Ravengill Energy Park

Other Documents

Maximising Socio-economic Benefits Report

June 2026

BiGGAR Economics

Ravengill Energy Park
Maximising Socio-economic Benefits

A report to Renewco Power
May 2026

Contents

Executive Summary

Ravengill Energy Park will maximise the socio-economic benefits it will have on the local community and South Lanarkshire through the actions and commitments made by the developer, Renewco Power.

Ravengill Energy Park ('the Proposed Development') is a proposed renewable energy development in South Lanarkshire that will consist of up to 21 turbines, with a combined installed capacity of approximately 147 MW, and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a capacity of approximately 50 MW. This will be part of the wider pipeline of onshore wind led renewable energy projects that Renewco Power (the Applicant) has in South Lanarkshire, including the M74 West and Watchman Energy Parks and Clyde South Wind Farm.

The National Planning Framework 4 states that energy projects will only be supported if they can demonstrate that they will maximise the net economic impact. The assessment of whether the Proposed Development will maximise these benefits is based on the commitments and actions that the developer has taken on **supply chain development**, **skills development**, **the empowerment of communities** and balancing the development with **environmental protection and enhancement**. This considered both what the Applicant has direct control over, and how it can enable others to have a positive impact across these areas.

1.1 Supply Chain

The Applicant has committed to supply chain development actions which **are rooted in the needs and context of the South Lanarkshire economy** and will build the capacity of the local supply chain for the cluster of energy developments that will be constructed in South Lanarkshire in the next ten years.

These commitments include practical steps to remove barriers to entry for local **Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) to participate in the onshore wind supply chain**, collaboration with the Chambers of Commerce, Business Gateway and Community Councils and other developers in the area. An important commitment is the collaboration with **BizGive for the creation of a software platform** to collate information on the supply chain capabilities in the local area, provide local stakeholder engagement and report impacts. These commitments will be delivered

in collaboration with the Council and other developers in the area, aligning with the emerging **South Lanarkshire Development Forum**.

1.2 Skills Development

The Applicant is taking a proactive approach to local skills development, mindful that this is a crucial component of its supply chain requirements. It is actively **engaging with local schools** such as Biggar High School providing presentations to highlight the wide range of employment opportunities in renewable energy and engaging through career days.

It also aims to build relationships and engagement with local colleges directly and through the **Energy Skills Partnership** (ESP), because further education is the education route most applicable to the skills needed for onshore wind. This could also involve support for **student projects and placements.** The Applicant aims to become an accredited **Living Wage Employer** encouraging their supply chain to do likewise, further **widening the workforce impact.** These commitments will be delivered in collaboration with the Council and other developers in the area, aligning with the emerging **South Lanarkshire Development Forum.**

1.3 Community Empowerment

The Applicant has **invested resources to understand the local needs and aspirations** that can be supported through the Community Benefit Funding (CBF) and other benefits. This has included **in-person events and virtual consultation** through BizGive's **AssetFace engagement platform.** This was to identify the opportunities perceived by the community and consider further work to develop the practicalities of supporting these projects through the CBF with a long-term vision. This will be shared with other developers in the area. A Community Benefit Agreement between the Applicant and the local community will be established and reviewed every 5 years to ensure that it remains fit for purpose. The potential projects to be supported will be decided by the community and South Lanarkshire Council.

The Applicant is open to consider community ownership opportunities where there is interest from the community, whereas the Applicant also follows an innovative approach working with **relevant** companies with the aim of **installing solar panels and batteries to local households**. Subject to confirmation of the final delivery model, the infrastructure **ownership will likely be passed to the individual households.**

1.4 Environmental Protection and Enhancement

The Applicant is committed to **supporting community assets** in the vicinity of its projects. This will include ensuring access paths through the site are maintained post construction. The Applicant is also exploring the potential of supporting the wider **link of paths and improving connecting** paths in the area through the Council's Clydesdale Way initiative.

The Applicant invests in two types of assets that are communally used: the natural environment within the site and the **road infrastructure** surrounding the site. This includes a **Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan** enabling biodiversity net gain and commitment to **leaving the road infrastructure in the same or better condition** than before the projects commenced. An **Outdoor Access Management Plan** will also be in place.

The approach outlined above is designed to meet the requirements of NPF4 Policy 11c on the maximisation of net socio-economic benefits to both Scotland and South Lanarkshire.

It was estimated that during the development and construction phase, which is expected to cost approximately £204 million, the Proposed Development could generate:

- £14.4 million Gross Value Added (GVA) and a peak of 198 jobs in South Lanarkshire;
- £46.1 million GVA and a peak of 606 jobs in Scotland; and
- £78.0 million GVA and a peak of 1,021 jobs in the UK as a whole.

During development and construction, the main opportunities for local suppliers would be related to the balance of plant contracts, including plant hire, civil engineering and construction, fencing, forestry and other skilled trades activities.

On average in each year of its 40-year operational life, the Proposed Development is expected to generate:

- £4.6 million GVA and 28 jobs in South Lanarkshire;
- £9.1 million GVA and 73 jobs in Scotland; and
- £13.0 million GVA and 101 jobs in the UK.

In total, over the development, construction and operation phases of the Proposed Development, it was estimated that it could contribute:

- £198 million GVA in South Lanarkshire;
- £411 million GVA in Scotland; and
- £598 million GVA in the UK.

This economic activity, and the commitments outlined above, will contribute to the **human, economic, social, and natural capital** of South Lanarkshire. This will increase the resilience of these communities and support their long-term economic development.

The assessment of the Proposed Development has found that the approach taken is:

- **place-based** and rooted in the context of South Lanarkshire;
- **innovative** in its approach to maximising benefits;
- **collaborative** with other developers, communities and public bodies;
- **transparent**, including a commitment to impact evaluation;
- **flexible** enough to meet the evolving needs of the community; and
- **deliverable,** whereby an environment will be created to allow communities to deliver those benefits which are enabled by the wind farm.

The Applicant has proposed a wide range of initiatives in pursuit of the policy intention of NPF4 Policy 11(c) to "maximise net economic impact". These are consistent with the Scottish Renewables guidance, covering the four themes of maximising the supply chain, skills and workforce, community empowerment, and natural environment benefits. The comprehensive package of measures is designed to maximise the economic and community benefits, in line with the intention of Policy 11c of NPF4.

2. Introduction and Policy Context

This report presents an assessment of Renewco Power's commitments against Scottish Renewable's guidance on Maximising net Socio-economic Benefit of Renewable Energy.

2.1 Background

Ravengill Energy Park is a proposed onshore wind farm located in South Lanarkshire. The Proposed Development would be comprised of 21 turbines, each with a generating capacity of around 7 MW, resulting in a total installed capacity of approximately 147 MW. In addition, it would include a battery with an output of approximately 50 MW.

BiGGAR Economics was also commissioned by Renewco Power to estimate the economic and supply chain impact associated with the M74 Corridor Cluster of projects in South Lanarkshire. This allowed developer-specific data to be used in estimating the expected socio-economic impact of the Proposed Development.

2.2 Policy Context: Maximising Net Economic Impact

In the last couple of years, there has been a clear policy intent to ensure that the potential economic benefits of onshore wind to Scotland and to local communities are realised. This is driven by the Scottish Government's ambition to achieve Net Zero by 2045 and, in that process, to maximise benefits to Scotland. These policy ambitions are most clearly highlighted in the following two policies:

- National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4); and
- Scottish Onshore Wind Sector Deal.

2.2.1 National Planning Framework 4

NPF4[1] is Scotland's national spatial strategy, setting out the principles to be applied to planning decisions, regional priorities and national developments.

[1] Scottish Government (2023), National Planning Framework 4.

As part of Policy 11a of NPF4, "development proposals for all forms of renewable technologies will be supported". This is subject to the test outlined in Policy 11c, namely:

"Development proposals will only be supported where they maximise net economic impact, including local and community socio economic benefits such as employment, associated business and supply chain opportunities."

Whilst NPF4 does not provide details on how developments should be assessed against this test, what is meant by the Scottish Government when it states that it wishes to "maximise net economic impact" can be seen in other policy documents, including the Onshore Wind Sector Deal.

2.2.2 Green Industrial Strategy

The Green Industrial Strategy[2], published by the Scottish Government in September 2024, aims to help Scotland realise the economic benefits of the global transition to Net Zero. The strategy highlights Scotland's strengths and opportunities during the transition and outlines six key enabling factors that the Scottish Government and partners will implement to foster a positive environment for investment and growth. These include:

- supporting investment, ensuring an investment-friendly ecosystem;
- investing in strong research and development foundations;
- supporting the development of a skilled workforce;
- helping supply chain businesses to seize opportunities;
- delivering an agile planning and consenting system; and
- delivering required housing and enabling infrastructure.

In addition to the enabling factors, there are five opportunity areas identified for the Scottish economy. The first of these is the wind energy sector and the strategy highlights the role of collaboration and circularity in achieving the ambition of maximising the economic benefits of the onshore wind sector.

The strategy provides a clear direction and focus, highlighting the importance of prioritising resources and investment. The strategy also emphasises the need for coordinated policies to create the right environment and work collaboratively with partners to maximise economic benefit from the opportunities created by the transition to Net Zero.

[2] Scottish Government (2024), Green Industrial Strategy.

2.2.3 Onshore Wind Sector Deal

The Onshore Wind Sector Deal[3], published in September 2023, establishes a series of commitments between the Scottish Government and the onshore wind industry to achieve Net Zero targets through a collaborative approach. This partnership aims to deliver 20 GW of onshore wind capacity by 2030, whilst maximising the economic benefits for Scotland and prioritising community involvement and benefit.

The Onshore Wind Sector Deal highlights what the sector can do collectively and in partnership with the Scottish Government.

Under supply chain, skills and circular economy commitments, the onshore wind sector commits to addressing skills gaps by committing to apprenticeships, training opportunities, and skilled job creation across related industries for the duration of the sector deal. Onshore wind pipeline data will be used to identify geographic clusters for operations and maintenance, encouraging co-investment in facilities and infrastructure in Scotland to deliver local economic benefits.

The sector commitments also include publishing data on local content in supply chains and in operations and strategic action to promote supply chain opportunities and enhance local content.

The sector commits to early engagement with communities, ensuring agreements on benefits align with local priorities and are established before key financial decisions. Transparency in community benefit fund management and reporting is prioritised and efforts to encourage and simplify shared ownership models are also a key focus.

The Applicant is collaborating with the sector and Scottish Renewables to advance the shared objectives set out in the Deal. This Deal identifies measures to maximise economic and community impacts, offering further clarity and actions on the concept of maximising net economic benefit. This report highlights the actions undertaken by the Applicant in the context of the Proposed Development.

This collective approach underscores a commitment to a just transition, where communities actively participate in and benefit from Scotland's renewable energy transformation. Sector initiatives to support this may include improving energy efficiency, installing solar panels, providing low-carbon heating for homes, and establishing EV charging stations in community areas.

2.2.4 South Lanarkshire Economic Strategy 2022 – 2027

South Lanarkshire Council has a number of strategies working together to support and improve the local economy. These include Promote - the South Lanarkshire

[3] Scottish Government (2023) Onshore Wind Sector Deal

Economic Strategy, the South Lanarkshire Tourism Strategy, the Local Transport Strategy, and the Park and Ride Strategy. The primary strategy is the Economic Strategy, which is focused on three key themes of sustainable economic development:

- people;
- place; and
- business.

More specifically, South Lanarkshire Council will focus on:

- working in partnership with other key agencies;
- using data to inform key decision-making;
- supporting startups and social enterprises and help existing businesses to grow and maintain jobs;
- making training and jobs more accessible to the local community; and
- attracting investment and creating spaces that appeal to workers and businesses.

The Proposed Development will directly support these aims in a variety of ways. The Energy Park will create jobs in the South Lanarkshire region and across Scotland as a whole. These are high-quality jobs that provide long-term security in a sector that is seeing significant growth in comparison to many industries where job security is not often guaranteed.

A benefit of creating these additional jobs is that, as part of the Proposed Development, training will be provided for workers to meet the requirements of the role. These are technical roles which provide skills that are transferable across a number of high-value sectors.

2.3 Maximising Net Economic Benefit

The purpose of this report is to consider how the Applicant's approach aligns with the intention of the NPF4 Policy 11c on the maximisation of net economic impact. Guidance on how to assess the approach taken by an energy developer to maximise socio-economic benefits has been published by the industry body, Scottish Renewables[4]. This will consider the different types of benefits that are generated by onshore wind projects. Examples of these are given in Figure 2-1, and this covers:

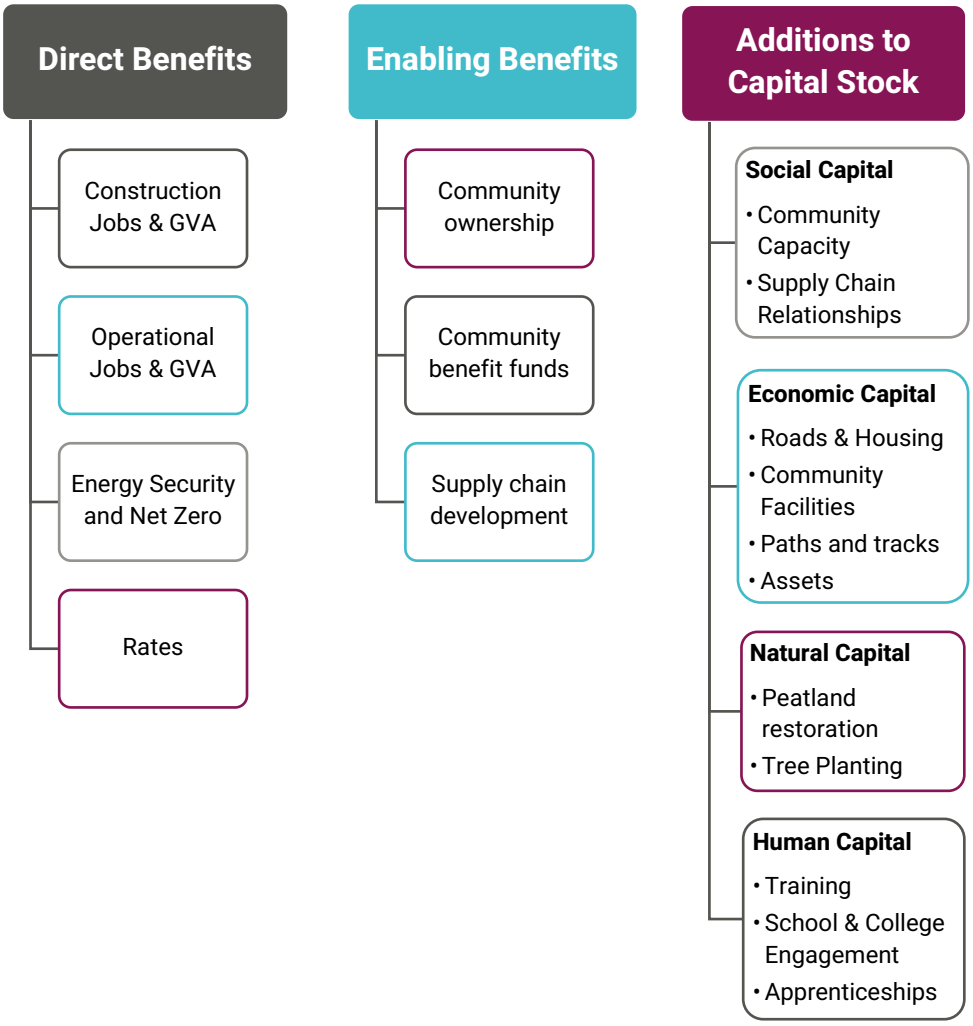
- **Direct Benefits** – these are the benefits and impacts over which the developer has direct control and can most easily influence. This can include the economic impacts generated by the projects and their contribution to public policy and public finances;
- **Enabling Benefits** – many of the potential positive impacts associated with an onshore wind farm are not within the control of the developer. These can include

[4] Scottish Renewables (2025) Maximising Net Socio-economic Benefit of Renewable Energy Guidance and Reporting Framework

how communities invest any funding made available and how the supply chain builds capacity through the project. However, the developer can influence and support these organisations and individuals to maximise these enabling benefits and therefore it is appropriate to consider how the developer is working to maximise these enabled benefits; and

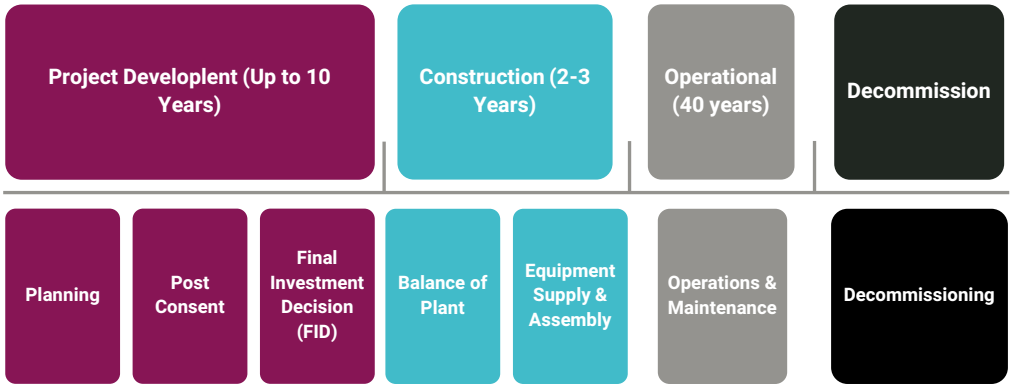
- **Additions to Capital Stocks** – the development of an onshore wind project should leave the local communities wealthier across all types of capital stock, including human, social, economic and natural capital.

Figure 2-1 Types of benefits from onshore wind in Scotland



The assessment is mindful of the process of building an onshore wind farm and the period in which this assessment takes place. The development timeline is outlined in Figure 2-2. For the Proposed Development, the construction period is expected to be in the mid-2030s.

Figure 2-2 Example of Onshore Wind Farm Development and Timeline per Phase



Source: Scottish Renewables (2025).

Whilst there is currently no government guidance on what this means, best practice is being established and the sector organisation, Scottish Renewables, has in 2025[5] published guidance to support developers in delivering and maximising benefits. This guidance is designed to identify several principles that can be used to make a judgement on whether the Proposed Development is maximising net economic impact. These include:

- **Place-based:** every project and every community is slightly different, so packages of benefits that are tailored around the needs and capacity of the community in question are likely to generate greater benefits than a standardised approach.
- **Innovative:** many of the benefits that have been realised by renewables to date have happened because of innovation at the project level. To maintain this culture of continuous improvement developers must continue to innovate.
- **Collaborative:** many of the benefits of renewable energy developments are not directly within the gift of developers. They will require input and support of others in the public, private and third sector to realise, making a collaborative approach essential.
- **Transparent:** effective collaboration requires the parties involved to trust each other and an open and transparent approach is crucial for establishing this trust.
- **Flexible:** a lot can change between project inception and completion, and these changes can make a big difference to the benefits ultimately realised. A flexible approach that responds positively to such changes is therefore important.
- **Deliverable:** providing communities with realistic expectations about what can be delivered during the construction and operation phase of a project will help achieve trust with relevant stakeholders.

These principles highlight that in considering whether the Proposed Development maximises net economic impact, it is necessary to consider both the economic

[5] Scottish Renewables (2025), Maximising Net Socio-Economic Benefit of Renewable Energy Guidance and Reporting Framework: Guidance for developers to comply with NPF4 Policy 11c.

impacts that are expected and the approach that the Applicant is taking to ensure these benefits are consistent with community needs.

The focus of the assessment is on proposed approaches across supply chain engagement, skills development, and community empowerment. This is mindful of the development timelines outlined in Figure 2-2 and the point at which impacts are likely to occur.

2.4 Report Structure

The structure of this report is:

- this section presents the introduction and outlines the strategic policy context for maximising net economic impact, in particular, NPF4 and the Onshore Wind Sector Deal;
- Section 3 presents the local context and key insights;
- Section 4 focuses on the supply chain commitments to maximising benefits;
- Section 5 outlines skills development initiatives undertaken to maximise benefits;
- Section 6 highlights community empowerment commitments and actions to maximise benefits;
- Section 7 brings together actions and commitments for environmental protection;
- Section 8 presents the economic impact of the Proposed Development;
- Section 9 sets out the tourism baseline and assessment; and
- Appendix A includes the detailed list of tourist attractions and recreational trails.

3. Local Context

This section discusses the socio-economic context of the Proposed Development.

Understanding the socio-economic context in which a project will be built is crucial in ensuring that any intervention or proposed approach is place based and meets the needs of the communities that will be impacted.

3.1 Study Areas

The socio-economic baseline for the Proposed Development focuses on the following study areas:

- Local Area (defined as the electoral ward of Clydesdale East);
- South Lanarkshire; and
- Scotland.

3.2 Socio-economic Context

3.2.1 Demographics

For the years of 2021 for the Local Area and 2024 for South Lanarkshire and Scotland, the Local Area had a population of 13,165, this was 3.9% of the total population of South Lanarkshire and 0.2% of the population of Scotland as a whole.

The Local Area is characterised by a higher-than-average working-age population (62.8%) when compared to South Lanarkshire (62.3%) but lower than Scotland as a whole (63.3%). This indicates there are similar economic opportunities in the Local Area and South Lanarkshire but those of the working age have moved to different regions of Scotland in search of more available employment options.

Table 3-1 Population Estimates, mid-2021 and mid-2024

Age	Local Area	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
0-15	1,972	56,198	896,833
16-64	8,268	208,205	3,511,191
65+	2,925	69,627	1,138,876
Total	**13,165**	**334,030**	**5,546,900**

Source: National Records of Scotland (2025), mid-2024 population estimates; National Records of Scotland (2022). The latest data for the local area is from 2021 while the latest data for South Lanarkshire and Scotland is from 2024.

Between 2024 and 2047, the population of South Lanarkshire is expected to increase by 10.1% compared to an increase of 4.3% for Scotland as a whole. Over the same

period, the share of working-age people in South Lanarkshire is projected to decrease by around 2.1 percentage points. This is similar to the 2.4 percentage point projected decrease for Scotland as a whole.

While the lack of economic opportunities may not be the sole factor leading to a decrease in the working-age population in South Lanarkshire and by extension in the Local Area, it may be a contributing factor, indicating a need for more economic opportunities in the area.

Table 3-2 Population Projections, 2024 to 2043

	South Lanarkshire		Scotland	
	2024	2047	2024	2047
Total	**334,030**	**367,836**	**5,546,900**	**5,782,683**
0-15	16.8%	15.1%	16.2%	14.0%
16-64	62.8%	60.7%	63.3%	60.9%
65+	22.2%	24.3%	20.5%	25.0%

Source: National Records of Scotland (2025), mid-2024 population estimates. National Records of Scotland (2025), Subnational Population Projections for Scotland (2022-based).

3.2.2 Industrial Structure

As shown in Table 3-3, in 2024 human health and social work was the largest source of employment in both the Local Area and South Lanarkshire (41.7% and 18.3% respectively). Manufacturing was the second highest source of employment in the Local Area (10.0%) which took up a higher share of the employment compared to South Lanarkshire and Scotland (9.2% and 6.9% respectively).

Of those working in the Local Area, 4.2% were employed in the construction industry, compared to 9.2% in South Lanarkshire and 5.9% in Scotland. This is likely to be one of the main beneficiaries of the opportunities for local content associated with the construction phase of the Ravengill Energy Park.

Table 3-3 Industrial Structure, 2024

	Local Area	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Human health and social work activities	41.7	18.3	16.2
Manufacturing	10.0	9.2	6.9
Accommodation and food service activities	6.7	5.8	8.1
Transportation and storage	5.8	3.8	4.1
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	5.0	16.7	12.5
Education	5.0	7.5	8.3
Construction	4.2	9.2	5.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	2.9	5.0	7.2
Administrative and support service activities	2.1	6.7	6.4
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1.2	1.9	3.1
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1.2	2.9	3.0
Other service activities	1.2	2.1	1.9
Mining and quarrying	0.8	0.1	1.0
Information and communication	0.8	1.2	2.7
Financial and insurance activities	0.6	1.5	3.4
Real estate activities	0.5	1.5	1.6
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	0.3	5.8	6.5
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	0.2	1.0	0.7
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.1	0.2	0.8

Source: ONS (2024), business register and employment survey, 2024

There are several sub-sectors in the Local Area and South Lanarkshire which may benefit from the construction phase of the Ravengill Energy Park. The share of those

working in civil engineering in the Local Area and South Lanarkshire is 0.5% and 1.7% respectively, compared to the Scottish average of 0.9%.

The Local Area has a smaller share of the population working in specialised construction but, the region of South Lanarkshire has a larger share (2.9% and 5.0% respectively) which includes activities such as demolition and site preparation as well as electrical and plumbing. This is similar to the Scottish average of 3.4% working in specialised construction.

3.2.3 Economic Activity

The unemployment rate in South Lanarkshire was 3.3%, which is the same as the Scottish average of 3.3%. Additionally, South Lanarkshire had a similar rate of economic activity (76.5%) compared to Scotland as a whole (76.8%).

Table 3-4 shows that the median annual gross wage for residents (full and part-time) in South Lanarkshire is £34,293, which is higher than the national average of £33,061.

Table 3-4 Labour Market Indicators

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Economic Activity Rate	76.5%	76.8%
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.3%	3.3%
Median Annual Gross Income (All Residents)	£34,293	£33,061

Source: ONS (2025), annual population survey – data for Jan 2024 to Dec 2024; ONS (2025), annual survey of hours and earnings – resident analysis – 2025; ONS (2025), model-based estimates of unemployment – data for Jan 2024 to Dec 2024.

3.2.4 Education

The workforce in South Lanarkshire has lower levels of higher qualifications than Scotland as a whole. Across South Lanarkshire, 46.0% of the population have achieved at least a Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework level seven (SCQF7), equivalent to the first year of a Scottish degree program. The proportion of people who have achieved no qualifications in South Lanarkshire (6.7%) is lower than Scotland as a whole (8.2%).

Table 3-5 Education Levels, 2024

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
% with SCQF7+ and above	46.0	53.7
% with SCQF6+ - aged 16-64	65.5	71.9
% with SCQF5+ - aged 16-64	89.5	87.1
% with SCQF1+ - aged 16-64	91.1	88.2
% with Other Qualifications	2.1	3.5
% with No Qualifications	6.7	8.2

Source: ONS (2025), annual population survey – data for Jan 2024 to Dec 2024.

3.2.5 Household savings and perceptions of financial position

The Scottish Household Survey also reports on the economic health of households by either perception or measures of resilience. In both metrics, South Lanarkshire does not perform as well as the rest of Scotland. For example, 46% of households self-report that they are managing well in South Lanarkshire, compared to 53% in Scotland. Similarly, 19% of households in South Lanarkshire have no savings, compared to 17% across Scotland.

Table 3-6 Household finance indicators

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
% of households who feel they are "managing well" financially	46%	53%
% of households with no savings*	19%	17%

Source: Scottish Government (2024), Scottish Household Survey – data for 2024, *note that the survey data is based on a sample size of 150 for South Lanarkshire and should therefore be treated with caution, however the proportion of households with no savings in South Lanarkshire has been consistently lower than the Scottish average since 2013

3.2.6 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a relative measure of deprivation which ranks small areas of Scotland across seven dimensions: income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime, and housing. These areas can be ranked based on which quintile (fifth of the distribution) they belong to, with a small area in the first quintile being in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland.

The Local Area has significantly fewer small areas (6%) in the most deprived quintile compared to South Lanarkshire (20%). There are 17 small areas in the Local Area where most are concentrated towards the middle of the distribution with 41% of the small areas falling between the second and fourth quintile.

There are 431 small areas in South Lanarkshire of which it has a significantly higher proportion of small areas (17%) in the least deprived quintile compared to the Local

Area (0%). The distribution of small areas in South Lanarkshire is more evenly distributed when compared to the Local Area.

When looking at the levels of educational deprivation, the Local Area has a similar share of the population who are in the most deprived quintile for education deprivation (18%) compared to South Lanarkshire (19%).

Table 3-7 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation by Quintile, 2020

	Local Area	South Lanarkshire
1 (most deprived)	6%	20%
2	24%	25%
3	41%	20%
4	29%	18%
5 (least deprived)	0%	17%

Source: Scottish Government (2020), Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.

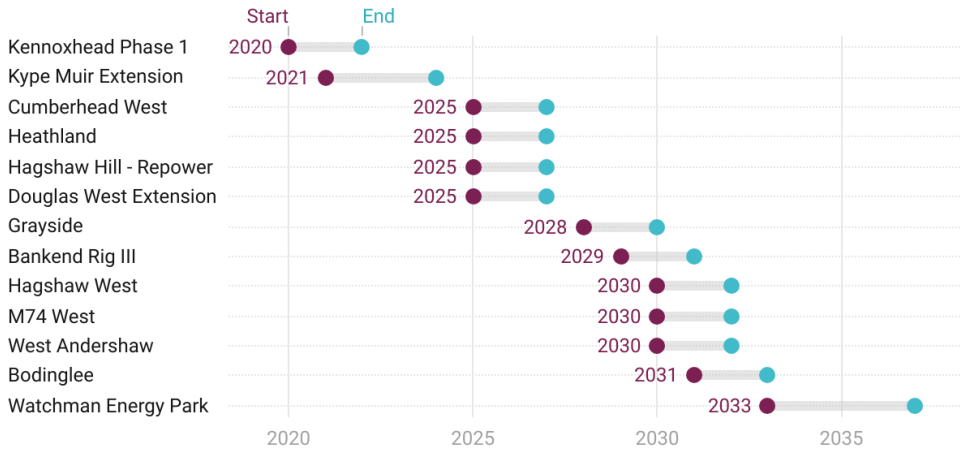
3.3 The Onshore Wind Market Context

3.3.1 Onshore Wind South Lanarkshire Pipeline

Data from EnergyPulse suggests that between 2025 and 2035, a total of 1.8 GW of onshore wind energy is expected to commence construction in South Lanarkshire. Since 2020, seven onshore wind farms, producing a combined 0.3 GW of energy, have already been constructed and are currently operational.

Looking ahead, EnergyPulse expects 45 new onshore wind projects, totalling 1.8 GW, to be constructed in South Lanarkshire over the period to 2035. Of these, 19 are currently in planning, 14 have received consent and 12 are in development. Most of the larger projects, those exceeding 50 MW, are expected to begin in 2025 (four projects) and 2030 (three projects).

Figure 3-1 Construction of Large (> 50 MW) Onshore Wind Projects in South Lanarkshire



Source: BiGGAR Economics analysis of EnergyPulse Database

3.4 The Environment

3.4.1 Use of Natural Environment for Recreation

Residents of South Lanarkshire are less likely to use the outdoors for recreation than the Scottish average. Across South Lanarkshire, approximately 41% of residents visit the outdoors one or more times a week, compared to 54% of Scottish residents. This is the second lowest of all local authorities in Scotland, with only North Lanarkshire having a lower level of outdoor recreation participation.

This is despite the residents of South Lanarkshire living within a similar proximity to either green or blue space than the average Scottish resident. Across South Lanarkshire, approximately 84% of residents live within a 10-minute walk of either green or blue space, compared to 87% across Scotland.

Table 3-8 Outdoor Access data – Average for 2012 to 2023

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Visit the outdoors one or more times a week	41%	54%
Live within a 10-minute walk of green/blue space	84%	87%

Source: Scottish Household Survey (2024)

3.4.2 Condition of Natural Environment

One of the reasons that outdoor recreation use in South Lanarkshire may be lower is due to the poorer condition of the natural environment in the area.

The Site Condition Monitoring is NatureScot's programme for monitoring the condition of features on designated sites in Scotland. This is to establish whether

each natural feature is likely to maintain itself in the medium to longer term under the current management regime and wider environment or other influences.

A native woodland condition indicator has been developed by the Forestry Commission using measures from the survey that are relevant to every unit area of native woodland and can indicate ecological health or condition in relation to biodiversity, no matter what the age or type of native woodland.

Table 3-9 Native Woodland Condition Indicator, 2006 to 2013

	Clyde	Scotland
Satisfactory	29.3%	39.3%
Unsatisfactory	52.0%	46.1%
Nearly-native woodland	8.4%	3.7%
PAWS	10.2%	10.9%
Total (hectares)	**37,599.5**	**364,208.2**

Source: https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/ESHI/

Table 3-10 Site Condition Monitoring, 2024

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Favourable	58.6%	71.1%
Recovering	1.7%	4.2%
Unfavourable	39.7%	24.7%
Total (sites)	**58**	**5431**

Source: https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/ProtectedNatureSites/

3.5 Community Empowerment

The communities surrounding the Proposed Development are represented by a number of groups and representative bodies that would form the initial community capacity to deliver benefits from any community benefit funding. These include:

- Douglas CC
- Duneaton CC
- Carmichael CC
- Quothquan & Thankerton CC
- Lesmahagow CC
- Coalburn CC
- Symington CC
- Crawford & Elvanfoot CC
- Lanark CC
- Rigside tenants & residents association

- Coalburn regeneration group
- Leadhills CC
- CEDAR in Crawford and Elvanfoot
- Wanlockhead CC in Dumfries and Galloway

Some of these community councils are well-organised, resourced and have experience working with onshore wind projects in the area. This includes Lesmahagow Community Council, which used funding from an onshore wind farm to develop a Community Lead Action Plan for Lesmahagow, Brocketsbrae and Hawksland.

3.6 Housing

The housing stock in South Lanarkshire has seen steady growth over the last decade[6]. Figure 3-2 shows that from 2014 to 2023 the total housing stock has increased by 7.2% in South Lanarkshire and 8.0% in Scotland as a whole. This is equivalent to an increase of 11,712 in the number of new homes within South Lanarkshire and 182,165 in Scotland.

Figure 3-2: Change in Housing Stock over the last decade (Rebased to 2014)

Source: Scottish Government (2023), Dwellings by Council Tax Band Summary.

The consistent increase in housing stock has also seen no significant change in the structure of the dwellings (see Table 3-11). Owner occupied dwellings make up the largest share of total dwellings in both South Lanarkshire (66.0%) and Scotland (60.0%). Table 3-11 shows that there has been a minimal change in the share of dwellings that are rented privately or with a job/business with a 1.4 percentage points increase in South Lanarkshire and 1.6 percentage point decrease in Scotland.

[6] Scottish Government (2023), Dwellings by Council Tax Band Summary.

Table 3-11: Dwelling Statistics, 2023

	South Lanarkshire - 2014	South Lanarkshire - 2023	Scotland - 2014	Scotland - 2023
Total Dwellings	**146,518**	**157,936**	**2,533,716**	**2,710,302**
Owner Occupied dwellings	66.7%	66.0%	58.0%	60.0%
Rented privately or with a job/business	9.6%	11.0%	14.8%	13.2%
Vacant private dwellings and second homes	2.1%	2.3%	3.8%	3.7%

Source: Scottish Government (2025), Housing Statistics: Stock by Tenure 2023

3.7 Expenditure

In both South Lanarkshire and Scotland Educational services make up the largest share of local government? expenditure (58.5% and 52.2% respectively). It is therefore essential that there are ample opportunities for young people to gain employment after leaving the education system. The Proposed Development would provide employment opportunities for these young people, to obtain high quality, long term, and technical roles.

Table 3-12: Net Revenue Expenditure 2024-25

Service	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Education Services	58.5%	52.2%
Social Work Services	29.3%	32.7%
Environmental Services	6.8%	5.4%
Culture and Related Services	3.7%	4.4%
Roads and Transport	3.1%	3.0%
Non-HRA Housing	2.0%	2.2%
Central Services	1.3%	2.7%
Building, Planning and Development	0.3%	1.4%
Trading Services	-	-0.4%
HRA	-4.9%	-3.6%

Scottish Government (2025), Local Government Finance Statistics 2024-25.

Figure 3-3: Net Revenue Expenditure 2024-25

Scottish Government (2025), Local Government Finance Statistics 2024-25.

3.8 Summary of Local Socio-Economic Context

As the Local Area faces a projected rise in its ageing population over the next two decades, creating local employment opportunities will become even more important. The Proposed Development would help to increase employment in the Local Area through direct economic activities. Therefore, the Proposed Development would play a role in attracting and retaining the working-age population.

The construction is more important to employment in the Local Area and South Lanarkshire than in Scotland as a whole. This may offer opportunities for local employment, particularly in the employment opportunities surrounding civil engineering and specialised construction. Both the Local Area and South Lanarkshire could potentially benefit from construction contracts, which would contribute to the Proposed Development's local impact.

The Proposed Development also has the opportunity to improve the attainment of educational qualifications in South Lanarkshire through the provision of apprenticeships. Increasing the levels of skills and education may have positive benefits on income and employment in the Local Area.

4. Supply Chain

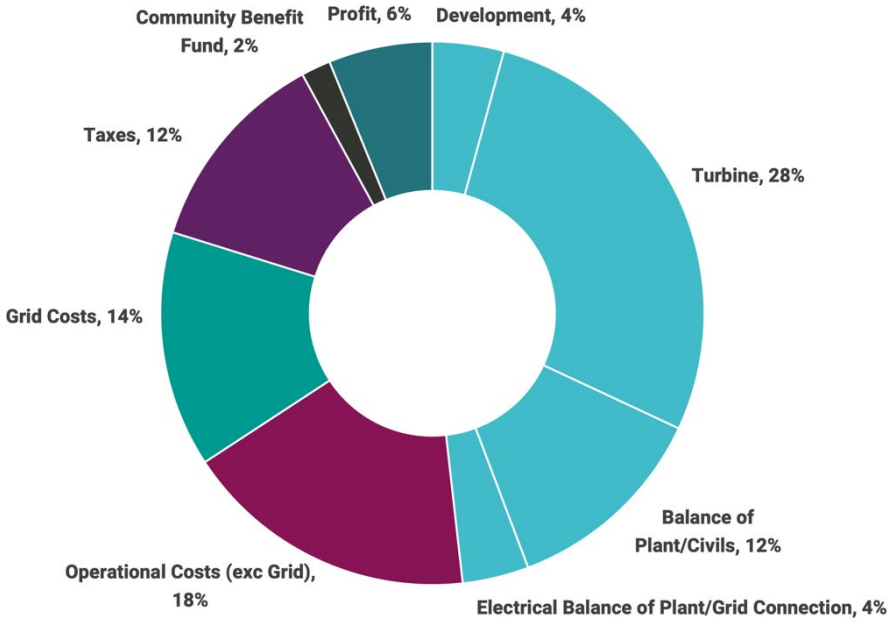
Construction plays a more important role in the Local Area and South Lanarkshire relative to Scotland presenting supply chain opportunities to local supply chain contractors.

4.1 Maximising Benefits through the Supply Chain

The supply chain is vital for maximising economic benefits from wind farm development. The distribution of the income of a typical Scottish onshore wind farm is shown in Figure 4-1. This shows that the majority of the value of an onshore wind farm is captured within various elements of the supply chain. Areas that Scotland has the ability to supply the majority of the work (such as development, the electrical and civil balance of plant and operational activities) account for at least 30% of the value of an onshore wind farm and therefore, maximising the supply chain opportunities from any project is crucial to maximising the net economic benefits of a project.

The construction sector will be crucial in realising these benefits and is rightly highlighted as one of the industrial strengths of South Lanarkshire in its Economic Strategy. As shown in Table 3-3, over 8% of the workforce in South Lanarkshire is in the construction sector. As a sector it is therefore 60% more important for the economy of South Lanarkshire than Scotland as a whole, where construction employment accounts for around 5%.

Figure 4-1 Distribution of Revenue of a Typical Onshore Wind Farm in Scotland



Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

Building local supply chain capacity allows developers to reduce costs while supporting regional economic growth. This approach brings together national policy and community expectations for local content and job creation.

Onshore wind developers can only utilise a local supply chain if it exists and is competitive at the time the developer needs the goods or services it could provide.

Social Capital

Supply Chain Development can contribute to the development of social capital, in addition to the more obvious contribution to financial capital within these businesses.

The opportunity will be particularly relevant for the Applicant and the Proposed Development because of the cluster of onshore wind projects that will be developed in South Lanarkshire in the next ten years. The opportunities for repeat work within the business community can create bonds and networks within the supply chain that would encourage cooperation.

Effective capacity-building requires targeted outreach to raise awareness among local businesses about opportunities. This involves informing suppliers about technical standards, safety requirements and procurement processes and positions

them to compete successfully for contracts. Clear communication of requirements and timelines gives local businesses the lead time needed to prepare, enhancing local competitiveness and reducing dependence on distant suppliers.

The supply chain serves as a strategic tool for developers to enhance economic returns, support communities and maximise local benefits in each stage of the development process while also strengthening the renewable energy sector's sustainability and commitment to deliver value.

4.2 Assessment Approach

For a project to maximise its socio-economic benefits, it needs to be place-based, innovative, collaborative, flexible, transparent and innovative. For maximising benefits through the supply chain, this would mean the developer would need to:

- **research the local business base**, to understand the capacity to provide the goods and services needed and identify opportunities to support supply chain development;
- take reasonable steps to **maximise local supply chain content,** including working with Tier 1 contractors to make use of local suppliers;
- adopt **progressive procurement practices** that make it easier to make use of small local businesses and social enterprises; and
- supporting ongoing efforts to **increase regional supply chain capacity** and clusters of expertise.

4.3 The Applicant's actions and commitments

The Applicant is aware that South Lanarkshire is a key area for the development of the onshore wind sector in Scotland and its portfolio. In addition to Proposed Development, the Applicant has three other locations in South Lanarkshire with wind energy projects at various stages of development. These are shown in Figure 4-2.

Figure 4-2 Applicant's Projects in South Lanarkshire

Source: BiGGAR Economics using Datawrapper.

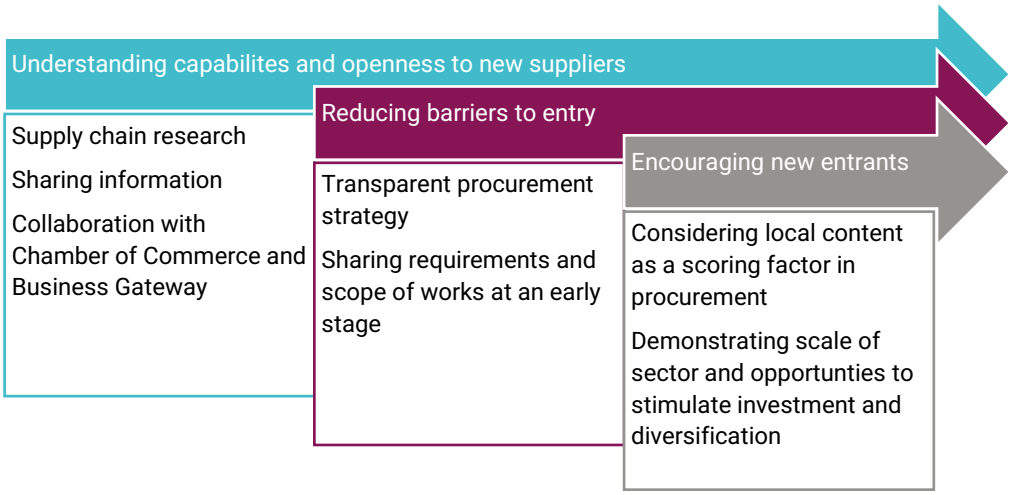
In addition to the Applicant's portfolio, a number of other large onshore wind projects are expected to be constructed in South Lanarkshire over the next ten years.

The significant level of activity within South Lanarkshire has both positive and negative implications for maximising supply chain content associated with Proposed Development. In particular, the pipeline of developments will give local contractors the confidence and security needed to invest in plant, skills and other equipment that would be needed to enable them to provide the services required. However, there is a risk that the high level of activity within South Lanarkshire could result in the displacement of supply chain companies between the projects and reduce the overall benefit.

4.3.1 Supply Chain Commitments

The Applicant is aware that the development of its projects, and others in the local area, represent an increase in aggregate demand for goods and services in South Lanarkshire. To enable the local area to maximise the benefits of this increased demand, there needs to be an increase in the supply chain to meet this demand and a willingness of the Applicant, and others, to engage with and commission this increased demand.

Figure 4-3 Approach to supply-side development in South Lanarkshire



Progressive procurement processes that support SMEs, employee-owned businesses, social enterprises, co-operatives and community businesses, can help achieve the abovementioned. By working collaboratively to support the development of regional supply chains, corporate investors can also help shift the long-term economic prospects for the regions they work in.

The Applicant is committed to maximising local procurement and is putting practices in place to achieve this. It is also committed to environmentally responsible procurement.

The company's ability to source local supplies will however depend on the extent to which local supply chains have the capacity to meet demand for the goods and services required. This will be easier for some types of contracts than others. For example, a considerable proportion of infrastructure considered in this report will require bespoke equipment that is unlikely to be supplied locally. However, a significant proportion of the Balance of Plant contracts could be supplied by companies based in South Lanarkshire as it has a particular strength in the construction sector. In addition, there will also be an ongoing demand for services such as catering and accommodation, scaffolding, facilities and project management, much of which the company expects to source locally.

The Applicant aims to have a transparent and straightforward procurement strategy, which will influence the impact of procurement beyond its own supply chain by encouraging its suppliers to use local suppliers where possible. This is enabled through the procurement of Tier 1 and 2 contractors by weighting evaluation criteria in favour of local supply chain content proposals; contractual obligations such as hosting 'Meet the Buyer' events; and providing contractors with a list of local businesses to engage with.

The Applicant is committed to practical steps to remove barriers to entry for local SMEs to participate in the onshore wind supply chain

Furthermore, the Applicant intends to gather procurement requirements from their top-tier contractors to share with local business groups and/or local businesses that have identified themselves as a potential supplier. This would include requirements such as quality standards, insurance and health and safety policies. The provision of this information will allow local companies to ensure they are business fit to apply for upcoming project opportunities.

As part of its efforts to maximise local procurement and supply chain growth, the Applicant will continue and enhance proactive engagement with local business organisations including Chambers of Commerce, Business Gateway and Community Councils, as well as potential collaboration with other developers in the area. Procurement opportunities will be promoted through appropriate procurement portals to widen visibility and accessibility to local businesses.

There is a potential commitment to working with Scottish Enterprise to align local supply chain activity with regional economic objectives. This will help connect local suppliers to wider opportunities, identify areas for development and ensure that economic benefits are retained and shared across the region.

The Applicant is working with the **BizGive software** platform to collate information on the local area and provide local stakeholder engagement, and report. Work will continue with the BizGive software platform to identify suppliers available locally and create a website-hosted supplier portal to further improve local supplier and contractor engagement. A comprehensive directory of local businesses is being collated that will be used by the team and shared with their supply chain and lead contractors. The Applicant is aiming to share this information with other renewable energy developers in the area, fostering strong collaboration. By making this information accessible, it becomes easier to identify local suppliers, reduce duplication of effort and streamline procurement leading to more efficient delivery of projects and increased support for local businesses.

Considering the number of projects in the area, supply chain commitments will be delivered in collaboration with South Lanarkshire Council and other developers, rather than on a project-by-project basis. This is in alignment with the emerging **South Lanarkshire Development Forum**[7].

[7] OnPath Energy (2025) *Developer Forum set the stage for £3.6 bn wind power boom in South Lanarkshire*. Available at: https://www.onpathenergy.com/about/news/developer-forum-set-the-stage-for-3-6bn-wind-power-boom-in-south-lanarkshire/ [Accessed Oct 2025].

4.4 Assessment of Maximising Economic Benefit Principles

This section considers whether the actions and commitments of the Applicant on the supply chain meet the principles required for them to maximise the local benefits. Note that upon consideration of the project, it was determined that the flexibility of the approach is not specifically relevant to this assessment. There are defined, measurable and verified supply chain commitments and these must provide certainty on the scale and nature of the local supply chain participation.

4.4.1 Place-based

Place-based benefit is clearly a priority and well-embedded. The Applicant's strategy is notably tailored to the **local context of South Lanarkshire**:

- Engagement with local planning authorities, chambers and Scottish Enterprise ensures supply chain strategies are grounded in the regional economic context;
- Inclusion of BizGive software platform to collate information on the local area which will be useful for the Applicant, other developers, supply chain and lead contractors to understand the local businesses; and
- Application of knowledge from completed local projects, can help respond to the specific characteristics of the local area, supply chain and economy in its future projects.

4.4.2 Collaborative

The Applicant shows clear evidence of working with others to co-deliver benefits:

- The Applicant demonstrates a multi-stakeholder approach, working with community councils, chambers, contractors and other renewable energy developers in South Lanarkshire;
- Structured collaboration between the Applicant and local businesses through actions like 'meet the buyer' events to increase awareness of opportunities and skills required; and
- Potential collaboration with other developers in South Lanarkshire sharing supply chain information collected through the BizGive platform.

4.4.3 Innovative

The Applicant has proposed an innovative approach to supply chain development as part of its collaboration with BizGive. In particular, the software platform collects information on the local area that will be useful for the Applicant to understand the local businesses. This is an innovative approach to supply chain development which will also benefit other developers, lead contractors and the supply chain in the area.

4.4.4 Transparent

The Applicant has committed to reporting the supply chain information collected through the BizGive database, following the requirements which form part of the Onshore Wind Sector Deal. This includes sharing relevant information with other developers in the South Lanarkshire area. The Applicant is open to reporting on other

developments once completed to provide clear evidence of capabilities and economic outcomes to support future project plans.

4.4.5 Flexible

The BizGive platform for supply chain data and engagement supports a flexible approach by providing real-time insights into local capabilities, enabling the Applicant to adapt procurement and engage local businesses effectively. This helps to identify opportunities and respond to change. On-going collaboration with local business organisations, the council and other developers will strengthen this.

4.4.6 Deliverable

The proposals that the Applicant has committed to are deliverable. There is nothing that has been proposed which would place an unmanageable financial burden on the developments and the process through which the Proposed Development will support the development of the local supply chain has been considered.

5. Skills Development

Skills Development is a key enabler of supply chain capabilities and is therefore crucial if the development is going to maximise its local economic benefits.

5.1 Maximising Benefits through Skills Development

Developing skills within the local region plays a pivotal role in maximising the economic benefits of wind farm projects. By investing in local workforce development and building relations with education and training providers the Developer can help ensure that the community directly benefits from the jobs and opportunities created by the project, thus fostering long-term economic growth.

Skills development enhances the capacity of the local workforce to meet the technical demands of the renewables industry. Offering training programs and upskilling opportunities ensures that local workers are prepared to take on both short-term construction roles and long-term operational positions, contributing to sustained employment.

Human Capital

Skills development is one of the key methods by which communities can build up human capital. Human capital includes the skills, knowledge and health/wellbeing that people accumulate throughout their lives. One of the ways in which this can be measured is through the total potential lifetime earnings of a community. A workforce with more skills is likely to earn more in the future.

In addition to greater potential lifetime earnings, a more skilled community has a greater level of economic resilience. Therefore, anything that can be done by the Applicant to develop skills will contribute to the long-term prosperity of the local area.

Building regional skills helps create a supply chain network, where local businesses can provide goods and services directly to the Proposed Development. This capacity-building in the local business community supports the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), driving economic diversification and resilience.

Through initiatives that target specific skills gaps and address industry requirements, the Developer not only maximises the immediate economic benefits of wind farm development but also fosters a skilled workforce that is competitive in future renewable energy sectors. This creates a foundation for the region's long-term economic vitality, ensuring that local communities remain integral to future renewable energy projects.

5.2 Assessment Approach

For a project to maximise its socio-economic benefits, it needs to be place-based, collaborative, flexible, transparent and innovative. For maximising benefits through skills development this would mean the developer would need to:

- **Adhere to progressive employment and recruitment practices** that meet or exceed current industry best practices;
- **Understand the local labour market** and its capacity to provide the skills needed in the short and longer term, and identify important skills gaps;
- **Build relationships with education and training providers** and work with them to implement the national skills strategy; and
- Work collaboratively with relevant training/education partners and community bodies to **develop bespoke labour market development solutions**, including apprenticeships where appropriate.

5.3 The Applicant's actions and commitments

The Applicant will require expert knowledge, which will come from a range of skilled workers, including consultancies and contractors. Many of these workers can be found in Scotland. However, the extent of the Applicant's ability to source locally will depend on the capacity and availability of the supply chain. This will be easier for some types of contracts than others. For example, a significant proportion of the Balance of Plant contracts could be supplied by companies and workers based in the local region. There will also be an ongoing demand for other services mentioned in paragraph 4.3.1, much of which the company expects to source locally.

Where the Applicant can make the largest workforce impact with its resources is through development of skills and working with educational institutions in the region. The Applicant has been engaging closely with Biggar High School, providing presentations on careers in the renewables sector and taking part in school careers events. There is also a potential scholarship programme offer, tied to the catchment area of Biggar High School and subject to agreement with the community. The Applicant has a long-term pipeline of developments in South Lanarkshire and therefore those pupils who are currently at school in the area have the potential to be the individuals who find work on these projects. Part of the Applicant's approach is raising awareness of the range of opportunities in the onshore wind sector.

The Applicant is looking to build relationships and engagement with local colleges directly and through the Energy Skills Partnership (ESP). This engagement will cover skills development through support for course and curriculum guidance, educating students about renewable energy projects, and inspiring students to study science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) and other relevant subjects to work within the sector. Considering the number of projects in the area, these commitments will be delivered in collaboration with South Lanarkshire Council and other developers, rather than on a project-by-project basis. This is in alignment with the emerging South Lanarkshire Development Forum[8] which aims to provide better understanding of the local labour market. The Forum will collaborate with the local colleges contributing to the support of the abovementioned targeted curriculum developments and promotion of courses.

Collaboration with colleges and universities could also involve support for student projects and placements. This type of activity can make an important contribution to community wealth by helping to create pathways to employment for local young people.

Another way the Applicant could improve their workforce impact is to become an accredited Living Wage Employer, meaning its employees receive a wage they can live on rather than just the minimum required by law. The Applicant could then encourage their supply chain to do likewise, further widening impact. The Applicant has committed to investigating this action further.

5.4 Assessment of Maximising Economic Benefit Principles

5.4.1 Place-based

Place-based benefit is embedded across the initiatives:

- The Applicant commits to working with local schools, colleges, and universities, anchoring skills development within South Lanarkshire's existing educational infrastructure;
- Build relationships with local education institutions through the ESP and the support from the South Lanarkshire Development Forum; and
- Become an accredited Living Wage Employer to encourage also supply chains locally to do the same and increase their impact.

5.4.2 Innovative

There is also moderate innovation, as the Applicant is aiming to cover skills development through support for course and curriculum guidance, educating students about renewable energy projects, and inspiring them to study STEAM. The

[8] OnPath Energy (2025) *Developer Forum set the stage for £3.6 bn wind power boom in South Lanarkshire*. Available at: https://www.onpathenergy.com/about/news/developer-forum-set-the-stage-for-3-6bn-wind-power-boom-in-south-lanarkshire/ [Accessed Oct 2025].

engagement with the South Lanarkshire Development Forum to understand better the local labour market strengthens this initiative further.

5.4.3 Collaborative

The Applicant is following a partnership-based model with a clear intent to develop and implement skills strategies in partnership with those who understand the local context. It commits to working with local educational institutions and building relationships through the ESP. This includes support of student projects and provision of placements and potential provision of scholarship programmes in agreement with the community. The skills development commitments will be delivered in collaboration with the Council and other developers in the area, in alignment with the emerging South Lanarkshire Development Forum.

5.4.4 Flexible

Skills development is typically a long-term objective, and interventions can take many years to have an impact on the labour market. Flexibility is therefore a challenge for skills development initiatives, as there needs to be a level of commitment and foresight on what the future skills demand will be.

The Applicant's current approach to skills development is general, in the sense that it is not targeting specific trades or positions, at this point. The process of engaging with South Lanarkshire educational establishments and local supply chain companies will identify what the current gaps and needs are relevant to the onshore wind sector. However, this engagement will be ongoing and will therefore be able to evolve as priorities and requirements change.

In addition, the focus of placements and on the job training mean that new entrants can get into positions relatively quickly and be part of the industry as it changes. Those who are in work, will also be more likely to be able to adapt to gradual changes in both skills requirements and levels of demand, compared to those involved in longer periods of education outwith the workplace.

5.4.5 Deliverable

The proposed commitments are deliverable because they are based on existing best practices and internal actions that the Applicant has already committed to. The costs associated with the skills development initiatives will not be a barrier to their development and over time, should represent a net financial benefit to the sector which needs to grow its skills base.

6. Community Empowerment

The construction and operation of Proposed Development has the potential to enable community empowerment through community benefit funding and associated capacity building.

6.1 The Role of Community Empowerment

Community empowerment initiatives play a role in maximising the socio-economic benefits derived from renewable energy projects. These initiatives extend the economic advantages beyond the physical construction phase, providing lasting support to local communities through mechanisms such as non-domestic rates payments, community benefit funds and community ownership.

While these financial mechanisms are not directly material to the planning process, they significantly enhance the socio-economic outcomes for the regions hosting renewable energy projects. Non-domestic rates payments contribute directly to local government funding, supporting essential public services and infrastructure.

Social Capital

Community benefit funding has the ability to build social capital in communities by providing residents with the resources needed to support networks, collaborate around shared objectives and enact change.

The community benefit funding from Proposed Development would be delivered through either representative bodies, such as community councils, or via community owned enterprises. The capacity for leadership within these organisations, and the ability of the wider public to influence the decision-making process within these organisations would be a key component of generating social capital.

Community benefit funds are particularly impactful, as they offer direct financial support to the communities hosting wind farm developments. These funds, which align with the Scottish Government's Good Practice Principles on Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments (2019), are designed to provide long-term economic support, enabling local communities to invest in a range of social, environmental, and economic projects.

Additionally, community ownership initiatives, where local residents have the opportunity to participate in the development and operation of the wind farm, empower communities by giving them a stake in the success of the project. This sense of ownership can foster further economic activity, collaboration and economic returns to the community.

6.2 Assessment Approach

For a project to maximise its socio-economic benefits, it needs to be place-based, innovative, collaborative, flexible, transparent and innovative.

The assessment will consider Applicant's role as an enabler of impact, and the approach it is taking that will allow the community to maximise the benefits of the Proposed Development

For maximising benefits through community empowerment, this would mean the developer would need to consider actions such as:

- working with local communities to **understand local needs, aspirations, appetite and delivery capacity**;
- developing a **community benefit package tailored to local needs** that is consistent with best practice principles and (where feasible) a proposition for community ownership;
- working closely with local communities to **build trusted relationships** to help support the emergence of innovative ideas and approaches, for example by appointing a single point of contact to manage discussions;
- working with community bodies to **establish effective governance**, administration, monitoring and evaluation arrangements consistent with best practice and providing data to enable the national community benefit register to be regularly updated;
- engaging with regional partners in the public and third sectors to identify and develop opportunities to **generate regional benefits**; and
- setting out any steps taken to **collaborate with other developers** working on nearby projects to secure greater impacts from community benefit proposals, for example by linking up access tracks to create a local network of paths or setting up joint governance arrangements for community benefit funds.

6.3 The Applicant's actions and commitments

6.3.1 Community Engagement

The Applicant had previously organised community consultation engagement events. In addition to in-person events, virtual consultation was carried out through

BizGive's newly developed **AssetFace engagement platform**. BizGive has partnered with the Offshore Wind Growth Partnership to refine AssetFace for offshore wind projects, while the Applicant is working with them to adapt it for the onshore wind sector. The platform is designed help developers understand local needs and aspirations by providing an easy way for residents to contribute ideas. As part of this pilot, a £5,000 Small Grants Programme has been launched to encourage community involvement and support the platform's development.

The Applicant aims to enhance AssetFace's longevity to support multigenerational engagement and allow users to recommend previously successful examples to help developers understand needs.

6.3.2 Community Benefit Package

Community benefits, an annual payment that is made by the Applicant to those communities in the proximity of a wind farm, have become a common practice to support local ambitions and needs. While they do not constitute a material consideration at the planning stage, commitment to a comprehensive package of community benefits has a role in fostering a good relationship between the Applica0nt and the community hosting the development.

The Scottish Government recommends onshore wind developers to deliver community benefit funding worth £5,000 per MW of installed capacity. The document also encourages developers to engage in holistic ways to maximise benefits locally, going beyond a purely monetary approach.

Following this recommendation, the Applicant is proposing a tailored package of benefits for the community from the Proposed Development and according to the current layout design, this could equate to a community benefit fund (CBF) for the local area worth up to £735,000 annually, which is equivalent to £29.4 million over its operational lifetime. This could support local aspiration and projects and generate economic impacts. The presence of the Proposed Development would provide local communities with additional funding, which could support them in delivering larger interventions.

The Applicant wants the CBF to be as flexible and open as possible so that funding can be used in the most sensible and helpful way for the community. This fund could be split into smaller fund pots to be used for specific initiatives, related to community priorities. Potential projects have been identified by the Applicant through desktop analysis and community consultations. A Community Benefit Agreement between the Applicant and local community will be established and

thereafter reviewed every 5 years to ensure it remains fit for purpose. The potential projects to be supported will be decided by the community.

This would support local aspirations and projects and generate economic impacts. The presence of the Proposed Development would provide local communities with additional funding, which could support them in delivering larger interventions.

The Applicant will support the local communities to use the CBF to leverage access to even more finance to support larger investment projects

The Applicant intends to investigate and participate in a collaborative approach to coordinating CBF within the local area with local initiatives, other developers and developments. This approach would help maximise benefit and concentrate funding where the local community most needs it. For example, one area the Applicant is exploring is collaboration with Social Investment Scotland, helping to leverage match funding for business grants. This could mean more funding for community initiatives and local supply chain development.

It has not yet decided how the CBF will be managed. However, as noted above a Community Benefit Agreement is being developed and engagement is ongoing with local community bodies and South Lanarkshire Council. The CBF could make a significant contribution to community wealth both by providing funding for local projects and by helping to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence of the local community to initiate such projects.

6.3.3 Ownership

Due to challenges around complexity and management of community ownership, the Applicant does not currently intend to pursue a community ownership programme. However, it remains open to the possibility if there is strong community interest and a practical framework for implementation.

The Applicant has engaged with the local community, which has expressed a desire to maximise retention of funding from the Proposed Development within the immediate local area. The Applicant has therefore committed to supporting the local community and retaining funding within the local area by providing direct support to individual households. One potential way in which this could be done is via a grant scheme to install solar panels, batteries and other low carbon technologies into local homes should they wish to take up the opportunity. The grant, which would be part of the CBF, would pay for the installation and then the infrastructure ownership will be passed to the individual households. This scheme would allow households that would normally be unable to afford the upfront investment to have the infrastructure installed, enabling sustained lower household electricity costs and reducing carbon

emissions. This is a potential action, and the Applicant is continuously exploring such opportunities across their pipeline of projects.

6.4 Assessment of Maximising Economic Benefit Principles

6.4.1 Place based

Community empowerment commitments demonstrate a place-based approach, tailoring engagement and benefits to the needs of the local area:

- hold consultation events using the AssetFace engagement platform to ensure community views shape decisions based on local context and needs;
- £5,000 Small Grants Fund encourages local participation and gives power to groups to get involved in ways that are important for their community;
- allow funding to be allocated to specific local initiatives that reflect the area's priorities and review of these every five years;
- exploring collaboration with Social Investment Scotland to support local small business grants, strengthening the area's economy.

Place-based considerations are integrated and reflect an understanding of regional challenges and opportunities.

As a future option, the Applicant is also considering installing household-owned solar panels and batteries to support local people who may not have the opportunity to afford such investments. This remains exploratory at this stage but strengthens the place-based approach already in place.

6.4.2 Collaborative

Collaboration is an important feature of the Applicant's approach:

- direct communication through consultation events and engagement platform;
- collaboration with Social Investment Scotland for small business funding;
- community feedback and 5-year reviews show continuous collaboration with the local people;
- partnership with a company to establish grant schemes and install solar panel for local households.

Further collaboration with other developers in the area and the South Lanarkshire Forum to support communities will strengthen this collaboration model.

6.4.3 Transparent

The Applicant is designing an approach which is transparent, in particular:

- the creation of open channels for sharing information, gathering feedback and keeping communities informed throughout the phases of the projects;
- reporting on the allocation of community benefit packages to help communities understand where and how funding will be spent with defined priorities;

- 5-year review of the Community Benefit Agreement to ensure it remains fit for purpose and meets the needs of the community in a clear and transparent way; and
- a clear statement of where the benefit will go and how it supports the local area.

6.4.4 Flexible

The proposals are deliberately designed to be flexible:

- the model allows for future adaptation based on community capacity and emerging priorities through the revision of the needs and priorities every 5 years;
- funding priorities ensure funding is allocated in a way that reflects current priorities rather than fixed needs;
- there are also multiple engagement routes including events, platforms and grant schemes which provide flexibility to different levels of community engagement.

This flexibility is intentional and positive, enabling community-led direction while recognising current delivery constraints.

6.4.5 Deliverable

The impacts from any community benefit funding or other initiatives delivered by other bodies will depend on the activities and decisions that they make. The Applicant shows a deliverable approach by building on experience from the projects that will be completed in the future, using a structure and practical community benefit package with clear funding pots and a review process. The Applicant can act as an enabler of these impacts and activities by providing delivery support and through the provision of funding.

6.4.6 Innovative

The Applicant is following a very innovative approach to energy benefits, considering ways to give local residents lasting, direct ownership of clean energy infrastructure through the grant schemes. It is also exploring collaboration with Social Investment Scotland to secure more funding for local businesses and introduces the £500 engagement grant which is a way to directly support involvement and proactively encourage participation in shaping community outcomes.

7. Environmental Protection and Enhancement

Environmental protection ensures sustainable, community-driven renewable energy that maximises economic benefit.

7.1 Role of Environmental Protection

Environmental protection is another area where maximising the economic benefits of renewable energy projects ensures the long-term sustainability of both the natural environment and the built environment. By demonstrating a commitment to environmental protection, developers can create opportunities that not only preserve but enhance the surrounding areas, contributing to lasting socio-economic benefits.

Natural Capital

Natural Capital covers the aspects of nature that have value to society, including forests, land and rivers. This value is derived from how they can be used commercially, but also how the natural capital can be used outwith the market. This includes the use of natural capital for outdoor recreation and landscape amenity.

Increasing the recreational use of natural capital will therefore increase the value that this has, particularly for the local community. For onshore wind projects, there is a public right to access the majority of the sites in Scotland and the works on the land during the construction phase represent a significant opportunity to enhance the value of the natural capital to the local community through recreational access.

By enhancing biodiversity, improving local infrastructure, and creating recreational opportunities, these activities not only safeguard the natural environment but also support long-term sustainable economic growth. Investment in local roads and green spaces typically increases accessibility, local wellbeing, boosts tourism and strengthens local businesses through positive spillover effects. Proactive planning for the site's future and collaboration with nearby developers on environmental issues and planning promotes efficient resource use and collective environmental management which fosters community support and ensures sustainable development.

7.2 Assessment Approach

For a project to maximise its socio-economic benefits, it needs to be place-based, innovative, collaborative, flexible, transparent and innovative. For maximising benefits through environmental protection and enhancement this would mean the developer would need to:

- explain what has been (and will be) done to **protect and enhance biodiversity**;
- explain any **investment in local infrastructure** planned or undertaken to restore or improve local roads used during the construction stage;
- create new leisure and recreational opportunities to **improve community access to green and blue spaces**;
- **plan for the future** by putting a process in place to ensure communities are consulted on decisions about how a site is used at the end of its operational life; and
- set out any steps taken to **collaborate with other developers** working on nearby projects on planning and environmental issues.

7.3 The Applicant's actions and commitments

7.3.1 Local Community Asset Support

The Applicant is committed to supporting community assets in the vicinity of its projects in a diverse, useful and transparent way.

The Applicant would use the Proposed Development to support regional projects that would increase access to nature

The Proposed Development is located within a network of right-of-way paths. For example, work is underway through a regional working group to develop and promote a new long-distance path, the Clydesdale Way. This path will also connect to the Southern Uplands Way and the Clyde Valley Way, popular cycle routes. This will involve linking a network of paths and improving connecting paths in the area. The Applicant commits to enabling shared use of those paths across its projects within the vicinity of the M74 infrastructure corridor where appropriate. Furthermore, initial discussions have indicated that, whilst the up-front cost of upgrading and installing the paths could be carried out by the Local Authorities, maintenance will be an ongoing challenge. The Applicant is considering supporting the ongoing maintenance of paths and signage through the CBF.

The Applicant also commits to an **Outdoor Access Management Plan** to manage, maintain and provide further access during and after construction. A permanent diversion would be provided so that users of the core path network can avoid

infrastructure associated with the Proposed Development. A temporary diversion during construction would also be put in place for other parts of the Southern Uplands Way.

7.3.2 Capital Investment

During the construction and operations phases, the Applicant invests in two types of assets that are communally used: the natural environment within the sites it owns and the road infrastructure surrounding the sites.

Investment in the natural environment would be managed through a Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan enabling biodiversity enhancement. This plan includes the creation and expansion of riparian woodland tree corridors, targeted peatland restoration works, bracken management, and ground nesting-raptor and wader habitat enhancement and management.

The Applicant will make best use of the well-appointed road infrastructure in the local area, for example by using a temporary construction access from the A74(M) to provide access for turbine component deliveries. Investment in road infrastructure typically involves fixing minor defects and making small improvements and the project commits to leaving the road infrastructure in the same or better condition than before the projects commenced.

All this investment will benefit members of the local community who make use of these assets, so it is appropriate to consider it as part of this assessment. While some of this work has been done to meet planning requirements, the Applicant is committed to going beyond its legal obligations where it is reasonable to do so. Including this investment within this assessment will therefore provide a way of monitoring activity, which should help maximise benefits in the future.

7.4 Assessment of Approach

7.4.1 Place-based

The strategy is rooted in specific local environmental, investment and cultural needs:

- The Applicant acknowledges the character of the local landscape highlighting the importance of maintaining it;
- Consideration of local recreation and access needs and enhancement of existing public assets such as roads and paths through the Outdoor Access Management Plan;
- Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan for biodiversity net gain shows consideration of the natural environment of the local area and support for habitats.

These actions reflect the characteristics and priorities of the place in which the Proposed Development sits.

7.4.2 Innovative

Innovation is present in both environmental planning and lifecycle thinking. The commitment to an Outdoor Access Management Plan, where relevant, shows a proactive approach to managing how the public can access the site going beyond standard requirements. The Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan showcases modern ecological thinking aligned with biodiversity net gain and best practice.

7.4.3 Collaborative

Collaboration is moderate and includes:

- Coordination with Local Authorities on path upgrades;
- Outdoor Access Management Plan developed in consultation with local needs;
- Support for shared goals across environmental and transport stakeholders.

This could be strengthened by developing formal partnerships, and co-designing plans with local groups and access forums, as well as other stakeholders in the area.

7.4.4 Flexible

Flexibility is a strong feature of the proposed approach:

- environmental interventions are adaptable to different levels of community capacity;
- the Outdoor Access Management Plan highlight efforts to adapt the processes to the changing public expectations in the sites.

This flexibility supports long-term responsiveness to evolving priorities and funding landscapes.

7.4.5 Deliverable

The Applicant has a deliverable approach to environmental protection and enhancement setting out clear and manageable commitments including maintaining local paths and road network, implementing Biodiversity Enhancement Management and Outdoor Access Management Plans. Some commitments may also be dependent on Local Authorities actions.

7.4.6 Transparent

Transparency is shown in the following ways:

- Commitment to maintain local paths shows clear and publicly stated responsibility for shared local infrastructure; and
- Biodiversity Enhancement Management and Outdoor Access Management Plans indicate a formal and structured approach to environmental enhancements and defined intentions.

8. Economic Impact

This section estimates the economic impact that could be generated by the Proposed Development

8.1 Economic Impact Methodology

8.1.1 Modelling the Economic Impact of Onshore Wind Farm Developments

The approach followed in estimating the economic impact of onshore wind developments is based on industry best practices and was used in a study undertaken in 2015 by BiGGAR Economics on behalf of RenewableUK [9].

Assumptions about spending and economic impact in each area were informed by an analysis undertaken by BiGGAR Economics on the development, construction and operation of the Applicant's Cluster in South Lanarkshire. Spending and assumptions for the battery storage element were based on the recent work by BiGGAR Economics on the battery storage sector across the UK[10].

Using this analysis, it was possible to estimate total expenditure and economic impact per MW for each stage of development, construction and operation, which was then applied to the Proposed Development.

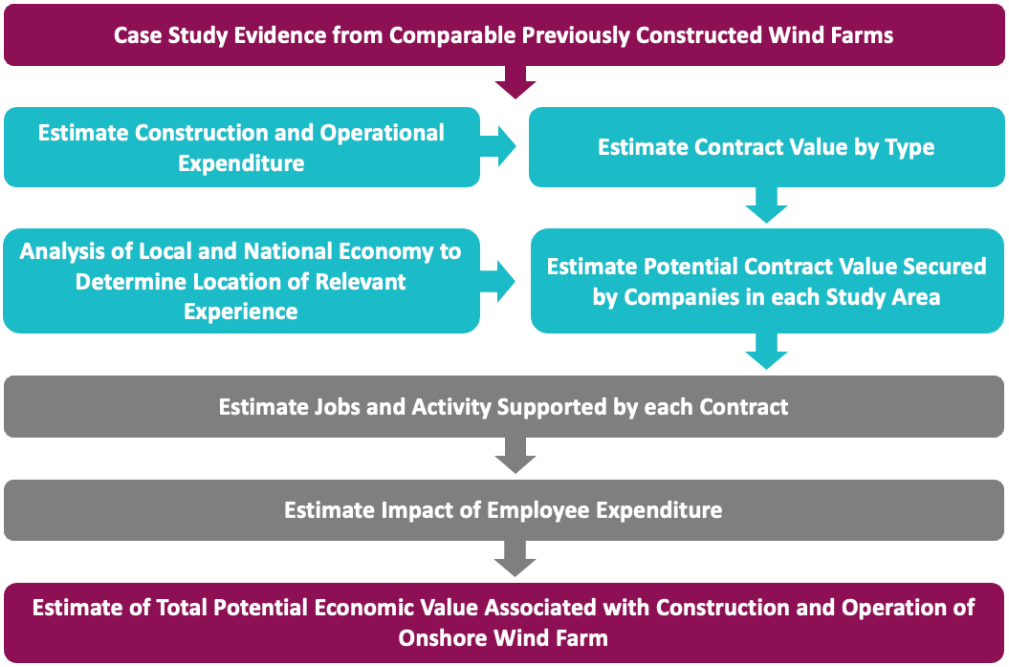
The methodology has now been used to assess the economic impact associated with numerous onshore wind developments across Scotland. The economic modelling methodology comprises the following stages:

- Development and planning;
- Turbine;
- Balance of plant;
- Grid connection; and
- Battery Storage.

The economic impact methodology adjusts the assumptions to account for the varying capacities of businesses throughout Scotland to fulfil onshore wind contracts.

[9] RenewableUK (2015), Onshore Wind: Economic Impacts in 2014.
[10] BiGGAR Economics (2025) The economic impact of solar and battery storage. Available at: https://solarenergyuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Solar-Energy-UK-Economic-Impact-of-Solar-and-Battery-Storage.pdf

Figure 8-1 Approach to Economic Impact



Source: BiGGAR Economics

8.1.2 Measures of Economic impact

The economic impacts are reported with respect to the following measures:

- **Gross Value Added (GVA)**: a commonly used measure of economic output, GVA captures the contribution made by an organisation to national economic activity. This is usually estimated as the difference between an organisation's turnover and its non-staff operational expenditure; and
- **Employment**: this is expressed as years of employment for temporary contracts and as annual jobs for operations and maintenance contracts. Years of employment are used to report the short-term employment that is supported by the construction and development of the wind farm. As an example, a job that lasts for 18 months would support 1.5 years of employment.

8.1.3 Sources of Economic Impact

The assessment will consider the following sources of economic impact:

- **direct impacts**: the economic value generated through the contracts associated with the Proposed Development;
- **indirect impacts**: the impact from the spending of contractors within their supply chains; and
- **induced impacts**: the impact from the spending of those workers carrying out contracts for the Proposed Development and on behalf of its contractors.

8.1.4 Study Areas

The assessment of economic impacts considered the following study areas:

- South Lanarkshire;
- Scotland; and
- The UK.

8.2 Development and Construction Impacts

8.2.1 Expenditure

Based on the current capacity and number of turbines of the wind farm element and the capacity of the battery storage element, it was estimated that the development and construction expenditure could be up to approximately £203.5 million. The expenditure was split according to the following component contracts:

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

The greatest expenditure component was associated with turbines (£109.0 million or 54% of the total expenditure) followed by the balance of plant (£37.3 million or 18% of expenditure) and battery storage (£32.9 million or 16% of expenditure). It was estimated that grid connection would account for 11% and development and planning approximately 1% of the total spending.

Table 8-1 Development and Construction by Contract Type

	% Capex	Value (£m)
Development and Planning	1%	2.1
Turbines	54%	109.0
Balance of Plant	18%	37.3
Grid Connection	11%	22.1
Battery Storage	16%	32.9
Total	**100%**	**203.5**

Source: BiGGAR Economics. Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

In assessing the economic impacts arising from the development and construction of the proposed development, it was necessary to make assumptions about the ability of businesses within each study area to carry out contracts.

Based on the evidence from similar developments within South Lanarkshire and the UK, and the Applicant's established work with contractors, it was estimated that approximately 32% of the proposed development's contracts will be carried out by Scottish businesses, with a value of £65.0 million, and 38% by UK firms (about £78.1 million). It was estimated that spending on businesses based in South Lanarkshire

would be approximately £27.0 million equivalent to 13% of total development and construction expenditure.

The greatest opportunity for Scottish businesses would be in contracts associated with the balance of plant, which could be worth £33.1million. Balance of plant contracts would also be the largest opportunity for businesses in South Lanarkshire, worth up to £12.8 million.

Table 8-2 Development and Construction Expenditure by Study Area

	South Lanarkshire		Scotland		UK	
	%	£m	%	£m	%	£m
Development and Planning	23%	0.5	74%	1.6	74%	1.6
Turbines	3%	2.8	10%	10.4	13%	14.1
Balance of Plant	34%	12.8	89%	33.1	100%	37.3
Grid Connection	37%	8.1	73%	16.1	79%	17.5
Battery	9%	2.8	12%	3.8	23%	7.7
Total	**13%**	**27.0**	**32%**	**65.0**	**38%**	**78.1**

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis. Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

8.2.2 Economic Impact

Having estimated the size of the contracts that could benefit each of the study areas, it was possible to consider the GVA and short-term employment that these could support. Each contract category was split into its component contracts and assigned to an industrial sector. Direct GVA was then estimated by applying the relevant turnover to GVA ratio from the Scottish Annual Business Survey (ABS)[11] and the UK Annual Business Survey (ABS)[12].

It was estimated that the development and construction of the Proposed Development could generate £11.1 million direct GVA in South Lanarkshire, £27.5 million direct GVA in Scotland and £33.7 million in the UK as a whole.

[11] Scottish Government (2024), Scottish Annual Business Statistics.

[12] Office for National Statistics (2025), Non-financial business economy, UK (Annual Business Survey): 2023 results.

Table 8-3 Development and Construction, Direct GVA by Study Area (£m)

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland	UK
Development and Planning	0.3	1.1	1.1
Turbines	1.4	5.1	6.9
Balance of Plant	4.8	13.4	15.2
Grid Connection	3.1	5.9	6.4
Battery Storage	1.5	2.0	4.0
Total	**11.1**	**27.5**	**33.7**

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis. Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Similarly, it was feasible to estimate the number of direct jobs supported by spending on construction and development contracts. This was achieved by dividing the expenditure in each contract by the turnover per job ratio for the relevant sector. It was estimated that the development and construction of the proposed development will generate 161 direct years of employment in South Lanarkshire, 383 direct years of employment in Scotland and 475 in the UK.

Table 8-4 Development and Construction, Direct Employment by Study Area and Contract Type (Years of Employment)

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland	UK
Development and Planning	3	14	14
Turbines	32	92	124
Balance of Plant	59	166	188
Grid Connection	48	86	99
Battery Storage	19	25	50
Total	**161**	**383**	**475**

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis. Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Expenditure in development and construction contracts is also expected to generate 'knock-on' effects across the economy. In particular, it will be associated with further rounds of expenditure along the supply chain and with the spending of the wages and salaries of those involved in the development and construction of the Proposed Development. These are referred to as 'indirect' and 'induced' impacts.

To estimate indirect and induced impacts, it was necessary to apply the relevant Type 1 and Type 2 GVA and employment multipliers from the Scottish Government Input-Output Tables[13] to direct GVA and direct employment. Since the multipliers

[13]Scottish Government (2024), Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables.

refer to sectoral interactions occurring at the level of the Scottish economy, it was necessary to adjust them when considering impacts taking place in South Lanarkshire.

Adding up direct, indirect and induced impacts, it was estimated that the development and construction of the Proposed Development could generate £14.4 million GVA and 198 years of employment in South Lanarkshire, £46.1 million GVA and 606 years of employment in Scotland and £78.0 million GVA and 1,021 years of employment in the UK.

Table 8-5 Economic Impact of Development and Construction Spending (£m)

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland	UK
Direct GVA	11.1	27.5	33.7
Indirect GVA	1.3	11.0	26.3
Induced GVA	2.0	7.6	18.1
Total GVA	**14.4**	**46.1**	**78.0**

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis. Note numbers may not sum due to rounding

Table 8-6 Economic Impact of Development and Construction Spending (Years of Employment)

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland	UK
Direct Employment	161	383	475
Indirect Employment	18	148	363
Induced Employment	19	76	183
Total Employment	**198**	**606**	**1,021**

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis. Note numbers may not sum due to rounding

The employment and GVA impacts are expected to peak during the construction phase, in particular during the work associated with the balance of plant works. In the first half of the construction period, the direct and indirect employment supported by the Proposed Development will be **580 jobs across Scotland**.

8.2.3 Opportunities in South Lanarkshire

There are a number of local opportunities associated with the construction of onshore wind projects such as Proposed Development. In particular, there will be opportunities related to the balance of plant contracts, including:

- provision of stone and aggregate;
- plant hire;
- civil engineering;
- road/bridge surfacing works;
- fencing;

- tree surgery and forestry;
- drainage;
- cleaning; and
- other trades activities (plumbing, metal fabrication, electricals, joinery, painting and scaffolding).

In addition, local accommodation providers will benefit from increased occupancy, including during the off-season.

8.3 Operations and Maintenance

8.3.1 Expenditure

The initial stage in determining the economic impact stemming from the operations and maintenance of the proposed development involved assessing the annual total expenditure necessary for its operation. Based on the number of turbines and the proposed development's capacity, it was estimated that the annual cost of operations and maintenance (OPEX) is likely to amount to approximately £11.8 million.

It was further assumed that businesses in South Lanarkshire could benefit from £6.0 million in operations and maintenance contracts (50% of OPEX) each year, annual expenditure on Scottish contractors could be up to £10.2 million (87% of OPEX), and annual expenditure on UK contractors could be up to £10.4 million (88% of OPEX).

Table 8-7 Operations and Maintenance Expenditure by Study Area (£m)

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland	UK
Annual Turnover	6.0	10.2	10.4
Lifetime	**238.7**	**408.8**	**417.4**
Turnover (%)	50%	87%	88%

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis.

8.3.2 Economic Impact

The total turnover generated in each study area was then divided by the turnover to GVA and turnover per job ratios of the sectors expected to carry out operations and maintenance contracts. In this way, it was estimated that the Proposed Development could generate £3.4 million direct GVA and 22 direct jobs in South Lanarkshire, £5.4 million direct GVA and 45 direct jobs in Scotland, and £5.4 million direct GVA and 45 direct jobs across the UK.

Table 8-8 Direct Economic Impact of Operational Spending (£m)

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland	UK
GVA	3.4	5.4	5.4
Direct O&M Jobs	22	45	45

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis.

As with the development and construction of the Proposed Development, it was necessary to estimate the indirect and induced impacts associated with operations and maintenance contracts by applying the relevant GVA and employment multipliers.

Adding up direct, indirect and induced impacts, it was estimated that during its annual operations and maintenance, the Proposed Development could generate £4.6 million GVA and 28 jobs in South Lanarkshire, £9.1 million GVA and 73 jobs in Scotland and £13.0 million GVA and 101 jobs in the UK.

Table 8-9 Annual Economic Impact of Operational Spending

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland	UK
GVA (£m)	4.6	9.1	13.0
Lifetime GVA (£m)	**183.8**	**364.9**	**520.7**
Total O&M Jobs	28	73	101

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis.

8.3.3 Opportunities in South Lanarkshire

The main economic opportunities for South Lanarkshire during the operational phase of the Proposed Development are likely to be related to rents paid to the local landowner, enabling them to diversify and expand their business, as well as land and civil maintenance, for example maintaining roads. Habitat management is another opportunity, involving developing the land and increasing its conservation quality. There may also be opportunities to provide turbine maintenance services.

Jobs supported in the operation and maintenance of onshore wind tend to be in sectors that have relatively high levels of productivity and staff costs, such as the repair and installation of machinery, electric power generation, transmission and distribution and the rental sector[14]. This suggests that these are well-paid, high-quality jobs.

[14] Office for National Statistics (2025), Non-financial business economy, UK (Annual Business Survey): 2023 results.

Economic Capital

Economic Capital includes cash in the bank, property and other tangible assets that are used by an organisation to support its activities. The economic activity that will be supported by the Proposed Development will enable the local business community to build up economic capital.

The direct income, and profits generated, will enable those businesses to invest in tangible assets. This will be further stimulated by the cluster development support outlined in Section 3. This capital investment will help these companies to compete in the future and generate additional economic activity.

The income received by the workforce can also contribute to increasing economic capital at a household level. South Lanarkshire has a greater proportion of the population without any savings, which makes households less resilient to shocks. Elongated periods of employment, particularly through cluster development, can enable households to build up economic capital.

In addition, the Proposed Development will form part of the energy infrastructure that supports the Scottish and UK economies. This infrastructure will therefore constitute an addition to the economic capital stock of the UK. The value of this contribution to economic capital will be greater than the other ways the project has contributed to economic capital because all the financial value is generated from the electricity it produces. However, because this contribution to capital stock is across the UK economy, this impact will be felt less acutely within the local community.

8.4 Community Benefits

Community benefits, an annual payment that is made by the developer to those communities in the proximity of wind farms, have become a common practice to support local ambitions and needs. While they do not constitute a material consideration at the planning stage, commitment to a comprehensive package of community benefits has a role in fostering a good relationship between the developer and the community hosting the developments.

To provide a framework on how to deliver community benefits, in 2019 the Scottish Government published its 'Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments'[15], which updated previous guidance issued in 2015. The Scottish Government recommends onshore wind developers to

[15] Scottish Government (2019), Scottish Government Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments.

deliver community benefit funding worth £5,000 per MW of installed capacity. The document also encourages developers to engage in holistic ways to maximise benefits locally, going beyond a purely monetary approach.

Following this recommendation, the Applicant is proposing a tailored package of benefits for the community from the Proposed Development and according to the current layout design and installed capacity and a community benefit contribution of £5,000 per MW of installed capacity, this could equate to community benefit funding for the local area worth £735,000 annually, which is equivalent to £29.4 million over its operational lifetime.

This could support local aspirations and projects and generate economic impacts. The local needs and priorities can be identified from the community consultations taking place. The presence of the Proposed Development would provide local communities with additional funding, which could be used to deliver short-term and long-term strategic, large-scale projects/initiatives which create tangible and lasting benefits for local communities.

8.5 Non-Domestic Rates

The Proposed Development is expected to generate a stream of revenue for local authorities like South Lanarkshire through the annual payment of non-domestic rates. It would be liable for non-domestic rates, the payment of which would contribute directly to public sector finances and infrastructure investments supporting the requirements of the NPF4 Policy 11(c).

In 2023, the Scottish Assessors Association (SAA) published guidance on the valuation of onshore wind[16] and solar PV developments[17]. The rateable value of the onshore wind elements was calculated using the expected income per MW, the expected annual net yield, the cost of equipment per MW and the decapitalisation rate. A similar approach was followed for the battery elements. The annual liability of the Proposed Development was then calculated by multiplying the estimated rateable value by the Scottish Higher Property Rate of 56.8 pence[18].

Using this approach, it was projected that over its operational period, the Proposed Development could make a total annual contribution of approximately £2.5 million to public finances. Across a 40-year operational lifespan, this contribution towards non-domestic rates is anticipated to accumulate to around £99.7 million.

Demand for public services has been increasing whereas the funding has been reduced in recent years, and South Lanarkshire Council expects the budget gap over the next three years to be over £77.0 million[19]. The Proposed Development would

[16] Scottish Assessors Association (2023), Practice Note 2: Valuation of On-shore Wind Turbines.
[17] Scottish Assessors Association (2023), Practice Note 3: Valuation of Photovoltaic Electricity Generators.
[18] Scottish Government (2025), Non-domestic rates guidance.
[19] South Lanarkshire (2024), 2025/2026 Revenue Budget Gap and Savings.

strengthen the financial position of the Council, supporting additional spending on public services, though in practice not all the income would necessarily go to the Council since the distribution of non-domestic rate revenues is determined nationally.

8.6 Total Economic Impact

The total expenditure associated with Proposed Development, including during the construction and operational phases, is expected to be £675.1 million. Of this:

- £265.7 million (39%) is expected to be secured in South Lanarkshire;
- £473.9 million (70%) is expected to be secured in Scotland; and
- £495.5 million (73%) is expected to be secured in the UK.

As can be seen in Table 8-10, the main opportunity for the local authority is in operations and maintenance.

Table 8-10 Total Expenditure: Turnover by Study Area (£m)

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland	UK
CAPEX	27.0	65.0	78.1
OPEX	238.7	408.8	417.4
TOTEX	**265.7**	**473.9**	**495.5**
Total (%)	39%	70%	73%
Total Excluding BESS			
TOTEX (Exc. BESS)	262.8	469.6	487.2
Total (%)	39%	70%	72%

Source: BiGGAR Economics Calculations. Note, totals may not sum due to rounding.

Over the lifetime of the wind farm, total expenditure associated with these contracts is expected to support:

- £198.2 million GVA in South Lanarkshire;
- £411.0 million GVA in Scotland; and
- £598.7 million GVA in the UK.

Table 8-11 Total Expenditure: Economic Impact, GVA (£m)

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland	UK
CAPEX	14.4	46.1	78.0
OPEX	183.8	364.9	520.7
TOTEX	**198.2**	**411.0**	**598.7**

Source: BiGGAR Economics Calculations. Note, totals may not sum due to rounding.

9. Tourism Baseline and Assessment

This section sets out the tourism context, including the size of the tourism economy and a baseline of attractions in the area, and considers the impact of the proposed development on tourism and recreation.

9.1 Tourism Baseline

9.1.1 Sustainable Tourism GVA and Employment

In its 2015 economic strategy[20] the Scottish Government identified six sectors as growth sectors, that is, economic sectors where Scotland had a comparative advantage. Sustainable tourism was one of the sectors identified.

In 2023, around 10,000 people were employed in sustainable tourism in South Lanarkshire, equivalent to approximately 4% of the total employment in the sector across Scotland (245,000). It was estimated that the sector generated £118.6 million GVA in South Lanarkshire and over £4.8 billion GVA across Scotland.

Table 9-1: Sustainable Tourism: GVA, 2022 and Sustainable Tourism: Employment, 2023

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
GVA (£m)	118.6	4,803.3
Employment	10,000	245,000

Source: Scottish Government (2025), Industry Statistics Database.

9.1.2 Visitors

In 2019, it was estimated that 3.8 million day-visitors spent time in South Lanarkshire, spending on average almost £22 per visit, which is lower than the average spend per day visit of visitors to Scotland (£36 per visit). In the wider area, there were around 136,000 visits from international visitors, contributing £121 million in spending. Domestic overnight visitors spent on average £146 per visit, equivalent to a total of £20.3 million in 2019.

[20] Scottish Government (2015), Scotland's Economic Strategy.

Table 9-2: Visits and Visitor Spending, 2019

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
		Visitor Numbers (million)
Day Visitors	3.8	144.9
Domestic Overnight Visitors	0.1	12.4
International Overnight Visitors	<0.1*	3.5
		Spend (£ million)
Day Visitors	82.1	5,186.6
Domestic Overnight Visitors	20.3	2,989.3
International Overnight Visitors	121*	2,458.6

Source: Kantar (2020), Great Britain Day Visitor Survey; Kantar (2020), Great Britain Tourist Survey; Visit Scotland (2021), Insight Department: Greater Glasgow and Clyde Valley Factsheet 2019. *These refer to the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Valley as no figures were available for South Lanarkshire.

9.1.3 Regional Attractions

The most visited attractions in Greater Glasgow and Clyde Valley are shown in Table 9-3. The majority of these are in Glasgow City and are not within 15 km from the Proposed Development. The closest attraction, Chatelherault Country Park, is located approximately 31 km away from the site of the Proposed Development.

Table 9-3: Top 10 Attractions in Greater Glasgow and Clyde Valley

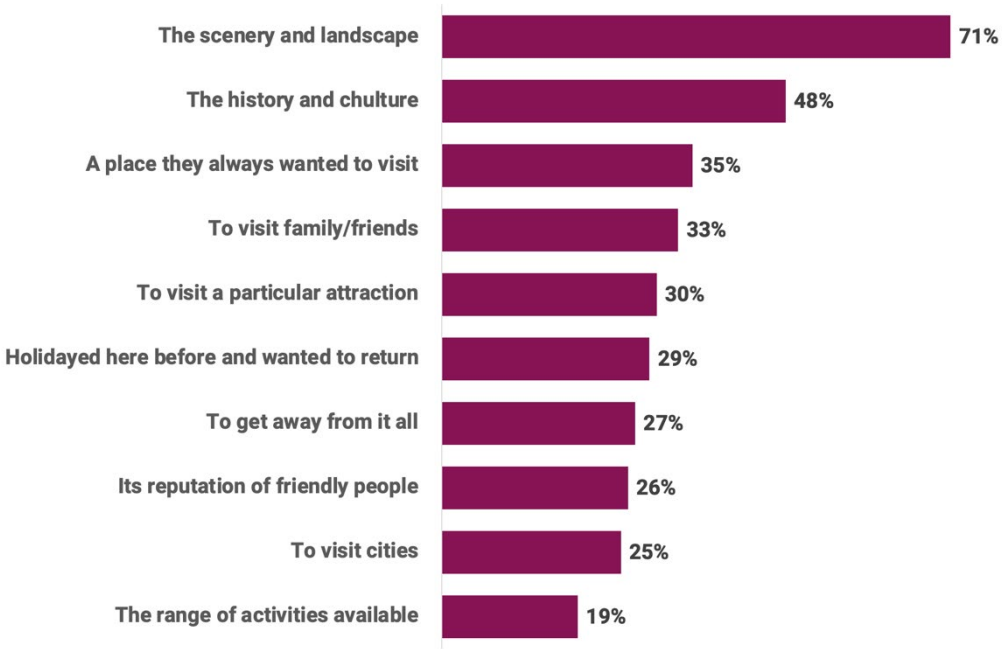
Attraction	Annual Visitors
Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum	1,832,097
Riverside Museum	1,364,739
Rouken Glen Park	1,024,347
Chatelherault Country Park	677,254
Mugdock Country Park	639,620
Hunterian Art Gallery	60,320
Pollok House	57,099
The Clydeside Distillery	34,997
RSPB Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve	26,217
Tenement House	23,456

Source: Visit Scotland (2021), Insight Department: Greater Glasgow and Clyde Valley Factsheet 2019.

9.1.4 Motivations to Visit

In 2017, Visit Scotland[21] published the results from a visitor survey considering why people spent time in Glasgow and Clyde Valley during 2015 and 2016. The survey found that 71% of visitors were attracted to the area because of its scenery and landscape. Over one in three visitors mentioned history and culture as the motivation for their visit, whereas 35% visited Glasgow and Clyde Valley as this was a place they always wanted to visit.

Figure 9-1: Motivations to Visit Glasgow and Clyde Valley



Source: Visit Scotland (2017), Scotland Visitor Survey 2015 & 2016.

9.1.5 Local Visitor Attractions

Using Google Maps, local visitor attractions are set out in **Appendix A - List of Tourism and Recreation Assets,** alongside a short description of them and their distance from the Proposed Development.

9.1.6 Local Accommodation Providers

Through online research on the VisitScotland portal and Google Maps, 51 accommodation providers were identified in the area surrounding the Proposed Development. A breakdown by category is shown in the table below.

Table 9-4: Local Accommodation Providers

	0-5km	5-10km	10-15km	Total
Self-Catering Providers	13	17	5	**35**
B&Bs	0	2	2	**4**

[21] Visit Scotland (2017), Scotland Visitor Survey 2015 & 2016.

Campsites or Caravan Parks	1	2	0	**3**
Hotels	1	4	4	**9**
Total	**15**	**25**	**11**	**51**

Source: Visit Scotland (2024), Accommodation South Lanarkshire. Google Maps.

9.1.7 Recreational Trails and Core Paths

Several trails were identified on Walkhighlands (2025) within 15km of the Proposed Development. These are shown in Table 9-5 alongside a brief description.

Table 9-5: Recreational Trails

Name	Description	Distance to Site (km)
Southern Upland Way 5: Sanquhar to Wanlockhead	12.5km short stage crossing scenic moorland to the old mining district along Wanlock Water.	<1km
Southern Upland Way 6: Wanlockhead to Beattock	31.3km Reaching the highest point and crossing the midpoint of the Way this is a significant stage.	1.3
Green Lowther and Lowther Hill, Wanlockhead	11.5km walk along gentle rolling summits.	1.4
Drumlanrig Castle & Burnmouth Bridge circuit	15.8km walk along the River Nith upstream with tree-lined banks.	9.2
Well Path circuit, Durisdeer	6.5km circuit following a narrow glen between grassy hills.	9.3
Southern Upland Way 4: St John's Town of Dalry to Sanquhar	41.5km long walk across open moorland.	9.7
Tinto from Wiston Lodge	6km hill with easy access from Glasgow and the central belt.	10.2
Culter Fell circular, near Biggar	18.5km walk through shapely rolling hills on the Lanarkshire/Borders boundary.	10.3
Douglas Explorer, Douglas	6.5km starting at a motorway on the northern flanks of the Lowther Hills.	12.0
Tinto from the north	7.0km hill with commanding views of the Clyde Valley and a large summit cairn.	12.3
Devil's Beef Tub circuit from Moffat	22.5km route. The first stage of the Annandale Way.	13.2

Name	Description	Distance to Site (km)
River Ayr Way 1: Glenbuck to Sorn	28.5km route following the River Ayr surrounded by wild moorland.	14.4

Source: https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/

Approximately 320 core paths[22] were also identified within 15 km of the Proposed Development.

9.2 Summary of Tourism Baseline

Tourism is an important sector within South Lanarkshire, supporting a range of visitor activity. There are a few clusters of tourism surrounding the Proposed Development in towns such as Douglas and Sanquhar. The tourism offering in these towns are mainly activity-based, including attractions such as museums or historical sites.

There is also the Southern Upland Way, the UK's first official coast-to-coast long-distance trail. While the Southern Upland Way contributes to the broader recreational offer of the area, it is not considered to be a primary driver of visitor activity. The Southern Upland Way is a long-distance walking route that passes through the study area but is not in itself a destination that drives visitor activity to the local area.

In summary, the tourism baseline indicates that the local visitor economy in the vicinity of the Proposed Development is driven by activity-based attractions, with the broader recreational landscape playing a supporting rather than determining role in visitor decision-making.

9.3 Evidence on Wind Farms and Tourism

Over time, a series of comprehensive studies have considered the relationship between wind farm developments and tourism activity.

9.3.1 Moffat Centre Study (2008)[23]

A foundational study on the potential effects of wind farms on tourism was undertaken in 2008 by the Moffat Centre at Glasgow Caledonian University. The study assessed potential impacts and found that, although there might be minor effects on individual tourism providers or a small number of visitors, the overall effect on tourism expenditure and employment at a national level would be negligible.

[22] Scottish Government Spatial Data (2024). Core Paths - Scotland

[23] Moffat Centre (2008), The Economic Impact of Wind Farms on Scottish Tourism.

Since the publication of this study, wind farms have become a common feature of the Scottish landscape. Consequently, if significant negative economic effects were to occur, they would now be evident in tourism statistics.

9.3.2 BiGGAR Economics Study (2021)[24]

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

Nationally, the report found that while Scotland experienced a significant increase in onshore wind energy (with the number of turbines rising from 1,082 in 2009 to 3,772 in 2019), employment in tourism-related sectors simultaneously increased by 20%. This demonstrates that the rapid expansion of the wind sector has not impeded the growth of the tourism economy.

The report included detailed case studies of 44 onshore wind farms constructed between 2009 and 2019, tracking changes in tourism employment within the immediate 15 km area of each site:

- **Pre-2015 Sites:** Of the 28 wind farms analysed, the local areas surrounding 18 of them experienced an increase in tourism employment that exceeded the Scottish average.
- **2015-2019 Sites:** Of the 16 newer wind farms, 11 local areas experienced tourism employment growth that outperformed the Scottish average.

These results suggest that tourism employment in local areas is driven by broader economic factors and changes independently of wind farm development.

9.4 Implications for Tourism and Recreation

The evidence presented in Section 9.3.2 demonstrates that there is no statistical correlation between wind farm development and negative tourism trends. However, to ensure a robust assessment for the Proposed Development, it is necessary to consider the theoretical mechanisms by which an impact could occur.

9.4.1 Impact Mechanism

For a socio-economic impact to materialise, the presence of the wind farm must trigger a chain of behavioural changes. It is not sufficient for the wind farm to be visible; it must be sufficiently intrusive to alter the decision-making of visitors.

The impact mechanism requires three distinct stages:

- **Visual Change:** The development must be visible from a tourism asset;
- **Behavioural Change:** This visibility must be negative enough to deter visitors from visiting, returning, or recommending the area; and

[24] BiGGAR Economics (2021), Wind Farms & Tourism Trends in Scotland: Evidence from 44 Wind Farms.

- **Economic Impact:** This behavioural change must result in a net reduction in expenditure within the local economy.

9.4.2 Drivers of Visitor Behaviour

Visitor surveys consistently show that tourists visit an area for a complex range of reasons, including cost, accessibility, accommodation quality, heritage interest, and specific activities.

While "scenery" is a factor, it is rarely the sole determinant. This is particularly relevant in South Lanarkshire, where tourism assets are predominantly activity-based rather than solely reliant on views.

- **Activity-Based:** Visitors to Morton Castle, Moffat Distillery, or local golf courses are focused on the specific activity or heritage asset. The quality of the wider horizon is secondary to the immediate experience.
- **View-Based:** Visitors to scenic viewpoints or wild land areas are more sensitive to landscape change.

9.4.3 Assessment Criteria: Susceptibility

Consequently, the susceptibility of a tourism asset to impact is determined by:

- **The dependency on views:** Is the view the primary product? (e.g., lookout points vs. an indoor museum);
- **The nature of the user:** Are they "scenery seekers" or "activity participants"?; and
- **Distance and Context:** Is the asset located in a landscape where wind energy is already established?

Overall, existing evidence indicates that wind farm developments across Scotland have not resulted in negative impacts on tourism activity. Wind energy infrastructure is now a well-established feature of the Scottish landscape, with no significant adverse effects on the tourism economy evident.

9.5 Assessment of Effects: Tourism and Recreation Receptors

This section assesses the potential for the Proposed Development to have a significant effect on tourism and recreation. The methodology for this is a two-stage process.

First, the assessment reviews the findings of the other relevant technical chapters to identify any primary significant effects. These are the direct environmental effects of the project, such as changes to the landscape or an increase in traffic. The relevant chapters for review include:

- Chapter 5 Landscape and Visual Amenity;
- Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage;
- Chapter 10 Noise and Vibration; and

- Chapter 11 Access, Traffic and Transport.

Second, where a primary significant effect is identified, this assessment then considers whether that effect is likely to result in a secondary significant effect on tourism and recreation. This is a change in visitor behaviour or the viability of a tourism business. The significance of this secondary effect is determined based on the sensitivity of the tourism asset and the magnitude of the potential change.

9.5.1 Local Tourist Attractions

As detailed in the baseline assessment, there are 30 local visitor attractions within 15km of the Proposed Development, including museums, castles, and golf courses (**Appendix A - List of Tourism and Recreation Assets**). A review of the relevant technical chapters identified no significant primary effects; consequently, there is no plausible pathway for secondary significant effects on these local attractions.

9.5.2 Local Accommodation Providers

There are 51 accommodation providers within the 15km study area, including hotels, B&Bs, and campsites. A review of the relevant technical chapters identified no significant primary effects; consequently, there is no plausible pathway for secondary significant effects on these accommodation providers.

9.5.3 Recreational Trails and Core Paths

The study area contains four recreational trails and over 320 core path sections. A review of the relevant technical chapters identified potential significant landscape and visual effects across a number of receptors including: 19 core paths within 5 km of the Proposed Development, and the Southern Upland Way.

The Southern Upland Way is a coast-to-coast long-distance trail in Southern Scotland. The trail passes through the both the Local Area and South Lanarkshire. However, it is not in itself a destination that drives visitor activity to the local area.

There are 19 core paths within 5 km of the Proposed Development that have been assessed to have predicted theoretical visibility along the majority of their route. While the core paths contribute to the recreational offer of the area, they are not a key driver of tourism activity which, as set out in the baseline summary, is driven by the activity-based assets within towns such as Douglas and Sanquhar surrounding the Proposed Development.

There is therefore no plausible pathway for secondary significant effects on tourism as a result of the visual effects identified. No significant primary effects were identified in relation to the remaining recreational trails and core paths.

9.6 Summary: Tourism and Recreation Assessment

The evidence base and national planning policy indicate that onshore wind development does not adversely affect tourism. The assessment of the Proposed Development supports this conclusion at the local level. While significant landscape

and visual effects have been identified on a number of receptors, these receptors are not key drivers of tourism in the area. The principal driver of tourism activity in the vicinity of the Proposed Development, activity-based assets, are not identified as being subject to significant environmental effects. In addition, Chapter 11: Schedule of Mitigation provides a detailed breakdown of all the environmental mitigation measures proposed in each of the technical chapters of the EIA Report to avoid, reduce or offset impacts which could otherwise give rise to significant environmental effects. This implies that any secondary effects of tourism would also be minimised due to these mitigations.

The Proposed Development is therefore not expected to result in significant adverse effects on tourism or recreation.

10. Appendix A - List of Tourism and Recreation Assets

Table 10-1: Recreational Trails

Name	Distance to Site (km)
Southern Upland Way 5: Sanquhar to Wanlockhead	<1km
Southern Upland Way 6: Wanlockhead to Beattock	1.3
Green Lowther and Lowther Hill, Wanlockhead	1.4
Drumlanrig Castle & Burnmouth Bridge circuit	9.2
Well Path circuit, Durisdeer	9.3
Southern Upland Way 4: St John's Town of Dalry to Sanquhar	9.7
Tinto from Wiston Lodge	10.2
Culter Fell circular, near Biggar	10.3
Douglas Explorer, Douglas	12.0
Tinto from the north	12.3
Devil's Beef Tub circuit from Moffat	13.2
River Ayr Way 1: Glenbuck to Sorn	14.4

Table 10-2: Local Visitor Attractions

Attraction	Description	Distance to Site (km)
Leadhills Miners Library	Britain's oldest subscription library, founded in 1741 by local miners. Now a museum with rare books and mining artefacts.	4
Leadhills Golf Club	Scotland's highest golf course, set in the Southern Uplands at 1,500 feet above sea level.	4
Leadhills hall	Community hall serving the village of Leadhills, used for local events and gatherings.	4

War memorial	Memorial in Leadhills commemorating local residents who gave their lives in the World Wars.	4
Leadhills And Wanlockhead Railway	A narrow gauge heritage railway and the highest adhesion railway in the UK. Runs between Leadhills and Glengonnar Halt.	4
The Navvies Graveyard	Burial ground of 37 Irish railway workers who died of typhus during construction of the Caledonian Railway in 1847.	6
Crawfordjohn Hall	Modern community hall in the village of Crawfordjohn, used for local events and social activities.	6
Crawfordjohn Heritage Centre	Volunteer-run heritage museum housed in an 18th-century former parish church, documenting rural life in the Southern Uplands.	6
Upper Clyde Parish Church	Parish church serving the upper Clyde valley communities, part of the Church of Scotland.	6
Museum of Lead Mining	Scotland's only real mine open to the public, located in Wanlockhead. Features underground tours, miners' cottages and gold panning.	6
Clyde Valley Tourist Route	Signposted scenic driving route following the River Clyde through the valley's orchards, villages and historic sites.	6
Clyde Headwaters	The source area of the River Clyde in the Lowther Hills, popular with walkers and nature enthusiasts.	7
Lowther Hill Radar Station	A NATS air traffic radar station known locally as "the golf ball" due to its distinctive radome. Popular walking destination at 725m.	8
Mennock Pass	A stunningly scenic stretch of road from Mennock to Wanlockhead, the highest of three passes crossing the Lowther Hills.	9
Cameronian's Regimental Memorial	Memorial in Douglas commemorating the Cameronians regiment, raised by the Earl of Angus in 1689 and disbanded in 1968.	14
Douglas Victoria Bowling Club	Community bowling club in the village of Douglas, offering outdoor lawn bowls.	14

St. Bride's Community Centre	Community venue in Douglas named after the village's historic patron saint, hosting local events.	14
Douglas Valley Church	Parish church serving the Douglas community in the upper Douglas Water valley.	14
Douglas Heritage Museum	Museum housed in a former chapel, featuring exhibits on the Douglas family, the Cameronian regiment and local village history.	14
Crawick Multiverse	A 55-acre land art installation by Charles Jencks on a former open-cast coal mine, exploring themes of cosmology and space.	14
Sanquhar Tolbooth Museum	Local history museum in a fine 18th-century tolbooth, featuring Sanquhar's famous knitting tradition and mining heritage.	15
A' The Airts Community Art Centre	Community arts and crafts centre on Sanquhar High Street, with a café, gallery, theatre and shop selling local crafts.	15
Crawford moor	Open moorland area near Crawford, historically associated with gold mining and walking routes through the Southern Uplands.	15
Sanquhar Academy Playing Field	Sports grounds associated with Sanquhar Academy, used for school and community sports.	15
Upper Nithsdale Trail	Walking and cycling trail through the Upper Nithsdale area, connecting heritage sites and scenic viewpoints.	15
The Waird Picnic Area	Riverside picnic and recreation area in Sanquhar beside the River Nith.	15
Lorimer Park	Public park in Sanquhar providing green space, play areas and recreational facilities for the local community.	15
Sanquhar F.U.N. Pool	Community swimming pool in Sanquhar offering leisure swimming and activities for families and locals.	15

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