

WELCOME TO OUR PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT FROM 15 OCTOBER UNTIL 5 NOVEMBER 2021



Stock photography

Welcome to the second public consultation for the proposed ESB Chleansaid Wind Farm on the Dalnессie Estate located 13 km to the north-east of Lairg.

The first public consultation was held as a virtual event online between 30 July and 27 August 2021. Consultation materials from both events will be available at www.esbenergy.co.uk/chleansaid-wind-farm from 15 October 2021.

We acknowledge that there is uncertainty regarding how the COVID-19 pandemic might influence the Chleansaid Wind Farm project. We recognise that this is primarily a public health issue and are fully committed to protecting the health and well-being of the public, landowners, neighbours and personnel. We regularly review our working methods and health and safety plans to reflect the latest advice and guidance the UK and Scottish governments issue and, where necessary, we are progressing with innovative ways of engaging with communities and the public to inform them of the proposed Chleansaid development.

Site description

The proposed development site is on the Dalnессie Estate, off the A836 and about 13 km to the north-east of Lairg in the Scottish Highlands.

The site lies in the North, West and Central Sutherland ward of The Highland Council area.

The proposed site is currently a shooting estate with rough grazing land for sheep.

Developer

ESB is developing Chleansaid Wind Farm. ESB is Ireland's premier energy company and a leading independent power generator in the UK market. The company has a track record of over 20 years as a successful investor in the UK since commissioning one of the first independent power generation plants at Corby in Northamptonshire in 1994. ESB owns and operates wind farms across the UK and Ireland with a total installed capacity of 600 MW.



Energy for generations

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



Stock photography

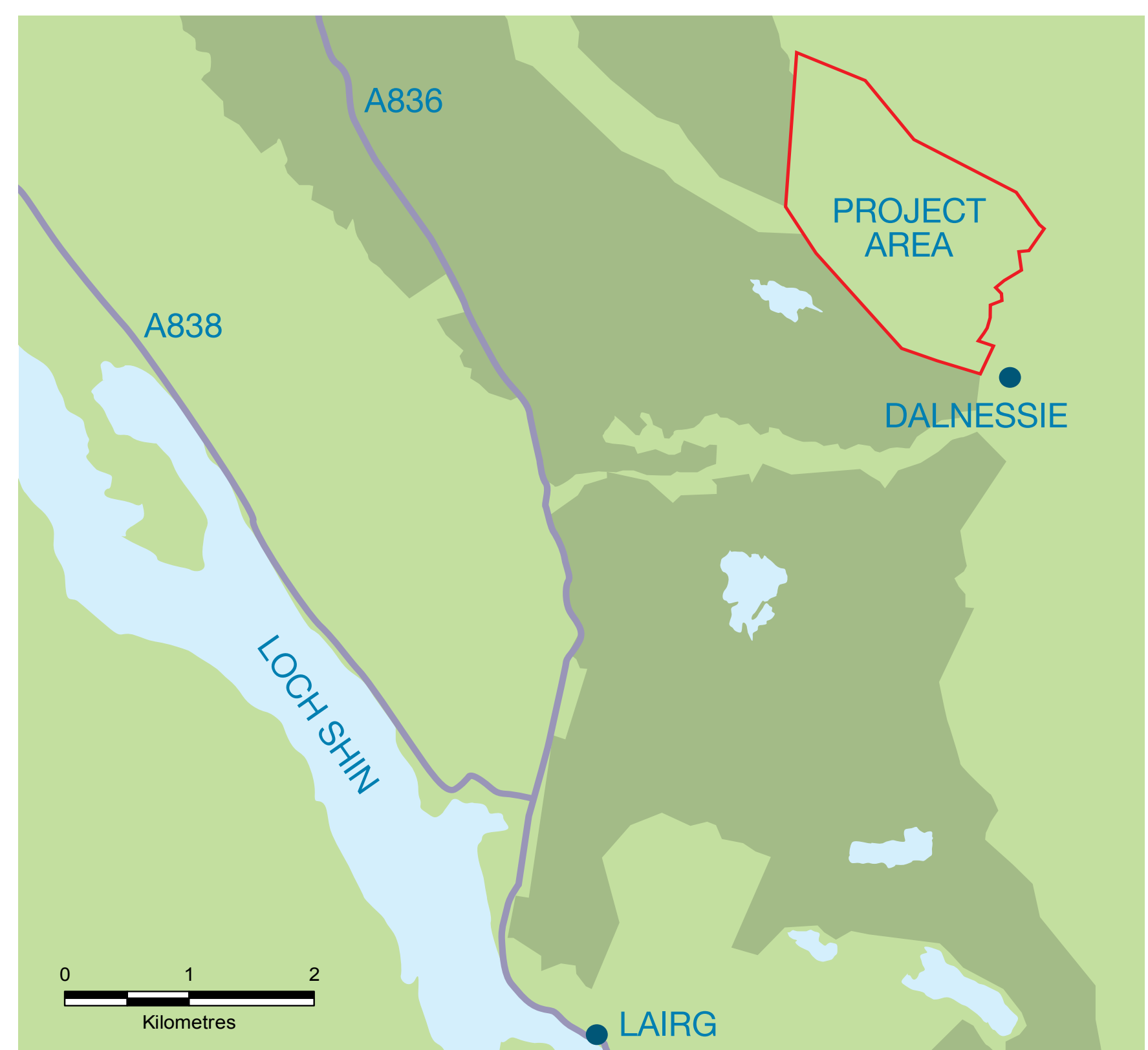
ESB wishes to construct a new onshore wind farm with up to 16 turbines that aims to deliver energy generation in excess of 50 MW. Environmental, technical and commercial considerations throughout the design process will inform the final number of turbines.

The turbines will have a maximum tip height of 200 m, a blade length of 82 m and a generating capacity of around 6 MW. The final turbine selection will be informed by an environmental impact assessment that will look at various factors to assess the environmental consequences of the development.

The plans include battery storage capacity to maximise the use of the grid connection and help balance the national electricity transmission grid.

Construction and access

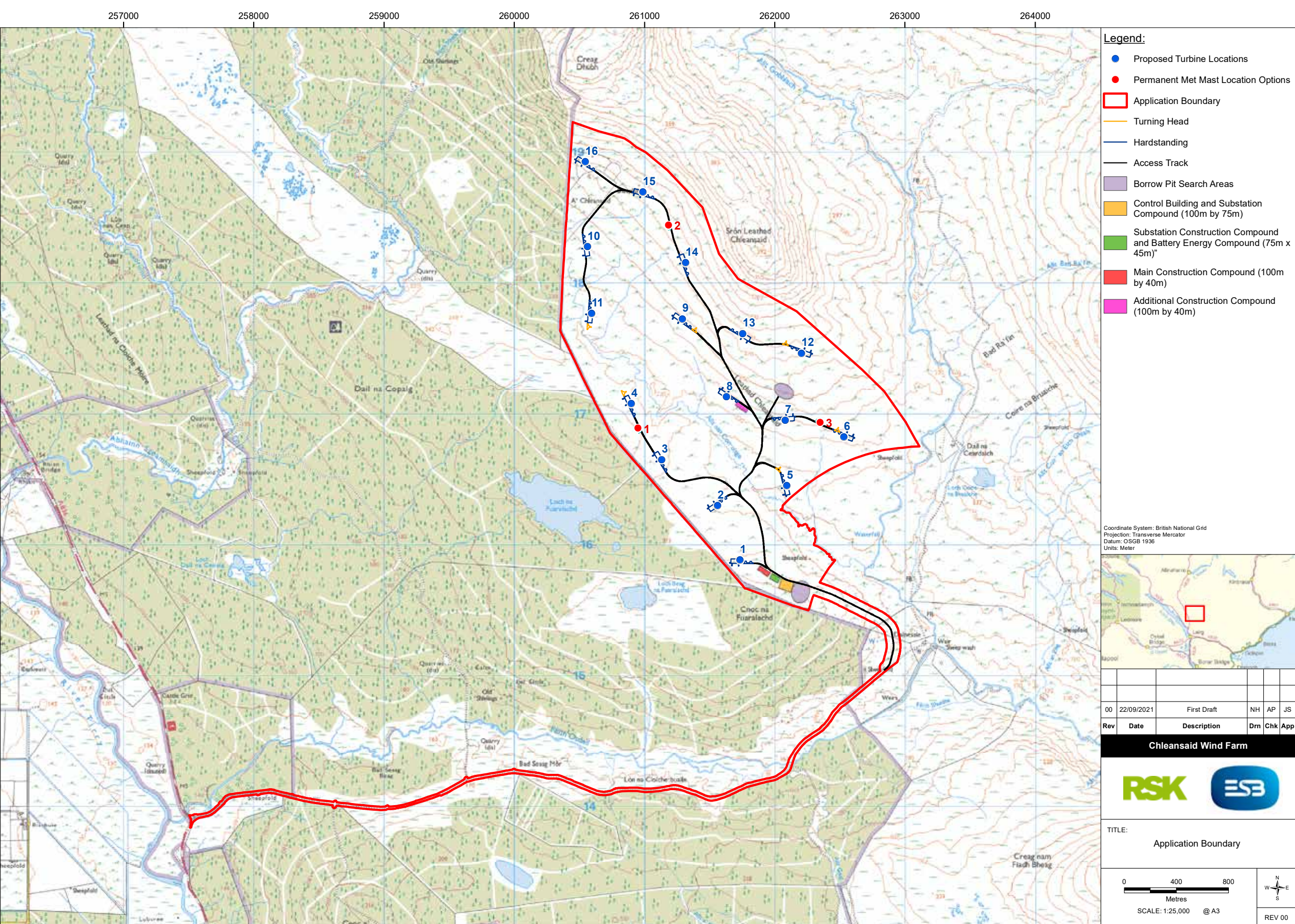
- One or more construction compounds, access tracks and watercourse crossings will require installation to enable wind farm construction.
- Access to the site for vehicles delivering construction materials and turbine components will be from the A836 to the west of the site via the existing forestry haulage route. The existing access track will be upgraded, where required, to meet the specifications for all construction and turbine delivery vehicles.



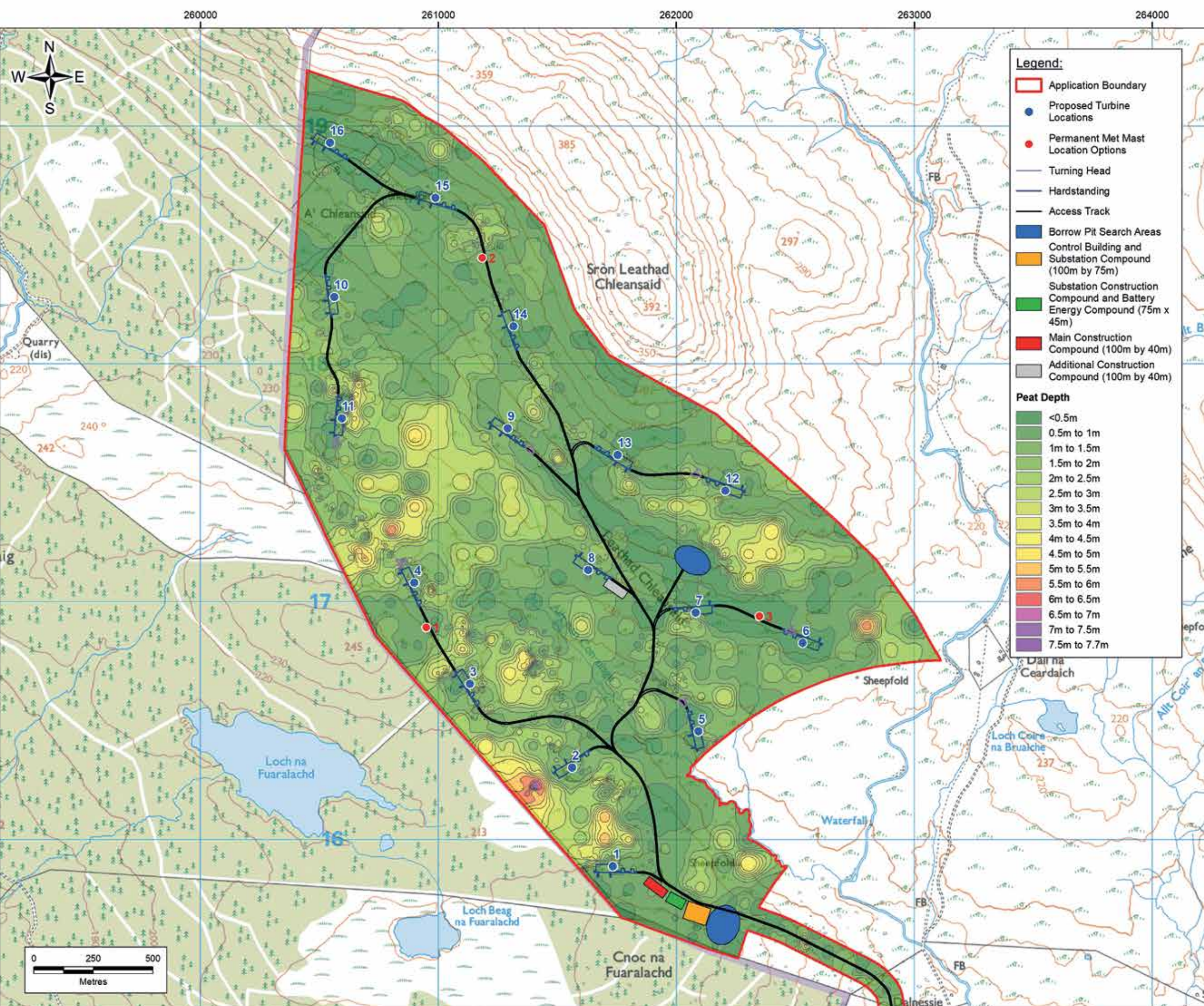
- Watercourse crossings will be installed as required. Their design will be in accordance with Scottish Government best practice and due regard for Scottish Environment Protection Agency guidelines to enable the passage of fish and other wildlife.
- Crushed stone will be used to construct new tracks, create hardstanding areas for the cranes and to lay foundations. The source of the stone and aggregate is to be confirmed during the design process and the environmental impact assessment phase.



PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE LAYOUT



Red line shows the extent of the application boundary.



Proposed site layout in relation to deep peat deposits.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT



RSK Environment Ltd has been appointed to carry out a detailed environmental impact assessment of the Chleansaid Wind Farm project. This study will form part of the formal application for consent to the Scottish Ministers.

The environmental impact assessment process includes

- Consultation with the local authority, various organisations and the public to identify specific concerns and issues
- Determining the existing conditions at and around the wind farm site by reviewing the available data and undertaking specialist field surveys
- Assessing the potential impacts on the existing environment
- Mitigation proposals to alleviate any significant impacts identified.

The environmental impact assessment will include detailed studies for the following disciplines:

- Landscape character and visual assessment
- Cultural heritage and archaeology
- Ecological and ornithological impact
- Geology, hydrogeology, hydrology and peat
- Noise and vibration
- Traffic and transportation
- Aviation and radar
- Telecommunications and electromagnetic interference.



Energy for generations

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT

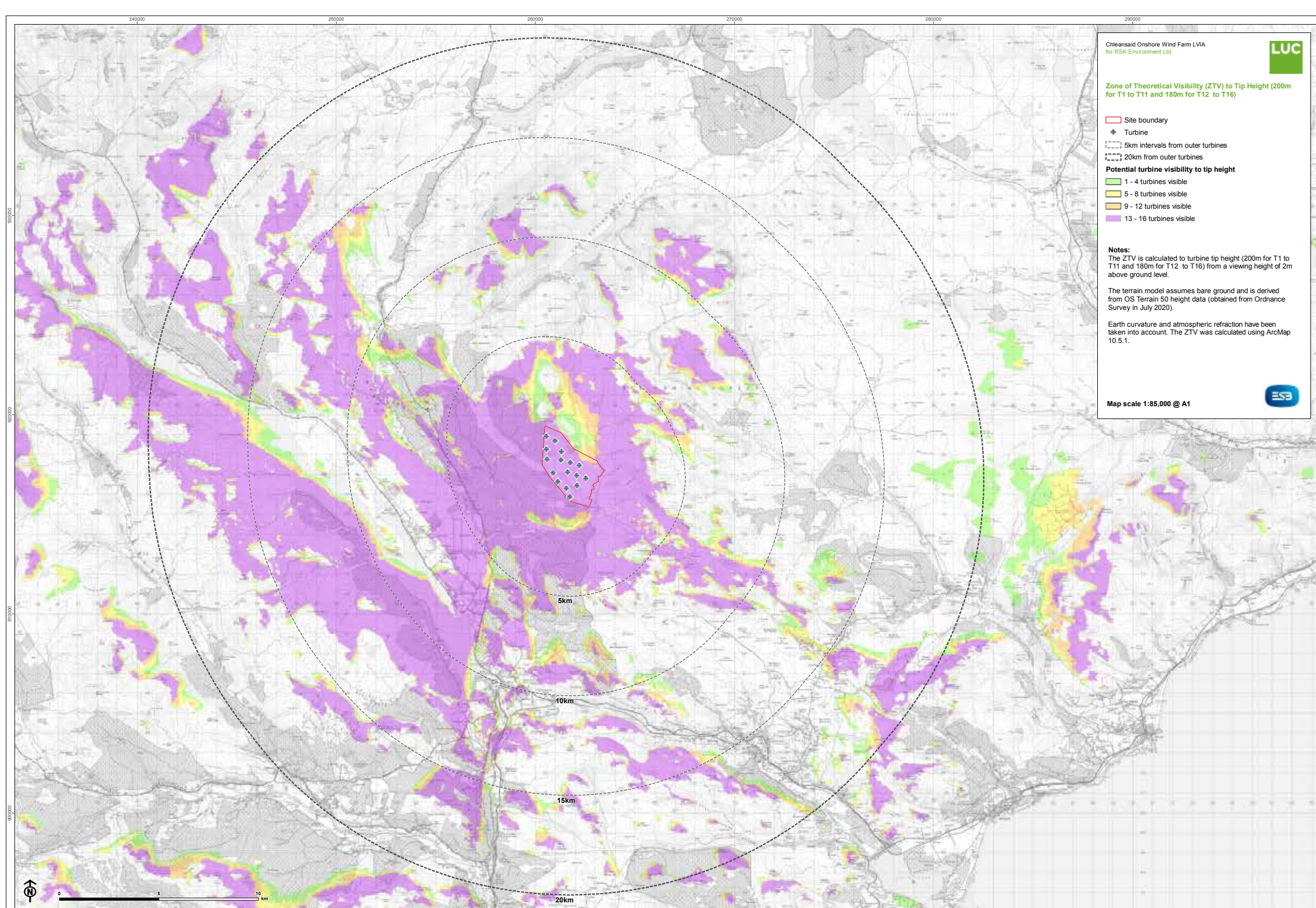


A landscape and visual impact assessment will establish the potential effects of the proposed development on the surrounding landscape and visual amenity.

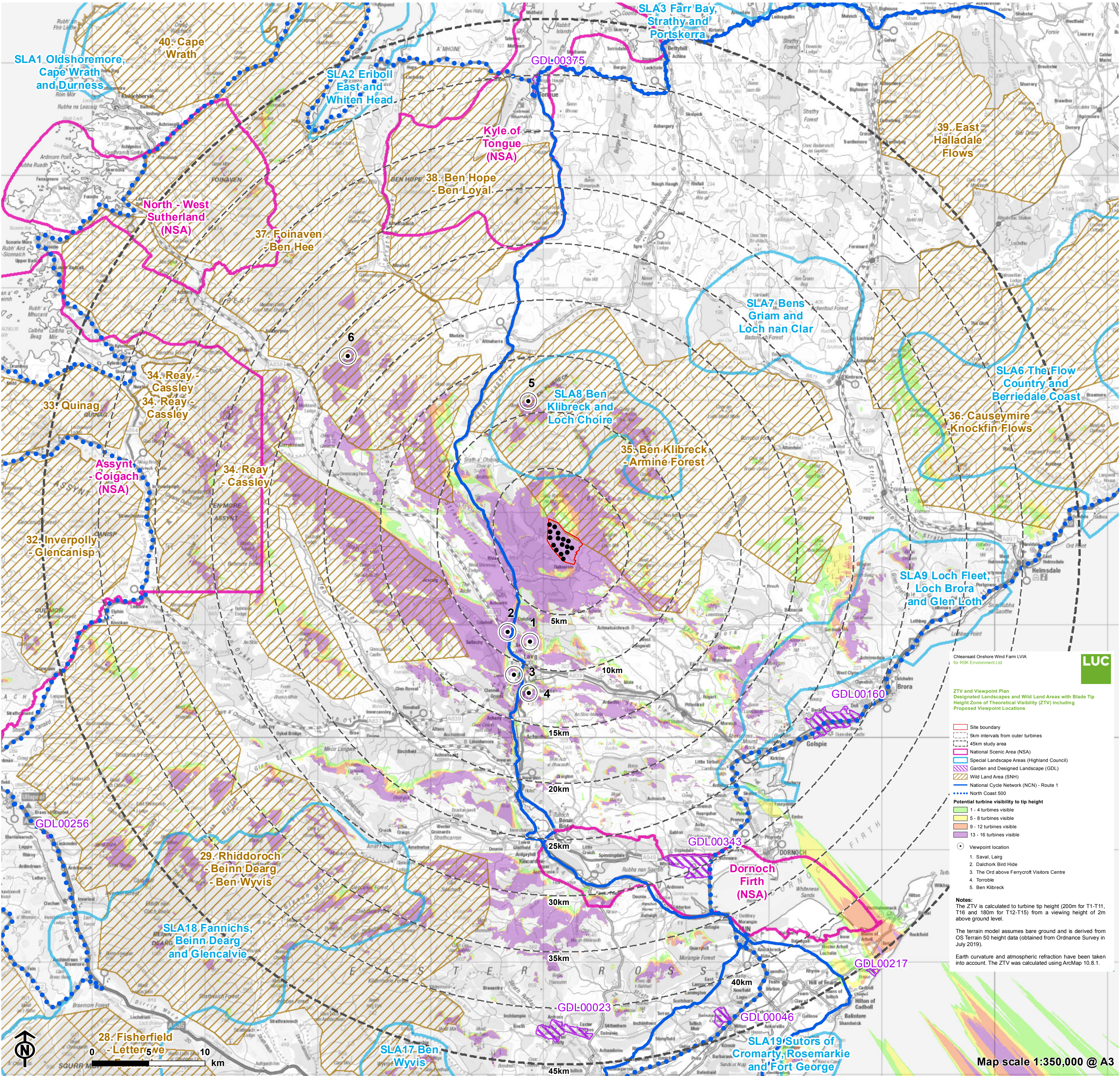
A zone of theoretical visibility is a computer-generated tool that establishes the likely extent of the visibility of a proposed development and key visual receptors. A zone of theoretical visibility based on preliminary design options has been prepared to inform the landscape and visual impact assessment.

The zone of theoretical visibility indicates the areas where turbines will be visible, based on the relief of the surrounding study area (45 km from the outer turbines). This is supported by producing and analysing wirelines and photomontages from several agreed viewpoints that give a clearer picture of what the new turbines would look like.

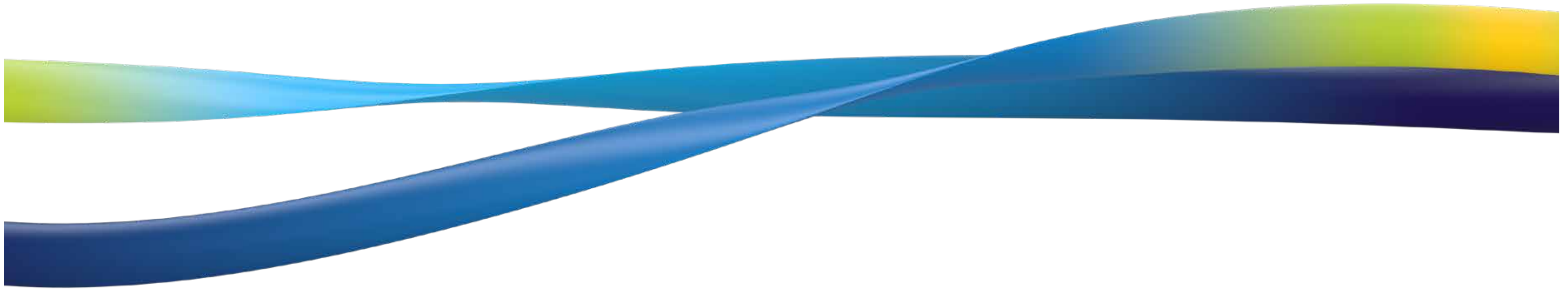
The finalised design consists of a mixture of turbines up to 180m and 200m tall.



THE ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY



PHOTOMONTAGE



Viewpoint 1 (7.9 km): Saval, Lairg. Photomontage of the proposed Chleansaid turbines from Saval, above Lairg, taken from Grid Reference 258780 908492 set up with a 53.5 degrees horizontal field of view. (note: very limited visibility from Lairg itself).

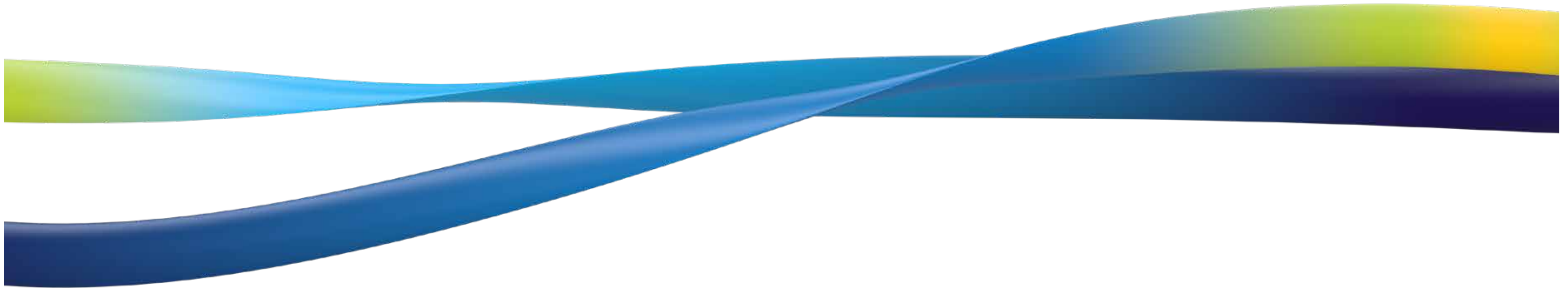


Viewpoint 2 (8.2 km): Dalchork Bird Hide. Photomontage from the bird hide at Dalchork near the A836, taken from Grid Reference 256833 909361 set up with a 53.5 degrees horizontal field of view.

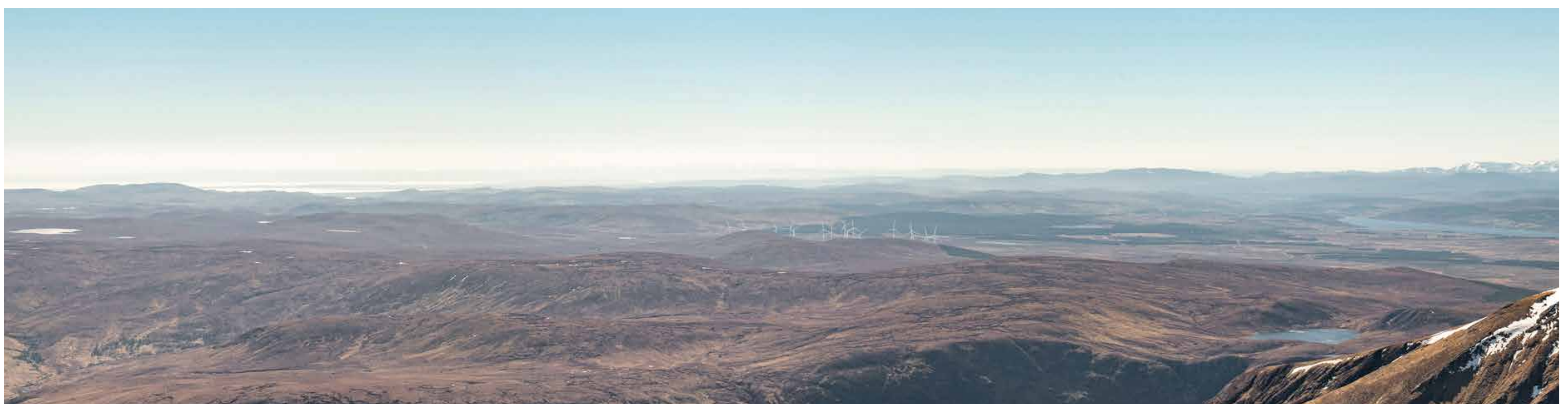


Viewpoint 3 (11.20 km): The Ord above Ferrycroft Visitor Centre. Photomontage of the proposed Chleansaid turbines from the Ord, taken from Grid Reference 257400,905563 set up with a 53.5 degrees horizontal field of view. This represents a view from a local high point in Lairg, visibility from lower lying areas in Lairg is very limited.

PHOTOMONTAGE



Viewpoint 4 (12.3 km): Torroble. Photmontage of the proposed Chleansaid turbines from Torroble, east of the A836, taken from Grid Reference 258724 903914 set up with a 53.5 degrees horizontal field of view. (note: roadside vegetation limits views from the A836 on the northern approach to Lairg).

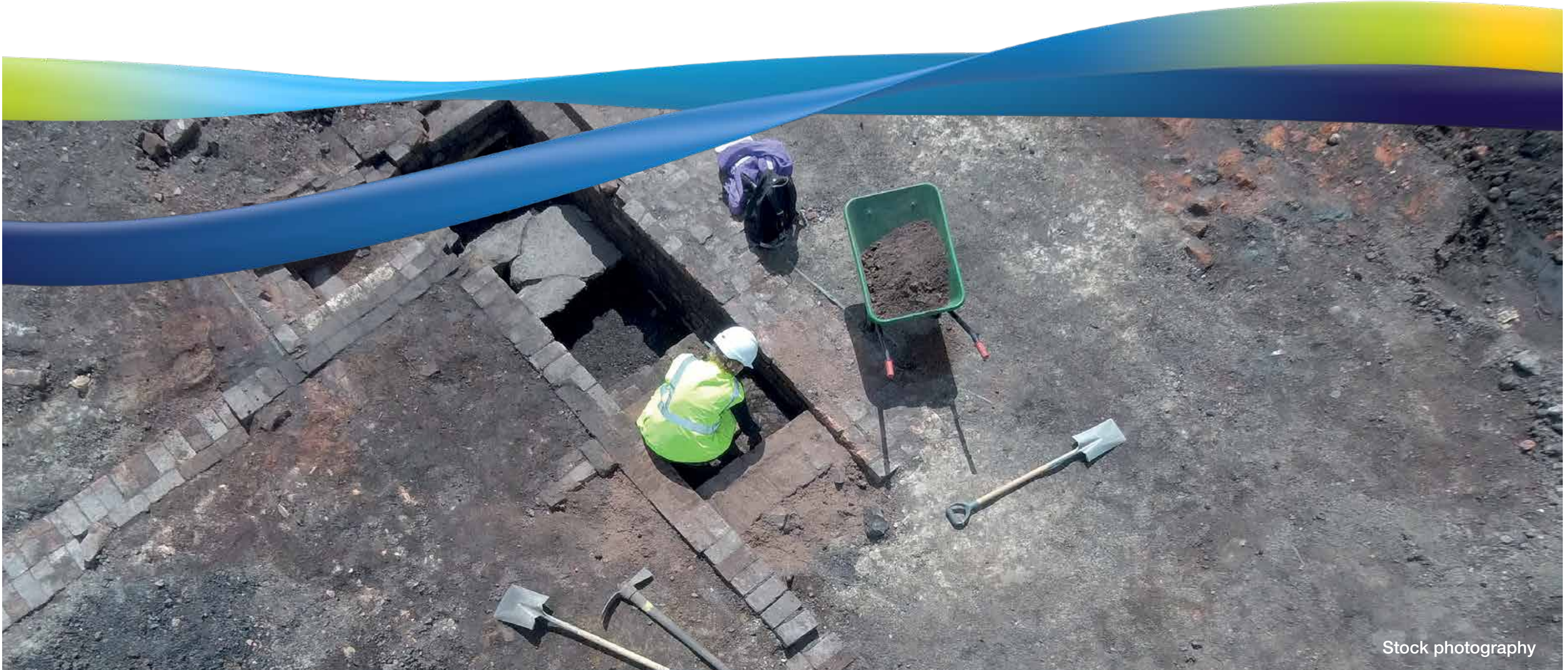


Viewpoint 5 (11.1 km): Ben Klibreck (Meall nan Con). Photomontage of the proposed Chleansaid turbines from summit of Ben Klibreck, Meall nan Con, taken from Grid Reference 258639 929881 set up with a 53.5 degrees horizontal field of view.



Viewpoint 6 (23.35 km): Ben Hee. Photomontage of the proposed Chleansaid turbines from summit of Ben Hee, taken from Grid Reference 242654 933940 set up with a 53.5 degrees horizontal field of view.

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY



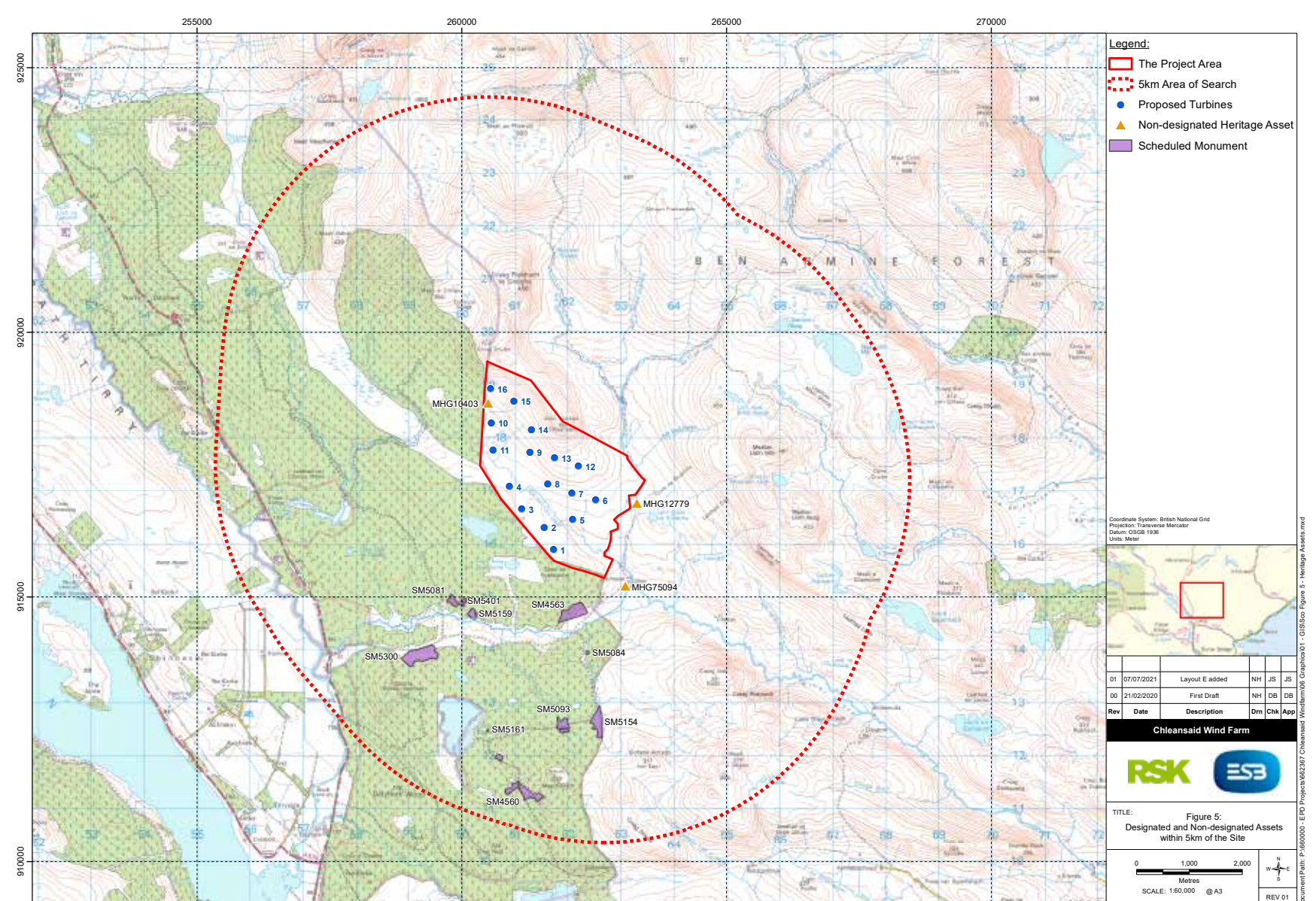
Stock photography

The effects of the proposed development on the historic environment, including cultural heritage and archaeology, will be assessed.

This study will consider the wind farm's direct and indirect effects on known and potential receptors. The potential impacts include

- Construction impacts (direct or indirect physical impacts on the setting) on designated and non-designated heritage assets
- Construction impacts on previously unrecorded heritage assets
- Operational impacts on designated heritage assets.

Once the known heritage assets have been established and the potential for the presence of previously unknown heritage assets has been assessed, the environmental impact assessment will assess the impact magnitude and significance on heritage assets in the area.



ECOLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY



A programme of ecological and ornithological surveys is being carried out on the site. The results will be used to ensure that any impacts on wildlife are mitigated.

In addition, opportunities for biodiversity enhancements that the development could deliver will be explored in consultation with specialist interest groups.

Ornithology surveys

A comprehensive survey programme is under way to identify the use of the site and its wider surroundings by sensitive bird populations.



Ecology surveys

The ecology surveys include

- A phase 1 habitat survey
- A National Vegetation Classification survey
- Terrestrial mammal surveys
- Bat surveys
- Fish habitat surveys.

The site is a mosaic of open moorland habitats, with semi-mature and clear-felled forestry plantations abutting the site to the south and west.

A few watercourses pass through the site, including the Allt nan Con-uisge and its tributaries, which flow into the River Brora that flows to the east from the boundary of the site.



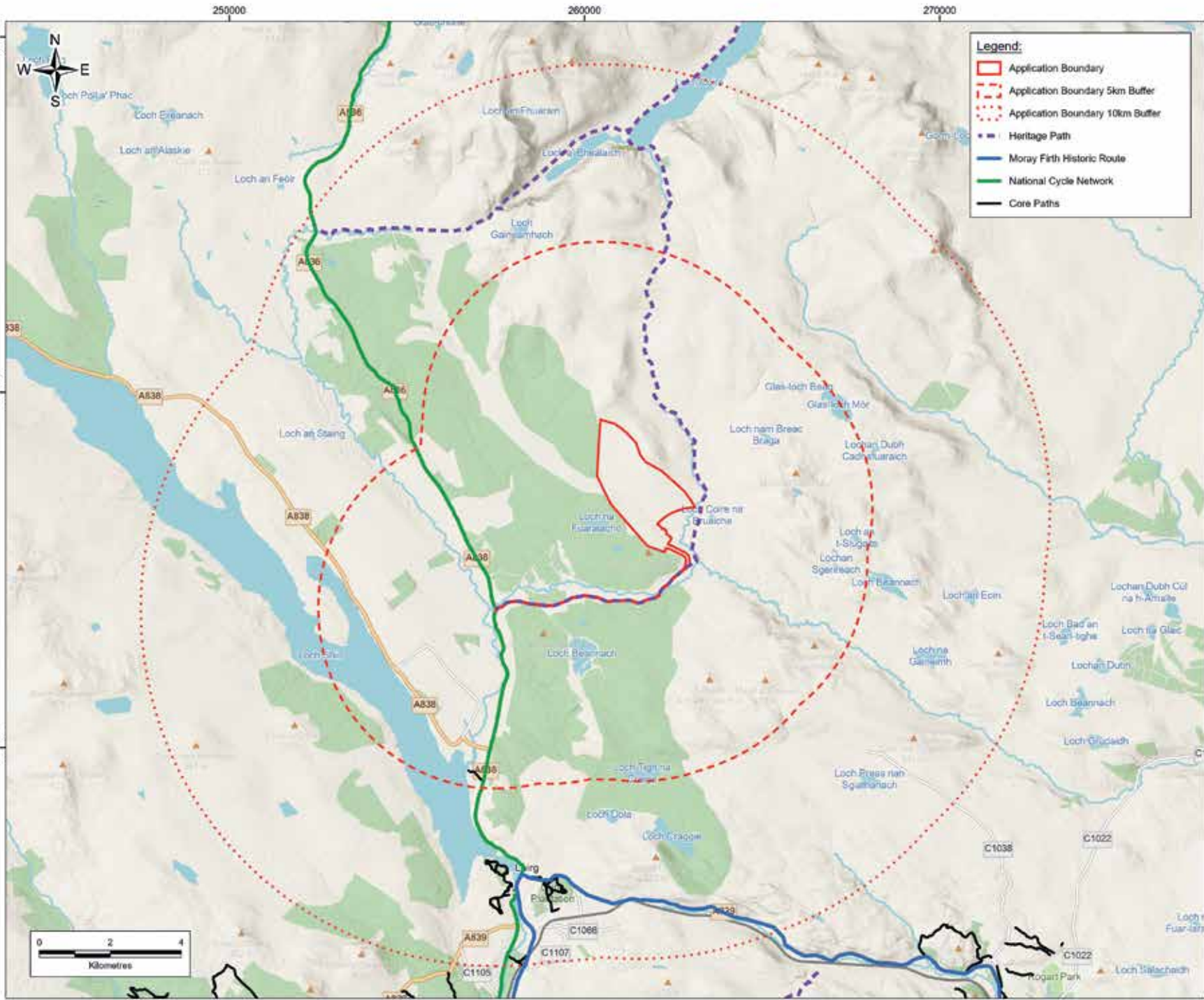
Energy for
generations

TRANSPORT AND RECREATION



Stock photography

A number of areas on the proposed route may require oversail or overrun to accommodate the delivery of turbine components, and work is ongoing to identify and agree these requirements.



Recreational routes in the area of proposed development site.



Proposed delivery route.

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



ESB will work closely with local communities, businesses and residents in seeking to ensure that it will bring real benefits and help to meet national climate change targets through the Chleansaid Wind Farm proposal.

Business, employment and investment

ESB would like to hear from businesses across the Highlands and Scotland to ensure that it can fully consider the skills and services of local people and suppliers if the Chleansaid Wind Farm receives approval.

The opportunities available include those for

- An engineering, procurement and construction contractor
- Construction material suppliers: concrete, aggregate and building materials
- Electrical contractors: supply and installation of plant, cabling, earthing, etc.
- Plant and equipment hire contractors: excavation earthworks, craneage, welfare units, etc.
- Labour hire companies: engineers, plant operatives and general labourers
- Transport: taxis and minibuses for local labourers.

Local accommodation providers

Construction projects of this nature inevitably require some specialist technicians from outside the area, so they will require local accommodation and catering facilities.

To be considered, please register with the local suppliers' database on our project website:
www.esbenergy.co.uk/chleansaid-wind-farm

Community benefit

ESB is committed to community benefit. We are currently exploring the options for community benefit and want to work with the community to create a workable and targeted package up to the value of £5,000 per megawatt of installed capacity.

We welcome feedback from the local community on community benefit structures.

Community shareholding

ESB is keen to consult the community about interest in investing in owning a share of Chleansaid Wind Farm.



Energy for
generations

WHAT NEXT?



ESB hopes to submit its application for consent for the Chleansaid Wind Farm project to the Scottish Ministers towards the end of 2021. Scottish Government will undertake its own consultation process when the public will be invited to make formal comment on the proposals.

In the meantime, we would welcome your feedback on our proposals and can provide further information if required. Details of the feedback provided to us via our public consultation will be captured and included in a statement of community consultation provided to the Scottish Government alongside the application for consent. Note that comments made to ESB are not representations to the Council or Scottish Ministers.

This second public consultation period being held from 15 October until 5 November 2021, both in public and online, follows the COVID-19 guidance currently in place in Scotland.

You can view more detailed information on our website:

www.esbenergy.co.uk/chleansaid-wind-farm

Contact points

Telephone: **0800 612 8250**

Email: chleansaid@esb.ie

Post:

Duncan Scott (Project Director)
ESB Asset Development UK Ltd
Inovo Building
121 George Street
Glasgow
G1 1RD



Energy for
generations