

ESB Asset Development UK Limited

Millmoor Rig Wind Farm

Statement of Community Consultation

663320



NOVEMBER 2022

RSK

RSK GENERAL NOTES

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Client: ESB Asset Development UK Limited
Date: 17th November 2022
Office: Glasgow
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) summarises the pre-application public consultation activity undertaken by ESB Asset Development UK Limited (hereafter referred to as 'the applicant'), for the proposed Millmoor Rig Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Development) located at Wauchope Forest, south of Chesters in the Scottish Borders (Ordnance Survey Grid reference: NT 61212 07010).
- 1.1.2 The Proposed Development is located on land comprising commercial forestry. The nearest settlements are Chesters, approximately 3.3 km to the north, and Bonchester Bridge, about 5.2 km to the north-north-west along the A6088 (all measurements taken from the nearest turbine). The nearest group of properties is located at Southdean, approximately 2.1 km to the north. The nearest individual properties are Dykeraw Farmhouse and Dykeraw Cottage, about 1.7 km to the north, and Lustruther, approximately 2.1 km to the north. The site is close to the Scotland/England border, being around 2.5 km at its closest point.
- 1.1.3 The proposal is for up to 13 turbines, with each turbine having a height of between 180 and 230 metres (m). The individual turbine generating capacity is anticipated to be approximately 6 MW, with the total installed capacity for the Proposed Development in excess of 50 MW. The application also includes approximately 20 MW of battery storage (BESS). Ancillary infrastructure will also be constructed, such as:
- a site entrance and new and upgraded access tracks;
 - a substation and control building;
 - 2 temporary construction compounds;
 - a temporary turbine layby area;
 - hardstanding areas at the base of each turbine;
 - telecommunications equipment;
 - 3 borrow pit search areas; and
 - buried cabling.
- 1.1.4 The proposals also include plans which seek to deliver habitat improvements to riparian planting and enrichment planting of native woodland.
- 1.1.5 A full description of the Proposed Development is presented in Chapter 2 of the submitted Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report.
- 1.1.6 The SoCC is part of a suite of documents submitted as part of the application for consent and includes a summary of actions taken to consult with local communities, as well as responses to this consultation.

2 CONSULTATION CONTEXT

2.1 Legislative Context

2.1.1 As this development proposal is for a wind farm over 50MW, an application is being made under Section 36 of the Electricity Act¹ directly to the Scottish Ministers there is no obligation to consult the public under the terms of the Electricity Act application process. While not a statutory requirement, the carrying out of pre-application consultation with the public is considered good practice.

2.1.2 The applicant is committed to undertake meaningful consultation with regulators, landowners, local authorities, community councils and members of the public and has adopted the consultation measures outlined for ‘major’ planning applications as set out in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (‘DMPR’)².

2.1.3 The applicant’s approach to public consultation is described in the next section titled “Consultation Approach”.

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (‘DMPR’)

2.1.4 Article 7 of DMPR states that applicants are to:

- *Hold at least one public event where members of the public may make comments to the prospective applicant as regards the proposed development; and*
- *Publish in a local newspaper circulating in the locality in which the proposed development is situated a notice at least 7 days in advance containing certain prescribed information:*
 - *a description of the proposed development and its location;*
 - *details as to where further information may be obtained concerning the proposed development;*
 - *the date and place of the public event;*
 - *a statement explaining how, and by when, persons wishing to make comments to the prospective applicant relating to the proposal may do so; and*
 - *a statement that comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the planning authority and that there will be an opportunity to make representations on any resultant application to the planning authority.*

2.1.5 Furthermore, Article 9 states that applications for planning permission must be accompanied by a pre-application consultation report.

¹ The Electricity Act 1989, Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/29/contents> [Accessed: 11/12/2021]

² The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2013/155/contents/madefor>

Temporary Amendments to the Regulations due to the Emergency Coronavirus Pandemic

- 2.1.6 The introduction of the Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020, published in April 2020, allowed for the suspension of in-person meetings in the interest of public health. The emergency period, during which the temporary regulations were in effect, ran until 30 September 2022; however, given the relaxation of COVID-19 rules and guidelines at the time of public consultation for the Proposed Development and with the intention of optimising public consultation, the decision was made with stakeholders to host in-person public events. In order to provide an alternative means for stakeholders to engage with the public consultation the event materials were made available online.

2.2 Best Practice

Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010 Community Engagement

- 2.2.1 The applicant has applied the principles recommended in Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010 Community Engagement³. The PAN advises that in order for the community engagement to be successful, it is important that everyone interested in the future development of the community, village, town or city they live in, should understand the planning process. It is important for developers to involve residents at the earliest opportunity so that they can feel confident that engagement in the process has been meaningful:

“Effective engagement with the public can lead to better plans, better decisions and more satisfactory outcomes and can help to avoid delays in the planning process. It also improves confidence in the fairness of the planning system. The Scottish Government expects engagement with the public to be meaningful and to occur from the earliest stages in the planning process to enable community views to be reflected in development plans and development proposals.” (page 3, paragraph 2)

- 2.2.2 PAN 3/2010 highlights the:

- 2.2.3 *“Dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups based on a genuine exchange of and, normally, with the objective of influencing decisions, policies or programmes of action... that affect their lives... and reaching a decision in an open and transparent way (page 3, paragraph 1).”*

- 2.2.4 The applicant is dedicated to undertaking effective and early consultation methods in this way, including tailoring its strategies to suit individual communities. Residents’ values and issues of importance vary and the consultation programmes on each individual development proposal is designed to reflect that.

Planning Circular 3/2013: Development Management Procedures

- 2.2.5 Planning Circular ‘3:2013- Development Management Procedures’⁴ describes the requirements for the processing of planning applications, contained in the DMPPR, to help

³ Scottish Government (2010) Planning Advice Note 3/2010: Community Engagement.

⁴ Scottish Government (2013) Planning Circular 3/2022: Development Management Procedures

planning authorities, applicants, communities and others to understand how the legislation works.

2.2.6 In relation to pre-application consultation, the planning circular recommends applicants do the following:

- *consider approaching communities to help frame their PAC; (Paragraph 2.26)*
- *have meaningful and proportionate engagement with those who represent the views of potentially affected communities; (Paragraph 2.27)*
- *consider additional measures for publicising PAC activities, such as use of their own web sites to host information. Information issued as part of PAC should be factually accurate, easy to understand, jargon free, accessible and relevant. It should be made available in appropriate formats and provided in good time to enable people to take part and discuss their views with others; (Paragraph 2.29)*
- *The public event should, as far as possible, be accessible to all members of the public. Consideration should be given to any additional needs of specific members of the public, such as people with disabilities. It may be appropriate for the public event to take place over a number of dates, times and places. Prospective applicants must ensure that individuals and community groups can submit written comments in response to the newspaper advertisement. There should be scope for people to take information away from public events and to respond in writing later, having considered what they have seen and heard; (Paragraph 2.31)*
- *Staffing of events should include people who are knowledgeable about the proposals and about the planning issues likely to be of concern or interest to the public. PAC should not be treated by prospective applicants as merely a marketing exercise to promote the development; (Paragraph 2.32)*
- *There is a need to emphasise to communities that the plans presented to them may alter in some way before the final proposal is submitted as a planning application; (Paragraph 2.33)*

Coronavirus (COVID-19): planning guidance on pre-application consultations for public events

2.2.7 Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Scottish Government published guidance on online pre-application consultation. As a minimum the online or virtual events should be hosted at a central, free, publicly accessible and user-friendly web location including the following information:

- the pre-application consultation steps being undertaken, the location of the information, how to engage and the event's time limits;
- the location of the Proposed Development site;
- the proposal for the site.

2.2.8 Other requirements for the online events include:

- the information provided during the event should be able to be read at whatever pace the person accessing it requires, downloaded and printed.
- the public should be allowed a period of not less than seven days to submit questions or views electronically.
- the prospective applicant must respond to questions or requests for clarification and allow for any further reply in that regard. This can either be during the consultation period mentioned in the previous bullet, or the prospective applicant should indicate a later date when such response will be made and a period thereafter (being not less than 48 hours) for any final comment.

Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989

- 2.2.9 Pre-application consultation guidance for Section 36 Applications was set out in ‘Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989’, which was published in July 2022; however, this was after the pre-consultation activities for the proposed development were completed.
- 2.2.10 While the publication of ‘Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989’⁵ occurred too late to inform the pre-application consultation events, the guidance relating to the content of the pre-application consultation report has been applied to this SoCC (**Table 1**).

Table 1: Content of Public Event and Pre-Application Consultation Report

Requirement	SoCC Report Section
• <i>the dates on which and places where public events were held;</i>	Section 3.2
• <i>a description of any additional steps taken by the applicant to consult with members of the public regarding the development;</i>	Section 3
• <i>a list of bodies, groups and organisations who were consulted by the applicant and a description of how they were consulted;</i>	Section 3
• <i>a description of any materials sent to consultees and materials provided to those attending public events;</i>	Section 3.2 and Appendices B and C
• <i>copies of any visual presentation shown or displayed at a public event, and photographs of any display boards or models at public events;</i>	Appendix B and E

⁵ Energy Consents Unit (2022) Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/good-practice-guidance-applications-under-sections-36-37-electricity-act-1989/> [Accessed 05/07/2022]

Requirement	SoCC Report Section
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>confirmation as to whether consultees and attendees at public events were informed that pre-application consultation does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to the Scottish Ministers;</i> 	Appendix A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>a summary of the written responses to consultations and views raised at public events, including an indication of the number of written responses received and the number of persons who attended the public events;</i> 	Table 2 and Appendix F
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>an explanation of how the applicant took account of views raised during the pre-application consultation process; and</i> 	Table 2 and Appendix F
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>an explanation of how members of the public were given feedback on the applicant's consideration of the views raised during the pre-application consultation process."</i> 	Section 3 and Appendix F

2.3 The Scottish Borders Council

Delivering Major Developments: A Pre-Application Guide

- 2.3.1 The Scottish Borders Council's guidance for major developments prescribes for applicants to undertake pre-application consultation, requiring submission of a Proposal of Application (PAN) notice to set out the scope of public consultations, in agreement with the Council. As the project is not classed as a major development under The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009, an alternative approach was undertaken. Rather than submit a PAN, the Applicant submitted a letter to SBC and the ECU detailing the approach to public consultation.

2.4 Community Benefit Policy

- 2.4.1 Whilst community benefit is a separate issue to consenting, the Council wants to make sure that local communities benefit directly from the use of their local resources and are compensated for the potential disruption and inconvenience associated with large scale development work.
- 2.4.2 While there is no legal requirement to offer community benefit, the applicant is committed to provide voluntarily community benefit to communities that may be affected from the

Proposed Development. In line with Scottish Government guidance⁶, local communities would benefit directly from £5,000 per MW of installed capacity per year (index linked). Subsequently, over the proposed 35 year lifetime of the project, up to £13.6 million would be invested in community benefit funding, shaped to local needs and aspirations. The Applicant is also committed to offering community shared ownership in addition to community benefit.

- 2.4.3 Whilst there is no specific guidance in respect of the consultation process for agreeing means and modes for delivering community benefit and shared ownership, the Scottish Government guidance provides a clear steer towards establishing approaches that necessitate a close degree of engagement with relevant community bodies in developing proposals in order to deliver a lasting legacy.

⁶ Scottish Government (2019). Scottish Government Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments. Available online: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-good-practice-principles-community-benefits-onshore-renewable-energy-developments/pages/2/> [accessed November 2022].

3 CONSULTATION APPROACH

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Public consultation is an essential requirement for large-scale infrastructure projects and the applicant is committed to putting community consultation at the heart of all their activities for the site.
- 3.1.2 The aims of the consultation and engagement process were:
- to be inclusive and accessible;
 - to raise awareness of the Proposed Development;
 - to clearly communicate feedback from the local community to the project team; and
 - to address lawful planning concerns raised by consultees.
- 3.1.3 The applicant has undertaken a multifaceted public consultation approach, including maintaining a project website and project mailbox, and attendance at community council meetings. This was supplemented by two in-person public events.
- 3.1.4 Public consultation was held at key stages in the development process to inform the general public and other interested parties of project alternatives and the emerging findings of the EIA, and to elicit comment and feedback on the Proposed Development.

3.2 Public Consultation Events

In-person Public Exhibitions (16th and 17th of June 2022)

- 3.2.1 The applicant hosted two in-person public exhibitions that took place in Southdean Village Hall on the 16th of June and in Bonchester Bridge Hall on the 17th of June. The exhibitions gave the opportunity for stakeholders to meet with the applicant to ask questions and express their views and suggestions in-person.
- 3.2.2 The consultation events were publicised in various ways, as illustrated in **Appendix A**, including:
- adverts in the Southern Reporter, Border Telegraph and Hawick Paper to give advance notice of the events;
 - a postcard invitation sent to all households and businesses within at least 10 km of the site (this was extended to include the settlements of Oxnam and Denholm) with details of the exhibitions;
 - an email summary and invitation on 31 May 2022 to host (Southdean Community Council) and neighbouring Community Councils (Hobkirk Community Council, Oxnam Water Community Council, Jed Valley Community Council, Denholm & District Community Council and Upper Liddesdale & Heritage Community Council) to highlight the consultation event; and
 - an email summary and invitation on 31 May 2022 to local ward members for Hawick & Denholm, local MSP and local MP to highlight the consultation event.
- 3.2.3 The consultation included a number of information boards that outlined the project location, description of the proposals, viewshed maps, several key viewpoints, the studies being undertaken, community ownership, the development timeline, and the EIA and

planning process, as well as the potential benefits of the Proposed Development. The exhibition information boards presented are shown in **Appendix B**.

- 3.2.4 In addition to the information boards, the following were provided at the in-person event:
- face to face consultation and discussion between attendees and the exhibition team;
 - a selection of photomontages and visualisations;
 - live location-specific wireline visualisations at the request of attendees to observe how the Proposed Development would appear from any specific point around the area, using ReSoft software; and
 - example feedback form (**Appendix C**).
- 3.2.5 The consultation material was also made available online via the project webpage⁷. Feedback forms could also be submitted on the project website or via a dedicated project email address⁸.

3.3 Project Website

- 3.3.1 The dedicated project website (**Appendix D**) and email address went live for the first time in February 2022. As well as project information, the website provided the opportunity for stakeholders to submit comments and questions. Since the website launched, until July when the public consultation period following the events ended, 1074 users visited the webpage to view the information. The average time spent browsing the website was 1 minute and 42 seconds and the most viewed web page was the homepage.

3.4 Additional Engagement

- 3.4.1 In February 2022, the applicant wrote directly to Southdean Community Council, Hobkirk Community Council, Oxnam Water Community Council, Jed Valley Community Council, Denholm & District Community Council and Upper Liddesdale & Heritage Community Council to introduce the applicant and the proposal ahead of the Community Councils receiving the Scoping Request from the Energy Consents Unit.
- 3.4.2 In February 2022, the Applicant wrote directly to the local ward members for Hawick & Denholm, local MSP and local MP to introduce the Applicant and the proposal on submission of the Scoping Request to the Energy Consents Unit.
- 3.4.3 The applicant attended Southdean Community Council's monthly meeting (March 2022) and Hobkirk Community Council's monthly meeting (April 2022) in person to discuss the proposals. This coincided with the Scoping consultation period to allow the community councils the opportunity to directly address queries to the applicant and make recommendations for the scope of the EIA.

3.5 Consultation Responses

- 3.5.1 A total of 91 people attended over the two public consultation events and a total of 376 separate users visited the webpage between 2nd of June 2022 to 7th July 2022 to view

⁷ <http://www.esbenergy.co.uk/millmoor-rig-wind-farm>

⁸ millmoorrig@esb.ie

the exhibition materials. Residents had a number of questions/comments and provided a mixture of positive, neutral and negative feedback on the Proposed Development. Photos from both public consultation events are provided in **Appendix E**.

- 3.5.2 In total, 26 feedback forms were received through the exhibition event, the project email, the online form, or via post.
- 3.5.3 From the event in Southdean, 13 feedback forms were received. 5 forms stated they were opposed the Proposed Development and 8 were neutral or supportive.
- 3.5.4 From the event in Bonchester Bridge, a further 13 feedback forms were received. 7 forms were opposed to the Proposed Development and 6 forms were neutral or supportive.
- 3.5.5 The feedback provided by the local community during both consultation events is summarised in **Table 2**. Responses focused on the following themes:
- scale of the turbines and visual impact;
 - enquiries regarding the previous project at the site;
 - community benefits;
 - noise impacts;
 - shared ownership; and
 - the potential for cost of living/energy cost reduction.
- 3.5.6 Where an address was provided, the applicant responded directly to all feedback forms, and provided a consultation response document to summarise the main issues raised and addressing them.

Table 2: Summary of Public Consultation Feedback and the Impact of Feedback on the Proposal

Feedback Theme	Description	Impact on Proposal
<p>Scale of the Turbines/Visual Impact</p>	<p>Some attendees asked about the height of the turbines compared to current turbines in Scotland and the visual impact of the turbines on the surrounding area.</p>	<p>New turbine technology means that larger and more efficient turbines are now available and there are several projects in scoping at 250m and 260m to tip in height.</p> <p>Visual impact is assessed in Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Assessment in Volume 1 of the EIA Report, and considers effects on views from different receptor groups, including nearby properties, settlements, the surrounding road network and footpath network. Usually, detailed consideration with regard to the visual amenity of residential properties within 2km of a site is given in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. The applicant is extending the study area to include any residential properties up to 3km from the Proposed Development.</p>
<p>Previous Project at the Site</p>	<p>Feedback regarding why the previous application for the Highlee Wind Farm was withdrawn and how the previous project differs from the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>Millmoor Rig Wind Farm is an entirely new proposal and ESB has no connection with either the former Highlee Hill Wind Farm proposal, or its developer.</p> <p>In deciding whether to progress with its proposals for the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm, ESB carefully considered each of the consultee responses and representations to the Highlee Hill Wind Farm</p> <p>Since the previous proposal, both the UK Government and Scottish Government have declared a Climate Emergency and have outlined legally binding targets to reach net zero. In 2021, the Scottish Government set out the ambition of 8GW - 12GW of new onshore wind projects in Scotland. It is the applicant's view that new onshore wind has a key role to play to reach Scotland's net zero targets and projects such as Millmoor Rig Wind Farm can contribute to the targets of the Scottish Borders and Scotland as a whole.</p> <p>The applicant has looked to address key concerns raised previously for the Highlee Hill Wind Farm within the proposals for Millmoor Rig Wind Farm. For example, comparisons with the Highlee Hill Wind Farm visualisations were made to improve the visual appearance of the Proposed Development in key viewpoints.</p>
<p>Local Economic Benefits</p>	<p>A number of attendees asked about job creation/economic benefits connected to the construction, operation and</p>	<p>The applicant is committed to working with local businesses to deliver the project and, if consented, will plan 'Meet the Developer' events to meet local businesses and encourage them to register their interest through the project website.</p>

Feedback Theme	Description	Impact on Proposal
	decommissioning of the Proposed Development and opportunities for local businesses.	<p>Chapter 14: Socioeconomics, Land Use, Recreation and Tourism in Volume 1 of the EIA Report details the economic effects and assesses the benefits of the proposed development.</p> <p>Concerns were raised at the Public Consultation Events regarding the socio-economic assessment methodology adopted in the section 36 application for Birneyknowe Wind Farm. The appeal documentation for Birneyknowe Wind Farm was reviewed and has informed the methodology used for the socio-economic assessment of the Proposed Development.</p>
Noise Impacts	Residents in close proximity to the Proposed Development were concerned about the noise impact of turbines.	The Applicant has undertaken noise monitoring of nearby households (with their permission) and has provided a full noise assessment as part of the application, as specified in Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration in Volume 1 of the EIA Report. The chapter concludes that the effect of operational and construction noise are not significant and no mitigation measures are considered necessary.
Community Benefit and Shared Ownership	Comments concerning what the applicant would offer the local community affected by the Proposed Development	<p>As stated in Section 2.4, the applicant is committed to setting up a community benefit fund to the value of £5,000 per installed MW, which could equate to about £390,000 per year for 35 years (calculated on base assumptions on turbine numbers when the Proposed Development is consented and operational). This would equate to up to £13.6 million of community-benefit funding over the lifetime of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The communities that will be impacted by the construction and operation of the Proposed Development will be invited to help shape a community benefit package that best meets local needs. The applicant will reach out to local groups and community representatives to seek their input as the project progresses.</p> <p>The applicant is also committed to offering community shared ownership of the wind farm and, if there is interest from the community, to offer a community shared ownership element to the Proposed Development. This would allow the community the opportunity to invest in and own a share of the Wind Farm. This would be separate and in addition to community benefit.</p> <p>If this is of interest to the community representatives, the applicant will organise a series of meetings with Local Energy Scotland, an independent organisation that provides advice to communities on community benefit and community shared ownership.</p>



Feedback Theme	Description	Impact on Proposal
Cost of Living/Energy Cost Reduction	The cost of living and energy security were raised by many residents at both exhibitions. Residents raised the idea that a community energy discount scheme should be put in place for those who live nearest to the Proposed Development.	It is the view of the applicant that use of community benefit and/or community shared ownership is for the community to decide, including the setting up of a local electricity discount scheme. Local electricity discount schemes are in place for several operational wind farms in Scotland.

- 3.5.7 Following the events, the applicant responded to all individual questions and comments from the exhibition events; provided a summary of project-specific feedback to the relevant technical teams to help inform their work on the project; provided the host community council and elected members with an update on the exhibition through a Public Exhibition Summary Report (**Appendix F**). Furthermore, throughout the process the applicant continued to engage with elected representatives, community councils and local residents to keep them updated and made all information available on the website.

3.6 Conclusion

- 3.6.1 Throughout the consultation process the applicant has demonstrated, through the summary above, a responsiveness to consultation and feedback received.
- 3.6.2 Additionally, the public consultation events themselves were hosted in two different venues at different times of day to ensure that the maximum number of local stakeholders know about the Proposed Development, can find out all required information promptly, provide comments and receive further information if requested
- 3.6.3 The applicant would like to take this opportunity to thank residents who took part in the consultation process and in particular thank Southdean Community Council and Hobkirk Community Council for their input and time.

Next Steps

- 3.6.4 The applicant will continue to respond to all questions and queries that are received in regard to the Proposed Development in a timely manner and look to continue to build on the constructive dialogue with all stakeholders, especially in regard to community benefit.
- 3.6.5 Two further public consultation events are proposed to be held in Southdean and Bonchester Bridge during the formal consultation period, once the Section 36 application has been submitted. The events will present the submitted design and findings of the EIA Report and provide information on how representations to the formal application can be made to the Scottish Government.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Public Consultation Event Advertising Materials

Appendix B: Exhibition Information Boards

Appendix C: Project Website Information

Appendix D: Public Consultation Feedback Form

Appendix E: Public Consultation Event Photographs

Appendix F: Public Exhibition Summary

APPENDIX A

INVITATION TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON MILLMOOR RIG WIND FARM PROPOSAL

ESB invites you to face-to-face public exhibitions for its proposed Millmoor Rig Wind Farm

ESB is developing proposals for Millmoor Rig Wind Farm located at Wauchope Forest, south of Chesters in the Scottish Borders. Utilising the natural environment to harness clean, zero carbon energy, the Millmoor Wind Farm project will, if consented, support local business opportunities through construction; offer community benefit and shared ownership opportunities; and support the long-term management of the forest in which it is located.

EXHIBITION

Our project team will be attending these events and will be happy to answer any questions you may have. We will be at:

Southdean Village Hall, Southdean TD9 8TH
on **Thursday 16 June 2022**, 1.30pm – 7.30pm

William Laidlaw Memorial Hall, Bonchester Bridge, Hobkirk Road TD9 8RJ
on **Friday 17 June 2022**, 1.30pm – 7.30pm

ONLINE INFORMATION

Comprehensive information about the site proposals and a feedback form is also available on the project website.

www.esbenergy.co.uk/millmoor-rig-wind-farm

Consultation will run until **Thursday 7 July 2022**.

For information about the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm project, please contact:
Jessica Yanetta, ESB Asset Development UK Ltd at millmoorrig@esb.ie

Comments should be made to ESB and do not constitute a formal representation. An opportunity to make a formal representation will exist if a subsequent application is made. Thank you and we hope you can take part in the consultation events.



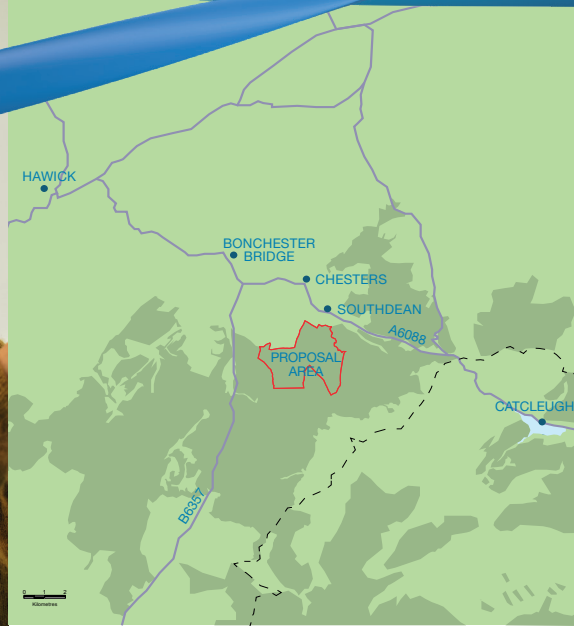
Energy for
generations



INVITATION TO PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS FOR **MILLMOOR RIG WIND FARM** PROPOSAL



Energy for generations





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Thursday 16 June 2022, 1.30pm – 7.30pm

William Laidlaw Memorial Hall, Boncester Bridge,
Hobkirk Road TD9 8RJ

Friday 17 June 2022, 1.30pm – 7.30pm

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Comprehensive information about the site proposals and a feedback form is also available on the project website.

www.esbenergy.co.uk/millmoor-rig-wind-farm

Consultation will run until **Thursday 7 July 2022**.

For more information, contact: **Jessica Yanetta**, ESB Asset Development UK Ltd at millmoorrig@esb.ie

VISIT WEBSITE



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 May 2022 17:02
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Millmoor Rig Wind Farm - Invitation and Update - Denholm and District Community Council
Attachments: ESB Millmoor Rig WF Letter Denholm and DistrictCC 310522.docx.pdf; 1221389_ad_160x116mm_nobleed (1).pdf

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Dear Denholm and District Community Council,

I hope that this email finds you well.

Please find attached a letter from ESB on the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposals and plans for exhibitions at Southdean Village Hall on Thursday 16 June (1.30pm - 7.30pm) and at Bonchester Hall on Friday 17 June (1.30pm - 7.30pm). I've also attached a copy of the advert that is set to appear in the Southern Reporter, Border Telegraph and the Hawick Paper this week and next week to advertise the events and we have also scheduled a direct mailout to households within 10km of the proposals.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet at the exhibitions and/or attend one of your future Community Council meetings if neither exhibition date/time is possible for Community Councillors.

Best wishes and many thanks,

[REDACTED]
On Fri, 18 Feb 2022 at 10:37, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Denholm and District Community Council,

I hope that this email finds you well.

I am getting in touch on behalf of ESB regarding plans for a wind farm and battery storage proposal called Millmoor Rig Wind Farm, south of Chesters. Please find attached a letter with further details and we would welcome the opportunity to attend a future Community Council meeting to introduce the plans and answer any questions that members may have on the project.

The proposals are still at the initial stages and ESB has earlier this week issued a Scoping Request to the Scottish Government's Energy Consent Unit (ECU) in order to consult more widely on the plans and receive feedback. We have also set up a project webpage at www.esbenergy.co.uk/millmoor-rig-wind-farm and will include a link to Scoping Request and the Energy Consents Unit website when they are available.

Do come back with any queries by email/phone and thank you for your time.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 May 2022 16:53
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Millmoor Rig Wind Farm - Exhibition Invitation and Update, Southdean Community Council
Attachments: ESB Millmoor Rig WF Letter Southdean CC 310522.docx.pdf; 1221389_ad_160x116mm_nobleed.pdf

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Hi [REDACTED]

Hope you're well and thanks again for [REDACTED] details for the hall booking for Southdean Village Hall.

Please find attached a letter from ESB on the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposals and plans for exhibitions at Southdean Village Hall on Thursday 16 June (1.30pm - 7.30pm) and at Bonchester Hall on Friday 17 June (1.30pm - 7.30pm). I've also attached a copy of the advert that is set to appear in the Southern Reporter, Border Telegraph and the Hawick Paper this week and next week to advertise the events (if wish to put up on social media at all) and we have also scheduled a direct mailout to households within 10km of the proposals.

Do come back with any queries and hope to meet again at the exhibitions. If useful and if you have any availability, we would be free on the morning of Friday 17 June and can have a site visit to go through the plans in more detail - let me know if of interest at all.

Best wishes and many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 May 2022 17:03
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Millmoor Rig Wind Farm - Exhibition Invitation and Update - Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage Community Council
Attachments: ESB Millmoor Rig Letter ULHCC 310522.docx.pdf; 1221389_ad_160x116mm_nobleed (1).pdf

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Dear Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage Community Council,

I hope that this email finds you well.

Please find attached a letter from ESB on the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposals and plans for exhibitions at Southdean Village Hall on Thursday 16 June (1.30pm - 7.30pm) and at Bonchester Hall on Friday 17 June (1.30pm - 7.30pm). I've also attached a copy of the advert that is set to appear in the Southern Reporter, Border Telegraph and the Hawick Paper this week and next week to advertise the events and we have also scheduled a direct mailout to households within 10km of the proposals.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet at the exhibitions and/or attend one of your future Community Council meetings if neither exhibition date/time is possible for Community Councillors.

Best wishes and many thanks,

[REDACTED]

Dear Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage Community Council,

I hope that this email finds you well.

I am getting in touch on behalf of ESB regarding plans for a wind farm and battery storage proposal called Millmoor Rig Wind Farm, south of Chesters. Please find attached a letter with further details and we would welcome the opportunity to attend a future Community Council meeting to introduce the plans and answer any questions that members may have on the project.

The proposals are still at the initial stages and ESB has earlier this week issued a Scoping Request to the Scottish Government's Energy Consent Unit (ECU) in order to consult more widely on the plans and receive feedback. We have also set up a project webpage at www.esbenergy.co.uk/millmoor-rig-wind-farm and will include a link to Scoping Request and the Energy Consents Unit website when they are available.

Do come back with any queries by email/phone and thank you for your time.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 May 2022 17:00
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Millmoor Rig Wind Farm - Exhibition Invitation and Update - Oxnam Water Community Council
Attachments: ESB Millmoor Rig Letter Oxnam WaterCC 310522.docx.pdf; 1221389_ad_160x116mm_nobleed.pdf

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Dear Oxnam Water Community Council,

I hope that this email finds you well.

Please find attached a letter from ESB on the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposals and plans for exhibitions at Southdean Village Hall on Thursday 16 June (1.30pm - 7.30pm) and at Bonchester Hall on Friday 17 June (1.30pm - 7.30pm). I've also attached a copy of the advert that is set to appear in the Southern Reporter, Border Telegraph and the Hawick Paper this week and next week to advertise the events and we have also scheduled a direct mailout to households within 10km of the proposals.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet at the exhibitions and/or attend one of your future Community Council meetings if neither exhibition date/time is possible for Community Councillors.

Best wishes and many thanks,

[REDACTED]

Dear Oxnam Water Community Council,

I hope that this email finds you well.

I am getting in touch on behalf of ESB regarding plans for a wind farm and battery storage proposal called Millmoor Rig Wind Farm, south of Chesters. Please find attached a letter with further details and we would welcome the opportunity to attend a future Community Council meeting to introduce the plans and answer any questions that members may have on the project.

The proposals are still at the initial stages and ESB has earlier this week issued a Scoping Request to the Scottish Government's Energy Consent Unit (ECU) in order to consult more widely on the plans and receive feedback. We have also set up a project webpage at www.esbenergy.co.uk/millmoor-rig-wind-farm and will include a link to Scoping Request and the Energy Consents Unit website when they are available.

Do come back with any queries by email/phone and thank you for your time.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 May 2022 16:57
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Millmoor Rig Wind Farm - Exhibition Invitation and Update - Hobkirk Community Council
Attachments: ESB Millmoor Rig WF Letter Hobkirk CC 310522.docx.pdf; 1221389_ad_160x116mm_noblead.pdf

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Hi [REDACTED]

Hope you're both well and thanks again to Hobkirk Community Council for having us at your meeting last month.

Please find attached a letter from ESB on the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposals and plans for exhibitions at Southdean Village Hall on Thursday 16 June (1.30pm - 7.30pm) and at Bonchester Hall on Friday 17 June (1.30pm - 7.30pm). I've also attached a copy of the advert that is set to appear in the Southern Reporter, Border Telegraph and the Hawick Paper this week and next week to advertise the events [REDACTED], if possible to post on Bonchester Chat for example, that would be great) and we have also scheduled a direct mailout to households within 10km of the proposals.

Do come back with any queries and hope to meet again at the exhibitions.

Best wishes and many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 May 2022 17:01
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Millmoor Rig Wind Farm - Exhibition Invitation - Jed Valley Community Council
Attachments: 1221389_ad_160x116mm_nobleed.pdf; ESB Millmoor Rig Letter Jed Valley CC 310522.docx.pdf

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Dear Jed Valley Community Council,

I hope that this email finds you well.

Please find attached a letter from ESB on the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposals and plans for exhibitions at Southdean Village Hall on Thursday 16 June (1.30pm - 7.30pm) and at Bonchester Hall on Friday 17 June (1.30pm - 7.30pm). I've also attached a copy of the advert that is set to appear in the Southern Reporter, Border Telegraph and the Hawick Paper this week and next week to advertise the events and we have also scheduled a direct mailout to households within 10km of the proposals.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet at the exhibitions and/or attend one of your future Community Council meetings if neither exhibition date/time is possible for Community Councillors.

Best wishes and many thanks,

[REDACTED]

Dear Jed Valley Community Council,

I hope that this email finds you well.

I am getting in touch on behalf of ESB regarding plans for a wind farm and battery storage proposal called Millmoor Rig Wind Farm, south of Chesters. Please find attached a letter with further details and we would welcome the opportunity to attend a future Community Council meeting to introduce the plans and answer any questions that members may have on the project.

The proposals are still at the initial stages and ESB has earlier this week issued a Scoping Request to the Scottish Government's Energy Consent Unit (ECU) in order to consult more widely on the plans and receive feedback. We have also set up a project webpage at www.esbenergy.co.uk/millmoor-rig-wind-farm and will include a link to Scoping Request and the Energy Consents Unit website when they are available.

Do come back with any queries by email/phone and thank you for your time.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 May 2022 17:04
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Millmoor Rig Wind Farm - Exhibition Invitation and Update
Attachments: ESB Millmoor Rig Letter CllrRichards 310522.docx.pdf; 1221389_ad_160x116mm_nobleed.pdf

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Dear [REDACTED]

I hope that this email finds you well and congratulations on your re-election for the Hawick and Denholm ward.

Please find attached a letter from ESB on the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposals and plans for exhibitions at Southdean Village Hall on Thursday 16 June (1.30pm - 7.30pm) and at Bonchester Hall on Friday 17 June (1.30pm - 7.30pm). Adverts (copy attached) are set to appear in the Southern Reporter, Border Telegraph and the Hawick Paper this week and next week and we have also sent out direct mailout to households within 10km of the proposals.

Do come back with any queries and we would welcome the chance to meet during the exhibitions - if you are unable to attend them and wish to meet at all then do let me know and we would welcome the chance to organise a meeting/site visit.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 May 2022 17:04
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Millmoor Rig Wind Farm - Exhibition Invitation and Update
Attachments: ESB Millmoor Rig Letter CllrRamage 310522.docx.pdf; 1221389_ad_160x116mm_nobleed.pdf

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Dear [REDACTED]

I hope that this email finds you well and congratulations on your re-election for the Hawick and Denholm ward.

Please find attached a letter from ESB on the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposals and plans for exhibitions at Southdean Village Hall on Thursday 16 June (1.30pm - 7.30pm) and at Bonchester Hall on Friday 17 June (1.30pm - 7.30pm). Adverts (copy attached) are set to appear in the Southern Reporter, Border Telegraph and the Hawick Paper this week and next week and we have also sent out direct mailout to households within 10km of the proposals.

Do come back with any queries and we would welcome the chance to meet during the exhibitions - if you are unable to attend them and wish to meet at all then do let me know and we would welcome the chance to organise a meeting/site visit.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 May 2022 17:04
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Millmoor Rig Wind Farm - Exhibition Invitation and Update
Attachments: ESB Millmoor Rig Letter CllrMarshall 310522.docx.pdf; 1221389_ad_160x116mm_nobleed.pdf

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Dear [REDACTED]

I hope that this email finds you well and congratulations on your re-election for the Hawick and Denholm ward.

It was lovely to meet at the Hobkirk CC meeting in April and please find attached a letter from ESB on the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposals and plans for exhibitions at Southdean Village Hall on Thursday 16 June (1.30pm - 7.30pm) and at Bonchester Hall on Friday 17 June (1.30pm - 7.30pm). Adverts (copy attached) are set to appear in the Southern Reporter, Border Telegraph and the Hawick Paper this week and next week and we have also sent out direct mailout to households within 10km of the proposals.

Do come back with any queries and we would welcome the chance to meet during the exhibitions - if you are unable to attend them and wish to meet at all then do let me know and we would welcome the chance to organise a meeting/site visit.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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APPENDIX B

WELCOME TO OUR PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT FOR MILLMOOR RIG WIND FARM



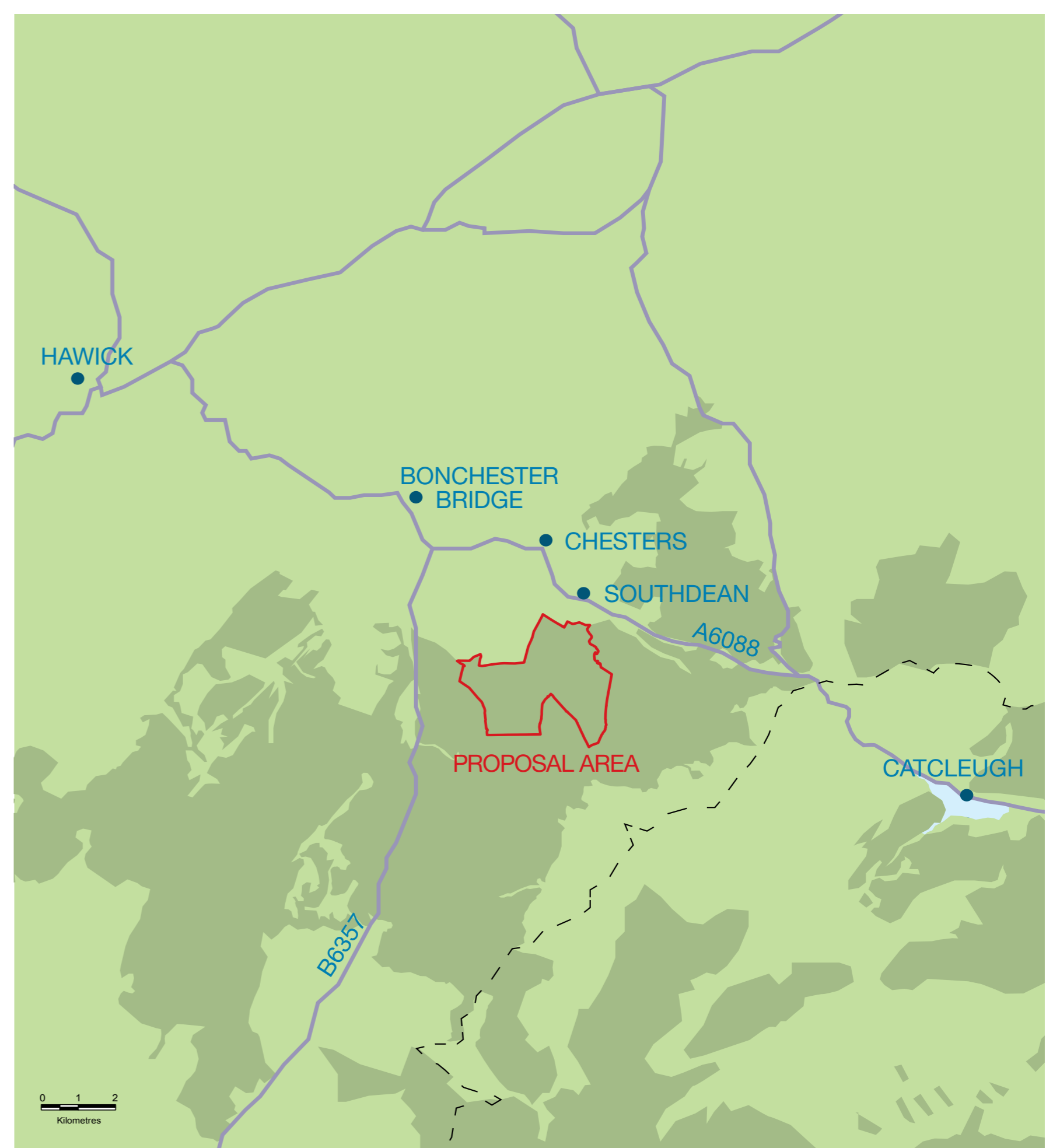
Stock photography

Welcome to the public consultation event for the proposed ESB Millmoor Rig Wind Farm located at Wauchope Forest, south of Chesters in the Scottish Borders.

Site description

The proposed development is located in the Hawick and Denholm ward of the Scottish Borders Council region. The nearest settlements are Chesters, approximately 3.3 km to the north, and Bonchester Bridge, about 5.2 km to the north-west along the A6088. The nearest group of properties is located at Southdean, approximately 2.1 km to the north. The nearest individual properties are Dykeraw and Dykeraw Cottage, about 1.7 km to the north, and Lustruther, approximately 2.1 km to the north.

The site is close to the Scotland–England border, which is about 2.9 km away at its closest point (all measurements taken from the nearest turbine).



MILLMOOR RIG WIND FARM



Stock photography

Land use

The land use within the site consists entirely of short-rotation forestry plantation. The plantation is currently active; some sections are being felled, and other areas present recent crop plantation as well as mature stands.

Developer

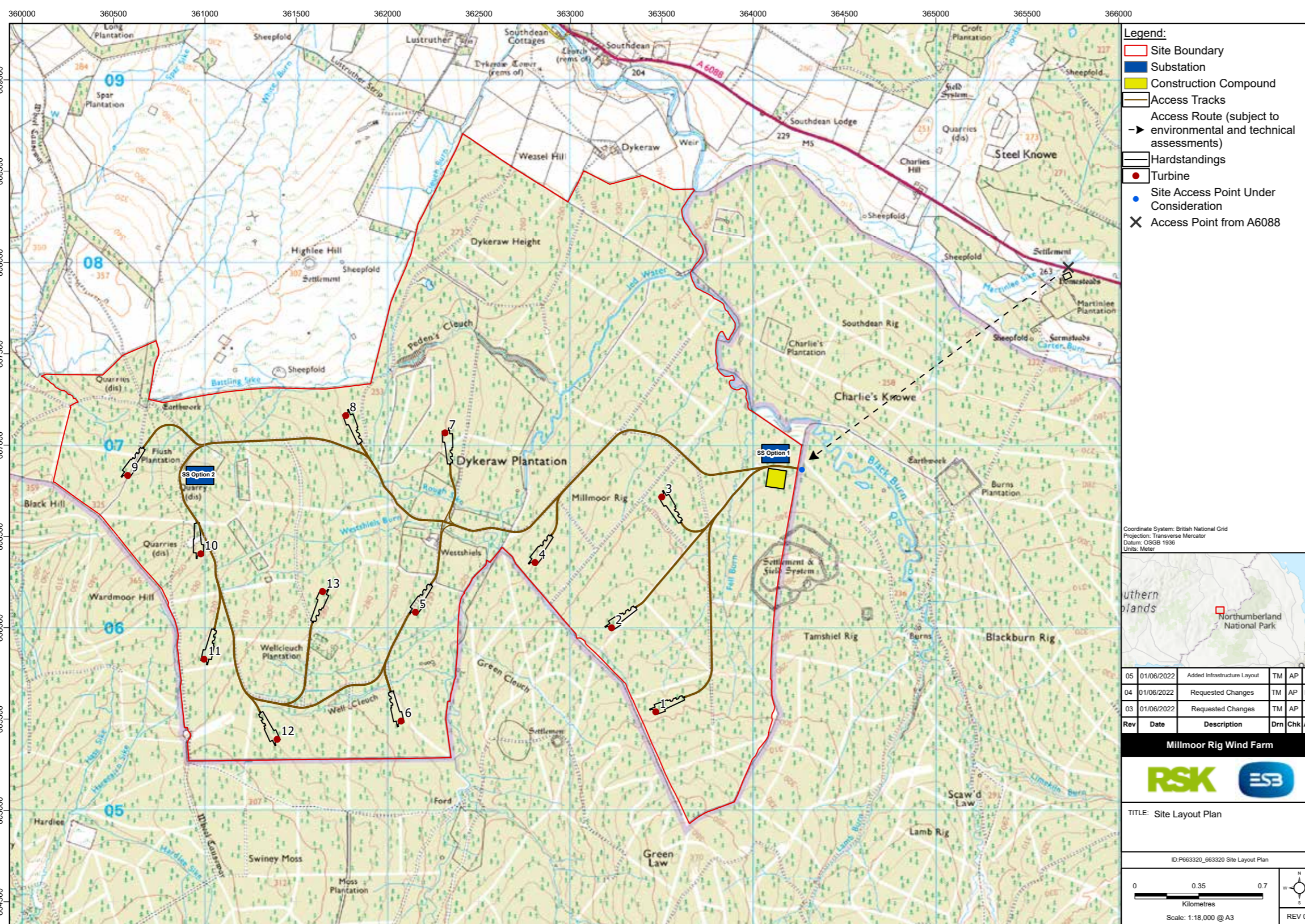
ESB is developing Millmoor Rig Wind Farm. ESB is Ireland's premier energy company and a leading independent power generator in the UK market. The company has a track record for more than 20 years as a successful investor in the UK since commissioning one of the first independent power generation plants,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

Background

The location of the proposed development is broadly similar to that proposed for another wind farm development known as Highlee Hill Wind Farm, which was withdrawn from planning in 2017. Millmoor Rig Wind Farm is an entirely new proposal and ESB has no connection with either the former Highlee Hill Wind Farm proposal or its developer.

In deciding whether to progress with its proposals for the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm, ESB carefully considered each of the consultee responses and representations to the Highlee Hill Wind Farm planning application.

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



Red line shows the extent of the application boundary.

ESB wishes to construct a new onshore wind farm with up to 13 turbines that will aim 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 tip heights ranging from 180 to 210 m, a blade length of 82 m and a generating capacity of approximately 6 MW. The final turbine selection will be informed by an environmental impact assessment (EIA) that will look at various factors to assess the environmental impacts of the proposed development.

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

Construction and access

- Access to the site for vehicles delivering construction materials and turbine components will be from the A6088 to the north-east of the site via existing forestry tracks where possible, with these developed as necessary to meet the specifications for all required vehicles.
- One or more construction compounds, new access tracks and watercourse crossings will be required to enable wind farm construction.
- Watercourse crossings will be designed in accordance with Scottish Government best practice and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) guidelines to enable the passage of fish and other wildlife.
- Crushed stone will be used to construct new tracks, lay turbine foundations and create temporary hardstanding areas. The source of the stone and aggregate is to be confirmed during the design process and the EIA phase.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT



As part of the development process, we must undertake an environmental impact assessment (EIA) to assess the effects of the proposed development on the natural, physical and human environment.

RSK Environment Ltd has been appointed to carry out a detailed EIA of the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposal. The EIA will be published in an EIA report, which will form part of the formal application for consent made to the Scottish Ministers.

The EIA process includes

- consultation with the local authority, other statutory and non-statutory bodies and the public to identify specific concerns and issues
- determining the existing conditions at and around the proposed site by reviewing the available data and undertaking specialist field surveys
- assessing the potential impacts on the existing environment
- developing mitigation proposals to alleviate any significant impacts identified.

ESB has conducted a detailed scoping exercise to identify the environmental aspects to address in the EIA for the proposed development. This included a review of available environmental information and desk- and site-based surveys.

A scoping report was submitted, as part of a request for a scoping opinion, to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit on 8 February 2022. The scoping report identified the environmental aspects to be addressed within the EIA report. Statutory and non-statutory bodies were consulted at the scoping stage and their responses were included in the scoping opinion issued to the Scottish Government on 27 May 2022.

The scoping report concluded that the EIA should include detailed studies for the following disciplines

- landscape and visual assessment
- cultural heritage and archaeology
- ecology
- ornithology
- geology, hydrogeology, hydrology and peat
- noise and vibration
- traffic and transportation
- aviation and radar
- socio-economics, land use and tourism
- shadow flicker
- forestry
- telecommunications and electromagnetic interference
- climate change mitigation.

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT



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

A zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV), a computer-generated tool that establishes the theoretical extent of the visibility of a proposed development, has been prepared. This has helped to identification of representative viewpoints and inform the landscape and visual impact assessment.

The ZTV indicates the areas where turbines will be visible, based on the relief of the surrounding study area (35 km from the outermost turbines). This is based on a bare-earth scenario, in which the screening effect of areas of existing vegetation or built features in the landscape are not taken into account. This is supported by

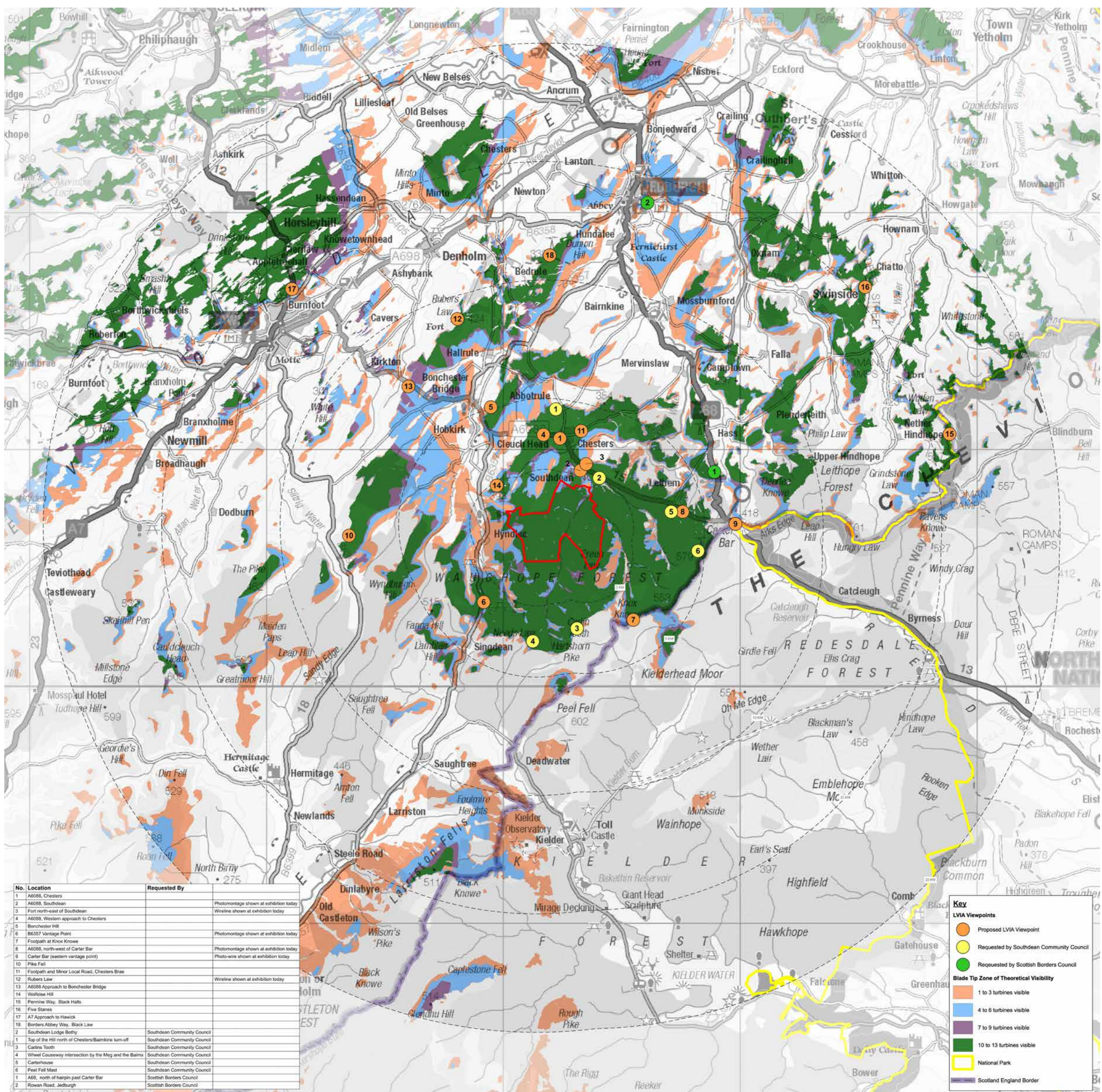
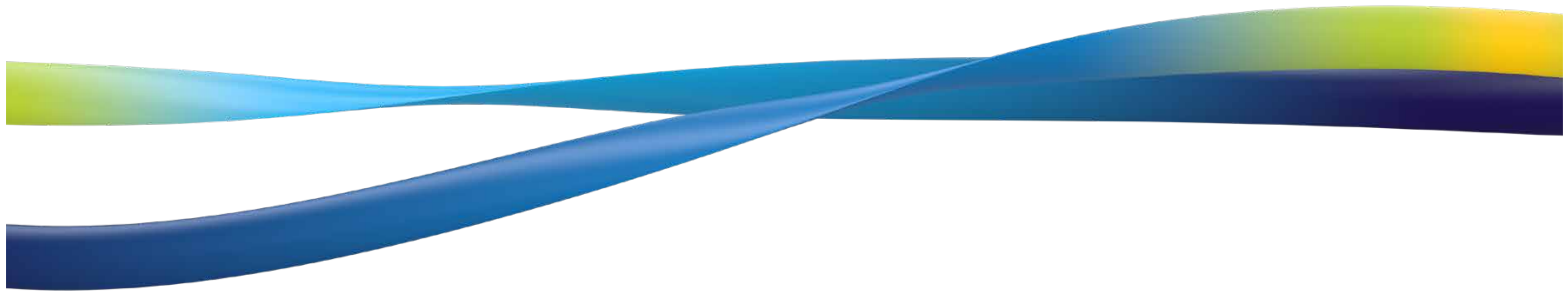
producing and analysing wireline drawings and photomontages from several agreed viewpoints that give a clearer picture of how the proposed development would look.

The current design comprises 13 turbines varying in height at 180, 200 and 210 m to blade tip.

Residential visual amenity

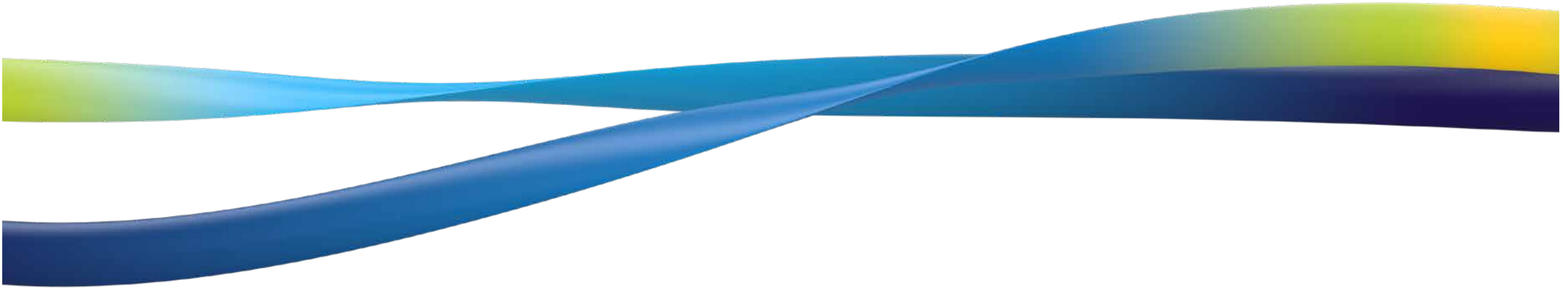
Typically, detailed consideration with regard to the visual amenity of residential properties within 2 km of a site is given in the LVIA. At the request of the local community, ESB is extending the study area to include any residential properties up to 3 km from the proposed development. A separate, standalone residential visual amenity assessment (RVAA) will be prepared as part of the LVIA to be included in the EIA report.

THE ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY

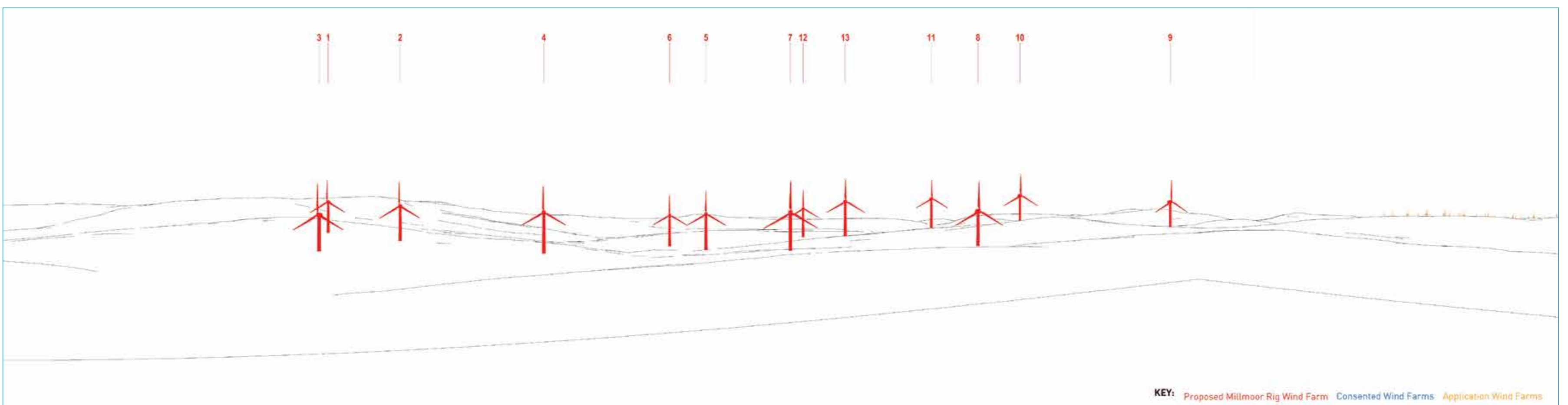


The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (to blade tip).

VISUALISATIONS



Viewpoint 2 Southdean. Photomontage taken from grid reference 363250, 609112, approximately 2.2 km to the north of the proposed development, with a 53.5 degree horizontal field of view.



Viewpoint 3 Fort north-east of Southdean. Wireline taken from grid reference 363496, 609388, approximately 2.6 km to the north of the proposed development, with a 90 degree horizontal field of view.



Viewpoint 6 B6357 Vantage Point. Photomontage taken from grid reference 359170, 603557, approximately 2.8 km to the south-west of the proposed development, with a 53.5. degree horizontal field of view.

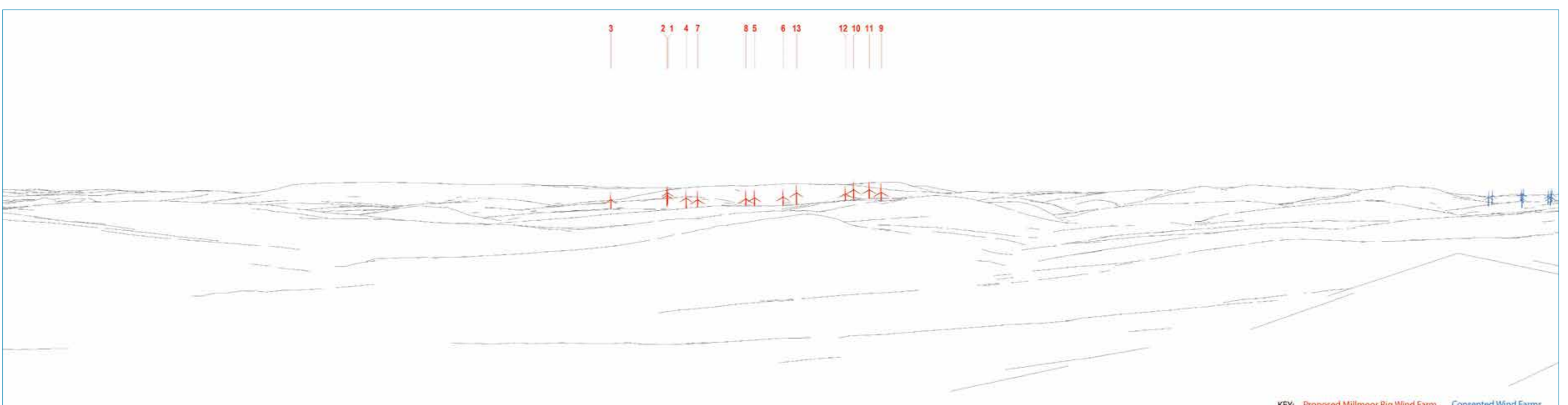
VISUALISATIONS



Viewpoint 8 A6088 north-west of Carter Bar. Photomontage taken from grid reference 367569, 607371, approximately 4.1 km to the east of the proposed development, with a 53.5 degree horizontal field of view.



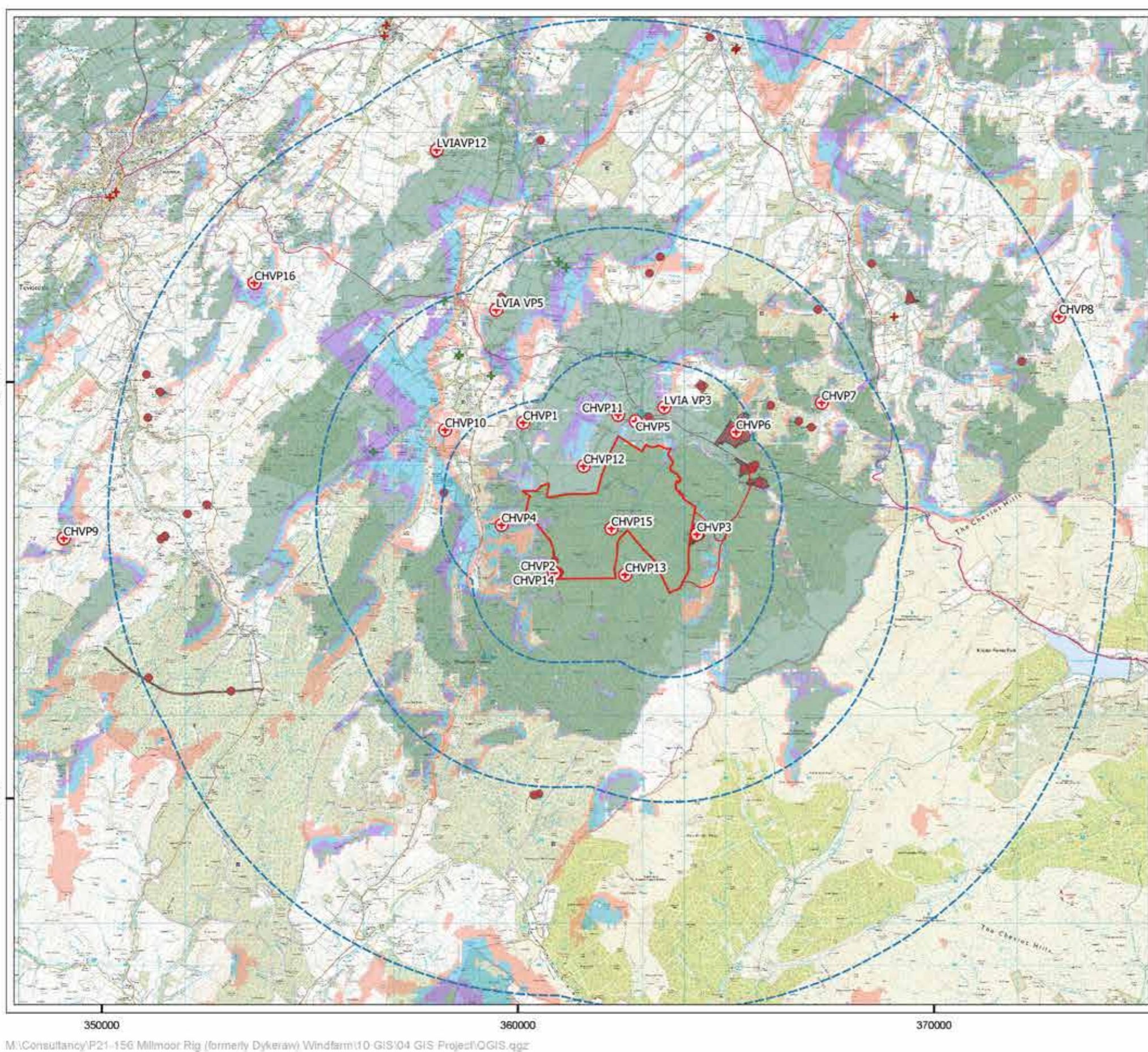
Viewpoint 9 Carter Bar. Photo-wire taken from grid reference 369798, 606857 approximately 6.3 km to the east of the proposed development, with a 90 degree horizontal field of view. Note, that with current forestry in place, there is no visibility of the proposed development.



Viewpoint 12 Rubers Law. Wireline taken from grid reference 358061, 615512 approximately 9 km to the north north-west of the proposed development, with a 90 degree horizontal field of view.



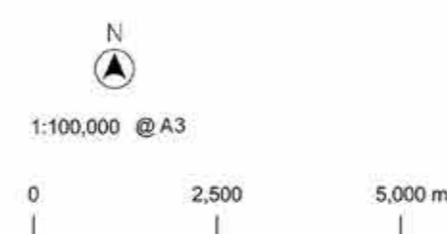
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY



**HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY**
SCOTLAND
Headland Archaeology
13 Jane Street
Edinburgh EH6 5HE
T. 0131 467 7705
www.headlandarchaeology.com

- Key
- Inner Study Area (ISA)
 - 2km, 5km, 10km OSA
 - CH Viewpoint (CHVP)
 - Scheduled Monument
 - Listed Building
 - Cat A
 - Cat B
 - Cat C
 - Bare Earth Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)
 - 1-3 Turbines
 - 4-6 Turbines
 - 7-9 Turbines
 - 10-13 Turbines

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Millmoor Rig Wind Farm - Consultation 18/05/22
Proposed Cultural Heritage Viewpoints (CHVPs)

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

We have undertaken a desk-based study of the site and surrounding areas to identify all known assets registered with national and local archaeological bodies; performed a site walkover to investigate the potential for archaeological remains; and, visited key historical assets in the surrounding area to assess potential impacts on their settings.

There are three designated heritage assets (scheduled monuments) within the proposed development boundary: a prehistoric fort and two historic trackways. There are three further non-designated heritage assets recorded in the Historic Environment Records; these are all historic trackways preserved as surface earthworks.

In addition, freely available Scottish Remote Sensing Portal LiDAR data analysed for this assessment have identified further potential heritage assets: one heritage asset first shown on 18th century mapping and still present on modern mapping; 12 potential heritage assets shown on late 19th century Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping; and four potential heritage assets shown on 20th century OS mapping and confirmed by a walkover survey. The findings will be presented in the EIA report.

For any identified impacts, mitigation measures will be proposed during construction to identify, record and, where appropriate, protect any remains that are discovered. Known features on-site will also be protected with buffer zones and visible barriers to minimise the risk of accidental disturbance during construction.



ORNITHOLOGY



A programme of ecological and ornithological surveys is being carried out on the site. The results will be used to assess potential impacts and identify suitable mitigation as required.

In addition, opportunities for biodiversity enhancements that the development could deliver will be explored in consultation with specialist interest groups and as part of the EIA process.

Ornithology surveys

There are no statutory designations with ornithological features within the site. The Langholm-Newcastleton Hills Special Protection Area (SPA), associated Langholm-Newcastleton Hills Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Kielderhead Moors: Carter Fell to Peel Fell SSSI are located within 20 km of the proposed development (16.6 km, 16.6 km and 1.4 km respectively). After considering the distance between these designated sites and the proposed development, the foraging distances for relevant qualifying features provided by NatureScot, the

habitats present (commercial plantation of low ornithological value), and following consultation with NatureScot, there is considered to be no connectivity between the proposed development and these designated sites.

A comprehensive survey programme has been undertaken to identify the use of the site and its wider surroundings by sensitive bird populations. The data gathered between 2011 and 2015 for the Highlee Hill Wind Farm proposal will form part of the baseline of the assessment alongside additional survey data, collected between 2020 and 2021, as agreed with NatureScot.

The following ornithology surveys will form the baseline for the assessment:

- flight activity surveys
- black grouse surveys
- scarce breeding bird surveys
- breeding bird surveys
- woodland point counts
- winter walkovers.

ECOLOGY SURVEYS



The ecology surveys undertaken comprise

- Phase 1 habitat survey
- National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey and groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE) assessment
- protected species surveys, including for badger, otter, red squirrel, water vole and reptiles, and determination of a great crested newt Habitat Suitability Index
- bat surveys.

A few watercourses pass through the site, including the Jed Water and Black Burn, which form part of the River Tweed Special Area of Conservation (SAC) lying within the site boundary. Otter is a qualifying species for the SAC.

The surveys

Phase 1 habitat, NVC and GWDTE surveys were undertaken in 2021 and 2022.

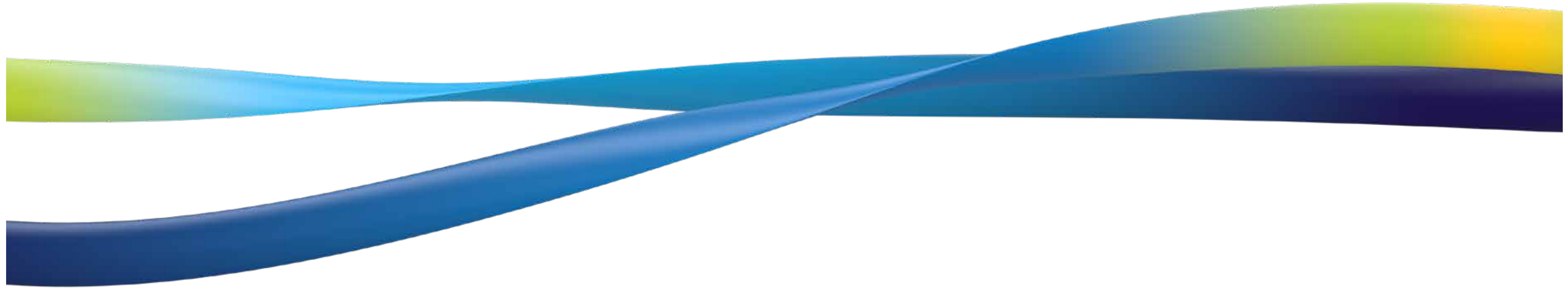
Surveys for protected species will draw on the results from previous surveys for the site undertaken in 2015.

Bats

Ground-level static surveys were carried out to determine the presence and relative abundance of bat species within the site boundary.

Surveys were carried out throughout the 2021 bat activity season (April–October) in three deployment periods covering spring, summer and autumn. In the first deployment, eleven full-spectrum static detectors were placed close to the proposed turbine locations, and 12 were used for the second and third deployments.

TRANSPORT AND RECREATION



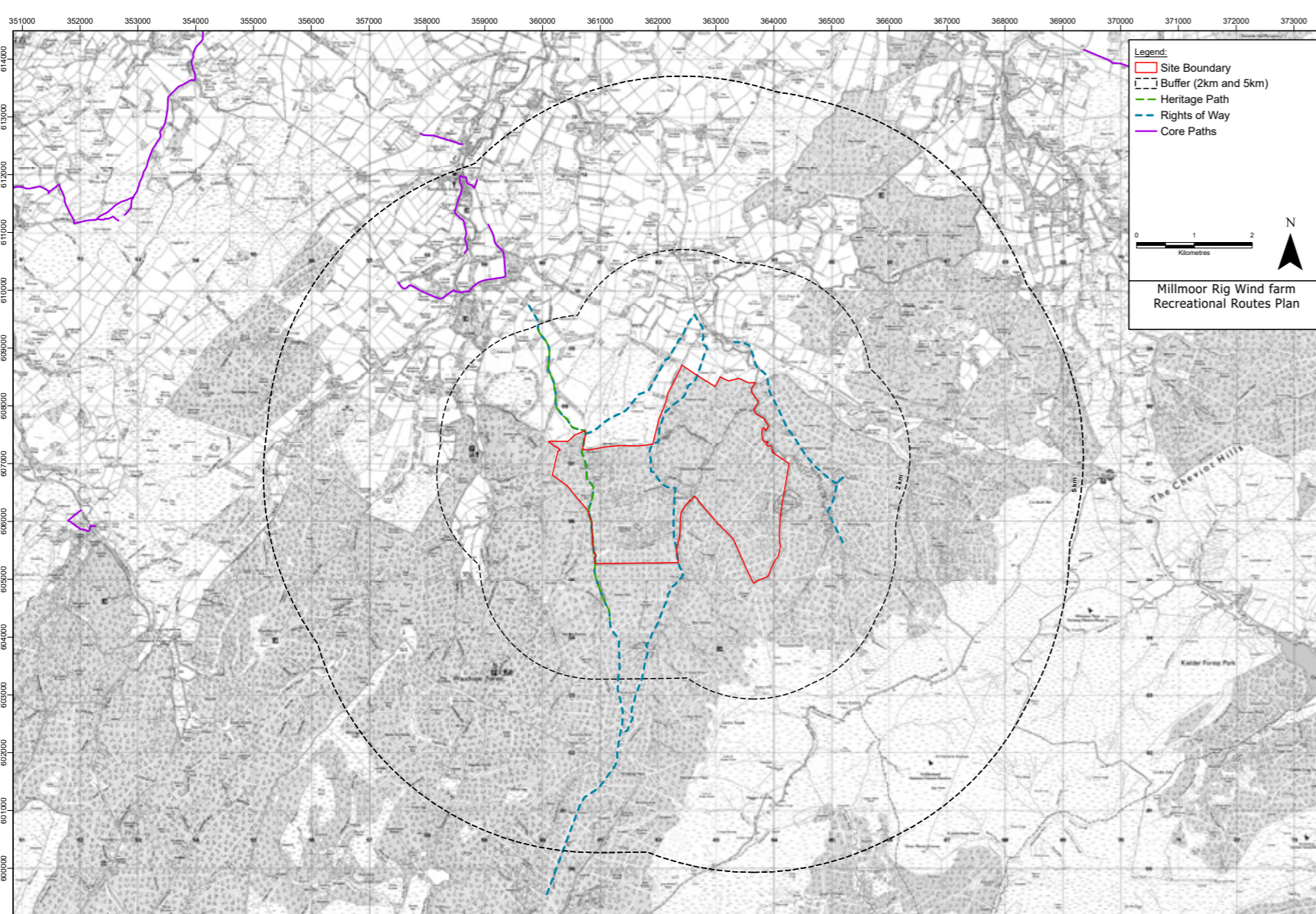
An abnormal loads route assessment (ALRA) has been undertaken for the proposed turbine locations to identify the appropriate work required to accommodate the delivery of abnormal load from the port of entry to the site. The ALRA will be included as a technical appendix to the EIA report.

The main construction traffic access route for the abnormal loads, from the port of entry at Blyth, is anticipated to comprise the A68(T) and the A6088.

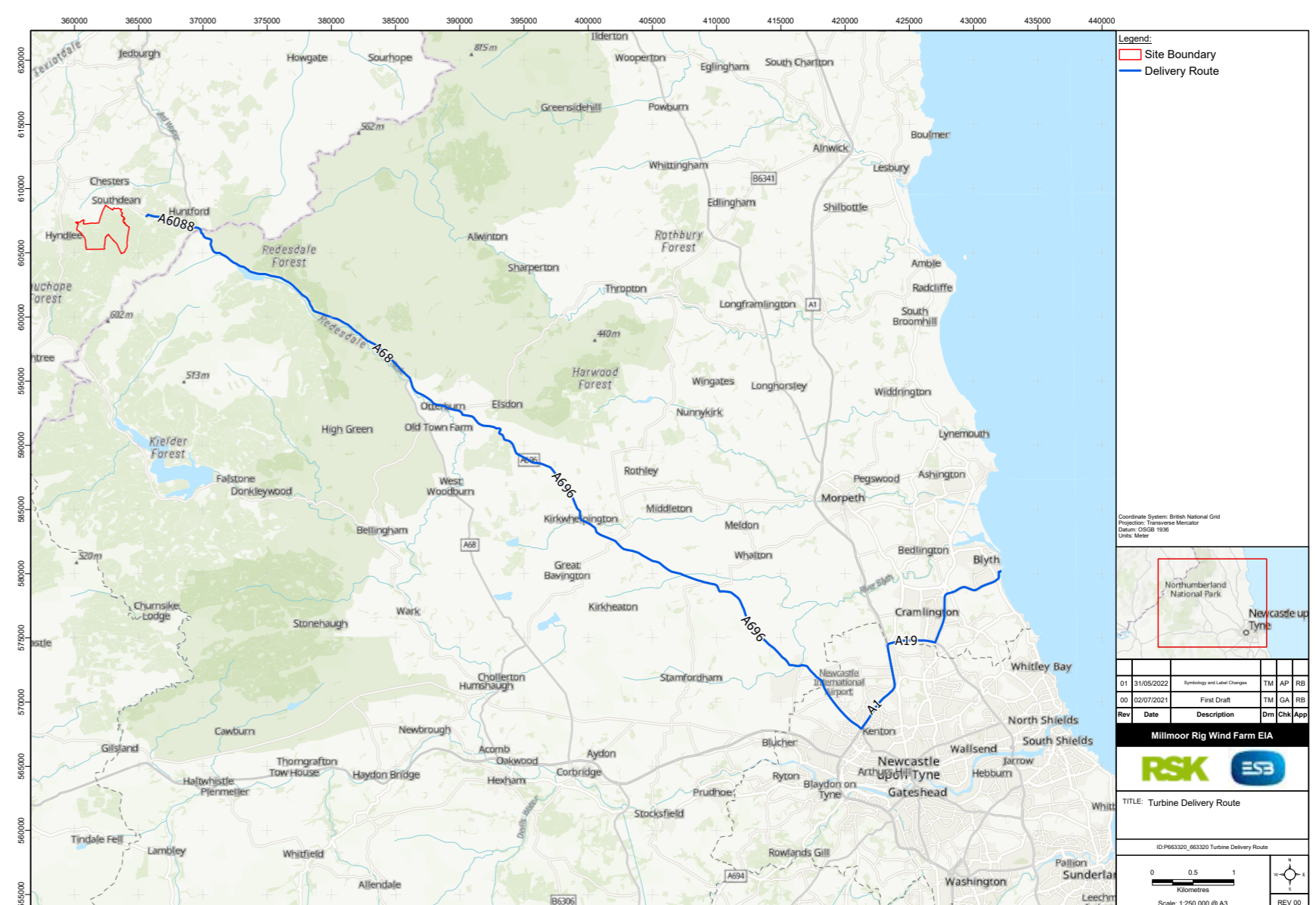
Additionally, it is anticipated that general construction traffic, including material deliveries and staff movements, will use sections of the A7(T) to the north of the proposed development.

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

Potential traffic-related environmental effects, such as delays, impacts on pedestrian journeys, and accidents and safety, will be considered in the EIA and assessed for the construction period, when traffic generation will be greatest. Cumulative traffic and transport effects will also be assessed where the construction of the proposed development could overlap with other known projects using the same road network.

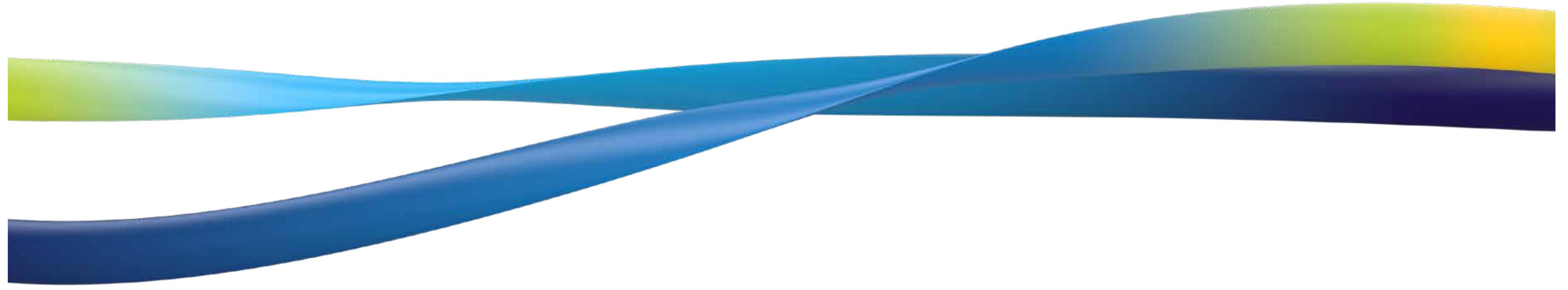


Recreational routes in the area of proposed development site.



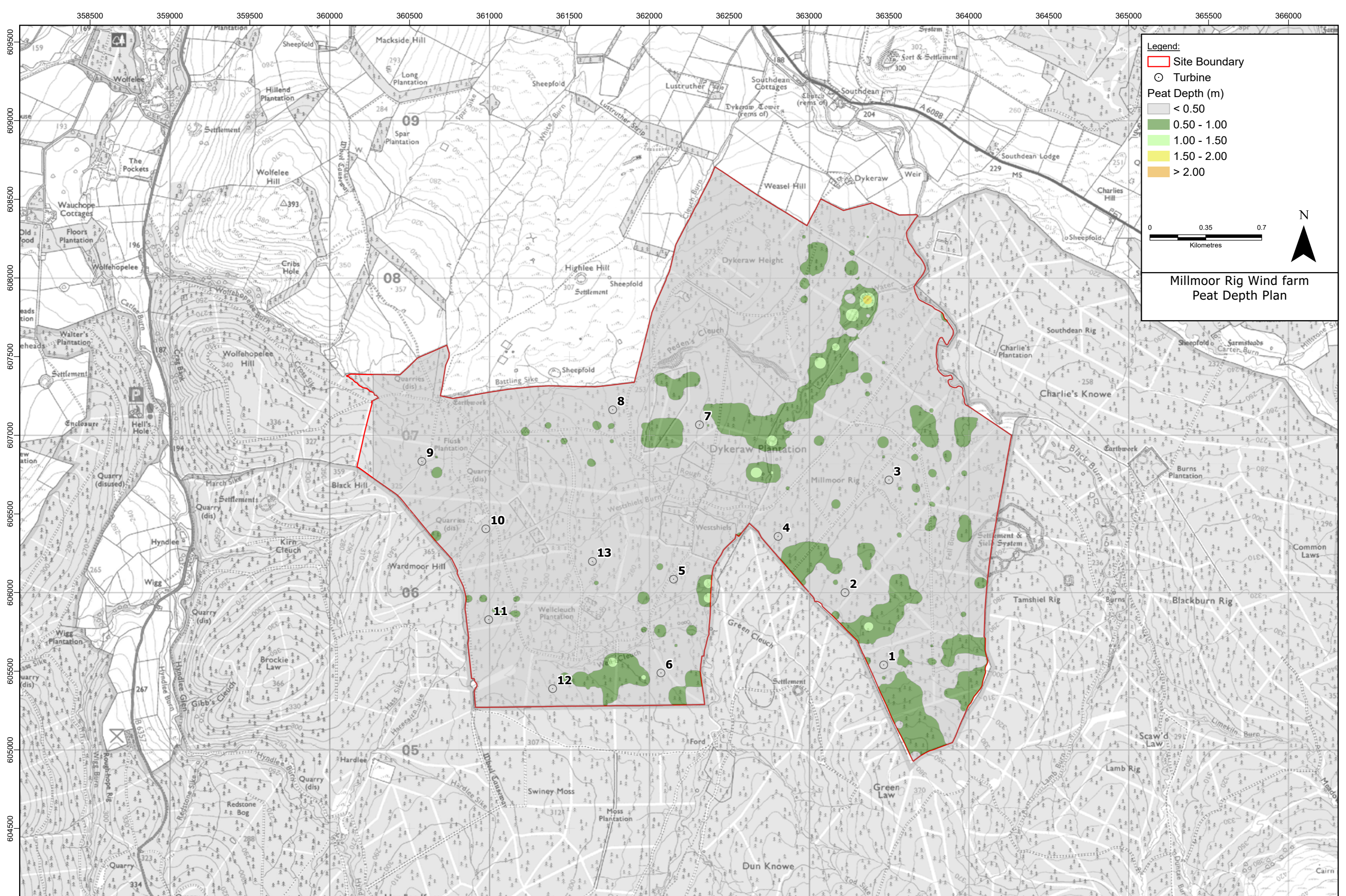
Route to proposed site.

GEOLOGY, HYDROGEOLOGY, HYDROLOGY AND PEAT



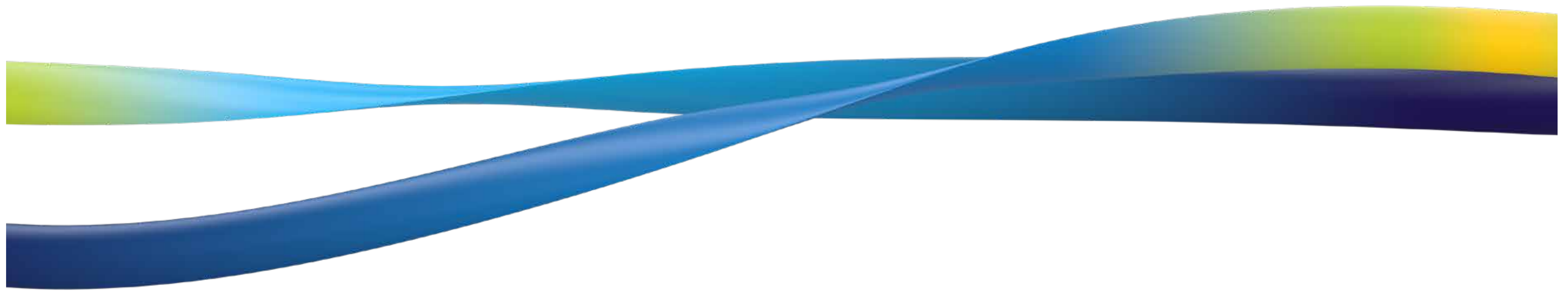
Potential impacts on groundwater quality or quantity, flood risk, water quality and private water supplies, and changes to peat and carbon-rich soils will be considered in the EIA.

A peat-depth survey has been conducted that found limited areas of peat onsite. These areas have been avoided, where possible, in the design of the proposed development. The existing forestry track network would be used as much as possible in order to minimise new track construction, not only in areas with peat, but also to minimise the requirement for new watercourse crossing structures.



Peat-depth survey.

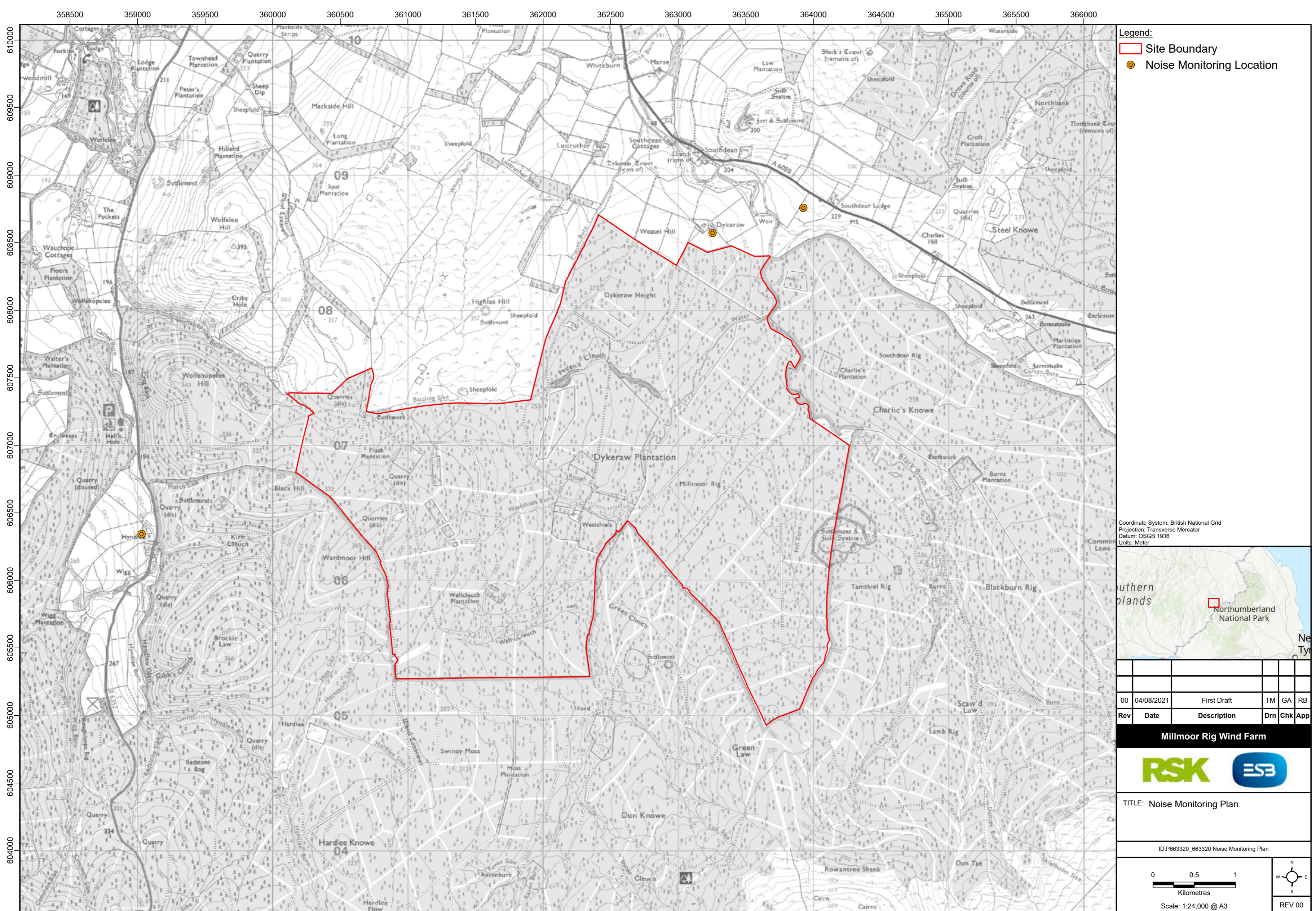
NOISE AND VIBRATION



ESB is undertaking a baseline survey to determine current noise levels at three local properties.

Noise modelling will be conducted to predict likely levels of wind turbine noise, which will be considered against the current guidance, to determine whether the scale of impact will be

significant. Initial modelling results suggest that noise levels from the turbines during operation would be below the lowest thresholds applicable in the relevant guidelines. Management measures to control noise and vibration from construction activities will also be assessed.



Noise monitoring locations.



OTHER ISSUES

Aviation and radar

The proposed development site lies within a military tactical training area and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) safeguarding zone for the Eskdalemuir Seismological Array.

An initial impact assessment identified all stakeholders potentially affected by the proposed development and dialogue is ongoing with them. Where impacts are of concern, additional analysis may be required and, where those impacts are deemed unacceptable, further mitigation solutions will be identified and explored with the goal of reducing those impacts to acceptable levels.

Aviation lighting

As the proposed turbines would be more than 150 m to tip, there would be a statutory requirement for visible aviation lighting, the details of which will need to be agreed with the Civil Aviation Authority. However, it is anticipated that a lighting scheme can be agreed whereby not all the 13 proposed turbines would require fitting with visible aviation lighting. In addition, infrared lighting will be required by the MOD. An assessment of the effects in relation to permanent aviation lighting will be included in the EIA report.

Socio-economics, land use and tourism

An assessment of the potential socio-economic effects of the proposed development and the likely significance of these for tourism, recreation, land use economic output, employment generation and other indirect effects will be undertaken.

Forestry

The proposed development is located in Dykeraw Forest, an existing privately owned and managed commercial forestry plantation located within the wider area of Wauchope Forest, managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS).

The proposed development would result in a loss of plantation woodland. The aim would be, wherever possible, to carry out keyhole felling to accommodate the turbines while minimising the amount of felling required. Keyhole felling has a lesser impact on the local environment than the alternative of clear felling. In addition, the access track layout will be designed to use as much existing forestry road as possible, further reducing the felling required.

Where woodland is removed in association with the proposed development, compensatory planting will be provided.

Shadow flicker

Shadow flicker is an effect caused in particular circumstances by the rotation of the turbine blades when the sun is shining, which can create a flickering or strobe-like effect. This can be a cause of annoyance at residences near wind farm developments.

The proposed development will be designed, as far as possible, to avoid shadow flicker. Potential shadow flicker receptors within 2 km of each turbine will be assessed for potential effects.

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 meet national climate-change targets through the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposal.

Business, employment and investment

ESB would like to hear from businesses across the Scottish Borders and Scotland to ensure that it can fully consider the skills and services of local people and suppliers if the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm receives consent.

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.

Community benefit

ESB is committed to setting up a community benefit fund to the value of £5,000 per installed MW. This could equate to about £390,000 per year for 35 years (calculated on base assumptions on turbine numbers when the proposed development is consented and operational). This would equate to up to £13.6 million of community-benefit funding over the lifetime of the proposed development.

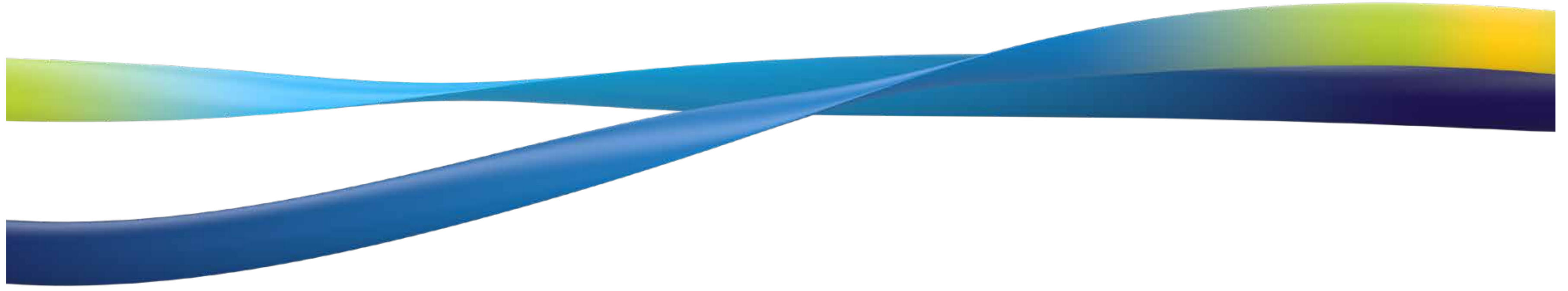
The communities that will be impacted by the construction and operation of the proposed development will be invited to help shape a community benefit package that best meets local needs. ESB will reach out to local groups and community representatives to seek their input as the project progresses.

Community shareholding

ESB invites the local community to discuss with us the opportunity for shared community ownership of Millmoor Rig Wind Farm.



CLIMATE EMERGENCY



We are facing a climate crisis that is being caused, in part, by the use of fossil fuels. Although Scotland produces almost 100% of its electricity from renewable sources, we need to electrify transport and heating and move away from fossil fuels.

This means we require more renewable energy sources to provide renewable electricity and decarbonise our transport and heating by, for example, moving away from petrol and diesel cars, and gas boilers.

The Scottish Government has declared a Climate Emergency and has set out ambitions for 8–12 GW of new onshore wind power to help reach Scotland’s 2045 net-zero target. Scotland and the rest of the UK have legally binding targets to reach net zero and new onshore wind development will play a pivotal role in meeting these.

Project contribution

The Millmoor Rig Wind Farm has the potential to make an important contribution to the decarbonisation of our electricity system: the project could produce enough energy to power the equivalent of 44,197 homes.

Energy security

Onshore wind is the cheapest form of renewable energy and Scotland has some of the best wind resource in Europe.

With the cost of living and energy prices rising, the question is often asked, why are energy bills increasing if onshore wind is the cheapest form of electricity generation? This is due to the ‘merit order’ that is used when every generation type is available to meet demand. In this, technologies are ranked to determine which is brought into the grid first. Fossil fuel generation has a high marginal cost (the change in the total cost of producing an additional quantity); however, the marginal cost for renewables is almost zero. Therefore, when they are available, renewables are always chosen for the grid first because they are the cheapest to run, but the electricity price reflects the higher marginal cost of gas when this is needed for the grid.

The Office of National Statistics states that gas is used to fuel about a third of the UK’s electricity generation, so rising gas prices have, in turn, led to rising electricity prices.

The design of electricity systems still has to catch up with the role of renewable energy, and this is recognised by the UK Government and Scottish Government, who have plans to make the grid more ‘renewable ready’ to ensure far more renewables can go into the grid at reduced cost.

WHAT NEXT?



ESB hopes to submit its application for consent for the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm project to the Scottish Ministers in autumn 2022. The Scottish Government will then undertake its own consultation process, when the public will be invited to make formal comments on the proposals.

In the meantime, we would welcome your feedback on our proposals for Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposals and we 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 to be provided to the Scottish Government alongside the application for consent.

Please note that comments made to ESB during this consultation period will not be considered as a formal representation to the Scottish Borders Council or Scottish Ministers.

You can view more detailed information on our website:

www.esbenergy.co.uk/millmoor-rig-wind-farm

Contact points

Email:
millmoorrig@esb.ie

Post:
Jessica Yanetta (Project Manager)
ESB Asset Development UK Ltd
Inovo Building
121 George Street
Glasgow
G1 1RD



Energy for
generations

APPENDIX C



Energy for generations

Contact Details

Name

E-mail

Address

Telephone

.....

Postcode

We will only use these details to contact you and update you on the proposals as you request.

Wind Farm Project Date

Your opinion is important to us. We would appreciate you taking a moment to complete the following questionnaire so we can find out more about your views on the wind farm proposal this exhibition is all about. The aim of this questionnaire is to allow individuals to contribute to the development process and interact with ESB. This is not a substitute for the official planning process. No personal information will be passed on to third parties.

1. What are your views on the use of renewable energy to help meet our energy requirements?

(onshore and offshore wind power, solar power, biomass, wave and tidal power, amongst others)

Very Supportive Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed

2. What are your views on the use of wind energy in particular to help meet our energy requirements?

Very Supportive Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed

3a. How do you feel about this Wind Farm proposal?

Very Supportive Supportive Undecided Opposed Very opposed

3b. Why do you hold this view? Please state

Empty text box for response to question 3b.

4. How close do you live to the proposed wind farm site?

Within 1 kilometre (0.6 miles) Between 1 and 5 kilometres (3.1 miles) Further away than 5 kilometres (3.1 miles)

5. Do you have any comments or suggestions on how the community benefit fund could be spent/managed in the area, to benefit local people and communities?

Large empty text box for response to question 5.

6. If you have any further interests, please state below:

7. How did you first learn about the project?

- Word of mouth Postcard
 Google or other search engine Newspaper advert Newspaper article Social media
 (Invitation for) Public Exhibition
 Other (please state)

8. Please use the area below to ask a specific question or comment on the Wind Farm proposal.

9. If you would like us to respond to any of the comments you have made or questions you have asked in this questionnaire, please indicate here and, if required, we will get back to you shortly.

- Response wanted
 No response wanted

Data Protection

We hold all personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 and your personal data will not be transferred outside of the European Economic Area

Please return this questionnaire to the registration desk at the entrance of the exhibition.
If preferred, you can send the questionnaire to Duncan Scott (Project Director)
ESB Asset Development UK Ltd
Inovo Building
121 George Street
Glasgow
G1 1RD



APPENDIX D



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Millmoor Rig Wind Farm

Utilising the Natural Environment to Harness Clean, Zero Carbon Energy



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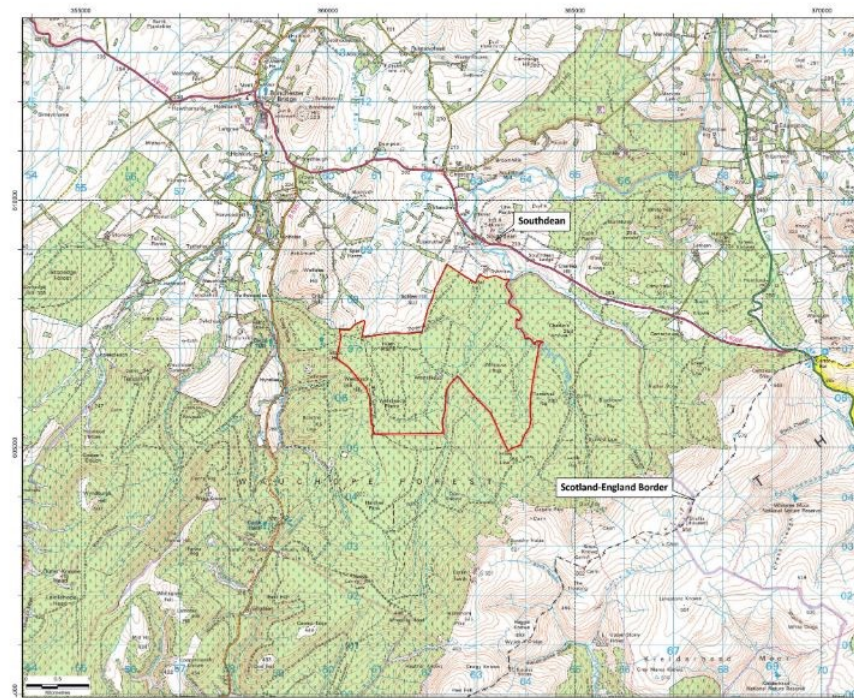
ESB is developing proposals for Millmoor Rig Wind Farm. If consented, the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm will utilise the natural environment to harness clean, zero carbon energy and also support the long-term management of the forest in which Millmoor Rig Wind Farm will be located.

Project Summary

The site is located in the Scottish Borders, within a large area of commercial forestry in the Wauchope Forest. View the [Location Plan](#) for a detailed map of location.

The Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposal comprises:

- Up to 15 turbines, with a maximum height of 200m and a generating capacity in excess of 50MW. View [Initial Turbine Layout](#) to view preliminary layout
- Plans to co-locate battery storage with the wind farm to maximise the use of the grid connection
- On-site access tracks linking the turbines and connecting to the A6088 road via a mixture of new and existing roads, using the route of an existing forestry track
- On-site grid substation
- Site office and staff welfare facilities
- An offer of a Community Benefits Package and Shared Community Ownership





Early Stage Development

The Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposals are at an early stage. ESB submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) **Scoping Request** to the Scottish Government, which sets out the range of environmental studies proposed to be undertaken in order to both shape the design and assess the impact of the project.

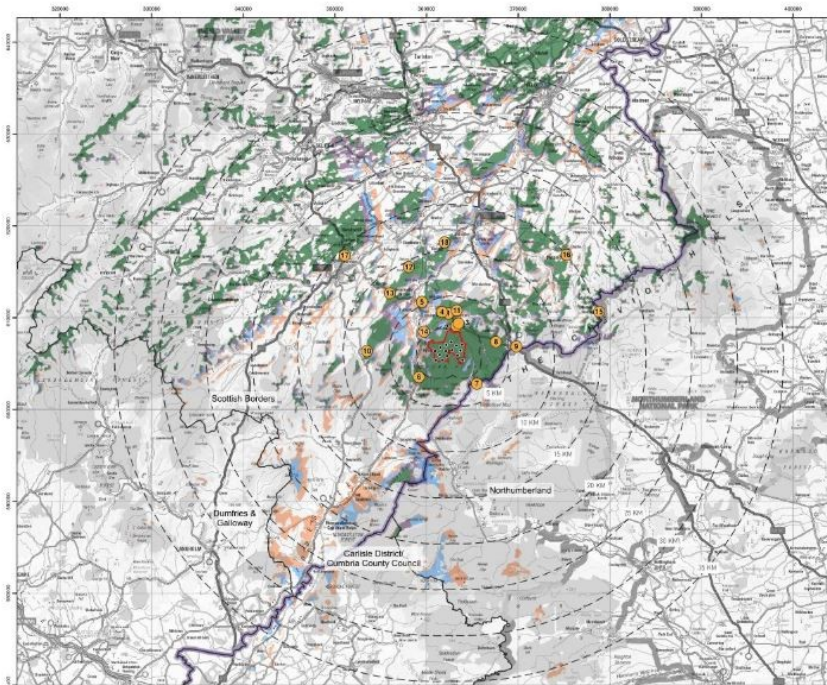
ESB is following **Scottish Government guidance in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic**. ESB is currently working towards submission of an application for planning consent during 2022.

Project Background

The location of the proposed Millmoor Rig Wind Farm, within an area of extensive commercial forestry, is broadly similar to that proposed for another wind farm development known as Highlee Hill Wind Farm. However, Millmoor Rig Wind Farm is an entirely new proposal and ESB has no connection with either the former Highlee Hill Wind Farm proposal, which was withdrawn from planning in May 2017, or its developer.

In deciding whether to progress with its proposals for the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm, ESB carefully considered each of the consultee responses and representations to the Highlee Hill Wind Farm planning application.





Landscape and Visual Assessment

A digital **Zone of Theoretical Visibility** (ZTV) model was created to illustrate the geographical area within which views of development are theoretically possible. This is based on a 'bare-earth' scenario, whereby the screening effect of areas of existing vegetation or built features in the landscape are not taken into account.

We have proposed 18 viewpoint locations are intended to be representative of the visual experience in a general location or from a specific or important vantage point. Click on the viewpoint location from the list below to view an initial wireline visualisation, shown with a 90-degree horizontal field of view, illustrating the Scoping stage layout.



[VP1](#) - A6088 Chesters

[VP2](#) - A6088 Southdean

[VP3](#) - Fort NE of Southdean

[VP4](#) - A6088 W approach to Chesters

[VP5](#) - Bonchester Hill

[VP6](#) - B6357 Viewpoint

[VP7](#) - Footpath at Knox Knowe

[VP8](#) - A6088 NW of Carter Bar

[VP9](#) - Carter Bar E

[VP10](#) - Pike Fell

[VP11](#) - Footpath Chesters Brae

[VP12](#) - Rubers Law

[VP13](#) - A6088 Bonchester Bridge

[VP14](#) - Wolfelee Hill

[VP15](#) - Pennine Way Black Halls

[VP16](#) - Five Stanes

[VP17](#) - A7 Approach to Hawick

[VP18](#) - Borders Abbey Way Black Law

[View the development timeline](#)



ESB continues to follow Scottish Government advice regarding working, travel and social distancing and will review and revise development in line with the latest Scottish Government advice.

Environmental Impact Assessment

As part of the development process we must undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to assess the effects of the development on the natural, physical and human environment.

The number, size and layout of the turbines will be determined by environmental, technical and commercial constraints identified during the EIA and iterative design processes.

The EIA, which will be published in an EIA Report, will cover topics including landscape and visual amenity; traffic and highways; noise; ornithology and ecology; archaeology and cultural heritage; geology, hydrogeology and hydrology; forestry; and socio economics. Consultation with statutory and non-statutory authorities and with the public is a key part of the EIA process.





Public Consultation

ESB will be holding public consultation events in early Summer 2022 prior to making the S36 application, in order for the public to comment on the proposal as it moves through the design process. Further public consultation events would be held as the application progresses.

Details of the upcoming events will be posted here.

The Benefits of Millmoor Rig Wind Farm

The development of Millmoor Rig Wind Farm would bring several important benefits at both the local and national levels spanning the environment, economy and community.

- Major **positive impacts on the environment**, providing clean, renewable energy, and helping the Scottish Government reach its target for net-zero carbon by 2045 and interim 2030 targets
- Supporting the **local economy** via contracts for tender and local construction spending
- **Community benefit funding of £5,000 per megawatt installed generating capacity**, shaped to local needs, over the lifetime of the project if consented and constructed.



Millmoor Rig Wind Farm - Development Timeline

COVID-19

The guidance and restrictions brought in by the [Scottish Government](#) as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic have had an impact on the development programme for the proposed Millmoor Rig Wind Farm project. ESB continues to follow Scottish Government advice regarding working, travel and social distancing and we will review and revise the following programme in line with the latest Scottish Government advice.

Our Proposed Programme

Autumn 2020

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) surveys commence.

2021

- EIA surveys ongoing in accordance with the latest Scottish Government COVID-

- EIA Scoping Report prepared.

February 2022

- EIA Scoping Request submitted to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, setting out the scope of the EIA surveys to be undertaken.
- Millmoor Rig Wind Farm website launched.

Spring 2022

- Ongoing design evolution and environmental assessment process to optimise the design to achieve balance between energy performance and environmental effects. Measures to be identified to eliminate, avoid, reduce or mitigate any potentially significant effects where possible.
- EIA Scoping Opinion to be received from the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, confirming the scope of the EIA surveys to be completed.

Summer and Autumn 2022

- Public consultation events held in the local community.
- Environmental Impact Assessment surveys completed.
- Section 36 application for Millmoor Rig Wind Farm submitted to Scottish Government.
- Formal public consultation period opens as soon as Section 36 application is live.

Millmoor Rig Wind Farm - The Benefits

Environmental Benefits

A Climate Emergency has been declared by the Scottish Government. If consented and constructed, Millmoor Rig Wind Farm would:

- ✔ provide clean, renewable energy, helping the Scottish Government reach its target for net-zero carbon by 2045 and interim 2030 targets
- ✔ generate up to 159,515 MWh of renewable electricity each year, enough output to power the equivalent of [40,797 households](#) for a year
- ✔ replace fossil fuels from the electricity generation system, saving up to [56,079 tonnes](#) of carbon dioxide each year in comparison with the existing electricity generation sources supplying the national grid.

Working collaboratively with conservation bodies, environmental specialists and landowners, ESB is committed to exploring opportunities to enhance the natural habitats local to the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm. These will form part of ESB's package of mitigation, offsetting and enhancement measures for the project. The details of these will be included in documentation accompanying the application for consent, including a Peat Management Plan and Habitat Management Plan.

Enhancement activities currently under discussion include restoration of peat lands, native woodland planting, and targeted measures to improve habitats for protected species. Opportunities for such enhancements will be explored across the wider estate rather than solely focusing on the footprint of the development.

Economic Benefits

During both the construction and the proposed 35-year operation of the wind farm, the Millmoor Rig project will provide opportunities to support the local economy. A range of contracts for the construction of the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm will be available for tender. Local companies will be encouraged to apply for contracts and given preference where possible.

Community Benefits

ESB is committed to setting up a community benefit fund to the value of £5,000 per installed MW. This could equate to up to £360,000 per year, for 35 years (calculated on base assumptions on turbine numbers once the project is consented and



on base assumptions on turbine numbers once the project is consented and operational). This would equate to up to £12.6 million community benefit funding over the lifetime of the project.

The communities that will be impacted by the construction and operation of the proposed wind farm will be invited to help shape a community benefit package that best meets local needs. ESB will reach out to local groups and community representatives to seek their input as the project progresses. There are many community benefit options being considered, from capital funding and local regeneration to support for local groups and clubs. All ideas will be actively discussed with community councils, development trusts and local representatives in the surrounding areas.

ESB invites the local community to discuss with us the opportunity for Shared Community Ownership of the project.

[← Back to Millmoor Rig Wind Farm Homepage](#)

Welcome to our Millmoor Rig Wind Farm Latest News

We regularly update this page for the latest information relating to our public consultation events and our Section 36 application, and to provide access to new project documentation as it becomes available.



February 2022

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Request to the Scottish Government has just been submitted for Millmoor Rig Wind Farm. This document sets out the range of environmental studies proposed to be undertaken in order to both shape the design and assess the impact of the project.

Contact Us

For information about the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm project, please contact:



Jessica Yanetta, ESB Asset Development UK Ltd - E: millmoorrig@esb.ie



For media enquiries, please contact ESB's press office at: T: 00353 1 702 6009 (Media Enquiries Only) / Out of Hours: 00353 87 255 7186 (Media Enquiries Only) E: corporatecommunications@esb.ie

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Millmoor Rig Wind Farm

Utilising the Natural Environment to Harness Clean, Zero Carbon Energy



ESB is developing proposals for Millmoor Rig Wind Farm

If consented, the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm will utilise the natural environment to harness clean, zero carbon energy and also support the long-term management of the forest in which Millmoor Rig Wind Farm will be located.

Millmoor Rig Wind Farm

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend the in person community consultation events in Southdean and Bonchester Bridge in June 2022, and to all those who provided feedback on the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposal so far.

The public consultation is open until Thursday 7th July 2022 if you would like to provide feedback on the proposed development.

All exhibition material that were presented at the in-person exhibitions is available below.

[Advert](#)

[Feedback Form](#)

[Exhibition Boards](#)

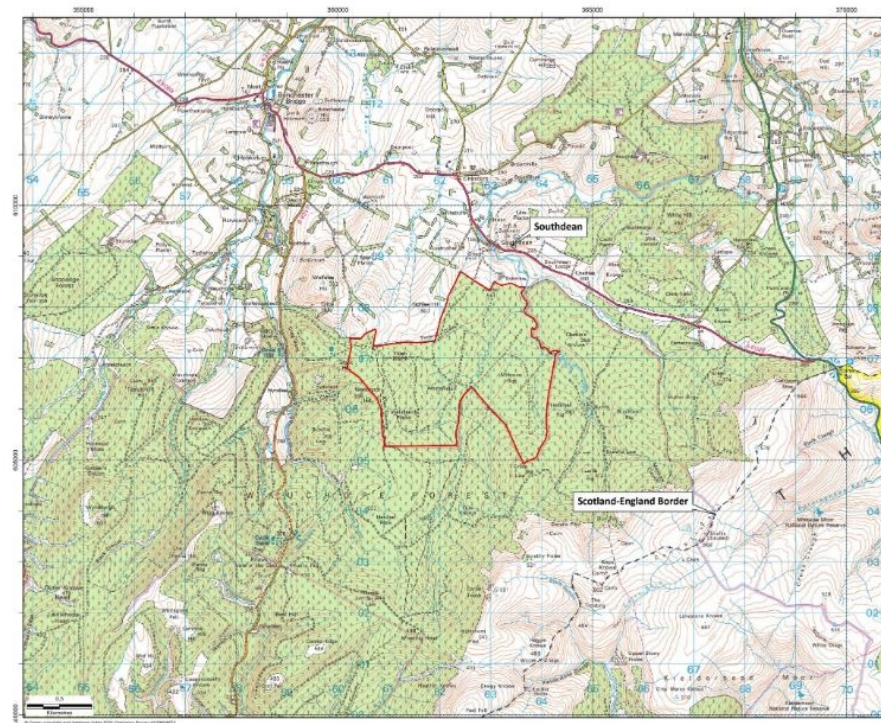
Project Summary

The site is located in the Scottish Borders, within a large area of commercial forestry in the Wauchope Forest. View the [Location Plan](#) for a detailed map of location.

After taking into consideration responses to our Scoping stage proposals from statutory consultees and the local community, as well as information collected from environmental surveys, we have undertaken a series of design iterations and refined the layout of the proposed development.

The Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposal comprises:

- Up to 13 turbines, with a maximum height ranging from 180m to 210m, and a generating capacity in excess of 50MW. [View Proposed Layout here.](#)
- Plans to co-locate battery storage with the wind farm to maximise the use of the grid connection
- On-site access tracks linking the turbines and connecting to the A6088 road via a mixture of new and existing roads, using the route of an existing forestry track
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Early Stage Development

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ESB is following [Scottish Government guidance in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic](#). ESB is currently working towards submission of an application for planning consent during 2022.

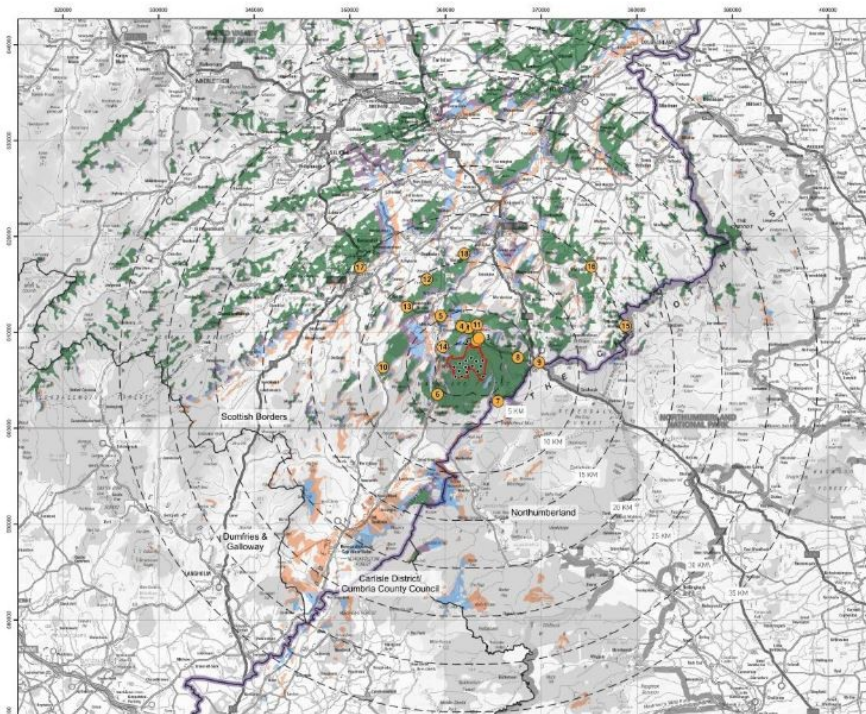
The left image is Raheenleagh Wind Farm in Co. Wexford, Ireland.

Project Background

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We have proposed 18 viewpoint locations are intended to be representative of the visual experience in a general location or from a specific or important vantage point. Click on a sample of six of our proposed viewpoint location from the list below to view a wireline visualisation or photomontage, shown with a 90-degree horizontal field of view, illustrating the current layout.

- [VP2 - Southdean](#)
- [VP3 - Fort NE of Southdean](#)
- [VP6 - B6357 Vantage Point](#)
- [VP8 - A6088 NW of Carter Bar](#)
- [VP9 - Carter Bar](#)
- [VP12 - Rubers Law](#)

If you would like to view copies of the viewpoint wireline visualisations from the Scoping layout, please get in touch using the contact details at the bottom of the page'

[View the development timeline →](#)

Environmental Impact Assessment

As part of the development process we must undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to assess the effects of the development on the natural, physical and human environment.

The number, size and layout of the turbines will be determined by environmental, technical and commercial constraints identified during the EIA and iterative design processes.

The EIA, which will be published in an EIA Report, will cover topics including landscape and visual amenity; traffic and highways; noise; ornithology and ecology; archaeology and cultural heritage; geology, hydrogeology and hydrology; forestry; and socio economics. Consultation with statutory and non-statutory authorities and with the public is a key part of the EIA process.

ESB has appointed **RSK Environment Ltd** (RSK), an experienced environmental consultancy, as lead consultant to carry out the EIA and related assessments to accompany a Section 36 application to Scottish Ministers.





The Benefits of Millmoor Rig Wind Farm

The development of Millmoor Rig Wind Farm would bring several important benefits at both the local and national levels spanning the environment, economy and community.

Public Consultation

- ESB Held two public consultation events in Southdean and Bonchester Bridge, on 16th June and 17th June 2022. The public consultation was held in order for the public to comment on the proposal as it moves through the design process.

All information available in the face to face exhibitions is available for download on the project website and can be found at the top of the page. For more information on the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm project, or to submit feedback forms, please contact Jessica Yanetta at millmoorrig@esb.ie

The public consultation period will run until Thursday 7th July.



APPENDIX E



Energy for generations

WELCOME TO OUR PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT FOR MILLMOOR HILL WIND FARM

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

GEOLOGICAL HYDROLOGY

Potential impacts of air quality, flood risk, private water supplies, peat and carboniferous considered in the EIA.





Energy for generations

WELCOME



Energy for generations

WELCOME

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Energy for generations

LEADING THE WAY TOWARDS
A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

Join us and be part of
a Brighter Future

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LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT

Diagram illustrating the landscape and visual impact of the proposed development. It shows a landscape with wind turbines and a road, with text describing the visual impact assessment process.

THE ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY

Map showing the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) for the proposed development. The map includes the development site, surrounding roads, and the ZTV boundary.

VISUALS

Diagram illustrating the visual quality objectives (VQOs) for the proposed development. It shows a landscape with wind turbines and a road, with text describing the VQOs.

VISUALISATIONS

Diagram illustrating the visualisations for the proposed development. It shows a landscape with wind turbines and a road, with text describing the visualisation process.

TRANSPORT AND RECREATION

Diagram illustrating the transport and recreation impacts of the proposed development. It shows a landscape with wind turbines and a road, with text describing the transport and recreation impacts.

OTHER ISSUES

Diagram illustrating the other issues related to the proposed development. It shows a landscape with wind turbines and a road, with text describing the other issues.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Diagram illustrating the climate emergency impacts of the proposed development. It shows a landscape with wind turbines and a road, with text describing the climate emergency impacts.

THE DEVELOPMENT

Diagram illustrating the proposed development. It shows a landscape with wind turbines and a road, with text describing the development.

Large landscape visualisation panels displayed on a table in the foreground. Each panel shows a landscape with wind turbines and a road, with text describing the visualisation process. The panels are arranged in a row, showing different views of the proposed development.



THE ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY

Map showing the zone of theoretical visibility for a wind farm project, with various colored areas indicating different visibility zones.

VISUALISATIONS

Two landscape photographs showing wind turbines in a rural setting. The top photo shows a line of turbines in the distance, and the bottom photo shows a closer view of a turbine.

TRANSPORT AND RECREATION

Text describing transport and recreation impacts, including a small map of the project area.

ISSUES

Text describing various issues related to the project, including visual, noise, and landscape impacts.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Text discussing the climate emergency and the project's contribution to reducing carbon emissions.

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Photograph of a large group of people gathered outdoors, likely a community meeting or event.

WHAT NEXT?

Text outlining the next steps in the project's development, including planning and construction phases.

Large landscape photograph of a wind farm on a hillside. The turbines are visible in the distance against a blue sky.

Landscape photograph with red crosses marking turbine locations. The crosses are placed on a flat landscape to indicate the proposed turbine footprints.

Landscape photograph of a golf course. The green grass and trees are clearly visible, showing the proximity of the wind farm to recreational areas.

Landscape photograph with red crosses marking turbine locations. The crosses are placed on a flat landscape to indicate the proposed turbine footprints.

ORNITHOLOGY



Informational poster about ornithology, featuring a photograph of two birds in a natural setting. The text is partially obscured but appears to discuss bird species and their habitats.

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY



Informational poster about cultural heritage and archaeology, featuring a map of a region. The text is partially obscured but appears to discuss historical sites and archaeological findings.

Informational poster with a landscape image and text.

Informational poster with a landscape image and text.



ESB Energy for generations

LEADING THE WAY TOWARDS A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

Join us and be part of a Brighter Future

www.esb.ie



A large blue promotional banner for ESB, featuring a mountain landscape and the text 'LEADING THE WAY TOWARDS A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE'. It also includes the slogan 'Join us and be part of a Brighter Future' and the website 'www.esb.ie'.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

We are facing a climate crisis that is being caused, in part, by the use of fossil fuels. Although Scotland produces almost 100% of its electricity from renewable sources, we need to electrify transport and heating and move away from fossil fuels.

This means we require more renewable energy sources to provide renewable electricity and decarbonise our transport and heating by, for example, moving away from petrol and diesel cars, and gas boilers.

The Scottish Government has declared a Climate Emergency and has set out ambitions for 8-12 GW of new onshore wind power to help reach Scotland's 2045 net-zero target. Scotland and the rest of the UK have legally binding targets to reach net zero and new onshore wind development will play a pivotal role in meeting these.

Project contribution

The Millmoor Rig Wind Farm has the potential to make an important contribution to the decarbonisation of our electricity system: the project could produce enough energy to power the equivalent of 44,197 homes.

Energy security

Onshore wind is the cheapest form of renewable energy and Scotland has some of the best wind resource in Europe.

With the cost of living and energy prices rising, the question is often asked, why are energy bills increasing if onshore wind is the cheapest form of electricity generation? This is due to the 'merit order' that is used when every generation type is available to meet demand. In this, technologies are ranked to determine which is brought into the grid first. Fossil fuel generation has a high marginal cost (the change in the total cost of producing an additional quantity); however, the marginal cost for renewables is almost zero. Therefore, when they are available, renewables are always chosen for the grid first because they are the cheapest to run, but the electricity price reflects the higher marginal cost of gas when this is needed for the grid.

The Office of National Statistics states that gas is used to fuel about a third of the UK's electricity generation, so rising gas prices have, in turn, led to rising electricity prices.

The design of electricity systems still has to catch up with the role of renewable energy, and this is recognised by the UK Government and Scottish Government, who have plans to make the grid more 'renewable ready' to ensure far more renewables can go into the grid at reduced cost.



MILLMOOR RIG WIND FARM

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 meet national climate-change targets through the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposal.

Business, employment and investment

ESB would like to hear from businesses across the Scottish Borders and Scotland to ensure that it can fully consider the skills and services of local people and suppliers if the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm receives consent.

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, cranes, welfare units, etc.
- labour hire companies: engineers, plant operatives and general labourers
- transport: taxis and minibuses for local labourers.

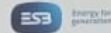
Community benefit

ESB is committed to setting up a community benefit fund to the value of £5,000 per installed MW. This could equate to about £390,000 per year for 35 years (calculated on base assumptions on turbine numbers when the proposed development is consented and operational). This would equate to up to £13.6 million of community-benefit funding over the lifetime of the proposed development.

The communities that will be impacted by the construction and operation of the proposed development will be invited to help shape a community benefit package that best meets local needs. ESB will reach out to local groups and community representatives to seek their input as the project progresses.

Community shareholding

ESB invites the local community to discuss with us the opportunity for shared community ownership of Millmoor Rig Wind Farm.



MILLMOOR RIG WIND FARM

WHAT NEXT?



ESB hopes to submit its application for consent for the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm project to the Scottish Ministers in autumn 2022. The Scottish Government will then undertake its own consultation process, when the public will be invited to make formal comments on the proposals.

In the meantime, we would welcome your feedback on our proposals for Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposals and we 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 Scottish Government Consultation to be provided to the Scottish Government alongside the application for consent.

Please note that comments made to ESB during this consultation period will not be considered as a formal representation to the Scottish Borders Council or Scottish Ministers.

You can view more detailed information on our website:
www.esbenergy.co.uk/millmoor-rig-wind-farm

Contact points

Email:
millmoorig@esb.ie

Post:
Jessica Yanetta (Project Manager)
ESB Asset Development UK Ltd
Inovo Building
121 George Street
Glasgow
G1 1RD



MILLMOOR RIG WIND FARM

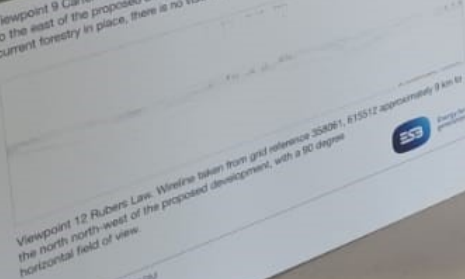
VISUALISATIONS



Viewpoint 8 A6088 north-west of Carter Bar. Photomontage taken from grid reference 367568, 607371, approximately 4.1 km to the east of the proposed development, with a 51.5 degree horizontal field of view.



Viewpoint 9 Carter Bar. Photo-wire taken from grid reference 369798, 606857 approximately 6.3 km to the east of the proposed development, with a 90 degree horizontal field of view. Note, that with current forestry in place, there is no visibility of the proposed development.

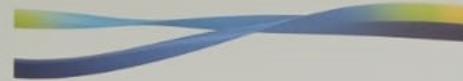


Viewpoint 12 Rubers Law. Wireframe taken from grid reference 354061, 615512 approximately 9 km to the north north-west of the proposed development, with a 90 degree horizontal field of view.

MILLMOOR RD WIND FARM



TRANSPORT AND RECREATION



An abnormal loads route assessment (ALRA) has been undertaken for the proposed turbine locations to identify the appropriate work required to accommodate the delivery of abnormal load from the port of entry to the site. The ALRA will be included as a technical appendix to the EIA report.

The main construction traffic access route for the abnormal loads, from the port of entry at Blyth, is anticipated to comprise the A66(T) and the A6086.

Additionally, it is anticipated that general construction traffic, including material deliveries and staff movements, will use sections of the A77 to the north of the proposed development.

To accommodate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal loads, areas on the proposed route may require oversat or overrun work is ongoing to identify and agree these requirements.

Potential traffic-related environmental effects, such as delays, impacts on pedestrian journeys, and accidents and safety, will be considered in the EIA and assessed for the construction period, when traffic generation will be greatest. Cumulative traffic and transport effects will also be assessed where the construction of the proposed development could overlap with other known projects using the same road network.



Recreational routes in the area of proposed development site.



Route in proposed site.



MILLMOOR RD WIND FARM

OTHER ISSUES



Aviation and radar

The proposed development site lies within a military tactical training area and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) safeguarding zone for the Eidsnesser Seismological Array.

An initial impact assessment identified all stakeholders potentially affected by the proposed development and dialogue is ongoing with them. Where impacts are of concern, additional analysis may be required and, where those impacts are deemed unacceptable, further mitigation solutions will be identified and agreed with the goal of reducing those impacts to acceptable levels.

Aviation lighting

As the proposed turbines would be more than 100 m in height, there would be a requirement for visible aviation lighting, the details of which will need to be agreed with the Civil Aviation Authority. However, it is anticipated that a lighting scheme can be agreed whereby not all the 12 proposed turbines would require lighting with visible aviation lighting. An assessment of the effects in relation to permanent aviation lighting will be included in the EIA report.

Socio-economics, land use and tourism

An assessment of the potential socio-economic effects of the proposed development and the likely significance of these for tourism, employment generation and other indirect effects will be undertaken.

Forestry

The proposed development is located in Dykeraw Forest, an existing privately owned and managed commercial forestry plantation located within the wider area of Wauchope Forest, managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS).

The proposed development would result in a loss of plantation woodland. The aim would be, wherever possible, to carry out keyhole felling to accommodate the turbines while minimising the amount of felling required. Keyhole felling has a lesser impact on the local environment than the alternative of clear felling. In addition, the access track layout will be designed to use as much existing forestry road as possible, further reducing the felling required.

Where woodland is removed in association with the proposed development, compensatory planting will be provided.

Shadow flicker

Shadow flicker is an effect caused in particular circumstances by the rotation of the turbine blades when the sun is shining, which can create a flickering or strobe-like effect. This can be a cause of annoyance at residences near wind farm developments.

The proposed development will be designed, as far as possible, to avoid shadow flicker. Potential shadow flicker receptors within 2 km of each turbine will be assessed for potential effects.



MILLMOOR RD WIND FARM

THE
**WILLIAM LAIDLAW
 HALL**
 was re-opened on 18 September 2004 by
Robin Laidlaw
 great great grandson of
Robert Laidlaw
 Refurbishment was funded by the National Lottery

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT



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

A zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV), a computer-generated tool that establishes the theoretical extent of the visibility of a proposed development, has been prepared. This has helped to identification of representative viewpoints and inform the landscape and visual impact assessment.

The ZTV indicates the areas where turbines will be visible, based on the relief of the surrounding study area (35 km from the outermost turbines). This is based on a bare-earth scenario, in which the screening effect of areas of existing vegetation or built features in the landscape are not taken into account. This is supported by

producing and analysing wireline drawings and photomontages from several agreed viewpoints that give a clear picture of how the proposed development would look.

The current design comprises 13 turbines varying in height at 180, 200 and 210 m to blade tip.

Residential visual amenity

Typically, detailed consideration with regard to the visual amenity of residential properties to the visual amenity of a site is given in the LVIA. At within 2 km of a site is given in the LVIA. At the request of the study area to include any residential properties up to 3 km from the proposed development. A separate, standalone residential visual amenity assessment (RVAA) will be prepared as part of the LVIA to be included in the EIA report.



MILLMOOR FID WIND FARM

THE ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY



The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (to blade tip).



MILLMOOR FID WIND FARM

VISUALISATIONS



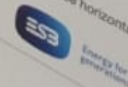
Viewpoint 2 Southover. Photomontage taken from grid reference 383250, 609112, approximately 2.3 km to the north of the proposed development, with a 53.5 degree horizontal field of view.



Viewpoint 3 Fort north-east of Southover. Wireline taken from grid reference 363496, 606388, approximately 2.6 km to the north of the proposed development, with a 90 degree horizontal field of view.



Viewpoint 6 B6057 Heritage Point. Photomontage taken from grid reference 359170, 603557, approximately 2.8 km to the south-west of the proposed development, with a 83.5 degree horizontal field of view.



MILLMOOR FID WIND FARM

GEOLOGY, HYDROGEOLOGY, HYDROLOGY AND PEAT



Potential impacts on groundwater quality or quantity, flood risk, water quality and private water supplies, and changes to peat and carbon-rich soils will be considered in the EIA.

A peat-depth survey has been conducted that found limited areas of peat exists. These areas have been avoided, where possible, in the design of the proposed development. The existing forestry track network would be used as much as possible in order to minimise new track construction, not only in areas with peat, but also to minimise the requirement for new watercourse crossing structures.



Peat-depth survey



MILLMOOR RIG WIND FARM

NOISE AND VIBRATION



EISB is undertaking a baseline survey to determine current noise levels at these local properties.

Noise modelling will be conducted to predict likely levels of wind turbine noise, which will be considered against the current guidance, to determine whether the scale of impact will be

significant. Initial modelling results suggest that noise levels from the turbines during operation would be below the lowest thresholds applicable in the relevant guidelines. Management measures to control noise and vibration from construction activities will also be assessed.



noise monitoring locations



MILLMOOR RIG WIND FARM

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY



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

We have undertaken a desk-based study of the site and surrounding areas to identify and local archaeological codes; performed a site walkover to investigate the potential for archaeological remains; and, visited key historical assets in the surrounding area to assess potential impacts on their settings.

There are three designated heritage assets (Scheduled Monument) within the proposed development boundary: a prehistoric fort and non-designated heritage assets recorded in the Historic Environment Records; these are all historic trackways preserved as surface

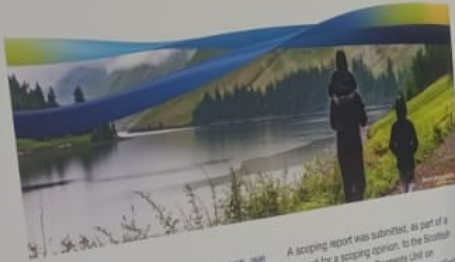
In addition, freely available Scottish Remote Sensing Portal LIDAR data analysed for this heritage assets: one heritage asset first shown on 18th century mapping and still present on modern mapping; 12 potential heritage assets shown on late 19th century Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping; and four potential heritage assets shown on 20th century OS mapping and confirmed by a walkover survey. The findings will be presented in the EIA report.

For any identified impacts, mitigation measures will be proposed during construction to identify, record and, where appropriate, protect any remains that are discovered. Known features and visible barriers to minimise the risk of accidental disturbance during construction.



MILLMOOR RIG WIND FARM

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT



As part of the development process, we must undertake an environmental impact assessment (EIA) to assess the effects of the proposed development on the natural, physical and human environment.

RSK Environment Ltd has been appointed to carry out a detailed EIA of the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm proposal. The EIA will be published in an EIA report, which will form part of the formal application for consent made to the Scottish Ministers.

- The EIA process includes
- consultation with the local authority, other statutory and non-statutory bodies and the public to identify specific concerns and issues
 - determining the existing conditions at and around the proposed site by reviewing the available data and undertaking specialist field surveys
 - assessing the potential impacts on the existing environment
 - developing mitigation proposals to alleviate any significant impacts identified.

ESB has conducted a detailed scoping exercise to identify the environmental aspects to address in the EIA for the proposed development. This included a review of available environmental information and desk- and site-based surveys

A scoping report was submitted, as part of a request for a scoping opinion, to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit on 8 February 2022. The scoping report identified the environmental aspects to be addressed within the EIA report. Statutory and non-statutory bodies were consulted at the scoping stage and their responses were included in the scoping opinion issued by the Scottish Government on 27 May 2022.

The scoping report concluded that the EIA should include detailed studies for the following disciplines

- landscape and visual assessment
- cultural heritage and archaeology
- ecology
- ornithology
- geology, hydrogeology, hydrology and peat
- noise and vibration
- noise and transpiration
- traffic and roads
- aviation and radar
- socio-economics, wind use and tourism
- shadow flicker
- forestry
- telecommunications and electromagnetic interference
- climate change mitigation



ECOLOGY SURVEYS



The ecology surveys undertaken comprise

- Phase 1 habitat survey
- National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey and groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWOTE) assessment
- protected species surveys, including for badger, otter, red squirrel, water vole and reptiles, and determination of a great crested newt Habitat Suitability Index
- bat surveys.

A few watercourses pass through the site, including the Jed Water and Black Burn, which form part of the River Tweed Special Area of Conservation (SAC) lying within the site boundary. Otter is a qualifying species for the SAC.

The surveys

Phase 1 habitat, NVC and GWOTE surveys were undertaken in 2021 and 2022.

Surveys for protected species will draw on the results from previous surveys for the site undertaken in 2015.

Bats

Ground-level static surveys were carried out to determine the presence and relative abundance of bat species within the site boundary.

Surveys were carried out throughout the 2021 bat activity season (April-October) in three deployment periods covering spring, summer and autumn. In the first deployment, eleven full-spectrum static detectors were placed close to the proposed turbine locations, and 12 were used for the second and third deployments.



ORNITHOLOGY



A programme of ecological and ornithology surveys is being carried out on the site. The results will be used to assess potential impacts and identify suitable mitigation as required.

In addition, opportunities for biodiversity enhancements that the development could specialist interest groups and as part of the EIA process.

Ornithology surveys

There are no statutory designations with ornithological features within the site. The Area (SPA), associated Langholm-Newcastleton Hills Site of Special Protection and Kielderhead Moors, Carter Fell to Peel Fell development (16.6 km, 16.6 km and 1.4 km respectively). After considering the distances between these designated sites and the proposed development, the foraging distances for relevant qualifying features provided by NatureScot, the

habitats present (commercial plantation of low ornithological value), and following consultation with NatureScot, there is considered to be no and these designated sites.

A comprehensive survey programme has been undertaken to identify the use of the site and its wider surroundings by sensitive bird populations. The data gathered between 2011 and 2015 for part of the baseline of the assessment alongside additional survey data, collected between 2020 and 2021, as agreed with NatureScot.

The following ornithology surveys will form the baseline for the assessment:

- flight activity surveys
- black grouse surveys
- scarce breeding bird surveys
- breeding bird surveys
- woodland point counts
- winter walkovers.



WELCOME TO OUR PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT FOR MILLMOOR RIG WIND FARM



Welcome to the public consultation event for the proposed ESB Millmoor Rig Wind Farm located at Wauchope Forest, south of Chesters in the Scottish Borders.

Site description

The proposed development is located in the Hawick and Denholm ward of the Scottish Borders Council region. The nearest settlements are Chesters, approximately 3.3 km to the north, and Bonchester Bridge, about 5.2 km to the north-west along the A6088. The nearest group of properties is located at Southdean, approximately 2.1 km to the north. The nearest individual properties are Dykeraw and Dykeraw Cottage, about 1.7 km to the north, and Lustruther, approximately 2.1 km to the north.

The site is close to the Scotland-England border, which is about 2.9 km away at its closest point (all measurements taken from the nearest turbine).



MILLMOOR RIG WIND FARM

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



Red line shows the extent of the application boundary.

ESB wishes to construct a new onshore wind farm with up to 13 turbines that will aim 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 tip heights ranging from 180 to 210 m, a blade length of 82 m and a generating capacity of approximately 6 MW. The final turbine selection will be informed by an environmental impact assessment (EIA) that will look at various factors to assess the environmental impacts of the proposed development.

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

Construction and access

- Access to the site for vehicles delivering construction materials and turbine components will be from the A6088 to the north-east of the site via existing forestry tracks where possible, with these developed as necessary to meet the specifications for all required vehicles.
- One or more construction compounds, new access tracks and watercourse crossings will be required to enable wind farm construction.
- Watercourse crossings will be designed in accordance with Scottish Government best practice and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) guidelines to enable the passage of fish and other wildlife.
- Crushed stone will be used to construct new tracks, lay turbine foundations and create temporary hardstanding areas. The source of the stone and aggregate is to be confirmed during the design process and the EIA phase.



MILLMOOR RIG WIND FARM

MILLMOOR RIG WIND FARM



Land use

The land use within the site consists entirely of short-rotation forestry plantation. The plantation is currently active; some sections are being felled, and other areas present recent crop plantation as well as mature stands.

Developer

ESB is developing Millmoor Rig 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 for more than 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 that have a total installed capacity of 600 MW.

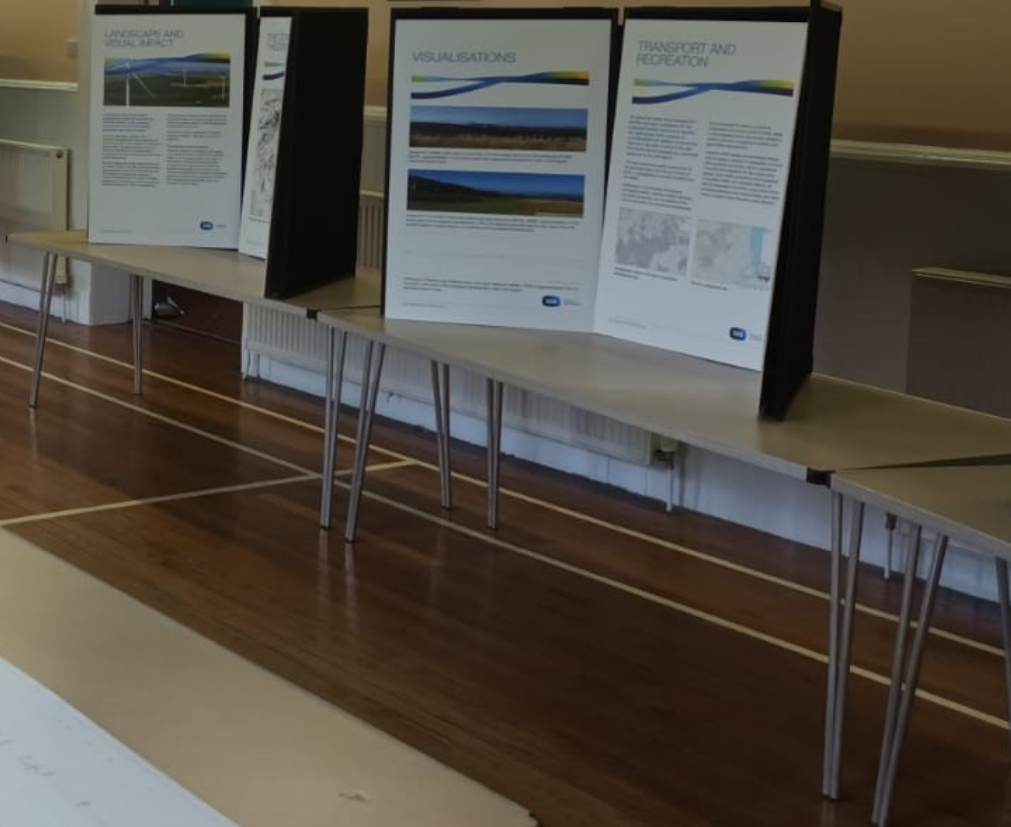
Background

The location of the proposed development is broadly similar to that proposed for another wind farm development known as Highlee Hill Wind Farm, which was withdrawn from planning in 2017. Millmoor Rig Wind Farm is an entirely new proposal and ESB has no connection with either the former Highlee Hill Wind Farm proposal or its developer.

In deciding whether to progress with its proposals for the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm, ESB carefully representations to the Highlee Hill Wind Farm planning application.



MILLMOOR RIG WIND FARM



APPENDIX F

Millmoor Rig Wind Farm Public Exhibition Summary - June 2022

MILLMOOR RIG WIND FARM

Millmoor Rig Wind Farm is a proposal for a wind farm and battery storage renewable project, comprising up to 13 turbines with tip heights from 180m to 230m. The proposed wind farm is located approximately 3.3 km south of Chesters (to the nearest turbine) in the Scottish Borders.

CONSULTATION REPORT

This report provides a summary of our public exhibitions held in June 2022 and the main themes raised with the ESB team. ESB would like to thank all residents and community groups that either attended the exhibitions and/or took the time to provide comments on the proposals. Community consultation is key to the pre-application consultation process and helps to inform the design of the proposal.

We plan to submit an application to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit later in 2022 and will organise in-person exhibition events to display the finalised plans and outline how we have taken comments into account.

More information on Millmoor Rig Wind Farm and ESB can be found at our project webpage at: www.esbenergy.co.uk/millmoor-rig-wind-farm

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION

We held in-person public exhibition events in June 2022. The events took place as follows:

- Southdean Village Hall, Thursday 16 June, 1.30pm - 7.30pm;
- William Laidlaw Memorial Hall (Bonchester Hall), Friday 17 June, 1.30pm - 7.30pm

All exhibition materials were also available online via the project webpage.

The events were publicised in various ways, including:

- Adverts in the Southern Reporter, Border Telegraph and Hawick Paper - giving advance notice of the in-person and virtual consultation events;
- Invitation sent to all households and businesses within at least 10km of the site with details of the exhibitions;
- Email summary and invitation to host and neighbouring Community Councils to highlight the consultation event;
- Email summary and invitation to local ward members for Hawick & Denholm, local MSP and local MP to highlight the consultation event; and
- Posters/web posters placed in local villages and displayed online.

We would like to put on record our thanks to the Community Councils and community websites for their help to advertise the events, such as sharing details on their Facebook page or website.

CONSULTATION MATERIAL

The consultation included a number of information boards that outlined the project location, several key viewpoints, the studies being undertaken, the development timeline and the community ownership and benefits proposals for the project

The consultation material was made available at both the physical exhibition and online via the project webpage.

All consultation material is available on the project website at:

www.esbenergy.co.uk/millmoor-rig-wind-farm - we will keep all consultation material available for residents and interested groups to refer back to as we progress with our application.

Feedback forms were provided at the in-person exhibitions and were also available online.

ATTENDANCE & FEEDBACK

A total of 91 people attended over the two days and residents had a number of questions/comments and provided a mixture of positive, neutral and negative feedback on the proposals.

376 separate users visited the webpage from 2nd June 2022 to 7th July 2022 to view the exhibition material.

We received 26 feedback forms in total.

We have responded to all email/feedback queries to the consultation (in line with GDPR) and all of the comments made will be considered as we progress our application.

KEY QUESTIONS/ISSUES FROM THE CONSULTATION

We received a number of feedback comments by email, via the Feedback Forms and in person at the exhibitions. We have summarised the main issues raised with us during the consultation, provided below.

SCALE OF THE TURBINES/VISUAL IMPACT - why this size of turbine? Visual impact on the surrounding area?

New turbine technology means that larger and more efficient turbines are now available. Some attendees asked about the height of the turbines compared to current turbines in Scotland. There are several projects in scoping at 250m and 260m to tip in height, including projects in the Scottish Borders. Lethans Wind Farm in East Ayrshire is consented at 220m to tip in height.

Visual impact is being assessed as part of the project and will be a key issue considered as part of the application. Usually, detailed consideration with regard to the visual amenity of residential properties within 2km of a site is given in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. At the request of the local community, ESB is extending the study area to include any residential properties up to 3km from the proposed development.

PREVIOUS PROJECT AT THIS SITE - why an application at this location?

A number of residents highlighted the withdrawn plans for the Highlee Hill Wind Farm and questioned why we would return with this application.

Millmoor Rig Wind Farm is an entirely new proposal and ESB has no connection with either the former Highlee Hill Wind Farm proposal or its developer.

Since the previous proposal, the UK Government and Scottish Government have both declared a Climate Emergency and outlined legally binding targets to reach net zero. In 2021, the Scottish Government set out the ambition of 8GW - 12GW of new onshore wind projects in Scotland.

It is our view that new onshore wind has a key role to play to reach Scotland's net zero targets and projects such as Millmoor Rig Wind Farm can contribute to the Scottish Borders and Scotland targets.

LOCAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS

A number of attendees asked about job creation/economic benefits connected to the proposed development and what opportunities would there be for local businesses.

ESB is committed to working with local businesses to deliver the project and, if consented, will plan 'Meet the Developer' events to meet local businesses and encourage them to register their interest on our project website.

As part of the application submission, we will have a chapter focused on the socio-economic effects and benefits of the proposed development.

NOISE IMPACTS - noise impact for residents?

We are undertaking noise monitoring of nearby households (with their permission) and we will provide a full noise assessment as part of the application.

Our initial modelling results suggest that noise levels from the turbines would be below the lowest thresholds applicable in the current guidelines.

All the data and conclusions will be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, which will be made available on our website, once the application is submitted.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT/SHARED OWNERSHIP - what is the offering?

ESB is committed to setting up a community benefit fund to the value of £5,000 per installed MW. This could equate to about £390,000 per year for 35 years (calculated on base assumptions on turbine numbers when the proposed development is consented and operational). This would equate to up to £13.6 million of community-benefit funding over the lifetime of the proposed development.

The communities that will be impacted by the construction and operation of the proposed development will be invited to help shape a community benefit package that best meets local needs. ESB will reach out to local groups and community representatives to seek their input as the project progresses.

ESB is also committed to offering shared ownership of the wind farm and, if there is interest from the community, to offer a community shared ownership element to the proposed development. This would allow the community the opportunity to invest in and own a share of the wind farm. This would be separate and in addition to community benefit.

We want to take the lead from the community on how to take forward both elements, in line with the Scottish Government guidance on community funds/community shared ownership. If of interest to the community representatives, we will look to organise a series of meetings with Local Energy Scotland, an independent organisation that provides advice to communities on community benefit and community shared ownership.

COST OF LIVING CRISIS/ENERGY COST REDUCTIONS

The cost of living and energy security were raised by many residents at both exhibitions. A number of residents raised the idea that a community energy discount scheme should be put in place for those that live nearest to the proposals.

It is our view that the use of community benefit and/or community shared ownership is for the community to decide, including the setting up of a local electricity discount scheme. Local electricity discount schemes are in place for several operational wind farms in Scotland.

NEXT STEPS

ESB intends to submit an application in 2022.

Following the June exhibitions, we will:

- Respond to all individual questions and comments from the exhibition events;
- Provide a summary of project-specific feedback to the relevant technical teams to help inform their work on the project;
- Provide an update via this report to the community councils and elected members on the exhibition;
- Continue to engage with elected representatives, community councils and local residents in order to keep them updated on progress; and
- Make all information available on our webpage: www.esbenergy.co.uk/millmoor-rig-wind-farm

Thank you to all of those who have been in touch with ESB on the proposals to date.

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