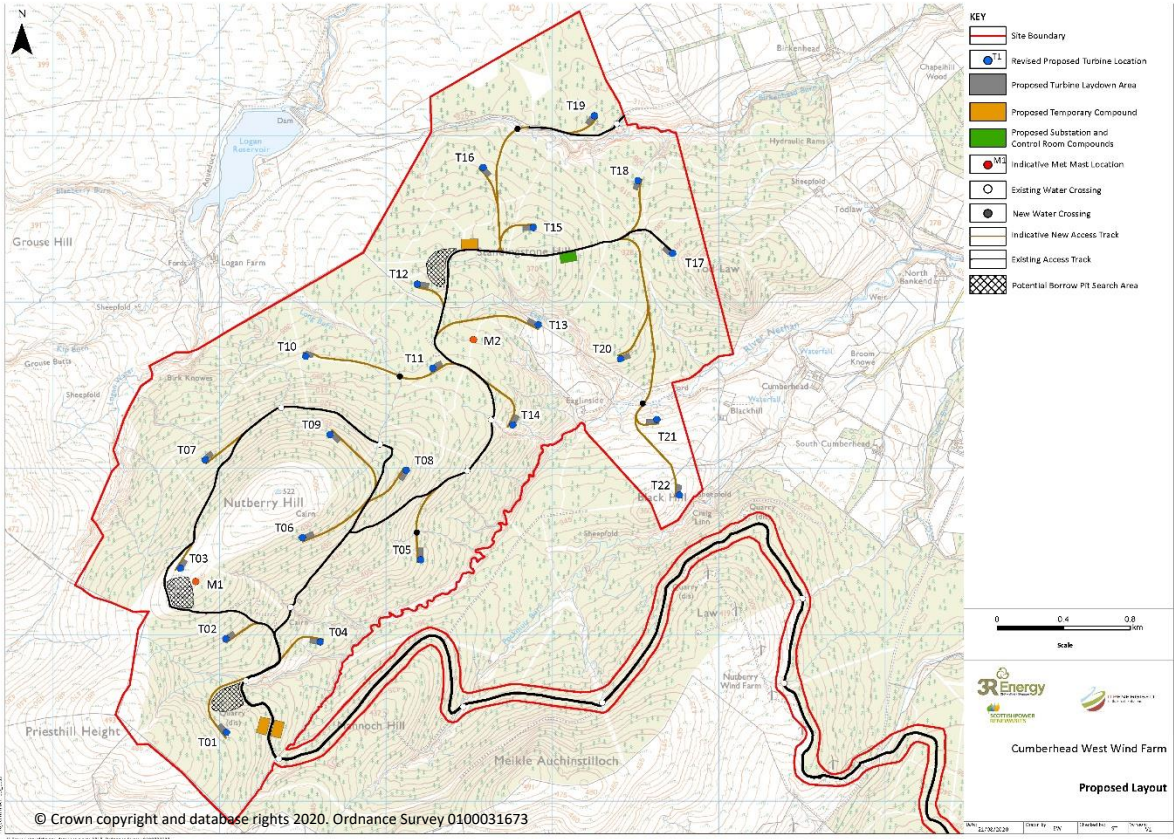
The scheme comprises the following:

- Installation of up to 22 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of up to 200 metres (m) (each with a typical generating capacity of approximately 6 MW);
- Construction of ancillary infrastructure including access tracks, crane pads, substation/control building, energy storage facility, underground cabling, and meteorological masts;
- Construction of temporary construction compounds, turbine component laydown areas and concrete batching plant; and
- Borrow pit(s) to extract stone.

Wind Farm Layout

The layout as shown below has been optimised in terms of wind yield analysis, landscape advice and other environmental and engineering considerations. The layout is indicative at this stage.

Indicative Site Infrastructure Layout



Project Component	Technical Details
Turbines	The scheme currently includes 22, 6 MW turbines with a 200 m tip height. The windfarm capacity will therefore be approximately 132 MW.
Crane Pads	Each wind turbine requires an area of hardstanding adjacent to the turbine which provides a stable base for the cranes that are necessary to erect the structures.
Substation & Control Room and Energy Storage Facility	An onsite substation and control room would house switchgear and metering and would connect the wind farm to the grid. Located alongside the substation will be an energy storage building housing a compliment of batteries to store electricity generated by the wind farm or grid surplus when the power is not needed on the grid.
Temporary Construction Compound(s)	During the construction phase, a secure compound(s) would be required to store construction equipment and machinery. A hardstanding of locally won stone would be required for the base of the compound(s).
Anemometer Mast	Up to two 90-100 m high anemometer masts will be located on the site. The masts may be kept for the duration of the operational period of the wind farm to monitor and record wind conditions.
Access Route/Track	Access to site for construction will be taken from junction 11 of the M74 motorway, via an existing private haul road through the Douglas West Wind Farm site, then into the Cumberhead Forest via the Douglas West Wind Farm Extension site (currently in planning) using existing access tracks as well as tracks which have been created/upgraded as part of the Douglas West Wind Farm and Extension works. On leaving the Douglas West Extension site existing forest tracks will be utilised where possible, through the consented Cumberhead Wind Farm site and operational Nutberry Wind Farm site. Crossings of some watercourses will be required along the way.
Internal tracks	Existing forestry access tracks will be utilised wherever possible. Small sections of new internal access roads will be constructed to access turbine locations that cannot be reached from the existing forest road network.
Borrow Pits	Where possible, the stone required for new tracks, turbine bases and hardstanding areas would be sourced from on-site borrow pits.
Grid Connection	It is currently proposed that the wind farm will connect to the Coalburn Transmission Substation on the B7078 south of Lesmahagow via an underground cable(s). The route of the cable(s) from the wind farm to the Coalburn Transmission Substation will be developed separately by the Network Operator.

Cumberhead West Wind Farm

Project Benefits

Economic Investment & Employment

- The development would see significant local investment and the creation of local business opportunities during both the construction and operation.
- The Applicant is committed to using suppliers as close to the project as possible and to delivering a high percentage of construction values to local companies (subject to complying with procurement regulations).

Community Benefit Funding

We propose to consult on community benefits and shared ownership opportunities for the Cumberhead West Wind Farm project. We are actively engaging with the local community in Coalburn, Lesmahagow and Douglas to explore the potential to establish a new mechanism which would receive income (both community benefit payments and, potentially, a revenue share) from the project which would yield the financial resources to deliver a Community-Led Investment Strategy for each village, in step with a wider Adventure Tourism Vision. The Strategy would seek to build upon the aims of the Coalburn, Douglas and Gelspin Community Action Plan (August 2016), the Rigside and Douglas Water Community Action Plan (2018-2023) and the Lesmahagow, Brocketsbrae and Hawksland Community Led Action Plan (2019-2024) in the first instance.

The overarching objective of the new structure would be to deliver real improvement to the physical and recreational environment of Coalburn, Douglas, Lesmahagow and surrounding areas over the wind farm’s 30-year operational life.

In order to achieve this, we propose that the community benefit contribution from the Cumberhead West Wind Farm, along with the Douglas West Extension Wind Farm project and the Hagshaw Hill Repowering Project could fund a full-time Local Development Team who would be dedicated to the task of developing and delivering the Community-Led Investment Strategy for the area. This would include seeking out, developing and submitting grant applications on behalf of local groups for specific improvement projects in the above villages that would fulfil the objectives of each Community Action Plan. It is initially proposed that the Local Development Team would be based in the area and would work closely with the South Lanarkshire Council Economic Development & Regeneration Team, and all local groups and third sector agencies in the area.



Proposed Community Benefit Fund

The Cumberhead West Wind Farm project would yield community benefit contributions of up to £660,000* each year. This equates to a total of £19.8m* available for investment in the local area over the life of the wind farm. This scale of funding presents a real opportunity to deliver a programme of transformational change in the local area.

Income Source	Value	Paid to	For how long
Community Benefit Payment	£5,000/megawatt (£660k p.a. £19.8m over project life*	New Mechanism	30 years

**Based on a total installed capacity of 132 megawatts.*



Cumberhead West Wind Farm

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process

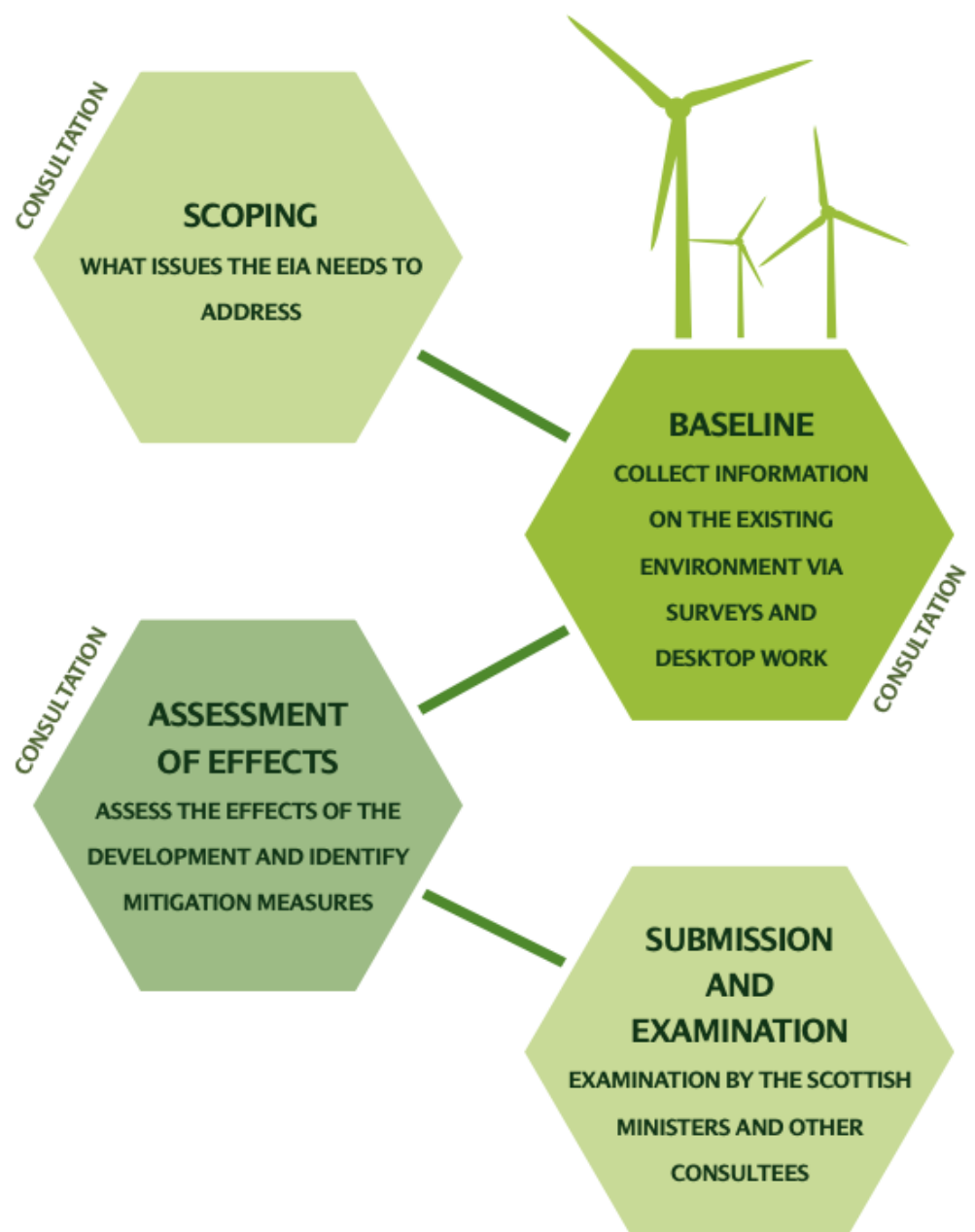
An EIA is the process of assessing the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project.

The EIA is required to follow clear steps which can be summarised as follows:

- Screening: to determine whether a particular project requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR);
- Scoping: stage at which the scope of the EIAR is defined through consultation with statutory consultees;
- Preparation of the Draft EIAR;
- Public Consultation;
- Finalisation of the EIAR; and
- Review and decision by decision maker.

The EIA process aims to assist the Scottish Government in their determination of the Section 36 application by identifying where any significant environmental effects are predicted. The EIAR will be carried out in consultation with statutory consultees, interested parties and the general public.

The EIA process is iterative, and consultation will be undertaken throughout the process to take into consideration essential feedbacks which will inform the wind farm design and layout.



Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

The EIA will consider the effects of the Proposed Development during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Cumberhead West Wind Farm. The EIAR will report the assessment on the following topics:

- **Landscape and visual** (effects on the character of the landscape and views from agreed locations);
- **Ecology** (the effects on protected habitats, flora and fauna, excluding birds);
- **Ornithology** (the effects on birds and protected bird habitats);
- **Noise and vibration** (effects on local properties from noise and vibration caused by the Proposed Development);
- **Cultural heritage** (effects on the integrity and setting of historic sites);
- **Hydrology, hydrogeology and geology** (the effects on surface water, groundwater, rocks and soils);
- **Traffic and transport** (effects from traffic travelling to, and from, the Proposed Development);
- **Socio-economics, tourism, and recreation** (effects on the local and national economy, local tourism businesses, and recreation facilities);
- **Aviation, radar and telecommunications** (effects on civil and military aviation facilities and air space and telecommunications facilities);
- **Shadow flicker** (effects caused by the passing of the turbine blades in front of the sun); and
- **Forestry** (effects arising from tree removal (key-holing) to facilitate wind farm infrastructure).

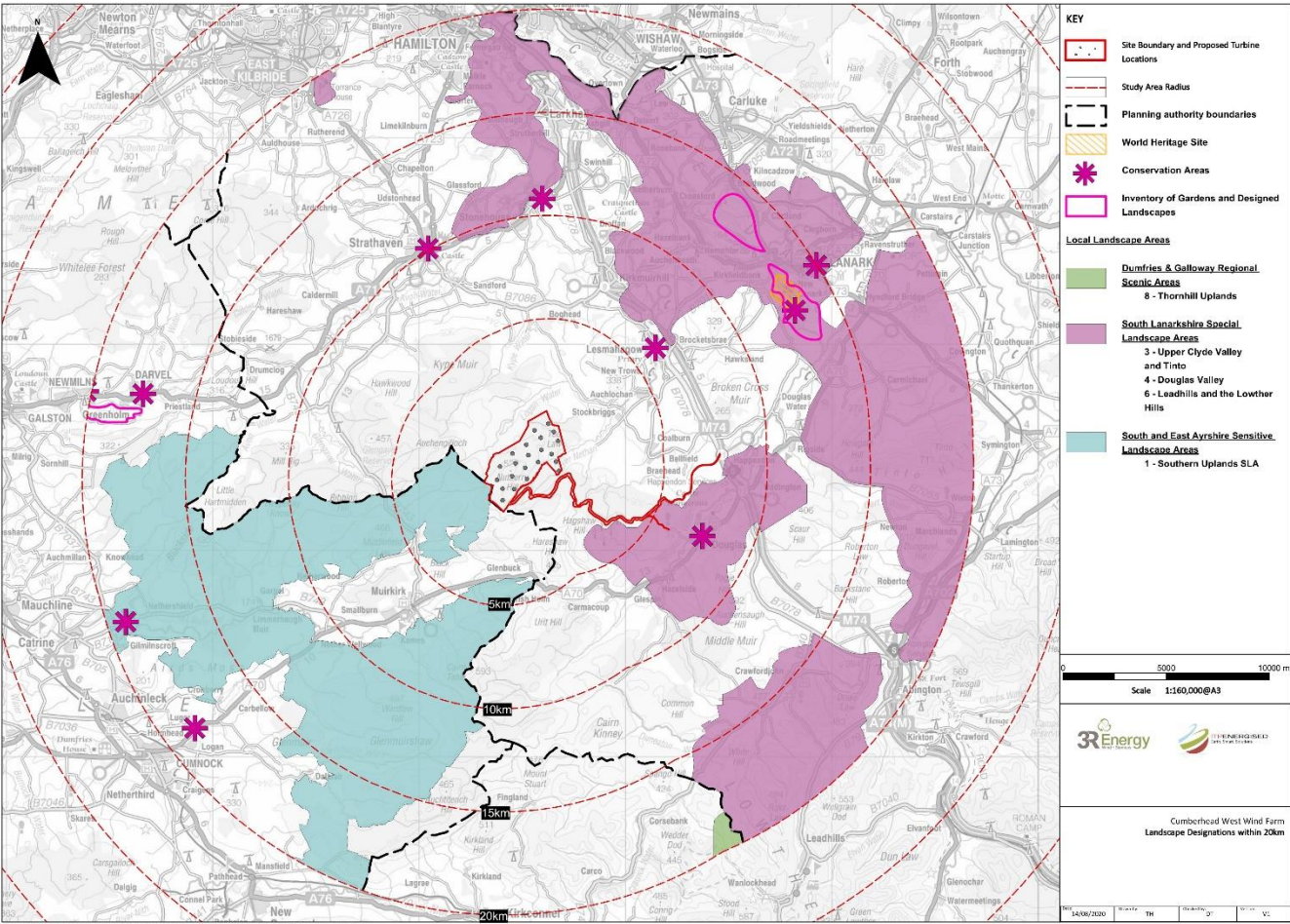
Cumberhead West Wind Farm

Landscape & Visual Impacts

It is acknowledged from the outset that, in common with almost all wind energy developments, some landscape and visual effects would occur as a result of the proposals, including some significant effects.

A key principle of the European Landscape Convention is that all landscapes matter and should be managed appropriately. It is also acknowledged that landscapes provide the surroundings for people’s daily lives and often contribute positively to the quality of life and economic performance of an area.

The EIA will therefore consider what impacts there will be on the local landscape and other viewpoints from the proposed development.



Study Area Landscape Character

The Proposed Development site adjoins an established cluster of wind farms around Hagshaw Hill (Known as the ‘Hagshaw Cluster’) in rural South Lanarkshire. The site is located approximately 3.9 km to the west of Coalburn, 5.6 km to the south-west of Lesmahagow 7.7 km north-west of Douglas and 6.5 km north-east of Muirkirk.

The Site is located within the Rolling Moorland: Forestry landscape character type of South Lanarkshire.

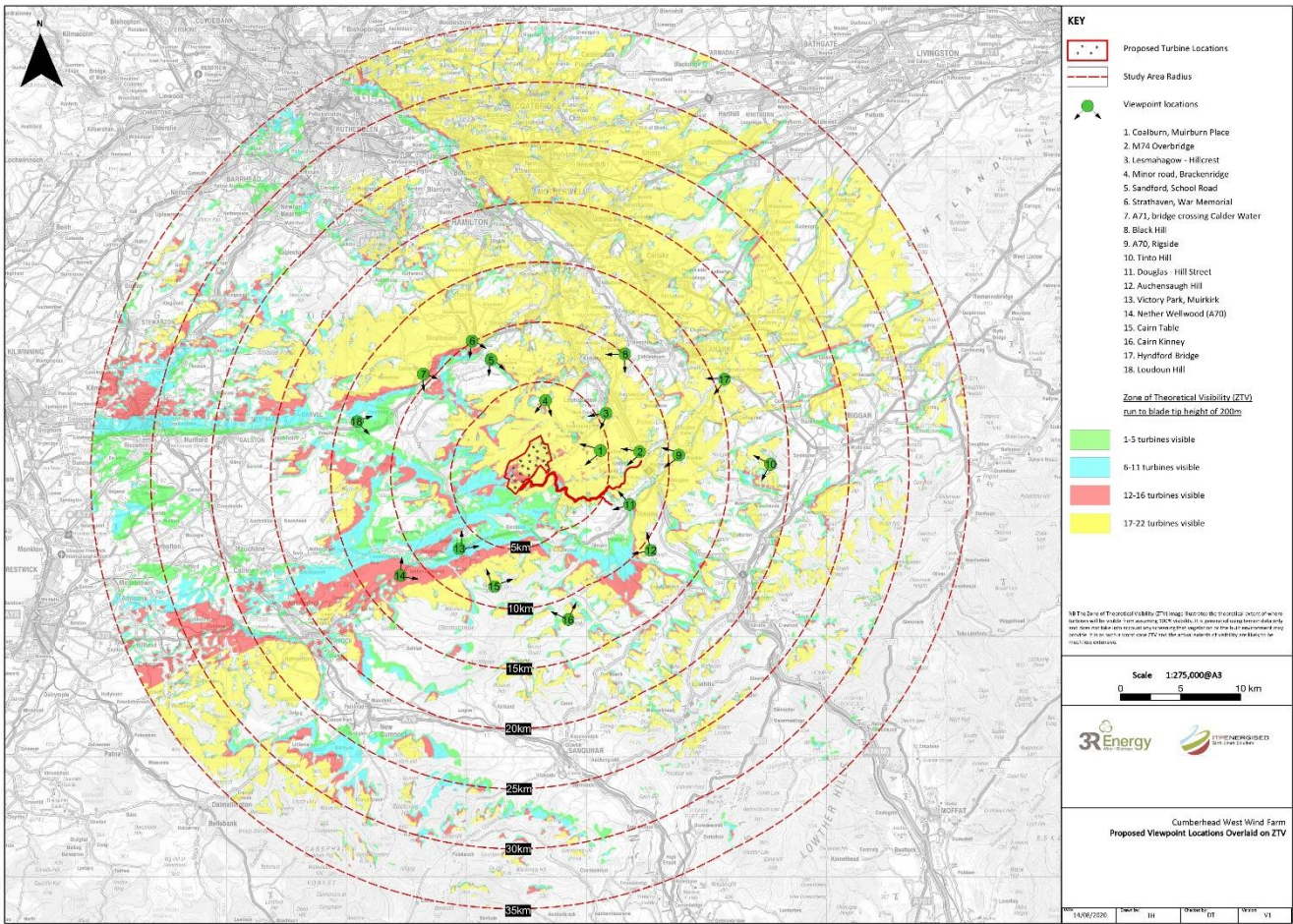
The site is not located within any of the identified Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) in South Lanarkshire; however, there are a number of landscape designations within 20km of the site as shown on the figure to the left.

Selected Viewpoint Locations & ZTV

A series of key viewpoint locations around the local area have been identified and will be agreed with the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, South Lanarkshire Council, East Ayrshire Council and Scottish Natural Heritage for use in the landscape and visual assessment.

A digital zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) model was created as a starting point to illustrate the geographical area within which views of development on site are theoretically possible. The ZTV is based on a ‘bare-earth’ scenario, whereby the screening effects of areas of existing vegetation, or built features in the landscape are not taken into consideration. The ZTV was modelled using the proposed max turbine tip height of 200m.

The ZTV and selected viewpoint locations are shown on the figure to the right.



Cumberhead West Wind Farm

The following three images have been taken from the M74 Overbridge (Viewpoint 2). The first, a future baseline photomontage, shows all current consented developments once completed. The second image is a cumulative wireframe showing operational, consented and proposed schemes in green, blue and orange respectively, with the proposed Cumberhead West turbines shown in red. The third image shows a cumulative photomontage of all operational and consented developments, plus the proposed Cumberhead West development.

Image 1: Future Baseline Photomontage - Operational and Consented Schemes



Image 2: Cumulative Wireframe

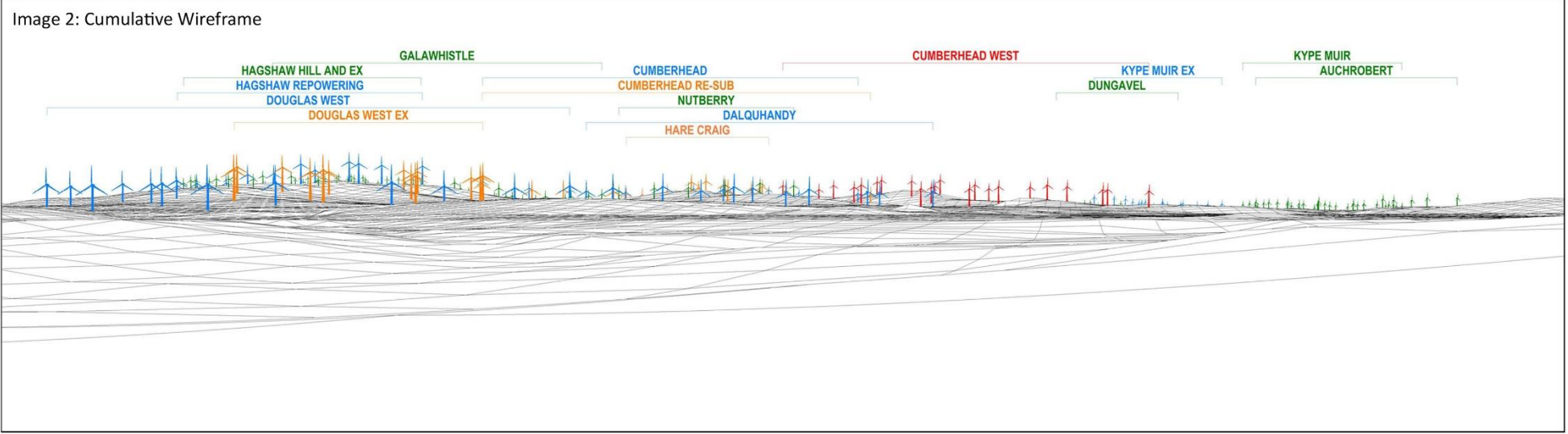
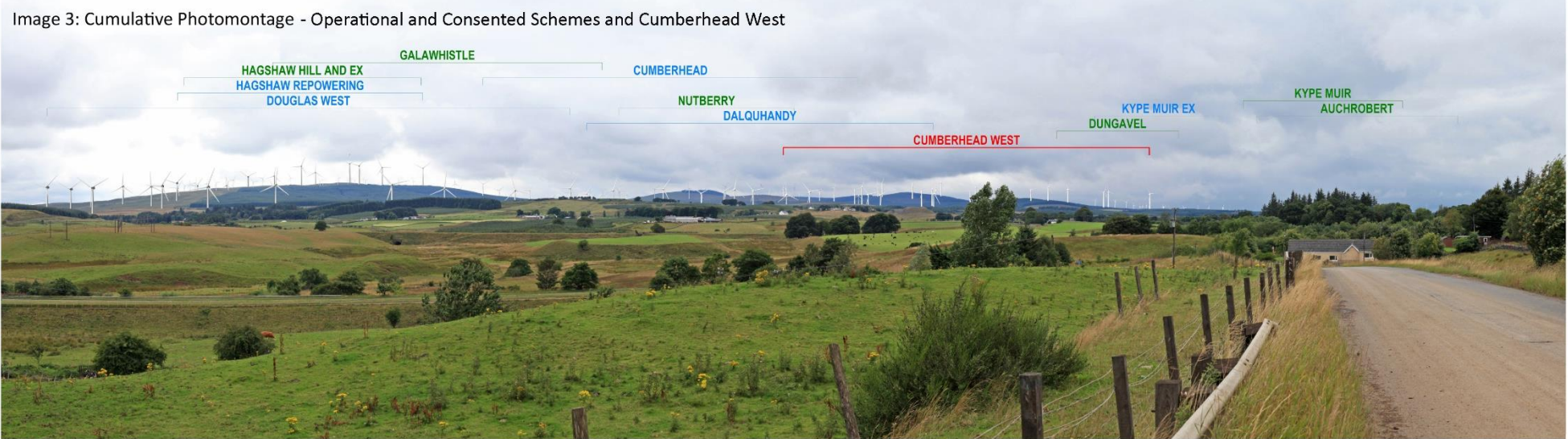


Image 3: Cumulative Photomontage - Operational and Consented Schemes and Cumberhead West



Cumberhead West Wind Farm

Coordinated Approach to the Future of the Hagshaw Wind Cluster

The Proposed Development outlined here forms one component of a wider strategy for the future of the Hagshaw Wind Cluster. This overview intends to explain the background to the Proposed Development and how it fits into a wider strategic plan for the local area.

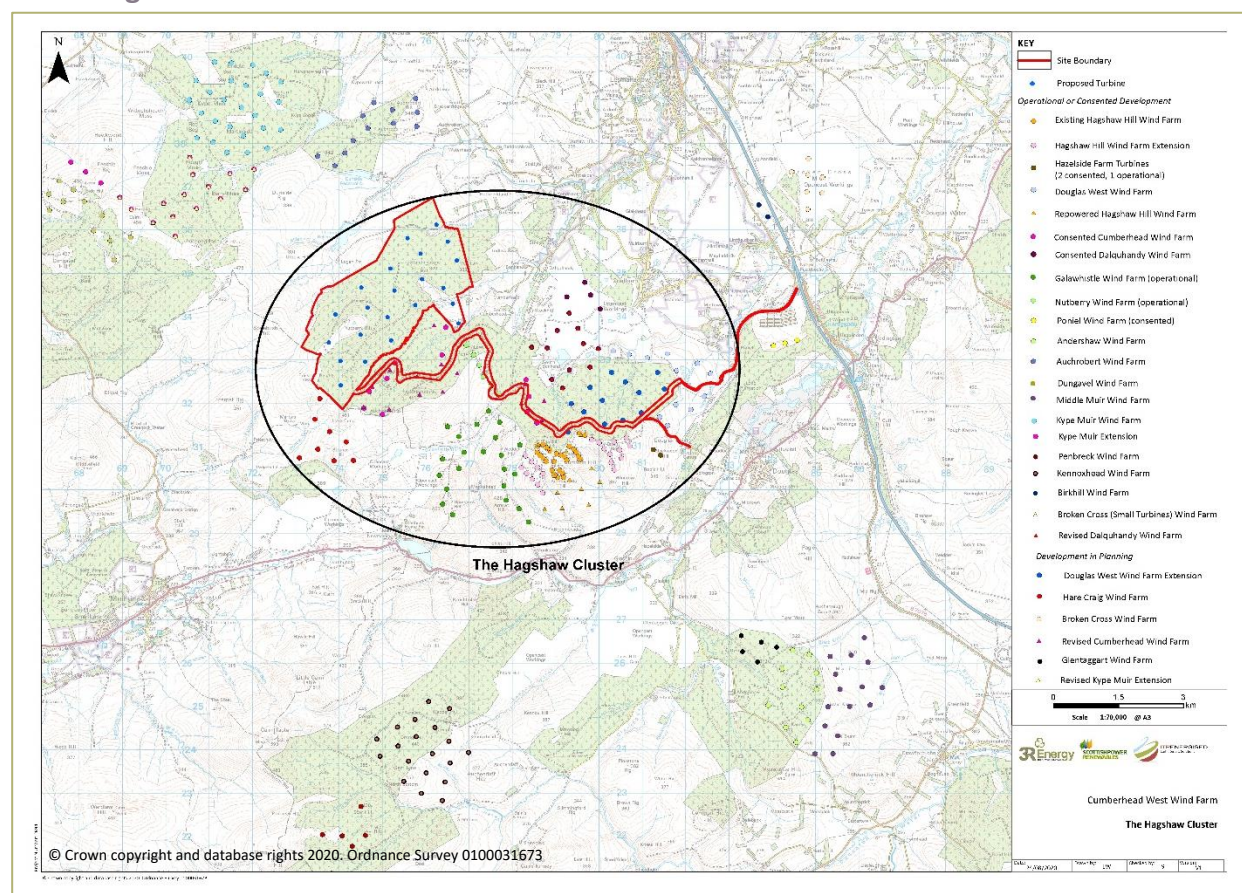
As neighbouring landowners to Cumberhead Forest, 3R Energy are working in partnership with SPR to develop a wind energy scheme on the eastern part of the forest as an extension to the consented Douglas West Wind Farm – known as ‘Douglas West Extension’. As landowners of Scotland’s first wind farm on the neighbouring Hagshaw Hill, 3R Energy have also recently concluded arrangements with SPR to repower Hagshaw Hill Wind Farm at the end of its operational life. 3R Energy and SPR have now extended their partnership to develop the Cumberhead West Wind Farm which would complete the wind farm picture within the western part of the forest. See plan below.

There are many benefits in taking these projects forward together in partnership, including: helping to create and sustain local employment, keeping income generated in the local area, and maximising renewable generation and community benefit opportunities from the sites. Together, these projects create a unique opportunity for the local area to secure a substantial 30 year income stream that could deliver a transformational change agenda for the villages of Coalburn, Lesmahagow, Douglas and outlying settlements, aligned to a strategic opportunity to develop a regional Adventure Tourism destination on the M74.

There are also many benefits from a physical perspective which can be achieved by these local projects being taken forward in a coordinated fashion, including:

- Delivery of an outcome which is better designed in landscape terms, more strategically efficient and cost-effective;
- Optimisation of renewable generation from an established wind farm location;
- More efficient use of existing infrastructure and grid connection assets;
- Consideration of energy storage options;
- Better coordinated habitat management proposals;
- Enhanced public access delivery across multiple sites; and
- A significant Community Benefit package which would generate a 30-year income stream to fund a Local Investment Strategy for the area.

The Hagshaw Cluster



Building on the investments from the existing sites within the Hagshaw Cluster, Cumberhead West Wind Farm will represent a further investment of approximately £41 million into the Scottish economy and approximately £13 million into the South Lanarkshire economy. The project will produce enough electricity to power around **94,000 homes and displace around 87,000 tonnes of CO₂ each year***¹. 3R and SPR’s Hagshaw Cluster development projects cumulatively have the potential to deliver community benefit contributions of up to **£1.47 million***² **each year**. 3R Energy and SPR are committed to working with the local communities in the area for the long term to develop and deliver successful projects which create significant and lasting benefits for the local area.

Next Steps

We will take into account the feedback received from our consultation exercises as we refine our proposals and finalise the development scheme. A formal Section 36 application for the Cumberhead West Wind Farm project will then be submitted to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit later this year. Comments can be made to the project team using the feedback forms on the project website:

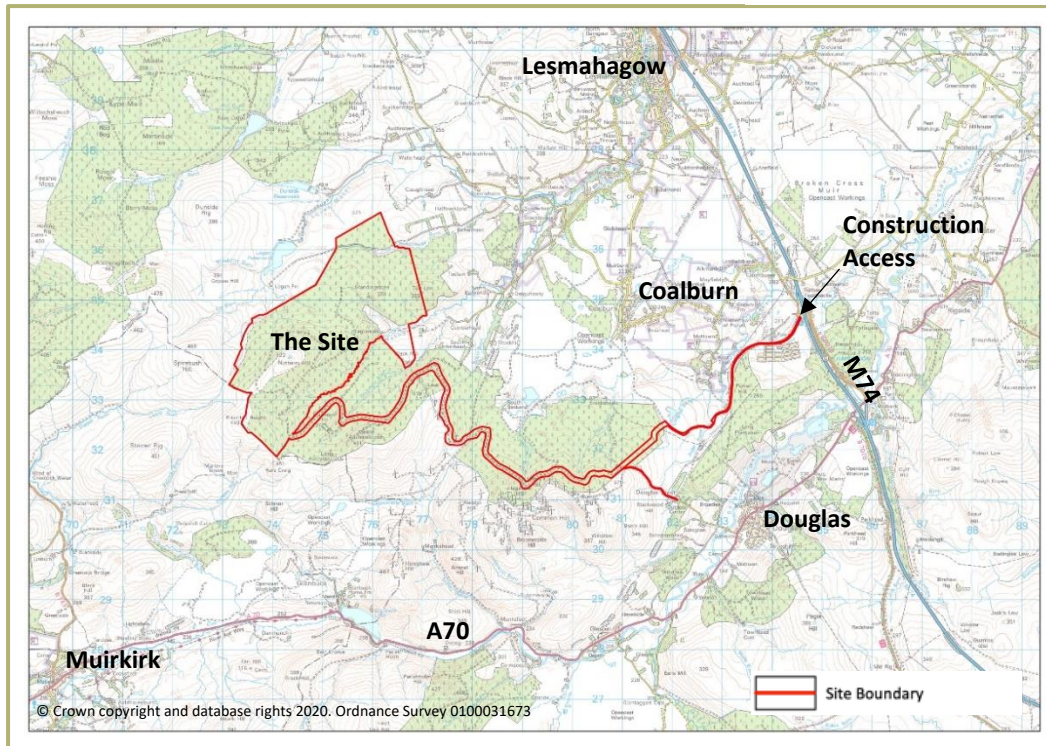
<https://www.3renergy.co.uk/cumberhead-west>. Please note that any comments made at this stage are not representations to the Scottish Ministers.

Once the Section 36 application is submitted there will be an opportunity to make representations on the application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit at that time.

*¹Predicted carbon emission and electrical generation figures based on currently projected figures for Cumberhead West project. Average electricity consumption per UK household is 3,618kWh (RenewableUK 2019) and total annual energy generation estimated to be 340 GWh (3.4e⁸ / 3,618) = 93,975 homes. Carbon savings based on conversion factors from the UK government (GOV.UK, 2019). In 2019, figures report 0.256 kg of CO₂ per kWh of electricity (3.4e⁸ x 0.256)/1000 = 87,040 tonnes.

*²Community benefit figures based on currently projected installed capacity of Douglas West Extension, Hagshaw Repowering and Cumberhead West projects.

Appendix 4 – Project Information Leaflet (issued to all properties within 2km)



Cumberhead West Wind Farm

Public Consultation Leaflet

Who are we?

Cumberhead West Wind Farm is a joint venture between local business 3R Energy (3R) and ScottishPower Renewables (SPR). 3R was established in 2009 to help farms and rural businesses to benefit from renewable energy technology, with its head office situated at Lanark Auction Market. As a local company 3R is committed to working with communities closest to the Hagshaw Wind Farm Cluster for the long term to develop and deliver successful projects which create significant and tangible benefits for the local area.

ScottishPower Renewables is at the forefront of the development of the renewables industry through pioneering ideas, forward thinking and outstanding innovation. Its ambitious growth plans include expansion of its existing onshore wind portfolio, investment in new large scale solar deployment and innovative grid storage systems including batteries. SPR has long been involved in the Hagshaw Cluster, having owned and operated Scotland's first wind farm at Hagshaw Hill since 1996.

Why are we contacting you?

3R and SPR invite you to participate in its Public Consultation for the proposed Cumberhead West Wind Farm development.

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions requiring social distancing, face-to-face consultation is unfortunately not possible at present. In lieu of holding in person public information events, we have developed an online consultation website to provide details of the Proposed Development and the progress to date, and to answer any questions or receive any comments you may have. This form of community consultation has been agreed with the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit and South Lanarkshire Council as being an appropriate alternative to a public event in the current circumstances. The project website will go live on 26th August 2020 and can be accessed here:

<https://www.3renergy.co.uk/cumberhead-west>

The project team will also be available for virtual meetings / telephone calls on request for a 21 day period following the launch of this website, ending on 16th September 2020. To book a call with a member of the project team to discuss any comments or questions you may have, or to request further information, please contact the following email address: cumberheadwest@3renergy.co.uk

There will be further opportunity to make comments on the Proposed Development direct to the Scottish Ministers following submission of the application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit later this year.

The Project

3R and SPR intend to submit an application for a proposed 22 turbine wind farm on the land outlined in red overleaf which adjoins the established cluster of wind farms around Hagshaw Hill ('the Hagshaw Cluster').

Although the final specification of the turbines is not known at this time, they are likely to be up to 200 m maximum blade tip height, each with a generating capacity of approximately 6 megawatts (MW) – the same size as the turbines approved for the repowering of the nearby Hagshaw Hill Wind Farm.

The design will be shaped by the results of ongoing environmental and technical studies. We will also give careful consideration to how this proposal relates to the existing landscape, considering its visibility from key viewpoints in the surrounding area and how it fits within the Hagshaw Cluster.

Drivers for renewable energy

The UK Government and the Scottish Government have both declared a 'climate emergency' and are committed to ensuring that an increased proportion of electricity is generated from renewable energy sources in order to meet carbon emission targets. The Scottish Climate Change Bill (2018) introduces a target of net-zero gas emissions by 2045 at the latest, with Scotland becoming carbon neutral by 2040. Scotland will also have to reduce emissions by 56% by 2020, 70% by 2030 and 90% by 2040. These are currently the most ambitious statutory targets in the world. If consented, the Cumberhead West Wind Farm will make a meaningful contribution towards meeting these targets.

Community Benefits

The Proposed Development has the potential to generate up to £660,000 each year, and up to £19.8m over its lifetime, to support local groups and projects in the communities closest to the site.

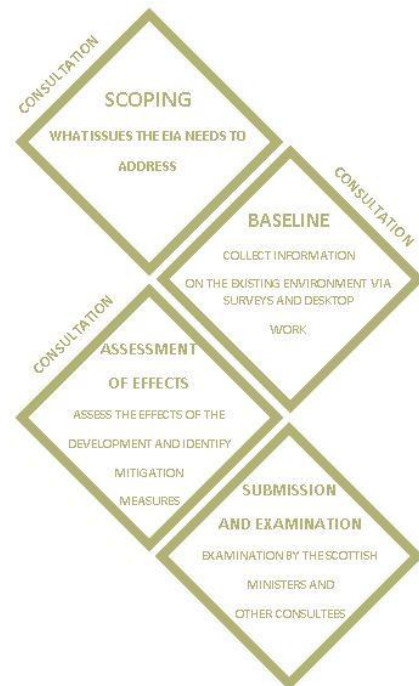
3R and SPR are keen to hear your ideas on how the revenue from the project can be used to enhance the local area and deliver projects that provide lasting benefit. As the project progresses we will continue to engage with local communities, stakeholders and South Lanarkshire Council to determine how benefits could be delivered to best meet the needs and aspirations of the local area.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for the Proposed Development. The EIA will be informed by the response to a request to the Scottish Ministers in June 2020 through the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit for a Scoping Opinion, which sets out the approach to the EIA process.

It is anticipated that the following topics will be included as part of the EIA:

- Landscape and Visual;
- Ecology;
- Ornithology;
- Noise and Vibration;
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage;
- Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology;
- Traffic and Transport;
- Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism;
- Aviation, Radar and Telecommunications;
- Shadow Flicker; and
- Forestry.



EIA is an iterative process, which identifies the potential environmental effects that in turn inform the eventual design of the proposals. It seeks to avoid, reduce, offset and minimise any significant adverse environmental effects through mitigation. Consultation is an important part of the EIA process and assists in the identification of potential effects and mitigation measures. Further information on the EIA can be found on the project website.

Next Steps

We will use consultation feedback and findings from environmental surveys and technical studies to shape the design of the Proposed Development ahead of submitting an application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit later this year.

Project Website:

www.3renergy.co.uk/cumberhead-west

Project Email:

cumberheadwest@3renergy.co.uk

Telephone:

01555 660244

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Lanark
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