



## Cloud Hill Wind Farm

### Technical Appendix 2.1 Gate Check Report

August 2023

Project No.: 0669769

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# ARCUS

An ERM Group Company

**CLOUD HILL WIND FARM**

**GATE CHECK REPORT**

**JANUARY 2023**

**CLOUD HILL WINDFARM LIMITED**



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This Gate Check Report (the Report) has been prepared by Arcus Consultancy Services Ltd (Arcus), an ERM Group company, on behalf of Cloud Hill Windfarm Limited (the Applicant). The Applicant is proposing to submit an application to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) under Section 36 (S36) of the Electricity Act 1989<sup>1</sup> to construct and operate the Cloud Hill Wind Farm (the Development) on land south-west of Sanquhar, and east of the operational 27 MW Whiteside Hill Wind Farm in Dumfries and Galloway (the Site).

The Report sets out the information required by the ECU to undertake a gate check for the Development in compliance with the gate check procedure<sup>2</sup>.

The purpose of the Report is to describe how the design of the Development has evolved since the Scoping stage; highlighting influencing factors on the design either as a response to environmental constraints identified during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process or through consultation feedback from statutory or non-statutory consultees.

The Report sets out the following in line with the ECU gate checking procedure:

- Description of the design evolution, highlighting key iterations;
- Interactions with the statutory and non-statutory consultees during the EIA process, with a focus on the scoping comments and how these have been addressed;
- Description of community engagement undertaken to date; and
- Details of the forthcoming application including a timeline for submission, advertisement requirements, and proposed locations for the application to be publicly viewed.

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<sup>1</sup> UK Government (1989) Electricity Act 1989 [Online] Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/29/contents> (Accessed 08/11/2022)

<sup>2</sup> Scottish Government (2012) Electricity Act 1989 - sections 36 and 37: applications guidance [Online] Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/good-practice-guidance-applications-under-sections-36-37-electricity-act-1989/pages/5/> (Accessed 22/11/2022)

## 2 DESIGN OF THE DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 The Site and Surrounding Area

The Site covers an area of approximately 804 hectares (ha) with the extent and location shown on Figure 1 as the Site boundary. The Site lies wholly within the administrative boundary of Dumfries and Galloway Council (the Council).

The Site is an area of open upland comprising rough grasses, with fields of semi-improved pasture occurring across the lower hills to the east. The topography of the Site and immediate vicinity is complex, with elevation ranging from approximately 150 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) in the north-east part of the Site to approximately 470 m AOD in the south-east of the Site, at the summit of Corridow Hill. There are a number of other hills within the Site including Mid Rig (437 m AOD), Cloud Hill (451 m AOD), and Whing Head (456 m AOD).

The undulating hills are dissected by several watercourses on Site including surface watercourses that flow north and drain into the River Nith catchment. Watercourses within the Site include Whing Burn, Glenmaddie Burn, Glen Burn, and Glenlarie Burn, and several other smaller burns.

The Site is adjacent to a number of forestry plantations including Ulzieside Plantation, recent additional planting immediately south of Ulzieside Plantation, Mains Plantation, and Brown Hill. There is, however, no large areas of forestry within the Site.

Although there are no residential properties located on Site, there are several properties surrounding the Site including (but not limited to) Glenmaddie (approximately 862 m north of T9), which lies adjacent to the northern Site boundary and is involved with the Development; Glenglass Cottage, which lies approximately 2.3 km west of T2; Euchar Cottage approximately 2.1 km north of T9; Cairnhill approximately 2.75 km northeast of T9 and Shiel, approximately 1.3 km south of T7. The residential properties that are dispersed around the Site sit in the surrounding glens at a lower elevation than the hills where the Site is located. The nearest settlement is Sanquhar, which lies approximately 0.5 km north-east of the Site entrance by Ulzieside Farm (and c.4.5km from the closest turbine T9), with the smaller settlement of Kirkconnel lying approximately 4 km north-west.

No public roads are located within the Site. The closest public road is Blackaddie Road, which runs from Sanquhar to the Glenglass Substation (to the north of the Site). The Southern Upland Way (SUW), which is designated as a Core Path (504) in the Dumfries and Galloway Core Paths Map<sup>3</sup>, runs north-east to south-west through the centre of the Site for approximately 4.7 km.

The Development has an accepted grid connection offer which states that the wind farm will be connected to Glenglass substation in 2028, should consent be granted.

### 2.2 Design Evolution

The EIA, combined with consultation and community engagement, is a key driver for the Development's design, providing environmental and social information that guides its evolution. In identifying environmental and social sensitivities and constraints at the Site, they can be avoided, or potential impacts mitigated, in later versions of the Development layout. This iterative design process means EIA layouts change frequently and are led by environmental considerations, validated by engineering reviews for turbine performance and constructability. The final layout submitted for S36 consent and assessed in the EIA Report will be the culmination of this process where many of the environmental and social constraints and sensitivities of the Site will be avoided.

<sup>3</sup> Dumfries and Galloway Council (2019) Core Paths: Walking and Cycling in Dumfries and Galloway [Online] Available at: <https://info.dumgal.gov.uk/mapviewers/pathsmmap.aspx> (Accessed 10/11/2022)

The following sections provide a summary of the key stages in the process of developing the design for Cloud Hill Wind Farm.

### ***2.2.1 Scoping Layout (April 2022) –14 Turbines & Max Tip Height 180 m***

During the Scoping stage, the Site comprised land initially covering approximately 793 ha. At this stage, the Development consisted of 14 turbines with a maximum height to blade tip of 180 m and a total generating capacity of over 50 megawatts (MW). The turbine tip height and general dimensions were chosen to reflect current trends in wind turbine technology.

The need to produce lower cost renewable electricity combined with global technological developments has led to wind turbines becoming taller, where substantial improvements in yield are achieved by using longer turbine blades. As such, the initial layout maximised potential turbine numbers, reflective of known constraints at the time, which were not necessarily subject to detailed site work. The following design principles were applied:

- Suitable separation distances between turbines based upon anticipated rotor diameters and prevailing wind direction, in order to reduce wake loss and issues associated with wind turbulence;
- Appropriate blade over-sail buffer at the Site boundary (where necessary);
- 50 m buffer to known watercourses and waterbodies to reduce the likelihood of impacts as a result of pollution events, principally during construction;
- 200 m buffer of roads;
- 1 km buffer of residential properties; and
- Avoid areas with a slope in excess of 14%.

The Scoping Layout can be seen on Figure 2.

This layout was presented during an initial round of public consultation in June 2022; more information on the first-round public consultation is contained within Section 3.3.1.

The Development was scoped under the EIA Regulations, and a Scoping Opinion was received from the Scottish Government in June 2022 (Energy Consents Unit Reference: ECU00003461). Further details of the Scoping phase are presented in Section 3.1 of this Report.

### ***2.2.2 Pre-Chilled Layout (August 2022) –11 Turbines & Max Tip Height 180 m***

The Pre-Chilled Layout comprised of up to 11 turbines with a maximum height of 180 m. The Site boundary remained the same from Scoping to Pre-Chilled, with the Site covering approximately 793 Ha.

This iteration took place between the Scoping Layout and the Chilled Layout, and after initial surveys had been conducted including Peat Phase 1. In addition to the constraints considered during Scoping, this layout considered:

- On-site non-designated cultural heritage assets identified through consultation with Dumfries & Galloway Council;
- On-site ecology and ornithology receptors identified during surveying;
- Landscape and visual receptors on the north-east of the Site, such as the A76 Sanquhar Castle, Sanquhar Church Road, Euchar Water minor road, Mennoch and Southern Upland Way east of Sanquhar;
- Areas of deep peat identified during peat Phase 1 surveying; and
- 50 m buffer of woodland.

Three turbines in the north-eastern side of the Site were removed as these extended the Development closer to the transitional landscape between the uplands and the lowlands, and also extended the Development closer to the visual receptors associated with Sanquhar and other settlements in this section of the A76.

During the first round of public consultation in June 2022, potential visual impacts were the main concern raised; this was the primary reason for the reduction in turbines from 14 to 11 between the Scoping and Pre-Chilled Layout, with associated benefits for other factors, including noise.

The Pre-Chilled Layout can be seen in Figure 3.

### ***2.2.3 Chilled Layout (October 2022) – 11 Turbines & Max Tip Height 180 m***

The Chilled Layout comprised 11 turbines with a tip height of 180 m the Site now covering 804 Ha. This reflects analysis of on-site access routes, and Site entrance options.

The Chilled Layout incorporates infrastructure elements that were not present on the Scoping Layout, including new access tracks, upgrades to existing access tracks, temporary construction compound (TCC), and crane hardstandings.

The new track proposed at the Site entrance is necessary to accommodate the abnormal vehicle loads required to construct the Development and to avoid disruption to a local uninvolved business situated in close proximity to the Site entrance. Additionally, this will avoid disruption to existing farming operations, which require the existing tracks to be accessible for tending to livestock.

The initial proposed location for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is also included in this layout. The Chilled Layout is provided in Figure 4.

A number of iterations took place between the Pre-Chilled Layout and this Chilled Layout, taking into account constraints identified during ongoing environmental surveys, with a specific focus on landscape and visual, and noise. The locations of the turbines were refined to avoid visual stacking and achieve a relatively even spacing, in order to reduce the extent of landscape and visual effects. The complex topography of the Site and the numerous watercourses that traverse it were also important considerations during the design process. This factored heavily into the positioning of hardstandings and ancillary infrastructure positions, as well as the turbine access tracks.

### ***2.2.4 Frozen Layout (November 2022) – 11 turbines & Max Tip Height 180 m***

The Frozen Layout comprises of 11 turbines with a tip height of 180 m. The position of turbines and tracks remained the same between the Chilled Layout and the Frozen Layout, as did the Site boundary. However, the position of the TCC and BESS changed between layouts, and the Frozen Layout also incorporates a proposed substation location.

The following environmental factors have been summarised as key drivers which led to the final frozen layout.

#### ***2.2.4.1 Landscape and Visual***

This iteration of the layout design sought to improve the layout composition and minimise infrastructure visibility from receptors represented on Figure 6.4 of the Scoping Report, whilst avoiding onsite constraints including areas of steep slope and watercourses.

The movement of the proposed TCC and BESS locations reflects efforts to utilise Ulzieside Plantation and an area of lower topography to reduce landscape and visual impacts on receptors to the north of the Site, including Sanquhar, Kirkconnel & Kelloholm, properties along the Blackaddie Road, and the A76.

#### ***2.2.4.2 Phase 2 Peat Surveys***

Peat Phase 2 focused on the proposed infrastructure locations as set out in the Chilled Layout (Figure 5). Peat probing found 72.0% (n=1,218) of probes to be between 0 and 0.5 m, and 92.7% to be no greater than 1.0 m. Localised areas of deep peat were identified

along a section of track in the central southern portion of the Site, however, no extensive areas of deep peat were identified.

#### *2.2.4.3 Ecology Features*

Extensive ecological surveys undertaken across the Site generally recorded few protected species or sensitive habitats. Results from the National Vegetation Classification habitat surveys show that the Site is predominately a mosaic of the following, with numerous transitional zones due to complex Site topography and aspect:

- Marsh/marshy grassland;
- Semi-improved acid grassland;
- Unimproved acid grassland;
- Wet dwarf shrub heath; and
- Wet modified bog.

Patches of blanket bog, acid neutral flush, broad-leaved semi-natural woodland and bracken were also encountered, although forming only a minor part of the habitat mosaic across the Site. Areas of blanket bog, an Annex I habitat, were treated as a hard constraint and avoided, whilst wet modified bog, wet heath and flushes were treated as a moderate constraint and avoided where possible.

Following the completion of ecological surveys on Site, the following protected species buffers were used during the design process:

- Badger setts – 30 m buffer and 100 m buffer (100 m applies if blasting or piling activities are to be undertaken);
- Otter couch – 30 m buffer;
- Otter holts with both 30 m and 200 m buffer (200 m applies if breeding holt - unknown at present);
- Potential reptile hibernacula – 20 m buffer; and
- Bat potential roost features – 50 m buffer of woodland from turbines.

Fisheries surveys were conducted by the Nith District Salmon Fishery Board (NDSFB), which identified Atlantic salmon fry and parr on Echan Water and the River Nith, into which watercourses within the Site drain. Trout parr and fry were identified on Echan Water and on sampling site on Glen Burn, with trout parr only also identified on a second sampling site on Glen Burn. Fish were absent from several of the sampling locations within the Site, which was attributed to a combination of watercourse gradient and natural rock obstructions to fish migration. No Atlantic salmon fry or parr were found at sampling points within the Site.

The Frozen Layout considers the above ecological constraints with infrastructure located a suitable distance away from these features. As part of this process the access haul road was amended at the crossing of the Whing Burn located south of Cairnhill to address engineering and ecological concerns at this location, whilst also minimising interaction with the Southern Upland Way. No notable ecological sensitivities that cannot be avoided or appropriately mitigated have been recorded.

Good practice will be adopted throughout the project lifecycle to avoid disturbance to protected species or direct effects on sensitive habitats.

#### *2.2.4.4 Ornithology Features*

Ornithology surveys were undertaken within and around the Site in line with NatureScot guidance. Surveys identified that the Site is of moderate ornithological value, with curlew and black grouse the key species identified to be using the Site. Barn owl and peregrine falcon breeding locations were also identified during the surveys; however, these are all outwith the Site boundary.

One black grouse lek was identified to the north of the Site, no infrastructure or turbines are located within 500 m of this lek (as per NatureScot guidance) and any turbines or infrastructure within 750 m will be subject to restrictions on construction works during the black grouse breeding season. The details of these restrictions will be provided in the EIA chapter and will also be included in the Breeding Bird Protection Plan (BBPP) prior to construction commencing.

The Frozen Layout considers the above ornithological constraints and good practice has been adopted to minimise the risk of potential effects on species that may be considered Important Ornithological Features (IOFs) in the assessment.

#### *2.2.4.5 Hydrological Receptors & Private Water Supplies*

The Site has several watercourses dissecting numerous undulating hills. When designing the layout, infrastructure was sited outside of 50 m buffers from watercourse channels where possible. New watercourse crossings were minimised, as much as possible, with any watercourse crossings designed in accordance with best practice and SEPA guidelines.

One section of the new track proposed is within 50 m of a watercourse. At the site entrance, new track is necessary to accommodate the abnormal vehicle loads required to construct the Development and to avoid disruption to a local uninvolved business situated near the Site entrance. Additionally, this will avoid disruption existing farming operations, which requires the existing tracks to be accessible for tending to livestock. The track itself would be circa 25 m from the watercourse at its nearest point, however new drainage and ditches will be constructed for both the construction and operational phases of the Development to mitigate any pollution risk.

A new watercourse crossing and 0.5 km section of new access track will be required on the access track to the north of the Site. This is due to the existing track and watercourse crossings being unable to accommodate construction traffic. A realignment of the existing track was considered however, this would result in the creation of a new watercourse crossing and a greater level of earthworks compared to a new, direct track and crossing. Additionally, significant upgrades would be required for the existing watercourse crossing. Therefore, the creation of a new access track and watercourse crossing will not result in additional impacts to water features, more so than a track realignment would. No other infrastructure elements are located within 50 m of a watercourse.

A Private Water Supply Risk Assessment (PWSRA) is currently being undertaken for the Development. The PWSRA aims to identify all Private Water Supplies (PWS) within a 2 km radius of the Development and seeks to confirm the location of the source water for the supplies, through consultation with the Council's Environmental Health Officer (EHO) and residents, along with site visits. This process informs the risk assessment of the effects of the Development on the private water supply, source water, and associated distribution infrastructure.

A site visit to facilitate the PWSRA was undertaken on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022 by two suitably qualified hydrologists. The findings of the PWSRA will form an annex to the EIA Report.

As detailed in Section 11.4.7.1, Scottish Water have no assets within the vicinity of the Development and no objections have been raised.

#### *2.2.4.6 Noise*

There are several residential receptors in proximity to the Site. The potential for noise emissions from the operation of the turbines to affect these sensitive receptors has been modelled. The turbine layout has been designed to adhere to noise limits for the Development through the use of noise modes as mitigation to be used during the operation of the turbines. Additionally, one property (Glenmaddie) which lies close to the northern Site boundary is financially involved.

Consultation was undertaken with the EHO to confirm the methodology and approach of the assessment in June 2022.

#### *2.2.4.7 Cultural Heritage & Archaeology*

There are no designated archaeological features located within the Site, however, there are a number of non-designated assets on Site. The most significant of these is Deil's Dyke, a boundary ditch stretching for several kilometres across the landscape and crossing the Site. There are several non-designated assets within 5 km of the Site, including Deil's Dyke.

Additionally, there are several designated assets within 5 km of the Site. Within 1 km of the Site there are two scheduled monuments and 31 Listed Buildings, primarily located in and around the settlement of Sanquhar. The Conservation Area around Sanquhar is also located within 1 km of the Site. Between 1 km and 5 km there are a further two scheduled monuments and 23 Listed Buildings.

The design has sought to avoid the on-site, non-designated features as far as possible, as well as consideration of indirect effects to designated assets in the wider area.

All designated assets within 5 km of the Site will be subject to a setting assessment. Selected assets beyond 5km will also be subject to a setting assessment. Assets included for assessment beyond 5 km will be informed by the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for the Development and discussions with key stakeholders. Archaeological features subject to a setting assessment will be agreed with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and the LPA as part of the EIA process. A full setting assessment of the agreed archaeological features will be undertaken in the EIA Report and appropriate mitigation, if required, will be included therein.

Section 3.2.5 details the consultation undertaken with HES during the design process, 3.2.6 the LPA Archaeologist.

### **3 SCOPING AND CONSULTATION**

#### **3.1 Scoping**

In line with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations<sup>4</sup>, the Applicant sought a Scoping Opinion from the Scottish Ministers to confirm the scope of the required assessment which is to be undertaken through the EIA process and presented in the EIA Report.

A Scoping Report was submitted with the request for a Scoping Opinion in March 2022 which described the Development, identified potential environmental effects, and proposed a methodology to assess the environmental effects. The Scoping Report was issued to a list of statutory and non-statutory consultees as agreed with the ECU (refer to Table 1).

A Scoping Opinion was received by the ECU in June 2022. It should be noted that at the time of drafting this Report in December 2022, no Scoping Opinion had been received from the host LPA, Dumfries and Galloway Council.

***Table 1: Scoping Consultee List***

| Consultee Response                                         | Response Date |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Statutory Consultees</b>                                |               |
| Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)              | 21/04/2022    |
| NatureScot (NS) (formally Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)) | 10/05/2022    |
| Historic Environment Scotland (HES)                        | 18/05/2022    |
| Dumfries & Galloway Council                                | No response   |

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<sup>4</sup> Scottish Government (2017) The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 [Online] Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/102/contents/made> (Accessed 10/11/2022)

| Consultee Response                                     | Response Date |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Non-Statutory Consultees</b>                        |               |
| British Horse Society                                  | 03/05/2022    |
| BT                                                     | 21/04/2022    |
| Crown Estate Scotland                                  | 04/05/2022    |
| Ministry of Defence                                    | 12/05/2022    |
| East Ayrshire Council                                  | 03/05/2022    |
| Galloway Fisheries Trust                               | 27/04/2022    |
| Glasgow Airport                                        | 29/04/2022    |
| Glasgow Preswick Airport                               | 05/05/2022    |
| John Muir Trust                                        | 10/05/2022    |
| JRC                                                    | 19/04/2022    |
| Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Community Council             | 23/06/2022    |
| NATS                                                   | 24/04/2022    |
| Royal Burgh of Sanquhar and District Community Council | 11/05/2022    |
| RSPB                                                   | 05/05/2022    |
| Scottish Forestry                                      | 28/04/2022    |
| Scottish Water                                         | 22/04/2022    |
| ScotWays                                               | 24/05/2022    |
| Transport Scotland                                     | 24/05/2022    |
| Tynron Community Council                               | 30/05/2022    |
| Visit Scotland                                         | 05/05/2022    |

Appendix A presents a table of the scoping consultation responses.

The Applicant has sought to address the comments raised in the Scoping Opinion and subsequently by individual consultees through the ongoing EIA and site design process.

The Scoping Opinion and responses were first reviewed by the project team and circulated to EIA contributors to be considered. Further discussions and consultations were held with consultees to ensure that their points could be effectively addressed within the EIA process. Details of further consultation is presented in Section 3.2 of this Report.

The scope of the EIA was revised, where required, to ensure that consultee comments could be accommodated.

## 3.2 Additional Consultation with Consultees

### 3.2.1 Energy Consents Unit

An initial pre-application consultation meeting was held with the ECU on 29 March 2022, with Arcus and the Applicant attending. At this meeting, the Scoping Layout was presented to the ECU and an overview of the Development was discussed along with the proposed approach to scoping and pre-application consultation.

On 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the ECU and the Applicant carried out a site visit to review the scoping design and discuss the likely key design drivers including landscape sensitivities, cumulative effects, scale of the Development and the approach to noise assessment.

On 09 October 2022, Arcus and the Applicant attended an additional meeting with the ECU to provide an initial overview of the scheme and an update on design and consultation since the Scoping Report was submitted. During this meeting, an approach to responding to Tynron Community Council's Scoping Response (see Table A2) was agreed. Additionally, the lack of response from the LPA, Dumfries and Galloway Council, was discussed. It was

agreed with the ECU that in the absence of any response from the LPA, a gatecheck report would be submitted in December 2022.

### **3.2.2 Transport Scotland**

A pre-application consultation meeting was held with Transport Scotland on 10 June 2022, with Arcus and the Applicant attending. At this meeting, the Scoping Layout was presented, as well as route to site feasibility work conducted and proposed routes to Site presented for feedback. In particular, the option to utilise a reverse manoeuvre for vehicles transporting blades to across Eliock Bridge was reviewed. Transport Scotland confirmed that a reversing manoeuvre of abnormal loads requires the same considerations as a 'right turn' of an abnormal loads vehicle, therefore anticipated no concerns with the reversing manoeuvre. It was agreed that further meetings would take place as the project develops.

### **3.2.3 Local Planning Authority Environmental Health Officer (EHO)**

Due to the lack of a Scoping Response from Dumfries and Galloway Council, consultation was undertaken directly with the LPA's EHO. The EHO confirmed in an email (dated 08 June 2022) that they had no objections to the proposed methodology undertaking the noise assessment in relation to the S36 application expected for Cloud Hill Wind Farm.

### **3.2.4 NatureScot**

Additional consultation was undertaken with NatureScot following their reply to the Scoping Report dated 10 May 2022 (Table A1). NatureScot posed a number of queries regarding ecology, ornithology, and landscape. Further consultation was sought by requesting a meeting with NatureScot. In order to facilitate further discussion, a letter (dated 25 July 2022) was sent to NatureScot providing a response to the queries raised in the Scoping Response at the request of NatureScot. Following the letter, NatureScot provided an email response (dated 30 August 2022) with clarification regarding their stance on the connectivity distances proposed in the Scoping Report and Habitat Regulations Assessment. NatureScot declined a meeting to discuss the queries further stating:

*"I have spoken to our ornithology adviser and we do not feel a meeting will be necessary as our advice has been clear, and as this is at the scoping stage there is the opportunity to address them within the full submission"*

On 29 August 2022, an email was sent to NatureScot confirming the addition of a viewpoint from Meikle Millyea as per NatureScot's advice and asking if NatureScot would recommend any further viewpoints in the EIA. On 30 August 2022, NatureScot responded:

*"We welcome the inclusion of a viewpoint on the top of Meikle Millyea, as per the advice in our scoping response. Similarly if further viewpoints were to be included, we would also welcome the addition of those."*

A response outlining the methodology which led to the viewpoints proposed and confirmation of the final viewpoint list was sent to NatureScot on 12 September 2022. NatureScot were invited to respond if they had any feedback on the final viewpoint list however, no further correspondence was received from NatureScot and the viewpoint list is therefore considered final.

### **3.2.5 HES**

Additional consultation was undertaken with HES following their reply to the Scoping Report dated 18 May 2022. In their original correspondence, HES stated:

*"We would be happy to provide further advice on a list of assets to be scoped in or out of detailed assessment as more information becomes available as initial assessment work is undertaken."*

A proposed list of assets outwith the 5 km Study Area to be assessed, and proposed wireline visualisations were sent to HES for comment on 14 November 2022. At the time of writing, no response had been received from HES.

### 3.2.6 Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeologist

As previously stated, at the time of writing there has been no Scoping Opinion received from the LPA, Dumfries and Galloway Council. As a result, a letter outlining the proposed approach to the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage assessment was sent to the Council on 14 November 2022. As with the further consultation with HES, the letter also outlined a proposed list of assets outwith the 5 km Study Area to be assessed and proposed wireline visualisations.

The Council responded on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022. In their response, the Council offered feedback on the below assets with regards to how they should be assessed:

- St Connel's Chapel (MDG75);
- San Caer (MDG102);
- Eliock House (MDG25662); and
- Craigdarroch (MDG25663).

The Council confirmed that St Connel's Chapel has recently been designated as a Scheduled Monument and should be assessed accordingly with additional wirelines produced to support the setting assessment. The Council has requested a setting assessment supported by wirelines to for Eliock House (MDG25662) and Craigdarroch (MDG25663). Specifically relating to Eliock House, wirelines should be produced from the approach drive to the asset. In addition, the Council confirmed that San Caer (MDG102) does not require setting assessment as views from the asset are compromised by existing development and infrastructure.

The Council also suggested that the following assets are not assessed for EIA purposes, and no wirelines are required, as they do not consider there to be any setting issues arising from the Development:

- Grieve Hill to Dumfries (MDG21369);
- Glenwharrie (MDG21444); and
- Deil's Dyke (MDG11248/ MDG11249/ MDG11250).

With regards to direct impacts, the Council noted that Deil's Dyke crosses the width of the development and that mitigation proposals should seek to minimise any potential direct impacts.

3.2.7 Local Planning Authority Landscape Architect. In the absence of a Scoping Opinion being received from the LPA, Dumfries and Galloway Council, an email was sent to the Council on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022, requesting feedback on specific aspects of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), including viewpoint selection, the extent of the landscape character assessment and the extent of the cumulative assessment.

This correspondence contained the scoping viewpoint list with an additional viewpoint at Meikle Millylea, as requested in NatureScot's Scoping Response. The correspondence also presented the 15 additional viewpoints suggested by Tynron Community Council, with four highlighted as being relevant for inclusion, as presented in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Tynron Community Council Viewpoint Suggestions and Project Landscape Architect Response**

| No | Viewpoint               | Grid reference |        | Project Landscape Architect Response                                                                                   |
|----|-------------------------|----------------|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Colt Hill Striding Arch | 269842         | 598990 | Only 2.5 km from VP11 Benbrack – representative of this area. Not included as already represented by a LVIA viewpoint. |

| No | Viewpoint                                                               | Grid reference |        | Project Landscape Architect Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | Allan's Cairn<br>Covenanters<br>Memorial                                | 269816         | 600837 | Only 1.0 km from VP13 Blackcraig – representative of this area. Not included as already represented by a LVIA viewpoint                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 3  | Southern<br>Upland Way,<br>Whing Head                                   | 275151         | 605192 | The proximity of this section of the SUW to the Development means views will be significantly affected – therefore this viewpoint will not add to the assessment. In addition, it is technically difficult to fit turbines into visualisations from this close range. Not included as deemed to be significant. |
| 4  | Southern<br>Upland Way,<br>Coupland<br>Knowe                            | 281279         | 611635 | To be included – this viewpoint contributes to the assessment of effects along the SUW.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 5  | Southern<br>Upland Way,<br>Benbrack (no<br>visibility)                  | 268045         | 596964 | No visibility as demonstrated on the project ZTV which will be included within the forthcoming EIAR. Not included.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 6  | Southern<br>Upland Way,<br>Glengaber Hill                               | 284704         | 613716 | To be included – this viewpoint contributes to the assessment of effects along the SUW.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 7  | Auchengibbert<br>Hill                                                   | 280634         | 594465 | 4.8km from VP10 WuaWk Hill – representative of this area. Not included as already represented by a LVIA vp.                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 8  | Tynron Doon<br>(no visibility)                                          | 281889         | 593914 | No visibility. Not included as demonstrated on the project ZTV which will be included within the forthcoming EIAR.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 9  | Cairnkinna                                                              | 279148         | 601869 | These viewpoints are all located within 4 km of each other. Cairnkinna to be included as highest hill in this group and to be assessed as representative of this area.                                                                                                                                          |
| 10 | Glenwhargen<br>Craig                                                    | 276359         | 603586 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 11 | Dalzean Snout<br>Summit                                                 | 275918         | 601759 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 12 | Dalzean Snout<br>Ridge                                                  | 274930         | 601816 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 13 | Crawick<br>Multiverse                                                   | 277643         | 611789 | To be included – this viewpoint contributes to the assessment of effects in a sensitive landscape in the local area.                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 14 | Craigbraneoch<br>Hill (high<br>ground to east<br>of Afton<br>Reservoir) | 263372         | 605426 | Limited visibility of Development with closer range influence from Windy Rig, Afton and Windy Standard, that in turn will moderate the effect of the Development. Will not give rise to significant effects. Not included.                                                                                      |
| 15 | Corserine<br>(Rhinn of<br>Kells)                                        | 249794         | 587072 | Distant visibility of Development with closer range influence from Wether Hill, Windy Rig, Afton and Windy Standard, that in turn will moderate the effect of the Development. Will not give rise to significant effects. Not included.                                                                         |

The Council responded on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and in their response, they offered feedback on the viewpoint selection, with the suggestion of the following additional or substitution viewpoints.

*“Original viewpoint list:*

*Agree to list, but suggest four possible substitutions, including from the Tynron Community Council list:*

- *VP 3 Kirkconnel – check adequate representation from Kelloholm.*
- *VP 6 Mennock – consider as an alternative / additional wirelines, views from the B797 descending from the Mennock Pass to Mennock. There are some important reveals where views across the valley open out – and Whiteside Hill becomes visible. Need to see any cumulative effects of Cloud Hill.*
- *VP 10 Auchengibbert is a better worst case scenario than Waulk Hill – and possibly a more popular hill route?*
- *VP 11 Benbrack. Please omit this as a main representative VP as there is no visibility likely. Substitute Colt Hill as an alternative. This is an important receptor and also offers good prospect over the cumulative context of committed and in-application schemes*

*Tynron CC list:*

- *Agree to the selection of four VPs: SUW Glengaber, SUW Coupland Knowe, Cairnkinna, and Crawick Multiverse.*
- *Please also include Colt Hill and Auchengibbert Hill as substitutes for VPs 10 and 11. Auchengibbert is > 6km distance from VP 13 and represents a different type of receptor Striding Arch visitor as well as hill walkers.*
- *Please also include Whing Head – an important SUW viewpoint and also for consistency with representative VPs for Sanquhar 2 – this proved a useful VP. This an important reveal for walkers crossing between Upper Nithsdale and the Scaur valley.*

*Summary additional JS/DGC recommendations, representative VPs and sequential assessments:*

- *Representative VP from Kelloholm, or wireline if considered VP 3 Kirkconnel as a worst case scenario for the two settlements.*
- *Descent from the Mennock Pass, possibly as baseline photos and wirelines.*
- *Auchengibbert Hill.*
- *Colt Hill.*
- *Core path 500m NW of Auchentaggart Farm – this has proved a useful representative VP for other schemes in Upper Nithsdale. Please include for consistency.*
- *Please include Whing Head SUW viewpoint.*
- *Up valley views from the Scaur Water valley – suggest Glenwhargen Farm. Ideally please do a sequential assessment from the minor road up-valley, noting visibility for 1-9 turbines on the ZTV for almost 10km.*
- *SUW sequential assessment between Glengaber and Benbrack, where Cloud Hill would be in the direction of travel.”*

With the exception of four of the additional viewpoints to be included as requested by Tynron Community Council, all the viewpoint photography has, at the time of writing, been completed, and the visualisations prepared for the forthcoming submission of the planning application. Completion of the visualisations is required to enable the written assessment to be completed in time for the review process prior to submission, and no commentary had been provided by the local planning authority up until this point; no response or feedback was provided during scoping.

In respect of the substitution viewpoints suggested, VP3 Kirkconnel presents a more appropriate viewpoint compared to Kelloholm as it is representative of residents in the village as well as road-users on the A76. The viewpoint is located in an open stretch of road from where it is likely that slightly fuller visibility of the Development will be experienced than from Kelloholm which is largely enclosed by built form and some areas of tree planting. A wireline from Kelloholm will be included in the assessment.

The viewpoint at VP6 Mennock has been selected to represent the views of residents in the village as well as road-users at the junction between the A76 and B797 and is appropriate for the purpose of considering both types of visual receptor. A viewpoint further east on the B797 would not represent residents, and this is important on account of their greater inherent sensitivity compared to road-users. A wireline from further east on the B797 will be included in the assessment.

Auchengibbert will be included as an additional viewpoint.

VP11 Benbrack is an appropriate viewpoint as there is visibility of all the proposed turbines from this hilltop and its location on the Southern Upland Way (SUW) makes it representative of walkers in this area. Colt Hill is located approximately 2.5 km to the north-east of this summit, such that the viewpoint on Benbrack will be representative of this local upland area. A wireline from Benbrack will be included in the assessment.

The addition of a viewpoint at Whing Head would not add to the assessment as it is already accepted that such a close range viewpoint will give rise to significant visual effects. A wireline from Whing Hill will be included in the assessment as part of the wider sequential study relating to the SUW.

SUW Glengaber, SUW Coupland Knowe, Cairnkinna, and Crawick Multiverse, as suggested by Tynron Community Council, will be included as additional viewpoints.

In respect of the suggestion to add a viewpoint on the core path 500 m to the north-west at Auchentaggart Farm, there is a nearby viewpoint been added at Coupland Knowe on the SUW at approximately 2.4 km to the north. The higher elevation of the Coupland Knowe viewpoint at 314 m compared to ~230 m means that it presents fuller visibility of the Development and the wider cumulative context. Furthermore, it has the added sensitivity relating to the status of the SUW as a long-distance footpath and its general alignment towards the Development. A wireline from Auchentaggart Farm will be included in the assessment.

In respect of the suggestion to add a viewpoint at Glenwhargen Farm in the Scaur Valley, there are already two viewpoints located in this valley, the closest being at Shiel, 2.6 km to the north-east. A wireline from Glenwhargen Farm will be included in the assessment.

In summary, a total of five additional viewpoints will be added to the viewpoint list, which will be assessed in detail in the LVIA Chapter and will be illustrated using photomontages in the visualisations. A further six additional viewpoints will be illustrated using wirelines and referenced in the LVIA Chapter, totalling 11 additional viewpoints from those requested by the local planning authority and Tynron Community Council.

### **3.3 Community Engagement**

#### **3.3.1 Public Exhibitions**

Engagement with the local community has been a key element of the pre-application consultation exercise.

The first round of public exhibitions was held on 22 and 23 June 2022 at the following locations respectively:

- The Cabin, Main Street, Kirkconnel, Sanquhar, DG4 6LU; and

- Sanquhar Town Hall, Church Road, Sanquhar DG4 6DF.

The Applicant notified the following parties:

- Royal Burgh of Sanquhar Community Council;
- Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Community Council;
- Penpont Community Council;
- Local Ward Councillor Jim Dempster;
- Local Ward Councillor Tony Berretti; and
- Local Ward Councillor Andrew Wood.

The first round of public exhibitions was advertised in the following publications:

- Dumfries & Galloway Standard;
- KKS News; and
- Nithsdale Times.

Adverts were also shared by the Royal Burgh of Sanquhar Community Council and Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Community Council on their respective Facebook pages.

The adverts contained details of the in-person events, including date, time, and place, as well details of how to submit comments.

The Applicant also has a dedicated website (<https://www.baywa-re.co.uk/en/wind/cloud-hill-windfarm>) where all public exhibition materials were uploaded, and comments accepted from 23 June to 19 August 2022.

A second round of public consultation will take place in Sanquhar and Kirkconnel in early 2022. The purpose of these sessions is to update the community on the Development and provide a further opportunity to submit feedback.

Notification and advertising will be the same as the first round of exhibitions, with the addition of the following parties at the request of the Council:

- Tynron Community Council;
- Carronbridge Community Council;
- Glencairn Community Council; and
- Carsphairn Community Council.

Following a request at the first round of exhibitions, the Applicant will also carry out a leaflet drop prior to the second round of public exhibitions.

Similar to the first round of exhibitions, information, including graphics and visualisations will be provided and made available on the project website<sup>5</sup>.

### ***3.3.2 Community Council Meetings***

The Applicant attended community council meetings in 2022 to introduce the project to the host and nearby community councils. These included:

- Royal Burgh of Sanquhar Community Council: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022, virtual presentation;
- Kirkconnel & Kelloholm Community Council: 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022, in person presentation.
- Penpont Community Council: The Applicant wrote to Penpont community council in April and May 2022 with an offer to attend a community council meeting to present an overview of the project. No response was received.

The Applicant proposes to attend further community council meetings now design freeze has been achieved, to provide an update on the frozen design; project timelines; and forthcoming public consultation.

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<sup>5</sup> Cloud Hill Windfarm Ltd. (2022) About the Project [Online] Available at: <https://www.baywa-re.co.uk/en/wind/cloud-hill-windfarm> (Accessed 11/11/2022)

### 3.3.3 Private Water Supplies

A PWSRA is currently being undertaken for the Development. The PWSRA aims to identify all PWS within a 2 km radius of the Development and seeks to confirm the location of the source water for the supplies, through consultation and site visits. This process informs the risk assessment of the effects of the Development on the private water supply, source water and associated distribution infrastructure.

Consultation with the Council's EHO was conducted in May 2022 to obtain a list of properties with a registered PWS. Properties registered with the council were contacted via letter on 05 July 2022. This initial resident consultation aimed to confirm if the property is supplied by a PWS or Scottish Water Mains and, if supplied by a PWS, then further information was requested regarding the source and type of supply.

A secondary consultation phase was undertaken in October 2022. This consultation phase sought to obtain information on properties water supply where no response from residents and landowners had been received to date, and to conduct consultation and site visits at properties where a PWS is confirmed and has the potential to be hydrologically connected to the Development. It was not possible to visit all supplies due to residents being unavailable to accompany surveyors on-site and permission to attend site unaccompanied was not permitted by the residents. The aim of the consultation phase and site visits is to confirm the source location of PWS for the relevant properties. A site visit commenced on 18 October 2022.

A total of 7 properties have been contacted via letter to consult on the water supply to the property within 2 km of the Development. To date, there has been one response to the consultation letters issued, while the Site visit was able to confirm the status of a further two properties.

## 4 APPLICATION DETAILS AND TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION

The Applicant intends to lodge the Section 36 application in February 2022. The application will be for a wind farm consisting of up to 11 turbines and ancillary infrastructure. The ancillary infrastructure will include crane hardstanding areas, transformers, access tracks, a substation, a temporary construction compound and a battery storage facility. Table 3 outlines the key parameters.

**Table 3: Key Parameters of the Development**

| Element                          | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Turbines</b>                  | 11 turbines, each with a tip height of up to 180 m.<br>Each turbine may require a small transformer located at its base.<br>Each turbine will have a foundation with an approximate diameter of between 20 and 24 m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Access Track</b>              | Access track to serve the construction and operation of the wind farm with width approximately 5.0 m, this will consist of a combination of upgraded track and newly construction track. New tracks will be constructed of a graded stone or floated, as appropriate for the ground conditions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Electrical Infrastructure</b> | A substation and control building will be located east of T9. The substation and control building will be located within a compound measuring approximately 65 x 45 m, which will also include any external electrical infrastructure and vehicle parking.<br><br>A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) site will be located south of the substation, covering an area of approximately 140 m x 75 m.<br><br>Underground cabling, laid where possible alongside the access tracks, will link the turbine transformers to the onsite substation. |

| Element                                | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Crane Hardstanding</b>              | Crane hardstandings will be required adjacent to each turbine, this will consist of an area of approximately 3,000 m <sup>2</sup> at each turbine. In addition to the main hardstanding area, there will be additional flattened areas for crane assembly and turbine blade storage; however, these will be temporary and not constitute hardstanding. |
| <b>Temporary Construction Compound</b> | A temporary construction compound will be required during the construction of the Development, forming an area of hardstanding providing space for temporary welfare, parking, lay down areas and potentially concrete batching; this will measure approximately 100 m x 50 m.                                                                         |

The EIA Report will be made available for public viewing at suitable locations in the vicinity of the Development and posted online on the dedicated project webpage (<https://www.baywa-re.co.uk/en/wind/cloud-hill-windfarm>), as well as the ECU and Council planning portals.

As per The Electricity Generating Stations (Applications for Variation of Consent) (Scotland) Regulations 2013<sup>6</sup>, the application for Section 36 consent will be advertised in:

- In at least one local newspapers for two successive weeks; and
- In the Edinburgh Gazette and at least one other national newspaper.

The dates for the advert publication are yet to be determined and will be agreed with ECU at a time closer to the submission date as part of the Gate Check process.

<sup>6</sup> Scottish Government (2013). The Electricity Generating Stations (Applications for Variation of Consent) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 [Online]. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2013/304/regulation/4> (Accessed: 08/12/2022)

## **APPENDIX A          SCOPING COMMENTS**

Table A1: Scoping Consultee Comments and Responses

Table A2: Tynron Community Council Comments and Responses

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Scoping Layout

Figure 3: Pre-Chilled Layout

Figure 4: Chilled Layout

Figure 5: Peat Phase 2

Figure 6: Frozen Layout

## 5 APPENDIX A – SCOPING COMMENTS

**Table A1 Scoping Consultee Comments and Responses**

| Consultee                        | Discipline         | Summary of Scoping Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                              | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| British Horse Society            | Recreation         | <p>The BHS hopes to work with the team on an ongoing basis to ensure horses and riders get as good a deal as they can out of any proposed improvements. They are happy to be contacted in the future regarding the Development.</p> <p>The BHS quoted research conducted by BHS and SRUC which shows horses to be a major rural economic driver.</p> <p>BHS cited Royal Society For The Prevention Of Accidents (RoSPA) and Don't Risk It advice regarding road safety for horse riders and rural roads.</p> | Noted. Guidance cited will be referred to during the Socio-economics, Recreation, and Tourism assessment.                                                                                            | Chapter 14: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism          |
| BT                               | Telecommunications | The Development should not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Noted. Telecommunication providers will be reconsulted once a final turbine layout has been confirmed, to determine if their stance remains the same.                                                | Chapter 16: Other Issues                                     |
| Crown Estate Scotland            | General            | Crown Estate Scotland confirms that their assets are not affected by this proposal and they therefore have no comments to make.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                               | NA                                                           |
| Defence Infrastructure Operation | Aviation           | <p>The MOD has concerns about this proposed development.</p> <p>The Proposed Development falls within Tactical Training Area 20T (TTA 20T), an area within which fixed wing aircraft may operate as low as 100 feet or 30.5 metres above ground level to conduct low level flight training. The addition of turbines in this location has the potential to introduce a physical obstruction to low flying aircraft operating in the area. Therefore, in the</p>                                              | <p>Noted. Technical aviation specialist engaged during EIA to ascertain best solution(s) to issues raised.</p> <p>MOD will be consulted and notified if there are any changes to turbine layout.</p> | Chapter 16: Other Issues                                     |

| Consultee                | Discipline | Summary of Scoping Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed                                                                                            |
|--------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                          |            | <p>interests of air safety, the MOD would request that the development be fitted with MOD accredited aviation safety lighting in accordance with the requirements of the Air Navigation Order 2016.</p> <p>MOD Safeguarding wishes to be consulted and notified about the progression of this proposal and any subsequent application(s) that may be submitted relating to it to verify that it will not adversely affect defence interests.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                         |
| East Ayrshire Council    | General    | <p>The Council is generally content with what has been set out. The approach to the LVIA is considered to be generally appropriate. They note that there are two viewpoints proposed within East Ayrshire, and that both are representative of impacts on walkers and recreational routes. They consider this to be sufficient and proportionate based on the visually illustrated ZTV plan.</p> <p>The Council suggests that the EIA process should take into account the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere as it is an important tourist attraction in the area. Although the proposed site sits within the transition area of the Biosphere, it is noted that there is no consideration given to the designation within the Scoping Report.</p> | Noted. The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere will be assessed predominantly within the socio-economic, recreation and tourism chapter, but will also be considered, where relevant, in the LVIA, ecology and ornithology chapters. | <p>Chapter 6: LVIA &amp; Chapter</p> <p>Chapter 7: Ecology</p> <p>Chapter 8: Ornithology</p> <p>Chapter 14: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism</p> |
| Galloway Fisheries Trust | Ecology    | The Galloway Fisheries Trust won't be commenting as the Site lies all within the Nith catchment. The GFT does not work on the Nith catchment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | NA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | NA                                                                                                                                                      |

| Consultee                       | Discipline                        | Summary of Scoping Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Glasgow Airport                 | Aviation                          | The Site is located outwith obstacle limitations surfaces and radar consultation zone for Glasgow Airport. The Development is within the instrument flight procedure area, however at this location only Developments over 300m AGL require assessments. The Airport will only confirm their position once the turbine details are finalised and they have been consulted on a full planning application, if necessary. If so, they will carry out a full safeguarding impact assessment and will consider their position in light of potential operational impacts and cumulative effects.                                                                           | Noted. Technical aviation specialist engaged during EIA to ascertain best solution(s) to issues raised.                                                                                                                                                               | Chapter 16: Other Issues                                     |
| Glasgow Prestwick Airport (GPA) | Aviation                          | <p>GPA identified potential effects on a number of its receptors that will require further assessment and consideration, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Instrument Flight Procedures (IFPs);</li> <li>- Runway 30 Instrument Landing System (ILS);</li> <li>- Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) and Ground to Air Communications;</li> <li>- Communications, Navigation and Surveillance Systems (CNS)</li> </ul> <p>A full Air Traffic Control Assessment is required. Should an Aircraft Detection Lighting Schedule (ADLS) be proposed, GPA should be consulted. A line of sight analysis should be carried out on the final layout.</p> | Noted. Technical aviation specialist engaged during EIA to ascertain best solution(s) to issues raised. This includes commissioning an IFP assessment directly with Glasgow Prestwick Airport, and carrying out line of sight modelling to assess effects on the PSR. | Chapter 16: Other Issues                                     |
| Historic Environment Scotland   | Archaeology and Cultural Heritage | HES considers that the proposal may give rise to impacts on the setting of a number of heritage assets for their interests located within the vicinity of the proposed development. HES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Noted.<br>Further consultation has been sought with both HES and the Local Authority's archaeology and conservation advisors. As of time of writing, a                                                                                                                | Chapter 9: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage                 |

| Consultee | Discipline | Summary of Scoping Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                              | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
|-----------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
|           |            | <p>state that any EIA undertaken for the proposals should include an assessment of impacts on heritage assets.</p> <p>HES agrees with the methodology submitted as part of the Scoping Report. They recommend that assessments are undertaken by a suitably experienced professional and meet the requirements of Scottish Planning Policy, the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland and associated Managing Change Guidance Notes. Guidance can also be found in the Cultural Heritage Appendix to the EIA Handbook.</p> <p>HES welcomes that potential impacts on the setting of assets beyond 5km will also be assessed where the assets or key views towards them lie within the ZTV.</p> <p>HES states that a more detailed ZTV with historic environment assets marked on the ZTV would also be useful. At this stage they do not recommend that assets beyond a specific radius are scoped out, but rather that the ZTV should be used to identify assets which may receive impacts to their settings.</p> <p>They also recommend that the Local Authority's archaeology and conservation advisors are consulted on whether effects on the setting of undesignated assets can be scoped out at this stage.</p> <p>HES recommends wireline visualisations be provided.</p> <p>HES welcomes that cumulative impacts will be assessed given the number of existing and proposed wind developments in the surrounding area.</p> | <p>response has been received from Dumfries &amp; Galloway Council on the scope of the archaeology assessment and supporting visualisations, with feedback from HES outstanding.</p> |                                                              |

| Consultee                                  | Discipline                     | Summary of Scoping Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                       | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed    |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| John Muir Trust                            | LVIA / Recreation              | The John Muir Trust does not expect to respond at this stage.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | NA                                                                                                                                            | NA                                                              |
| JRC                                        | Energy Networks (Other Issues) | This proposal is cleared with respect to radio link infrastructure operated by: Scottish Power and Scotia Gas Networks. However, if any details of the wind farm change, particularly the disposition or scale of any turbine(s), it will be necessary to re-evaluate the proposal. Also advised to seek re-coordination prior to submitting a planning application, as radio links changing frequently.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Noted. JRC will be reconsulted in January 2023, to determine if their stance remains the same.                                                | Chapter 16: Other Issues                                        |
| Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Community Council | General                        | The council confirmed their support for both the proposed Cloud Hill Wind Farm development and the approach and processes outlined in the Scoping Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | NA                                                                                                                                            | NA                                                              |
| NATS                                       | Aviation                       | NATS objects to the proposal as it conflicts with their safeguarding criteria.<br>Section 4.1 of the TOPA - the terrain screening available will not adequately attenuate the signal, and therefore this development is likely to cause false primary plots to be generated (on the Lowther RADAR). A reduction in the RADAR's probability of detection, for real aircraft, is also anticipated.<br>Section 4.1.2 of the TOPA - Prestwick Centre ATC has determined that the anticipated impact on their use of RADAR is unacceptable.<br>No impact anticipated on Military ATC, Navigation Aids or radio communication infrastructure. | Noted. Technical aviation specialist has been engaged during EIA to most appropriate mitigation solutions. Consultation with NATS is ongoing. | Chapter 16: Other Issues                                        |
| NatureScot                                 | Ecology<br>Ornithology         | The applicant should consider NatureScot's General pre-application and scoping advice for                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Noted. Further consultation with NatureScot undertaken and an additional viewpoint added to EIA as requested.                                 | Chapter 6: LVIA<br>Chapter 7: Ecology<br>Chapter 8: Ornithology |

| Consultee | Discipline           | Summary of Scoping Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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|           | Landscape and Visual | <p>onshore wind farms in addition to any case-specific advice provided.</p> <p>General advice:</p> <p>NatureScot advise that the proposed development should avoid or minimise impacts on areas of peat that exceed 50cm in thickness.</p> <p>NatureScot advises that Developments that involve forestry activities in close proximity to watercourses should adhere to the UK Forestry Standards Forests and Water guidelines.</p> <p>They advise that a Pollution Prevention Plan be put in place, particularly to manage the risk of sedimentation and chemical pollution to watercourses on and around the Development.</p> <p>NatureScot states that any works should take account of protected species that may be present within the Proposed Development area. Survey guidance, mitigation, and licensing advice is available on the NatureScot website.</p> <p>LVIA</p> <p>Additional viewpoints further out from the Proposed Development would help build a clearer understanding of potential visual and landscape impacts, for example a viewpoint on top of Meikle Millyea.</p> <p>Cumulative twilight impacts of lighting should be investigated.</p> <p>NatureScot also states that wireline representations of the Proposed Development in the landscape would also help clarify potential impacts.</p> <p>Designations / Ornithology</p> <p>NatureScot states that the Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands SPA and North Lowther</p> | <p>Ornithology: a response to NatureScot's scoping response was provided to NatureScot in a letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (via email) and the scope agreed. All consultation with NatureScot will be provided in the chapter and will cover all the points raised in their scoping response.</p> |                                                              |

| Consultee | Discipline | Summary of Scoping Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Response for Gate Check | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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|           |            | <p>Uplands SSSI are approximately 3.6km from the Site and not the 6.5km as stated in 7.4.1. The 6.5km distance might be referring to the distance between approximate turbine locations and the designated sites, however disturbance could occur over all of the site and not just where the turbines are and this calculation should not be used. On the other hand, the Muirkirk Uplands SSSI is approximately 11km from the Site; this needs to be separated out, to highlight this difference. Therefore the Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands SPA and North Lowther Uplands SSSI should be screened in to any assessment for being within the "Core Range" of Merlin and the "Maximum Range" of Hen Harrier, Golden Plover, Peregrine, and Short-eared Owl. As the surveys have shown that most of these species (excluding SEO) are present within the site boundary these sites cannot be scoped out on distance alone, as connectivity is likely.</p> <p>Within Table 7.1, please state "Core Foraging Range" and not "Foraging Range". This also allows an additional column for "Maximum Foraging Range" to be included.</p> <p>Not enough information has been presented within the scoping report to support the statement at the end of 7.5.2 that Black Grouse and Curlew are the only Important Ornithological Features (IOFs) to be scoped into assessment. All species will need to be included until full results are presented.</p> <p>Figure 7.2 - for completeness, please show the full extent of the Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands SPA and the Muirkirk Uplands SSSI on the figure, i.e. to the north of the A70.</p> |                         |                                                              |

| Consultee | Discipline  | Summary of Scoping Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Response for Gate Check | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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|           |             | <p>In 7.5.1, ambiguity would be removed if the wording was altered to "Breeding and key foraging locations (during all periods of the year) of target species..."</p> <p>We recommend the night time assessment takes account of our 'Visual Representation of Wind Farms' guidance, particularly the section turbine lighting.</p> <p>Responses to questions on Ornithology</p> <p>The method and scope of assessment is currently not appropriate. See comment above about scoping in the North Lowther Uplands SSSI and the Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands SPA and the inclusion of all species as no results have been presented to date.</p> <p>NatureScot stated that as there was no information provided on the duration of surveys, they cannot comment fully on whether the data is sufficient. However, they did state that the VP locations and the period of time these surveys have been done seems appropriate.</p> <p>The scope of the IOFs cannot be confirmed at this stage as no results have been presented to support the inclusion of only two species (Black Grouse and Curlew), therefore all species should be included within the assessment.</p> <p>The consultant should contact RSPB for any Black Grouse lek data they may hold (or other IOFs breeding records they may hold).</p> |                         |                                                              |
| RSPB      | Ornithology | No comments to make on the questions set out in the ornithological chapter of the scoping report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | NA                      | NA                                                           |

| Consultee         | Discipline | Summary of Scoping Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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| Scottish Forestry | Forestry   | Scottish Forestry notes that the Site is broadly situated on open ground with little impact on forestry. However, there is one section adjacent to Ulzieside Plantation where there has been some recent planting and this may be affected.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Noted. No felling is proposed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | NA                                                           |
| Scottish Water    | Hydrology  | Scottish Water has no objection. Records indicate that there is live infrastructure in the proximity of the development area that may impact on existing Scottish Water assets.<br><br>Must identify any potential conflicts with Scottish Water assets and contact the Asset Impact Team via our Customer Portal for an appraisal of the proposals. Written permission must be obtained before any works are started within the area of our apparatus.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Noted. Public and private water supply assessment being undertaken as part of the EIA. Further consultation with Scottish Water will be sought to ensure there is no potential conflicts with their assets.                                                                                           | Chapter 11: Hydrology and Soils                              |
| ScotWays          | Recreation | Highlighted that the following paths are affected by the Site: DN23, Sanquhar to Stroanpatrick Path [HP368], and St John's Town of Dalry to Sanquhar [HT84] (Heritage Paths).<br><br>ScotWays provided information on 'Other Access to Land' in the Catalogue of Rights of Way Guidance Notes. They advise that recorded right of way DN23 forms part of the Southern Upland Way (SUW) a long distance route which is used by walkers, runners and cyclists. This route is promoted by NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage) as one of Scotland's Great Trails.<br><br>ScotWays also provided guidance regarding wind farms and public access: 'It is advisable to set back all wind turbines a minimum distance, equivalent to the height of the blade tip, from the edge of any public highway (road or other public right of way) or railway line.' | Noted. An Access Management Plan (AMP) will be written in consultation with the Council post consent. The AMP will provide appropriate mitigation measures during the construction period (and operational period where deemed necessary) to ensure minimal impacts on access to recreational routes. | Chapter 14: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism          |

| Consultee | Discipline | Summary of Scoping Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Response for Gate Check                                                                  | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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|           |            | <p>They consider this guidance to be a reasonable principle for a recommended minimum separation distance. However, they stated in this case DN23, the SUW, crosses the application site and the Society would expect a larger minimum separation distance. It however appears from Figure 2.2 Site Layout that at least one of the proposed turbines lie in close proximity to this route. ScotWays is likely to object to any proposal where the above principle is not followed, including where a micro-siting allowance could lead to turbine encroachment upon a route because it has been insufficiently buffered.</p> <p>ScotWays asks that the applicant takes into account both recreational amenity and landscape impacts in developing their proposals for this site.</p> <p>ScotWays is aware of a number of wind turbine proposed in this general area, and are particularly concerned that the cumulative impact of these proposed developments is taken into account. Additionally, they are aware of a large number of wind farm applications along this nationally important route the Society anticipates that the cumulative impact on the length of the SUW, as well as this individual section, will be taken into account.</p> <p>ScotWay also suggests that the applicant may wish to approach the relevant authority's access team for their input when drawing up their Access Management Plan for their proposed development.</p> |                                                                                          |                                                              |
| SEPA      | Hydrology  | No specific comments on the questions in the report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Phase 1 and Phase 2 Peat probing surveys, a hydrological survey and private water supply | Chapter 11: Hydrology and Soils                              |

| Consultee          | Discipline            | Summary of Scoping Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                 | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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|                    | Geology and Peat      | Refers to the SEPA scoping advice for wind farms which sets out their full requirements for the EIA. The site should be designed to avoid sensitive receptors (i.e. peat, GWDTE, water features, private water supplies) and incorporate appropriate buffer distances. SEPA welcome the proposed 50m buffer around watercourses and waterbodies. SEPA also understand additional site surveys (including NVC) are planned to reflect an updated site boundary. The outcome of this should be used to inform site design.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | inspections have been undertaken to inform on/avoid sensitive receptors.<br><br>Infrastructure has avoided deep peat (>1 m) and the number of watercourse crossings have been minimised where possible. | Chapter 10: Peat and Ground Conditions                       |
| Transport Scotland | Traffic and Transport | Transport Scotland referred to the Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Road Traffic, and stated they are content that no further assessment is required if the thresholds laid out in the IEMA guidance are not exceeded.<br><br>They note that the A76(T) will be included within the Study Area and consider this appropriate.<br><br>Transport Scotland acknowledges that access points to the site are still being considered, including an access via Blackaddie Road or Eliock Bridge and then the C125N. As these options form part of the local road network, Transport Scotland has no comment to make on the access point itself.<br><br>Transport Scotland consider the Base Traffic methodology to be acceptable.<br><br>Transport Scotland asks that a full Abnormal Loads Assessment report should be provided with the EIAR. | Noted. Abnormal Loads Assessment will be conducted as part of the EIA.                                                                                                                                  | Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport                            |

| Consultee      | Discipline                              | Summary of Scoping Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Response for Gate Check                                 | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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| Visit Scotland | Socio-economics, recreation and tourism | <p>VisitScotland strongly recommends any potential detrimental impact of the proposed development on tourism - whether visually, environmentally and economically - be identified and considered in full. This includes when taking decisions over turbine height and number.</p> <p>VisitScotland strongly agrees with the advice of the Scottish Government –the importance of tourism impact statements should not be diminished, and that, for each site considered, an independent tourism impact assessment should be carried out. This assessment should be geographically sensitive and should consider the potential impact on any tourism offerings in the vicinity.</p> <p>VisitScotland would also urge consideration of the specific concerns raised above relating to the impact any perceived proliferation of developments may have on the local tourism industry, and therefore the local economy.</p> | Noted. Tourism receptors will be considered in the EIA. | Chapter 14: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism          |

Tynron Community Council has provided a detailed response covering a number of technical areas. Many of their comments refer to technical areas where consultation has also taken place with statutory consultees and the Scottish Government's specialist advisers. Tynron's requests have been included where appropriate. Where Tynron's comments conflict with advice or the scope agreed with statutory consultees, the scope followed will be that agreed with the specialist statutory consultees. These instances are limited, and all comments provided by Tynron are addressed in Table A2; justifying whether the requests are included or where alternative measures have been agreed with specialist statutory consultees.

***Table A2 Tynron Community Council Comments and Responses***

| Question                                                                                                                                   | Discipline           | Tynron Community Council Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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| Q3.1 - Do Consultees agree with the general strategy for assessing the effects?                                                            | EIA                  | Yes, on the understanding that it will be constantly reviewed as circumstances dictate and new evidence becomes available.                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Noted. This will be done as part of the EIA process.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Overall comment                                              |
| Q3.2 - Can the Consultees provide any further information on developments that they think should be included in the cumulative assessment? | EIA                  | <p>Proposed developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sanquhar II</li> <li>- Appin Wind farm</li> <li>- Eucharhead wind farm</li> <li>- Lorg Wind farm</li> </ul> <p>Existing wind farms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Twentyshilling hill</li> <li>- Whiteside</li> <li>- Sanquhar windfarm</li> </ul> | <p>A final update to the cumulative search was conducted on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022, which is the proposed cut-off date for including any new developments.</p> <p>The developments highlighted by TCC are being considered in the technical assessments, as well as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harehill Wind Farm;</li> <li>• Harehill Extension Wind Farm;</li> <li>• Sandy Knowe Wind Farm; and</li> <li>• Sandy Knowe Extension Wind Farm.</li> </ul> <p>With specific regard to Sanquhar II Wind Farm, the Development has been designed to ensure no significant cumulative noise effects arise if Sanquhar II Wind Farm receives planning consent, and significant landscape and visual effects are minimised.</p> | Overall comment                                              |
| Q6.1 - Do you have any comments on the proposed methodology?                                                                               | Landscape and Visual | None at this stage, although we would ask that the methodology is constantly reviewed as circumstances dictate and new evidence becomes available.                                                                                                                                                                                       | Noted. This will be done as part of the EIA process.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Chapter 6: LVIA                                              |

| Question                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Discipline           | Tynron Community Council Comment                                                                                                                                                                                            | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed    |
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| Q6.2 - Are you in agreement with the proposed LVIA Study Area (45 km)?                                                                                                                                     | Landscape and Visual | Cumulative impact studies should cover a wider LVIA, particularly with the need for red aviation warning lights on the turbines.                                                                                            | The proposed 45 km Study Area follows NatureScot guidance set out in 'Visual Representations of Wind Farms'. In respect of the effects of aviation lighting, these effects dissipate with distance such that it is considered unlikely for significant effects to extend beyond a 20 km radius. In respect of cumulative effects, the presence of a large number of operational, consented and application stage wind farms within a 20 km radius of the Development means that significant effects will relate to cumulative effects within this closer range radius. | Chapter 6: LVIA                                                 |
| Q6.3 - Are you in agreement that the assessment of the effects on landscape character receptors should focus on those LCTs/LCUs which lie within a 20 km radius of the Development as shown in Figure 6.2? | Landscape and Visual | Yes, but the list in table 6.2 is incomplete. Also the resolution of figure 6.4 is inadequate to allow for accurate assessments of potential visual impacts. Please see response to Q 6.5 for our further thoughts on this. | The acceptance of the assessment of effects on landscape character being contained within a 20 km radius is noted. Those LCTs/LCUs within the 20 km radius and with potential to be significantly affected will be assessed in detail in the LVIA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Chapter 6: LVIA                                                 |
| Q6.4 - Are you in agreement that the assessment of the effects on landscape designations and                                                                                                               | Landscape and Visual | Yes, but also the GSA Biosphere, Galloway Dark Skies Park, and potential Galloway National Park designation should also be included.                                                                                        | The potential effects of the Development on the Galloway Dark Skies Park will be considered in Appendix 6.2: Assessment of Aviation Lighting.<br><br>The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere will be assessed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Chapter 6: LVIA<br>Chapter 7: Ecology<br>Chapter 8: Ornithology |

| Question                                                                                                                                                           | Discipline           | Tynron Community Council Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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| WLAs should focus on those areas which are highlighted as being relevant to the LVIA in Table 6.1?                                                                 |                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>predominantly within the socio-economic, recreation and tourism chapter, but will also be considered, where relevant, in the LVIA, ecology and ornithology chapters..</p> <p>The proposed Galloway National Park is also not included in the assessment as it does not currently exist and therefore there is no certainty regarding boundaries in relation to the Development.</p> | Chapter 14: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism          |
| Q6.5 - Do you have any comments or suggestions in relation to the Preliminary Representative Viewpoint Locations shown in Table 6.2 and illustrated in Figure 6.4? | Landscape and Visual | <p>We believe there are multiple representative viewpoint locations omitted from table 6.2 and figure 6.4. The resolution of figure 6.4 is not clear enough to determine specific receptor impacts; table 6.2 omits the following receptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Glenwhargen, Hallscaur, Glenmanna and associated cottages, Polskeoch, Dalgonar, Chanlockfoot and other residences in Scaur Glen</li> <li>- Appin Lodge, High Appin, Shinnelhead and other residences in Shinnel Glen</li> <li>- Colt Hill Striding Arch</li> <li>- Allan's Cairn Covenanters memorial</li> <li>- Southern Upland Way – multiple view points, not just the immediate vicinity.</li> <li>- Tynron Doon and Auchengibbert hill</li> <li>- Cairnkinna</li> <li>- Glenwhargen crags</li> <li>- Dalzean ridge</li> <li>- Crawick Multiverse</li> <li>- Afton reservoir</li> <li>- The Rhinns of Kells</li> <li>- Representative views along hill walking and cycling routes eg between the Striding Arches, along ridges either side of the</li> </ul> | <p>The suggested viewpoints have been reviewed and included where there is the potential for a significant effect to arise. The representative nature of the viewpoints selected ensures that a viewpoint is not required for every visual receptor, but instead groups of visual receptors are covered by the one viewpoint with the written assessment considering the group.</p>    | Chapter 6: LVIA                                              |

| Question                                                                                                                                      | Discipline           | Tynron Community Council Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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|                                                                                                                                               |                      | Dalwhat, Appin, Shinnel and Scaur catchments; on Appin forest tracks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                              |
| Q6.6 - Do you have any comments on the approach to assessing the effects of the Development on Residential Visual Amenity?                    | Landscape and Visual | Given the height of these turbines, the need for aviation lighting, and the potential for cumulative impact with other developments, a threshold of 2 km from the development is inadequate to assess the effects on residential visual amenity of the development on homes in the vicinity of the development, given their open views, uncluttered vistas, and limited mitigation, and should be extended. 2 km is also not a defined limit in the quoted 'Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) Technical Guidance Note 2/19'. | The Landscape Institute's 'Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) Technical Guidance Note 2/19' makes a clear distinction between the LVIA and RVAA assessments and the importance of defining an appropriate radius for the RVAA which is proportionate to the lesser likelihood of breaching the RVAA threshold compared to the greater likelihood of significant effects on residents' views arising. | Chapter 6: LVIA                                              |
| Q6.7 - Do you have any comments on the approach to assessing the effects of turbine lighting or the selection of three night-time viewpoints? | Landscape and Visual | These viewpoints are inadequate and do not consider the impacts on local roads such as the Scaur and Shinnel Glen roads. The impacts of turbine lighting on bats, birds and vegetation should also be assessed. The impact of nighttime 'flicker' of aircraft warning lights from rotating turbine blades should also be assessed.                                                                                                                                                                                                      | It is accepted practice to use three viewpoints to demonstrate the visual effects of night-time lighting. While Appendix 6.2 assesses three viewpoints in detail it also includes a high level assessment of all the representative viewpoints.                                                                                                                                                                | Chapter 6: LVIA                                              |
| Q6.8 - Do you have any comments or suggestions on the approach to cumulative landscape and visual assessment?                                 | Landscape and Visual | Figure 6.6 does not include Appin Wind Farm or Euchanhead wind farm. The cumulative impact of windfarms with turbines over 150 metres (very large typology) should be especially considered given the step-change in turbine heights in the area (there are currently no consented wind farms with turbine heights in excess of 149.9 metres) The cumulative impact of lit turbines should also be considered and its impact on our Dark Skies, ecology, and residential and visual amenity.                                            | All relevant cumulative wind farms will be considered in the cumulative assessment, including Appin Wind Farm and Euchanhead Wind Farm. The cumulative effect of night-time lighting is presented in Appendix 6.2                                                                                                                                                                                              | Chapter 6: LVIA                                              |

| Question                                                                                    | Discipline  | Tynron Community Council Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Chapter /Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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| Q7.1 - Do consultees agree that the methodology and scope of the assessment is appropriate? | Ornithology | No. The migrating geese and swans are omitted from this assessment, as are golden eagles which have been observed in the area. Black grouse leks in the area were given as a reason for several Sanguhar II turbines not being built here but this is not reflected in this assessment. Skylarks and curlews (BOCC Red List) breed in these hills, one of their rapidly disappearing habitats. They should be included explicitly. Table 7.1 excludes skylarks. The breeding peregrine falcons at Glenwhargen crags should be specifically considered. | <p>Noted..</p> <p>Migratory geese and swans were included as target species during baseline surveys (as per NatureScot guidance, SNH 2017). Pink-footed geese were recorded during surveys (as noted in Scoping Report section 7.4.2).</p> <p>Golden eagle were not recorded during baseline surveys, however the South Scotland Golden Eagle Reintroduction Program will be contacted to request data relating to breeding golden eagle.</p> <p>Black grouse were noted to be lekking, and curlew and peregrine falcon were noted to be breeding in the Scoping Report (section 7.4.2). Curlew and black grouse were acknowledged to be species likely to be scoped in to the assessment in the Scoping Report (section 7.5.2), however the final consideration of species to be scoped in will be undertaken in the assessment and peregrine falcon will also be considered. All three species have been taken in to consideration in the design phase.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that skylark are Red Listed (BoCC 5, Stanbury <i>et al.</i> 2022), however as per the guidance provided by NatureScot (SNH 2017) regarding passerine species they are not considered as a target species. The Bird Disturbance Management Plan (BDMP) will include provisions to ensure that all reasonable</p> | Chapter 8: Ornithology                                      |

| Question                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Discipline  | Tynron Community Council Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>precautions are taken to adhere to the relevant wildlife legislation and the habitat management plan will include provisions for curlew and black grouse which will also benefit skylark.</p> <p>All target species for which data was recorded will be detailed in the baseline section of the assessment.</p> |                                                              |
| Q7.2 - Do consultees agree that the data obtained via field surveys (March 2018 to March 2020), as well as a desk study is sufficient to inform a robust impact assessment?                                            | Ornithology | No, for reasons given in 7.1. The data has not been included in the scoping document so no conclusions can be made from this. Also annual atypical variations are not reflected in such a short time span, such as dry or rainy seasons, or prolonged cold weather. | <p>All survey data (including timings and weather data) will be included in the EIA Report as part of the ornithology technical appendix.</p> <p>As per NatureScot guidance (SNH 2017), two years of baseline bird surveys have been completed.</p>                                                                | Chapter 8: Ornithology                                       |
| Q7.3 - Do consultees agree that, subject to further information coming to light from the field surveys and desk study, the scope of IOFs, including designated sites, to be included in the assessment is appropriate? | Ornithology | Yes, but should not be considered exclusive to these sites only.                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Noted                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Chapter 8: Ornithology                                       |

| Question                                                                                                                                                                      | Discipline  | Tynron Community Council Comment                                                                                                                                            | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Chapter /Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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| Q7.4 - Are there any other relevant consultees who should be contacted, or other sources of information that should be referenced with respect to the ornithology assessment? | Ornithology | Citizen science projects such as I-record, and the NBN database.<br>Local eco-tourism businesses Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere (re rush pasture and grass heath) | Noted.. , although please note that only sources of information that have ornithological records would be contacted for Chapter 8 (ornithology).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Chapter 8:<br>Ornithology                                   |
| Q8.1 - Do consultees agree that the range of surveys that will be carried out is sufficient and appropriate?                                                                  | Ecology     | No. The field studies are limited and cannot take account of 'boom and bust' cycles of population or impacts of local extreme weather conditions.                           | Noted.<br>Surveys have all been undertaken in line with NatureScot guidance. It is noted that interannual variation is not able to be covered by the suite of surveys undertaken, and this limitation is discussed within Chapter 7: Ecology.<br><br>As such, it is always recommended as part of the embedded mitigation that measures such as pre-construction surveys and the supervision of an ECoW during the construction phase are included as standard. | Chapter 7:<br>Ecology                                       |
| Q8.2 - Are there any other relevant consultees who should be contacted, or other sources of information that should be                                                        | Ecology     | Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere.                                                                                                                                   | Noted. The ecology team will consult Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere with respect to the ecology assessment.<br><br>.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Chapter 7:<br>Ecology                                       |

| Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Discipline | Tynron Community Council Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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| referenced with respect to the ecology assessment?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                              |
| Q8.3 - Do consultees believe that there are any particular habitats or protected species which need to be considered in the assessment?                                                                                                                                                               | Ecology    | Chanlockfoot SSSI has been omitted from table 8.2. The extensive peat ecosystems should be particularly considered.                                                                                                                                                                  | Noted. Chanlockfoot SSSI is designated for upland mixed ash woodland. It is over 6 km at its closest point to the Site. Consequently, there is no connectivity between the Development and this designated site                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Chapter 7: Ecology                                           |
| Q8.4 - Do consultees agree that there is no potential for connectivity between the Development and the North Lowther Uplands SSSI, Upper Nithsdale Woods SAC, Back Wood SSSI and Menck Water SSSI, and that consequently effects related to all designated sites can be scoped out of the assessment? | Ecology    | No. Connectivity can include aerial flights (birds, insects, and seeds) and displaced mammals looking for alternative habitats, and which all contribute to the biodiversity and species richness of the habitats, so these designated sites cannot be scoped out of the assessment. | Noted. The ecology chapter considers non-avian ecology. Birds (and any designated sites which include bird species as designated features) are considered separately in Chapter 8: Ornithology.<br><br>The designated sites within 5 km of the Site do not have insects or mammals as qualifying features. It is considered that any of the activities proposed as part of the Development will not have any effect on the integrity of any designated site, particularly considering the distance (more than 2.5 km in all cases) between the Development and any designated site. | Chapter 7: Ecology & Chapter 8: Ornithology                  |
| Q8.5 Are you aware of any                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Ecology    | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | NA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Chapter 7: Ecology                                           |

| Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Discipline                        | Tynron Community Council Comment                                                                                           | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                              | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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| relevant policies or guidance documents not specifically mentioned in this section of the Report?                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                   |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                              |
| Q9.1 - Do the Council and consultees agree with the proposed methodology and scope of assessment?                                                                                                                                                                                       | Archaeology and Cultural Heritage | Yes, on the understanding that it will be constantly reviewed as circumstances dictate and new evidence becomes available. | Noted. This will be done as part of the EIA process. Updated advice on methodology and scope of assessment from the planning archaeologist to the LPA is provided in Section 3.2.6 of this document. | Chapter 9: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage                 |
| Q9.2 - Does the Council and consultees have any information regarding current or recent archaeological work or projects being undertaken within or in the vicinity of the Site, particularly those whose results may not yet be recorded in the National Monuments Record for Scotland? | Archaeology and Cultural Heritage | No                                                                                                                         | NA                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Chapter 9: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage                 |

| Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Discipline                        | Tynron Community Council Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Chapter /Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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| Q9.3 - Are the Council and consultees aware of any further sites with statutory protection within the wider landscape whose settings may be affected by the Development?                                                | Archaeology and Cultural Heritage | Tynron Doon Iron Age Fort<br>Tynron Conservation Village                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Neither asset has been considered for assessment. Both lie some 12.5 km to 13 km southeast of the CSA. Neither of which appear in the ZTV and therefore there is no requirement for assessment. Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Officer has been consulted on the scope and agrees with the methodology.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Chapter 9: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage                |
| Q9.4 - Does the Council and consultees have details of any cultural heritage sites in the vicinity of the Development site which it considers may raise significant issues within the EIA process for this Development? | Archaeology and Cultural Heritage | Allan's Cairn<br>Colt Hill Striding Arch<br>Crawick Multiverse<br>Southern Uplands Way (first official British long distance coast to coast path)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Noted. Further consultation has been sought with Dumfries and Galloway Council in lack of a Scoping Opinion, and HES.<br><br>The Southern Upland Way is a footpath established 1984, Crawick Multiverse and Colt Hill Striding Arch are both art installations. None of these fall under Cultural Heritage but will be considered elsewhere in the EIAR (socio-economics, tourism and recreation). Allans Cairn is a 19th century memorial cairn sited 6.6 km southwest. It is not of sufficient local or regional interest to warrant assessment, with the scope of the archaeological assessment agreed with the Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Officer. | Chapter 9: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage                |
| Q10.1 - Are consultees content with the proposed methodology and scope of the hydrology and                                                                                                                             | Hydrology and Hydrogeology        | No. The extensive network of small streams and the potential for the disruption of water supplies by the destruction of peat deposits could have a large impact on PWS and water supplies for farm animals in excess of the proposed 2km limit. Section 10.2 states that 'Beyond 2 km it is considered that potential for hydrological connectivity with PWS is limited' – ie by its own | Noted. Consultation with the environmental health office (EHO) has been undertaken. Records held by the EHO have been further investigated through resident consultation and PWS inspections at properties. A PSWRA will be undertaken                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Chapter 11: Hydrology and Soils                             |

| Question                                                                                                                                                                | Discipline                 | Tynron Community Council Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                            | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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| hydrogeology assessment?                                                                                                                                                |                            | admission not impossible. Given the longevity of this proposal and the potential for cumulative impacts with adjacent wind farms (consented and in planning) this 2 km limit is inadequate. Local residents have also found that the historical data held on PWS by SEPA and D&GC can be inaccurate, therefore this data should be further investigated. | as part of the EIA to fully establish connectivity and potential impacts. Potential effects from all earthworks are taken into account in PWSRA. Scottish Water responded to the Scoping Report with no objection. |                                                              |
| Q10.2 - Do the Council, NatureScot, SEPA or other consultees have any information that would be useful in the preparation of the hydrology and hydrogeology assessment? | Hydrology and Hydrogeology | No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | NA                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Chapter 11: Hydrology and Soils                              |
| Q11.1 - Do the consultees agree with the proposed methodology and scope of the geology and peat assessment?                                                             | Geology and Peat           | Yes, on the understanding that it will be constantly reviewed as circumstances dictate and new evidence becomes available.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Noted. This is being carried out as part of the EIA process.                                                                                                                                                       | Chapter 10: Peat and Ground Conditions                       |
| Q11.2 - Do the consultees have any information that would be useful in the preparation of the                                                                           | Geology and Peat           | The Peat Slide risk Assessments for Sanquhar II wind farm could be of use.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Chapter 10: Peat and Ground Conditions                       |

| Question                                                                                           | Discipline | Tynron Community Council Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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| geology and peat assessment, including details of local quarrying activity?                        |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                              |
| Q12.1 - Do the Council and consultees agree with the proposed methodology and scope of assessment? | Noise      | <p>No. The increasing number of windfarms in the area, particularly of a size, scale and longevity not previously experienced, are leading to increased cumulative impact of noise not just on homes but sensitive outdoor receptors such as the Southern Upland Way, which bisects the proposed windfarm footprint.</p> <p>Whiteside windfarm has already a significant noise impact in the area, particularly with the wind in certain directions. The former owners of Polgown found the noise from this windfarm unacceptable at times, impacting on their ability to sleep. The cumulative impact of this with Cloud Hill can only increase the impact of noise on our peaceful hills and glens. The Cloud Hill EIA needs to thoroughly investigate the impact of noise from Cloud Hill both on its own merits, and with the potential cumulative impacts of other proposed and consented developments, particularly for residential and farm properties in Scaur Glen.</p> <p>Therefore we are very concerned that it is suggested that Low frequency noise and infrasound should be scoped out of this EIA, particularly with the increasing evidence of adverse impacts on health. The historical studies quoted by Arcus, namely Hayes McKenzie (2006), Bowdler (2009) and the Environmental Protection Authority of South Australia (2013) are now out of date, especially given the height of turbines, their potential cumulative impacts density, and their numbers. Low frequency noise is increasingly being reported in the scientific literature as creating mental and physical health issues, eg Chiu et al; Nature, 8 September 2021; Effects of low-frequency noise from wind turbines on heart rate variability in healthy individuals. Therefore low frequency noise and infrasound should NOT be scoped out of the EIA, based purely on support from old literature.</p> | <p>Noted. Further consultation was sought with Dumfries and Galloway Council's EHO given the lack of a Scoping Opinion.</p> <p>EIA assessment will be carried out in line with Scottish and UK planning policy, legislation and best practice as agreed with technical consultees, including the EHO.</p> <p>The Site is not within 50 km of Eskdalemuir Seismic Monitoring Station therefore will not impact the station or require an allocation of seismic noise budget. This is scoped out of further consideration and will not be addressed in the EIAR.</p> | Chapter 12: Noise                                            |

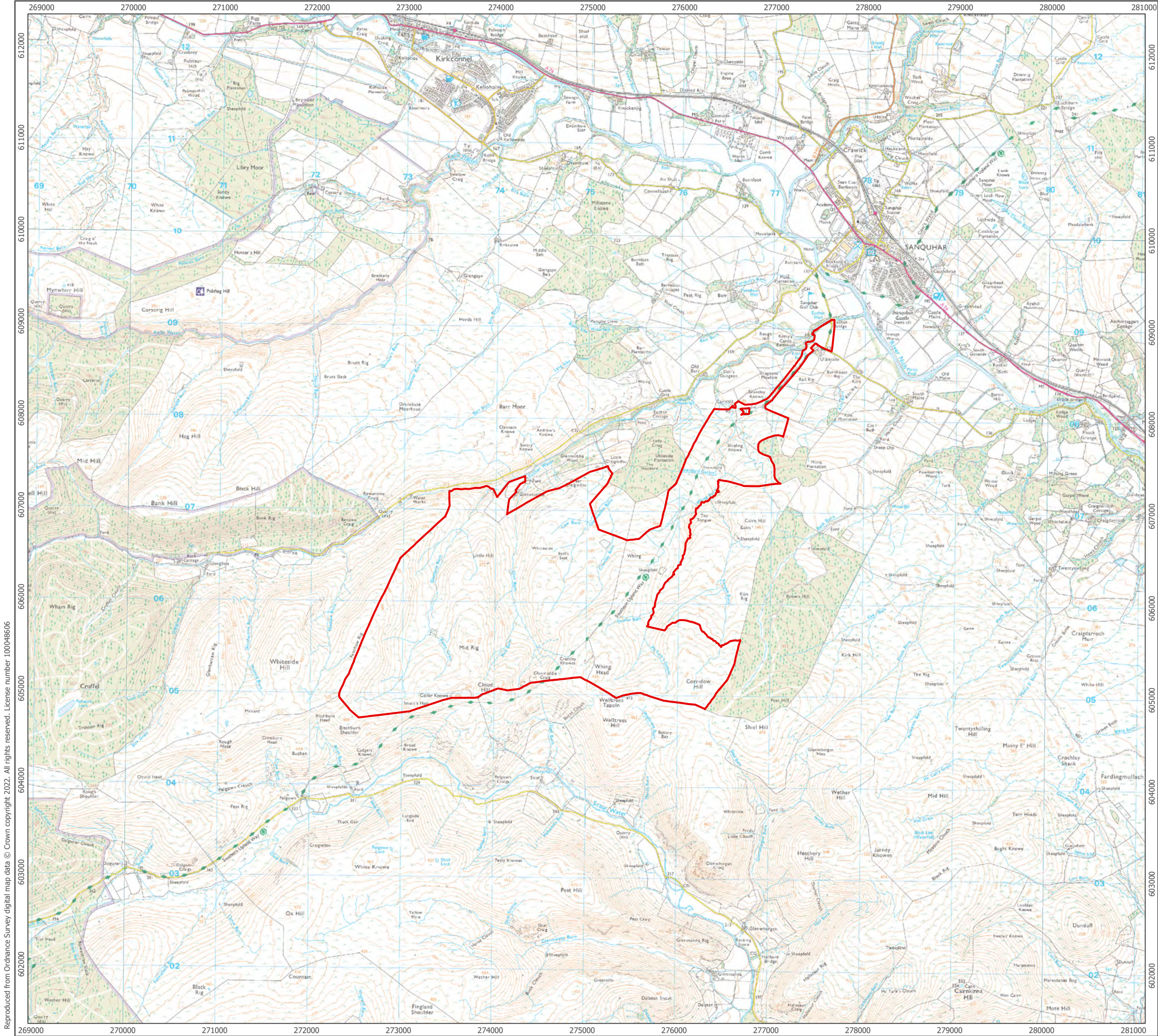
| Question                                                                                           | Discipline | Tynron Community Council Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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|                                                                                                    |            | Also, the claim that 'By virtue of the large separation distances and low number of residential receptors in the locality, construction noise impacts are anticipated to be minimal, and will therefore be scoped out of the assessment' ignores the topography of the area, with long hill crests and valleys which provide an extensive echo chamber for noise. Increasing windfarm constructions may also interfere with the operation of the seismology stations at Eskdalemuir as the site is within the designated radius of concern. Construction noise should therefore be factored into the EIA. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                              |
| Q12.2 - Do the Council and consultees agree with the proposed methodology and scope of assessment? | Noise      | <p>Proposed wind farms:<br/>Sanquhar II;<br/>Appin Wind farm;<br/>Euchanhead wind farm; and<br/>Lorg Wind farm.</p> <p>Existing wind farms:<br/>Twentyshilling hill;<br/>Whiteside; and<br/>Sanquhar windfarm.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>Consideration has been given to all of the stated cumulative developments, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harehill Wind Farm;</li> <li>• Harehill Extension Wind Farm;</li> <li>• Sandy Knowe Wind Farm; and</li> <li>• Sandy Knowe Extension Wind Farm.</li> </ul> <p>With specific regard to Sanquhar II Wind Farm, the Development has been designed to ensure no significant cumulative noise effects whether or not Sanquhar II Wind Farm receives planning consent.</p> | Chapter 12: Noise                                            |
| Q12.3 - Are you aware of any relevant policies or guidance documents not specifically mentioned in | Noise      | <p>WHO guidelines specifically include wind turbine noise and its potential adverse impacts on mental and physical health and should be taken into account in the EIA.</p> <p><a href="https://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/environmental-noise-guidelines-for-the-european-region-2018">https://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/environmental-noise-guidelines-for-the-european-region-2018</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Noted. Further consultation was sought with Dumfries and Galloway's EHO due to the lack of a noise-specific Scoping Opinion.</p> <p>EIA assessment will be carried out in line with Scottish and UK planning policy,</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Chapter 12: Noise                                            |

| Question                                                                                                                          | Discipline                              | Tynron Community Council Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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| this section of the Report?                                                                                                       |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | legislation and best practice as agreed with technical consultees, including the EHO.                                                                                                                                  |                                                              |
| Q13.1 - Are Consultees content with the proposed methodology of the assessment and scope of the traffic and transport assessment? | Traffic and Transport                   | <p>Yes, on the understanding that it will be constantly reviewed as circumstances dictate and new evidence becomes available.</p> <p>We would also like to emphasise that the Scaur Glen road (u404n/u405n) should not under any circumstances be used for any construction traffic, due to its single track status, it being a part of the Southern Upland Way, and weight restrictions on bridges along the roads. Nor should it be used for workers' or subcontractor traffic access to the site either.</p> | <p>Noted.. The Scaur Glen will not comprise part of the route to Site and is therefore scoped out of further assessment.</p> <p>Route Analysis and Abnormal Loads Assessment has been conducted as part of the EIA</p> | Chapter 13: Traffic and Transportation                       |
| Q13.2 - Are the Consultees aware of any specific access restrictions or limitations on the proposed abnormal loads route?         | Traffic and Transport                   | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | NA                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Chapter 13: Traffic and Transportation                       |
| Q14.1 - Are Consultees aware of any key sensitive receptors that should be taken into account?                                    | Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism | <p>Our local holiday accommodation providers, across a wide range of the impacted area.</p> <p>The Southern Upland Way</p> <p>The Striding Arches</p> <p>The Crawick Multiverse</p> <p>Allan's Cairn</p> <p>Tynron Doon, Auchengibbert Hill, Cairnkinna and Blackcraig Hill</p> <p>Afton Glen Reservoir.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Chapter 14: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism          |
| Q14. 2 - Are Consultees aware of any additional                                                                                   | Socio-economics,                        | <p>Local holiday accommodation providers</p> <p>Southern Upland Way long-distance running events</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Chapter 14: Socio-economics,                                 |

| Question                                                                                                                                          | Discipline             | Tynron Community Council Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed                                                                             |
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| relevant consultees it would be valuable to consult with regard to socio-economics, tourism and recreation?                                       | Recreation and Tourism | Local eco-tourism providers<br>Galloway Dark Skies Park<br>Crawick Multiverse<br>Southern Upland Way walking holiday organizers<br>Local cycling groups<br>Upper Nithsdale Tourism Initiative<br>Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere<br>VisitScotland/Visit SouthWest Scotland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Recreation and Tourism                                                                                                                   |
| Q15.1 - Do the consultees agree with the proposed methodology and scope of assessment?                                                            | Climate Change         | Please also include:<br>- Scottish Government Planning Policy, with particular regard to rural depopulation, supporting rural jobs and businesses, and improving quality of life.<br>- Scottish Biodiversity targets, with regard to species losses in the area<br>- Scottish Government policy on peat preservation and restoration with particular regard to climate change mitigation<br>- Account must be taken of emerging scientific opinion on the critical issues to be addressed to mitigate climate change and biodiversity loss. These are likely to include a need to reduce energy consumption and industrial development, thus partially obviating the desirability, and need, for further wind farm developments such as Cloud Hill Wind Farm. | Noted. Climate change chapter will include analysis on payback periods / CO <sub>2</sub> displacement etc. The need for reduced energy consumption and industrial development is not a consideration for the assessment.<br><br>Rural jobs, biodiversity losses and peat will be covered in relevant technical chapters. | Chapter 15: Climate Change and Carbon Balance, Chapter 14: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism, and Chapter 11: Hydrology and Soils. |
| Q16.1 - In the event that all consultees return a 'not significant' response, are consultees content to scope out aviation out of the EIA Report? | Other Issues           | We do not have the information to answer this question.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | NA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | NA                                                                                                                                       |

| Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Discipline   | Tynron Community Council Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed |
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| Q16.2 - Are any consultees aware of any additional stakeholders that should be taken into account?                                                                                                                            | Other Issues | No, apart from those mentioned below in 'Final comments'.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | NA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | NA                                                           |
| Q16.3 - Are consultees content that telecommunication s can be scoped out following detailed consultation with telecoms providers, should no telecommunication s links be found in the immediate vicinity of the Development? | Other Issues | We do not have the information to answer this question. However if problems were to arise, it should be up to the developer to address any problems.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Further consultation with telecommunications will be conducted during EIA to ensure the final design has no impacts on their assets.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | NA                                                           |
| Q16.4 - Are consultees content to scope out effects on Health and Safety best practice, ice, lightning strike and structural failures?                                                                                        | Other Issues | No. All worst case scenarios should be planned for, particularly with the proximity to the Southern Upland Way and its use by members of the public, and the use of our fragile roads infrastructure. Damage to wind turbines by lightning is frequently reported, particularly as turbines increase in size. Ice throw could be a serious problem with the proximity of the wind farm to the Southern Upland Way, as well as to farm workers and grazing cattle. We consider it irresponsible to scope out these issues. | <p>All other potential interactions with Human Health including Health and Safety best practice, ice, lightning strike and structural failures are unlikely to occur and therefore, unlikely to give rise to potentially significant effects. As such, Health and Safety best practice, ice, lightning strike and structural failures have been scoped out of further assessment at this stage.</p> <p>Access Management Plan will be implemented to facilitate safe access to the</p> | Chapter 14: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism          |

| Question                                                                                                                                                                                   | Discipline   | Tynron Community Council Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Response for Gate Check                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Chapter / Section in EIA Report where comments are addressed                                   |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                            |              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | SUW during construction, which will remain open at all times.                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                |
| Q16.5 - Should no properties fall within ten rotor diameters and 130 degrees of north of the Development, are consultees content that shadow flicker effects can be scoped out of the EIA? | Other Issues | We have insufficient information to answer this question. The curtilage of a property should also be included in the assessment of shadow flicker and shadow throw as well as reflections.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | NA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | NA                                                                                             |
| Q16.6 - Are consultees content to scope out the Development's vulnerabilities and resilience to climate change?                                                                            | Other Issues | No. Changes in weather conditions are creating areas of high risk to fire in remote moorland sites, and this should be considered in the EIA, particularly with the proximity of the site to the Southern Upland Way. Extreme weather conditions in the past few years have resulted in severe storms with high winds over several days causing extensive and widespread damage. Local flooding and areas of standing water from high rainfalls have created serious issues and damage in local areas. Therefore we believe that the Development's vulnerabilities and resilience to climate change should be scoped into the EIA. | Noted. The EIA will commit to watercourse crossing design being able to convey flows up to the 1:200 year event.<br>Access to the SUW will be managed through the Access Management Plan, with the SUW remaining open at all times. | Chapter 11: Hydrology and Soils and Chapter 14: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism        |
| Q16.7 - Are consultees content to scope out Major Accidents and Disasters from further assessment?                                                                                         | Other Issues | No. The potential for major accidents and disasters is exacerbated by the proximity of the development to the Southern Upland Way, to areas used by local farmers for livestock grazing, and the use of our fragile, rural roads infrastructure by abnormal loads and increased wind farm traffic, and therefore should be scoped into the EIA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Access to the Site and SUW will be managed through the Access Management Plan.<br>Route to Site will be assessed as part of the EIA. Abnormal Loads Assessment will be assessed as part of the EIA.                                 | Chapter 13: Traffic and Transportation and Chapter 14: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism |



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Site Boundary

1:40,000 Scale @ A3



0 1 2 km

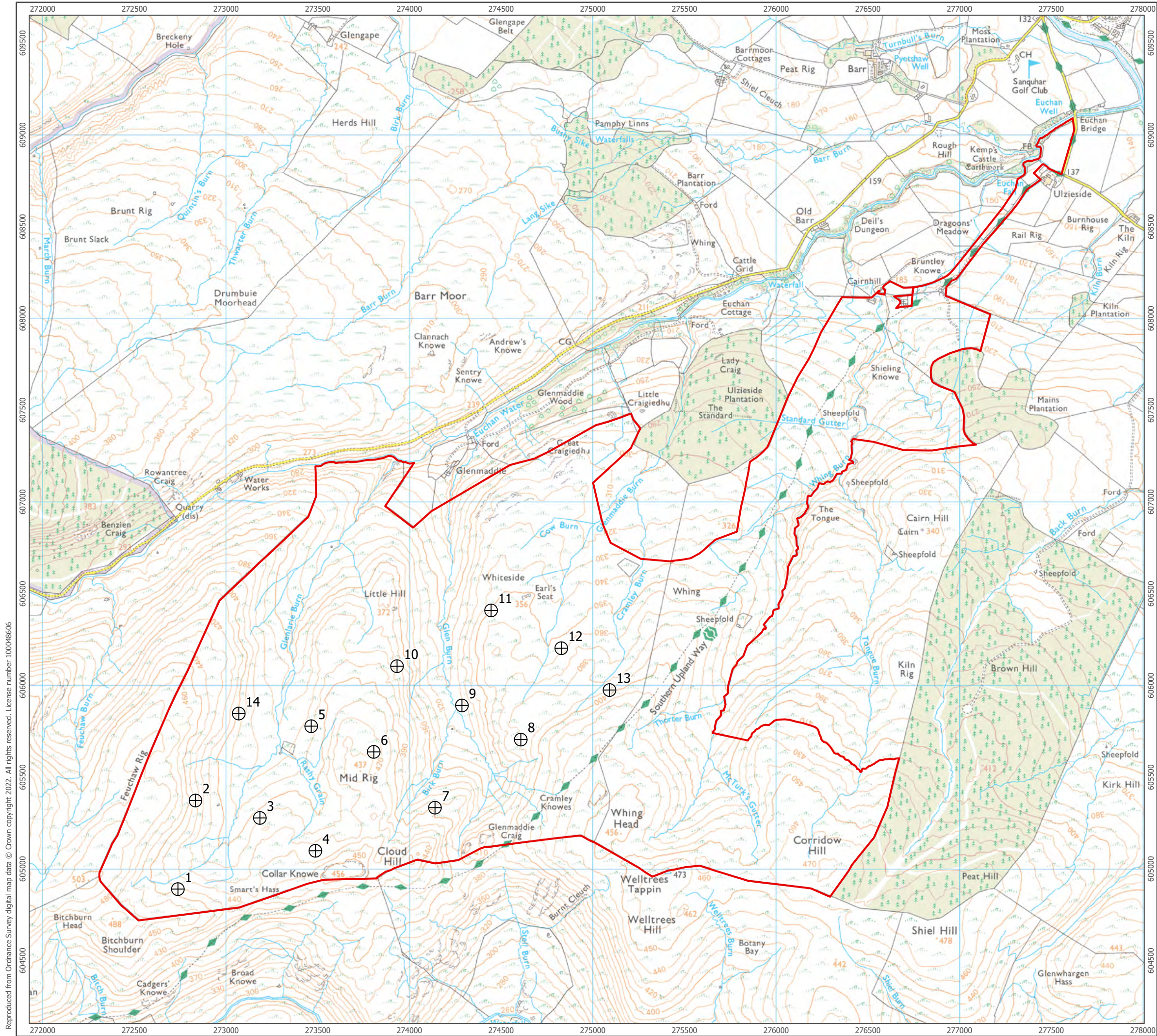


NORTH

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| Produced By: ML | Ref: 4254-REP-010 |
| Checked By: SC  | Date: 21/12/2022  |

**Site Location**  
Figure 1

**Cloud Hill Wind Farm**  
**Gate Check 1 Report**



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 Site Boundary

 Proposed Turbine Location

1:20,000 Scale @ A3



Produced By: ML

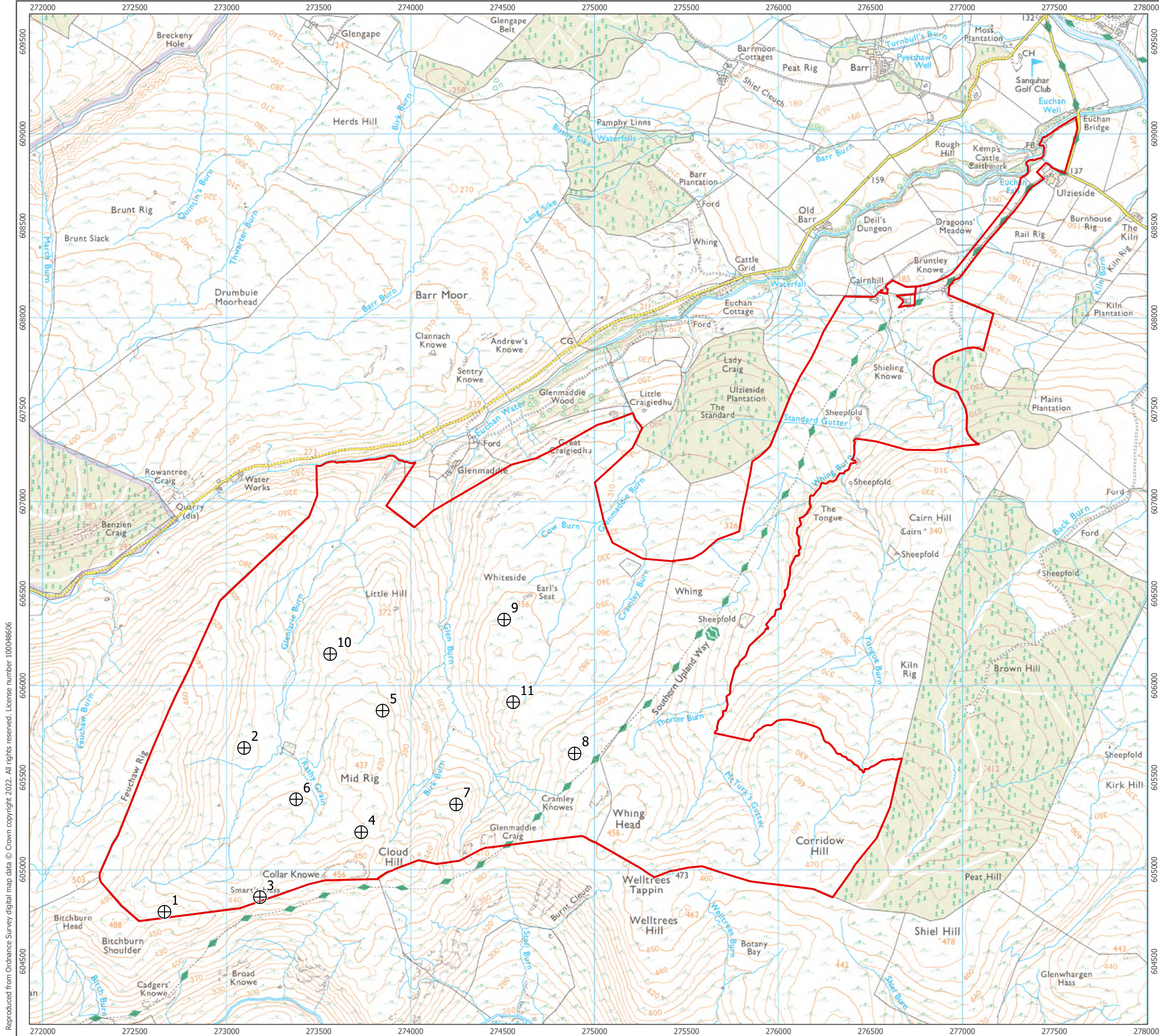
Ref: 4254-REP-011

Checked By: SC

Date: 21/12/2022

Scoping Layout  
Figure 2

Cloud Hill Wind Farm  
Gate Check 1 Report



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 Site Boundary

 Proposed Turbine Location

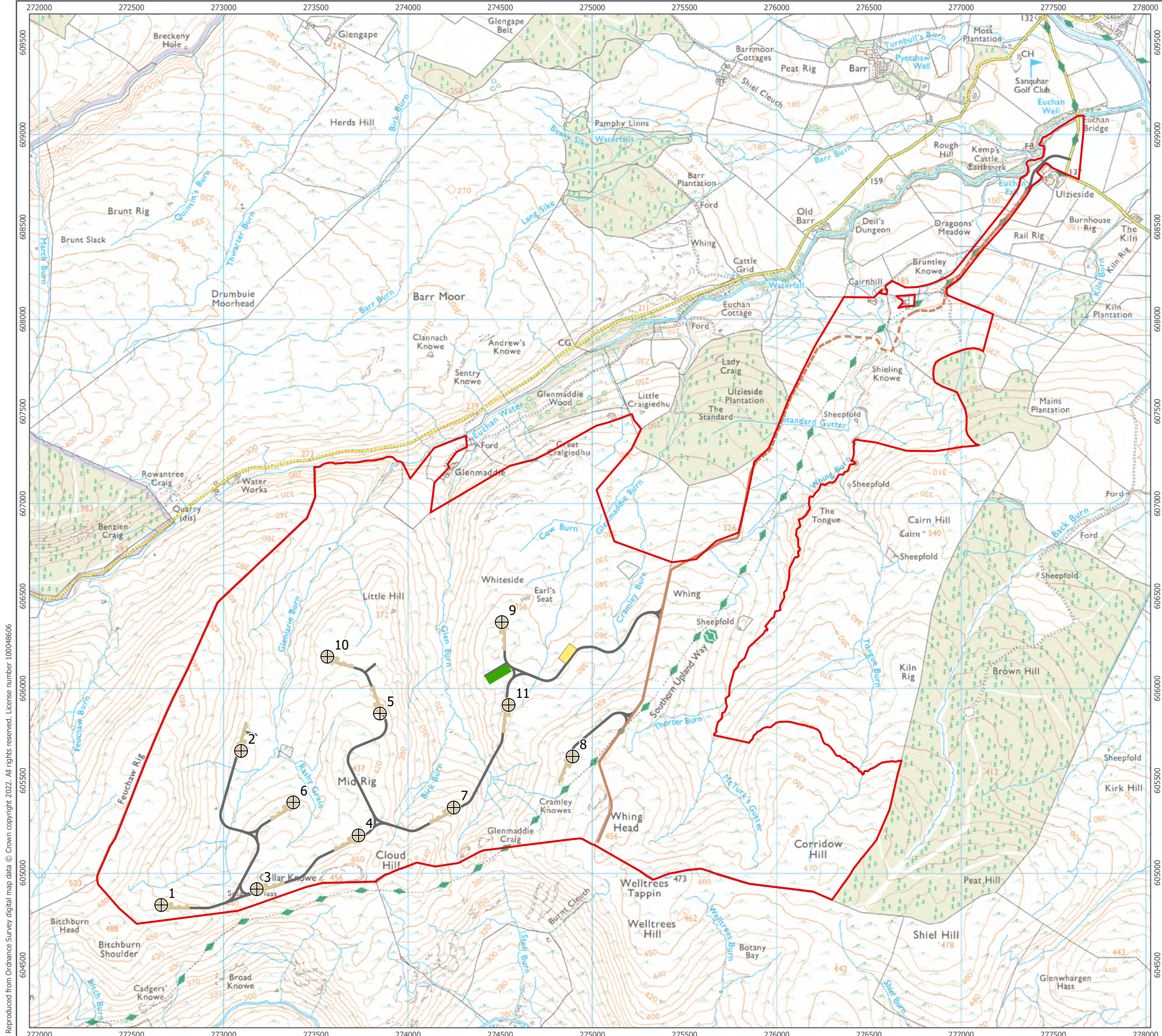
1:20,000 Scale @ A3



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| Checked By: SC  | Date: 21/12/2022  |

Pre Chilled Layout  
Figure 3

Cloud Hill Wind Farm  
Gate Check 1 Report



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Site Boundary

Proposed Turbine Location

New Access Track

Upgraded Existing Track

Existing Access Track

Hardstandings

Temporary Construction Compound

Battery Energy Storage System

1:20,000 Scale @ A3

00.51 km

NORTH

Produced By: ML

Ref: 4254-REP-013

Checked By: SC

Date: 21/12/2022

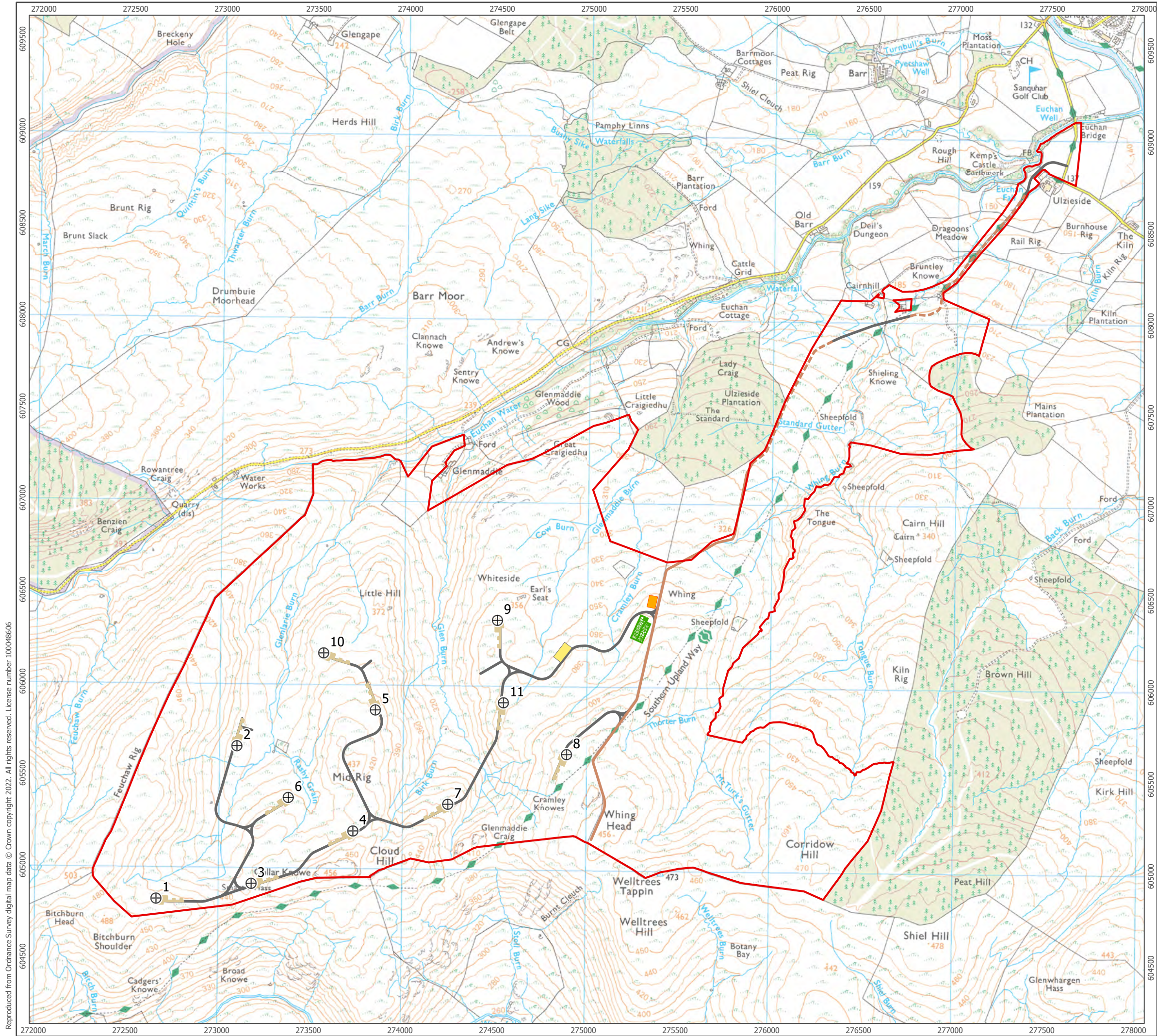
Chilled Layout

Figure 4

Cloud Hill Wind Farm

Gate Check 1 Report





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Site Boundary

Proposed Turbine Location

New Access Track

Upgraded Existing Track

Existing Access Track

Temporary Construction Compound

Battery Energy Storage System

Substation

Hardstandings

1:20,000

Scale @ A3

0

0.5

1 km

NORTH

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Ref: 4254-REP-014

Checked By: SC

Date: 21/12/2022

Frozen Layout

Figure 6

Cloud Hill Wind Farm

Gate Check 1 Report

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