BiGGAR Economics

# West Scales Energy Park Economic Impact Assessment

A report to Eurowind Energy
April 2026

Eurowind Energy

# Contents

# Executive Summary

West Scales Energy Park is an onshore wind farm proposed for a site in Dumfries and Galloway on the border of Scotland and England that will consist of 4 turbines, with a combined installed capacity of up to 24.8 MW. There is also solar and battery storage capacity 12 MW each respectively.

The National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) states that energy projects will only be supported if they can demonstrate that they will maximise the net economic impact. The assessment of whether West Scales Energy Park 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 Eurowind Energy has direct control over, and how it can enable others to have a positive impact across these areas.

It was estimated that during the development and construction phase, which is expected to cost approximately £49.6 million, West Scales Energy Park could generate:

- £3 million Gross Value Added (GVA) and support 35 years of employment in Dumfries and Galloway; and
- £12.4 million GVA and 134 years of employment in Scotland.

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, and other skilled trades activities.

On average in each year of its 40-year operational life, West Scales Energy Park is expected to generate:

- £0.4 million GVA and 2 jobs in Dumfries and Galloway; and
- £1.0 million GVA and 7 jobs in Scotland;

Furthermore, the Proposed Development is expected to make an annual contribution of £0.5 million in non-domestic rates and £19.4 million across its 40-year operational lifespan.

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

Eurowind Energy commits to the following actions under each of the areas of development to maximise benefits.

## Supply Chain

- Work with economic development bodies like the South of Scotland Enterprise and Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of Commerce, to identify potential local suppliers.
- Share information on potential local suppliers with Tier 1 contractors to support local subcontracting.
- Participate in to support a minimum of one supplier engagement activities, such as “meet the buyer” events, on a collaborative basis.
- Apply progressive procurement practices, including early communication of requirements, to support SME participation
- Publish statistics on local content.

## Skills Development

- Commit to Living Wage and fair and inclusive policies at a corporate level.
- Engage with relevant education and training providers, including Dumfries and Galloway College, to understand skills provision relevant to onshore wind development.
- Encourage Tier 1 contractors to support apprenticeships, training, and upskilling opportunities.
- Support and participate in collaborative schools and careers engagement activities.

## Community Empowerment

- Establish a community benefit fund.
- Develop a bespoke package of community benefits informed by local priorities and aspirations.
- Explore the opportunity proposals for community ownership.

## The Environment

- Consider proportionate opportunities for environmental enhancement where these are compatible with site conditions and project scale including those outlined in the Habitat Management Plan.
- Deliver and monitor commitment on net positive impact on biodiversity.

The assessment of West Scales Energy Park has found that the approach taken is:

- **place-based** and rooted in the context of Dumfries and Galloway;
- **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** and an environment will be created to allow communities to deliver those benefits which are enabled by the wind farm.

Based on this above assessment, it is concluded that Eurowind Energy's approach to West Scales Energy Park is consistent with Policy 11c of NPF4 on maximising net economic benefits.

# 1. Introduction

This report presents an assessment of the economic impact of the West Scales Energy Park as well as evaluation of the maximisation of benefits.

## 1.1 Background

West Scales Energy Park (the Proposed Development) is a multi-technology renewable energy project located in Dumfries and Galloway. The Proposed Development integrates four wind turbines with a total installed capacity of 24.8 MW and 12 MW of solar PV and 12 MW of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

The objectives of this study include:

- outlining the strategic context in which the Proposed Development falls under;
- present the existing socio-economic conditions and tourism drivers of the relevant study areas which the Proposed Development may impact;
- evaluate whether the proposed actions of the developer meets the requirements of NPF4; and
- quantify the potential economic and fiscal impacts of the Proposed Development.

## 1.2 Report Structure

The report is structured as follows:

- section 3 - considers a range of strategic context documents ranging from national to local strategies;
- section 4 - provides a socio-economic context;
- section 5 - provides an overview of the main tourism drivers in the Local Area and considers the relationship between the Proposed Development and the local tourism assets;
- section 6 to 9 - assesses the commitments of the Developer in relation to NPF4; and
- section 10 - quantifies the potential economic impact of the Proposed Development across the construction and operations phase.

# 2. Strategic Context

This section sets out the national and regional context and how the Proposed Development would support strategic aims.

## 2.1 National Strategic Context

### 2.1.1 National Performance Framework

The National Performance Framework[1] (NPF) sits at the top of the policy hierarchy in Scotland, with all other policies and strategies designed to meet its purpose and outcomes.

The purpose of the NPF is:

**"To focus on creating a more successful country with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increased wellbeing, and sustainable and inclusive economic growth."**

The NPF explicitly includes 'increased well-being' as part of its purpose and combines measurement of how well Scotland is doing in economic terms with a broader range of well-being measures. The NPF is designed to give a more rounded view of economic performance and progress towards achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth and well-being across Scotland and aims to:

- create a more successful country;
- give opportunities to all people living in Scotland;
- increase the well-being of people living in Scotland;
- create sustainable and inclusive growth; and
- reduce inequalities and give equal importance to economic, environmental and social progress.

The NPF sets out 11 outcomes, underpinned by 81 indicators, that combine to give a better picture of how the country is progressing towards these goals. As well as GDP and employment measures, the NPF's outcomes reflect the desired fabric of communities and culture, education, the environment, health and well-being and

[1] Scottish Government (2024), Scotland's National Performance Framework.

measures to help tackle poverty. It is these indicators on which the Scottish Government focuses its activities and spending to help meet the national outcomes.

The 11 national outcomes are that people:

- **children and young people**: grow up loved, safe and respected so that they realise their full potential;
- **communities**: live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe;
- **culture**: are creative and their vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely;
- **economy**: have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- **education**: are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society;
- **environment**: value, enjoy, protect and enhance their environment;
- **fair work and business**: have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone;
- **health**: are healthy and active;
- **human rights**: respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination;
- **international**: are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally; and
- **poverty**: tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.

### 2.1.2 Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation

In March 2022, the Scottish Government released the National Strategy for Economic Transformation[2], which set out its ambition for Scotland's economy over the next 10 years. The Scottish Government's vision is to create a wellbeing economy where society thrives across economic, social and environment dimensions, which delivers prosperity for all Scotland's people and places. Of particular importance is the ambition to be greener, with a just transition to net zero, a nature-positive economy and a rebuilding of natural capital.

A key longer-term challenge identified in the Strategy is to address deep-seated regional inequality, which includes rural and island areas that face problems such as a falling labour supply, poorer access to infrastructure and housing. The transition to net zero presents a further challenge of delivering positive employment, revenue and community benefits.

To deliver its vision and address the economy's challenges, five programmes of action have been identified (with a sixth priority of creating a culture of delivery), including:

- establishing Scotland as a world-class entrepreneurial nation;
- strengthening Scotland's position in new markets and industries, generating new, well-paid jobs from a just transition to net zero;

[2] Scottish Government (2022), National Strategy for Economic Transformation.

- making Scotland's businesses, industries, regions, communities and public services more productive and innovative;
- ensuring that people have the skills they need to meet the demands of the economy, and that employers invest in their skilled employees; and
- reorienting the economy towards wellbeing and fair work.

The Strategy notes that Scotland has substantial energy potential, with a quarter of Europe's wind potential, and that it has developed a growing green industrial base. This provides a strong foundation for securing new market opportunities arising from the transition to net zero, where Scotland may be able to secure first-mover advantage and will need continuing investment and support.

### 2.1.3 National Planning Framework 4

The NPF4[3] is Scotland's national spatial strategy, setting out the principles to be applied to planning decisions, regional priorities and national developments.

The first of six spatial principles to be applied is a just transition that ensures the transition to Net Zero is fair and inclusive, as is rural revitalisation, supporting sustainable development in rural areas. Applying these and other principles is intended to support the planning and delivery of sustainable places, where emissions reduce, and biodiversity is restored and better connected.

As part of the policy 11(a), all forms of renewable technologies, including onshore wind and energy storage, will be supported. This is subject to the test outlined in Policy 11(c), which states that: *"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".* The Proposed Development will support employment and create opportunities for local businesses at both the construction, and operation and maintenance phases.

Policy 11(e) also sets out a number of impacts that should be addressed during project design and mitigation. That list includes recreation, but does not include tourism. Whilst not required by NPF4, Section **Error! Reference source not found.** of this report does consider whether there could be any implications for tourism relating to the Proposed Development.

### 2.1.4 Local Energy Policy Statement

The Scottish Government's Local Energy Policy Statement[4] highlights the role of localised energy solutions as part of a green recovery to the Covid-19 pandemic and towards a net-zero and decarbonised economy. The Statement is interlinked with other strategic documents in a concerted effort to increase energy efficiency; reduce emissions and eradicate fuel poverty.

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

[4] Scottish Government (2021), Local Energy Policy Statement.

The Statement identifies the wide range of stakeholders involved in local energy and sets out the following key principles:

- people: engaging with stakeholders from the outset and supporting the different ways each of these will want to be involved;
- places: local energy projects should reflect the features of the local area and work in collaboration with others;
- network and infrastructure: consider the existing energy infrastructure in the area and secure high level and quality of supply to all;
- pathway to commercialisation: create projects that are commercially viable, can be replicated in the future and support net zero emissions; and
- opportunity: projects should create high value jobs and support the wider industry and its workforce.

### 2.1.5 Tourism Strategy: Scotland's Outlook 2030

Following on from the Tourism Scotland 2020 (TS2020) Strategy[5], a collaborative network of industry experts created Scotland's Outlook 2030, which is focused on creating a world-leading tourism sector in Scotland that is sustainable in the long-term.

The Strategy is focused on four key priorities:

- people;
- places;
- businesses; and
- experiences.

The Strategy recognises the effects of climate change, technological advancements, Brexit and changing consumer behaviour on tourism and highlights the need for collaboration between government, communities and the public and private sectors[6].

There are six conditions that the Strategy has highlighted as being crucial for success:

- using technological advancements and information to understand changes and trends in tourist behaviours;
- ensuring policies are in place that support the vision;
- enabling investment opportunities into Scotland's tourism market;
- improving transport and digital infrastructure;
- greater collaboration between businesses in the industry; and
- positioning Scotland as a great place to live and visit locally and globally.

A main commitment of the Strategy is to address the effects of energy demand associated with tourism and make the sector commit fully to Scotland's ambition of

[5] Scottish Tourism Alliance (2012), Tourism Scotland 2020.

[6] Scottish Tourism Alliance (2020), Scotland's Outlook 2030.

becoming a net-zero society by 2045. The Proposed Development would aim to contribute to this national target.

### 2.1.6 Onshore Wind Sector Deal

The Onshore Wind Sector Deal[7], published in September 2023, outlines the commitment from the Scottish Government and the onshore wind sector to reach 20 GW of onshore wind by 2030, ensuring maximisation of benefits to Scotland. The Deal highlights the increased potential of onshore wind for a low-carbon and prosperous future, the creation of high-quality job opportunities and the empowerment of local communities in Scotland.

The Deal emphasises the following aspects, and the collaborative, sector and government action required to support the development of onshore wind in each of the following:

- supply chain, skills and the circular economy: support the enhancement of the current skills and training provision to deliver the needs of the wind industry;
- community: onshore wind will continue to collaborate with local communities, offering impactful community benefits;
- land use and environment: onshore wind projects will enhance biodiversity and optimise land use and environmental benefits;
- planning: reduce the time it takes to determine applications for onshore wind projects by increasing skills and resources;
- legislative and regulatory: develop evidence to support a strategic approach to delivering investment and transporting wind turbine components, and improve network connections;
- technical: enable cooperative coexistence between onshore wind and safe aviation operations; and
- implementation and governance: key milestones to be delivered by agreed dates.

Taking these into consideration, the Deal shed light to the importance of onshore wind in accelerating the transition to Net Zero, driving economic growth, creating better job opportunities, and benefitting communities in Scotland.

The Proposed Development would directly contribute to all the above increasing onshore wind generating capacity in the Scottish Borders and Scotland.

## 2.2 Regional Strategic Context

### 2.2.1 Dumfries and Galloway Regional Community Fund

The Dumfries and Galloway Regional Community Fund[8] is a region-wide fund set up in 2018 with the aim of acting as a source of funding from local windfarms to support initiatives in the region with the goal of improving:

[7] Scottish Government (2023), Onshore Wind Sector Deal

[8] Dumfries and Galloway (NA), Dumfries and Galloway Regional Community Fund. [online] Available at: https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/20249/Dumfries-and-Galloway-Regionwide-Community-Fund

- skills and development;
- community;
- environment;
- culture and heritage;
- community led tourism;
- affordable housing;
- community transport;
- digital connectivity;
- poverty and inequality;
- Net Zero; and
- cost of living.

The Proposed Development would become an additional potential source of funding for the community fund which would diversify the potential revenue sources allowing for a greater security in supporting community led initiatives.

### 2.2.2 Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal

The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal[9] is a comprehensive investment package covering five local authorities amounting to £452 million from the UK, Scottish and Local Governments aimed at increasing the productivity in the region, grow the working age population and to deliver a more inclusive economy. The investments focus on four areas:

- infrastructure;
- improving places;
- business, innovation and skills; and
- green growth;

The Proposed Development would contribute towards tackling the main challenges in the region identified in the Deal by creating employment opportunities throughout its entire life cycle. The Proposed Development would create access to high-paying long-term jobs throughout the operational duration of the project in turn stimulating the local economy and strengthening local businesses by the increased expenditure.

### 2.2.3 South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy

The South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy[10], launched in 2021 by the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership, is a ten-year plan designed to actualise growth, economic benefits, and investments across the region. Its central vision is to ensure the South of Scotland is 'Green, Fair, and Flourishing' by 2031, transforming it into "a region of opportunity and innovation – where natural capital drives green growth, ambition and quality of life…communities are empowered and cultural

[9] Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal (2021) Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal. [online] Available at: https://www.borderlandsgrowth.com/the-deal/downloads

[10] South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (2021) Regional Economic Strategy. [online] Available at: https://www.southofscotlandrep.com/delivery-strategies/regional-economic-strategy

identity is cherished, enabling those here to thrive and attracting a new generation to live, work, visit, learn and invest."

The Strategy aims to achieve this economic shift through six key themes:

- Create skilled and ambitious people through training and employment to attract and retain diverse skillsets;
- Ensure the region is innovative and enterprising through research, business support and creating flexible and accessible workspaces;
- Ensure the region represents fair and rewarding work to grow diversity, secure greater investments and improve fair working conditions;
- Boost creativity and the visitor economy by celebrating cultural and heritage assets that promote regional identity;
- Seize economic opportunities of a just transition and net zero to grow regional supply chains and support community wealth building; and,
- Revitalise towns and rural communities through sustainable and affordable housing, digital and transport connections, and supporting communities and third sector enterprises.

The green transition is particularly viewed as a significant opportunity to create jobs, stimulate business innovation, and attract investment, positioning the South of Scotland as a leader in sustainable development for a greener economy that benefits both communities and the environment. The Proposed Development aims to contributes to these ambitions identified in the Strategy.

## 2.3 Local Strategic Context

### 2.3.1 Gretna and Rigg Local Place Plan

The Gretna and Rigg Local Place Plan (LPP)[11] is a document covering the areas of Gretna, Rigg, Gretna Green and Springfield created in the context of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal (see section 2.2.2). The LPP sets out a ten-year vision of making the area a *"connected, resilient, enterprising and active community that benefits from a positive contribution from young and old and has a vibrant local economy that invests in long term change".*

The LPP highlights several needs and challenges the area faces:

- Need for a diversified economy;
- Insufficient housing;
- Need for higher wages and skills;
- Learning opportunities;
- Poor energy efficiency in homes;
- Lack of local amenities; and
- Anti-social behaviour;

[11] Dumfries and Galloway Council (2024), Gretna, Rigg and Gretna Green - Local Place Plan

The LPP sets out a number of investments into initiatives and projects to address these needs and deliver on the vision, they are designed to make the area flourish by attracting visitors, creating more jobs and creating a welcoming community. The investments are centred around the themes of creating:

- **an enterprising place**: building on the wedding legacy and diversifying into an innovative and modern economy built on visitors and natural environment;
- **a skilled place**: training people to have the skills and qualifications necessary to meet the needs of a changing world;
- **a beautiful and safe place**: taking care of the natural environment and local heritage;
- **an active place**: developing facilities where people can get together and participate;
- **a place to live**: provide the necessary housing to allow for an increase the working age population; and
- **a place to be young**: creating places and an environment for young people to thrive.

These key investment themes are designed to address the five pillars of Community Wealth Building: inclusive ownership, local spend, workforce, land and property and finance.

The Proposed Development has the opportunity to contribute towards delivering on the vision of the LPP through the well-established practice of community benefits from onshore wind farms in Scotland. Community benefits could align with some of the specific initiatives outlined in the LPP including providing training, skills programmes and apprenticeships, helping to improve access to green spaces and connectivity between the four communities, diversifying the economy or supporting supply chains in the local economy.

### 2.3.2 Gretna and Rigg, Springfield and Gretna Green, Kirkpatrick Fleming and District Community Action Plan 2017 to 2027[12]

The Community Action Plan (CAP) was set up to identify the areas of investment and the priorities of the local community to direct the funds originating from the Beck Burn Renewables Wind farm providing £155,250 of annual community fund to be administered to nearby communities. The CAP identified five priorities the local communities expressed and includes:

- **Facilities**: the community expressed a desire for new and enhanced facilities in relation to sport and recreation.
- **Housing**: it was voiced a need for more affordable housing, highlighting it as a driving reason young people not choosing to return to the area.
- **Activities**: community highlighted a need for more facilities for young people and accessible ones.

[12] Local Energy Scotland (NA), Gretna and Rigg, Springfield and Gretna Green, Kirkpatrick Fleming and District Community Action Plan 2017 to 2027

- **Roads**: community expressed concern over the condition of roads due to the high traffic of HGVs and presence of a main motorway; and
- **Working together**: residents expressed the importance of effective collaboration between community groups to avoid duplication of work and to make the most of the available resources.

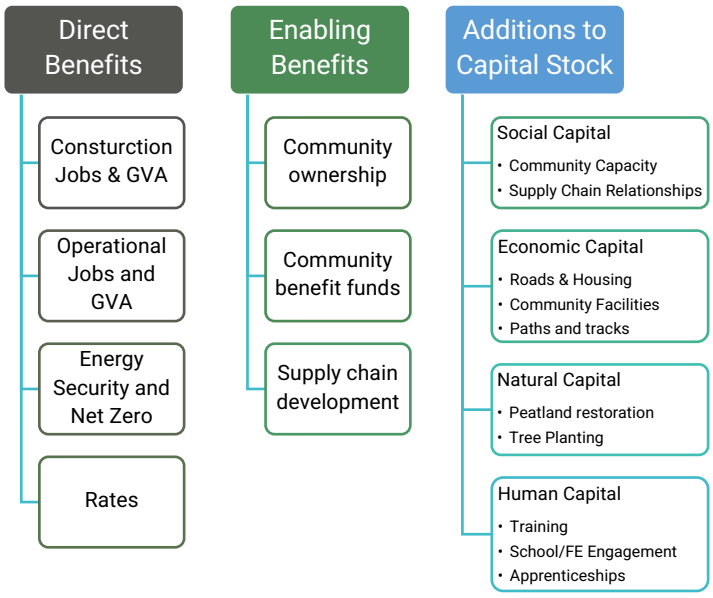
The CAP was set up to ensure that community funds originating from onshore wind farms were appropriately allocated to the needs and priorities of the local area. The Proposed Developement has the opportunity to deliver similar benefits to the local area and further contribute towards the priorities and aspirations outlined in the CAP.

## 2.4 Maximising Net Economic Benefits

The purpose of this report is to consider how Eurowind will maximise the net economic impact of West Scales Energy Park. 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:

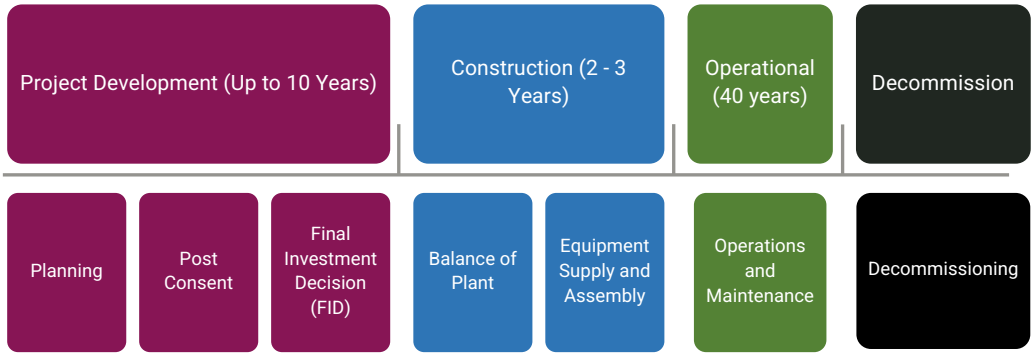
- **Direct Benefits** – these are the benefits and impacts over which the developer has direct control and can most easily influence. This can include the economic impacts generated by the projects and their contribution to public policy and public finances;
- **Enabling Benefits** – many of the potential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

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




Source: Scottish Renewables

In 2025, Scottish Renewables[13] published guidance to help developers deliver and enhance local benefits. This guidance sets out six principles that can be used to assess whether a project has been developed in a way that is likely achieve the objective of maximising socio-economic benefits. 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.

[13] Scottish Renewables, (2025), Maximising Net Socio-Economic Benefit of Renewable Energy Guidance and Reporting Framework

- **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 West Scales Energy Park maximises net economic impact, it is necessary to consider both the economic impacts that are expected and the approach that Eurowind Energy 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.

# 3. Local Context

This section covers the socio-economic conditions of the West Scales Energy Park.

## 3.1 Approach

A clear understanding of the local socio-economic context is essential to ensure that any approach to maximising benefits is appropriately aligned with the specific needs, characteristics and priorities of the communities potentially affected by the project. To help provide this, the starting point for this assessment was a baseline analysis of the socio-economic conditions in the following study areas:

- **Local Area** (defined as the electoral wards of Annadale South and Annandale East and Eskdale);
- **Dumfries and Galloway**; and
- **Scotland**.

Various socio-economic statistics were considered as part of this assessment and a summary of the important messages emerging from this is provided at the end of section.

## 3.2 Labour Market and Industrial Structure

### 3.2.1 Population Estimates

The current data indicates that the Local Area has a population of 24,614, which accounts for 17% of the total population of Dumfries and Galloway.

The Local Area has an older population, with 27.1% of the population aged 65 or over. In comparison, 20.3% of the Scottish population is aged 65 or over. Similarly, 58.0% of the population in the Local Area are aged between 16-64, compared to 57.3% of Dumfries and Galloway and to 63.4% of the Scottish population.

**Table 3-1 Population Estimates, 2023**

| | Local Area* | Dumfries and Galloway | Scotland |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0-15 | 14.9% | 15.0% | 16.3% |
| 16-64 | 58.0% | 57.3% | 63.4% |
| 65 and over | 27.1% | 27.7% | 20.3% |
| **Total** | **24,614** | **145,670** | **5,490,100** |

Source: National Records of Scotland (2024) mid-2023 population estimates. National Records of Scotland (2024), population estimates: mid-2022. *latest available population data is from 2022.

### 3.2.2 Population Projections

The National Records of Scotland provide population projections at local authority and Scottish level. The total population of Dumfries and Galloway is projected to decrease by 6.9% (145,670 to 136,286) between 2023 and 2043. During the same period, the population of Scotland is projected to increase by 5%.

Dumfries and Galloway is also projected to experience an ageing population, with the share of the working age population expected to fall from 57.3% to 53.0%, which implies a loss of around 11,200 working age people from Dumfries and Galloway.

**Table 3-2 Population Projections, 2023 to 2043**

| | Dumfries and Galloway | | Scotland | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2023 | 2043 | 2023 | 2043 |
| **Total** | **145,670** | **136,286** | **5,490,100** | **5,770,152** |
| 0-15 | 15.0% | 13.2% | 16% | 14% |
| 16-64 | 57.3% | 53.0% | 63% | 61% |
| 65 and over | 27.7% | 33.7% | 20% | 25% |

Source: National Records of Scotland (2024) mid-2023 population estimates; National Records of Scotland (2020) population projections for Scottish areas (2018-based); National Records of Scotland (2023) population projections for Scotland (2022-based).

### 3.2.3 Industrial Structure, 2023

As shown in Table 3-3, the wholesale and retail trade sector is particularly important to the Local Area, accounting for 16.9% of all jobs in the area. This is higher than that of the Dumfries and Galloway (15.0%) and Scotland (13.2%)

Similarly, food and accommodation have a higher proportion of local employment to the Local Area accounting for 13.6% of employment compared to Dumfries and Galloway (9.8%) and to Scotland as a whole (8.6%). This in part due to the importance of tourism derived from the wedding sector in the Local Area which is elaborated in Section 4.2.

Higher than average employment in the Local Area in water supply, waste management and remediation (3.0%) as well as in construction (6.8%) compared to Dumfries and Galloway (1.1% and 4.5%) and Scotland as a whole (0.8% and 5.1%) is likely associated with the economic activity surrounding the decommissioning of Chapelcross.

It was reported that in 2024, there were 240 jobs associated with the decommissioning of Chapelcross[14], however it is now in the Care and Maintenance Preparations phase which is expected to result in a decrease in the number of staff

[14] Emma Harper MSP (2024), Harper Praises Team at Chapelcross During Visit. [online] Available at: https://emmaharpermsp.scot/harper-praises-team-at-chapelcross-during-visit/.

employed at the site[15]. These jobs are associated with professions including electricians, engineers, welders, site planners, logistics and demolition[16] with staff being either redeployed elsewhere or options provided for re-skilling, retraining and early retirement[17]. This will lead to changes in the industrial structure of the Local Area.

However, there will be economic opportunities from the development, construction and operation of the Proposed Development are likely to be within specific sectors such as in construction and professional, scientific and technical services.

[15] Nuclear Restoration Services (2023), Chapelcross Site Environmental Management Plan. [online] Available at: https://www.onr.org.uk/media/fnfdnavt/2023-chapelcross-emp.pdf.
[16] Emma Harper MSP (2024), Harper Praises Team at Chapelcross During Visit. [online] Available at: https://emmaharpermsp.scot/harper-praises-team-at-chapelcross-during-visit/.
[17] Nuclear Restoration Services (2023), Chapelcross Site Environmental Management Plan. [online] Available at: https://www.onr.org.uk/media/fnfdnavt/2023-chapelcross-emp.pdf.

**Table 3-3 Industrial Structure, 2023**

| | Local Area | Dumfries and Galloway | Scotland |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **24,614** | **145,670** | **5,490,100** |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 16.9% | 15.0% | 13.2% |
| Accommodation and food service activities | 13.6% | 9.8% | 8.6% |
| Manufacturing | 13.1% | 8.3% | 6.7% |
| Human health and social work activities | 11.4% | 17.3% | 15.6% |
| Education | 6.9% | 7.1% | 8.2% |
| Construction | 6.8% | 4.5% | 5.1% |
| Transportation and storage | 5.7% | 4.5% | 4.5% |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing | 4.9% | 13.5% | 3.4% |
| Administrative and support service activities | 4.0% | 4.5% | 6.8% |
| Professional, scientific and technical activities | 3.9% | 3.8% | 7.2% |
| Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities | 3.0% | 1.1% | 0.8% |
| Public administration and defence; compulsory social security | 2.8% | 3.8% | 6.2% |
| Other service activities | 2.2% | 1.5% | 1.7% |
| Arts, entertainment and recreation | 1.6% | 2.1% | 2.7% |
| Information and communication | 1.2% | 0.8% | 3.1% |
| Real estate activities | 0.8% | 1.5% | 1.5% |
| Financial and insurance activities | 0.7% | 0.6% | 3.2% |

Source: ONS (2025), business register and employment survey, 2023

### 3.2.4 Education

The workforce in Dumfries and Galloway has lower levels of qualification than the wider Scottish population. Across Dumfries and Galloway, 44% of people have achieved at least a National Vocational Qualification Level 4 (NVQ4) qualification, equivalent to a higher education certificate. This is lower than the share of people in

Scotland of 54%, with a higher education certificate. The proportion of people who have achieved no qualifications in Dumfries and Galloway (4%) is slightly lower than across Scotland as a whole (8%).

**Table 3-4 Qualification Levels, 2024**

| | Dumfries and Galloway | Scotland |
|---|---|---|
| NVQ4+ | 44% | 54% |
| NVQ3+ | 70% | 73% |
| NVQ2+ | 91% | 87% |
| NVQ1+ | 92% | 89% |
| Other Qualifications | 5% | 3% |
| No Qualifications | 4% | 8% |

Source: ONS (2025), Annual Population Survey Jan 2024 – Dec 2024.

## 3.3 The Environment

### 3.3.1 Use of Natural Environment for Recreation

Residents of Dumfries and Galloway area more likely to use the outdoors for recreation than the Scottish average, approximately 56.4% of residents visit the outdoors one or more times a week, compared to 53.8% of Scottish residents.

This is despite the residents of the region living within a similar proximity to either green or blue space compared to the average Scottish resident. Across Dumfries and Galloway, approximately 91% of residents live within a 10-minute walk of either green or blue space, compared to 87% across Scotland.

**Table 3-5 Outdoor Access data – Average for 2013 to 2023**

| | Dumfries and Galloway | Scotland |
|---|---|---|
| Visit the outdoors one or more times a week | 56.4% | 53.8% |
| Live within 10-minute walk of green/blue space | 91% | 87% |

Source: Scottish Household Survey (2024)

## 3.4 The Local Community

Community councils consist of the most local form of representation in Scotland and serve as a bridge between the local inhabitants and local government, they assist in communicating the needs, challenges and aspirations of the communities

and play a role a valuable role in advising local authorities on planning applications[18]. There are several community councils in the Local Area around the Proposed Development site that appear to be active, these consist of the community councils in:

- Gretna & Rigg;
- Springfield & Gretna Green;
- Eastriggs, Dornock and Creca;
- Kirkpatrick Fleming and District; and
- Royal Burgh of Annan.

Alongside community councils, local community trusts also play an important role in promoting local development. These trusts broadly speaking aim to advance sustainable regeneration and long-term development of the communities in their respective areas. The common themes of their purpose include to improve the quality of life for residents by addressing needs, challenges and aspirations. These trusts do this by funding and delivering projects that promote community development, environmental conservation, education, health and well-being, culture and energy projects.

- **Annan Harbour Action Group:** A community organisation in Annan involved in local projects including the harbour and waterfront area; it has also played an active and central role to the **Annan Local Place Plan** process and stands as a community-led development body.
- **Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company (ANCBC):** While not a trust that directly delivers projects itself, this community benefit company operates a **community benefit fund in the local area** (including Annandale) that supports community-led projects.

Several of the community councils in the local area around the Proposed Development are engaged in planning to support local development and wellbeing. The Local Place Plan and Community Action plan centre around improving infrastructure, housing, skills and employment opportunities as well as enhancing the natural environment and local heritage, more details can be found in Section 2.3.

Together, these plans prioritise community-led, long-term regeneration, aiming to strengthen local economies, revitalise town centres and key assets, improve connectivity and public spaces and enhance quality of life by aligning development, infrastructure and services with local needs and aspirations.

[18] Our Place (NA) Community Councils. Available at: https://www.ourplace.scot/community-councils

## 3.5 Summary of Local Context

The population of the Local Area and Dumfries and Galloway is expected to decrease and become older over the next two decades suggesting that **services for older residents,** healthcare, and social infrastructure will be increasingly important.

Tourism related sectors including, wholesale and retail trade and food and accommodation services are important sectors of employment in the local area. Higher than average employment in construction and waste management is likely associated with economic activity associated with Chapelcross which being in the last stages of its decommissioning phase presents risk to staff relocation and retirement. This indicates the importance and need for local employment opportunities and skills re-training in these sectors.

Given the **recreational use of natural spaces is higher than the Scottish average**, integrating environmental and leisure-focused initiatives into regeneration projects could boost tourism, wellbeing and community engagement.

The area surrounding the West Scales Energy Park benefits from the presence of active community councils and local place plans that coordinate and prioritise strategic objectives for the area. Community engagement is strong through active community councils and local trusts.

# 4. Tourism

This section provides an overview of the main tourism drivers in the Local Area and considers the relationship between the Proposed Development and the local tourism assets.

NPF4 does not identify tourism impacts as a material concern for onshore wind development and therefore, a review of the national and local evidence of onshore wind farms on tourism is considered to determine any potential impact according to the existing literature.

The two main tourism drivers within 15 km of the West Scales Energy Park include the attractions at Gretna and Annan. This section outlines the main tourism drivers in the local area, which primarily includes the wedding sector in Gretna and the associated businesses supporting this industry (e.g. flowers, beauty services, catering, accommodation, etc), as well as other tourism growth sectors identified by the local area.

## 4.1 Evidence on Wind Farms and Tourism

A number of studies have considered the relationship between wind farm developments and tourism activity.

A study undertaken in 2008 by the Moffat Centre at Glasgow Caledonian University[19] examined the potential effects of wind farms on tourism. The study found that while there could be minor effects on tourism providers, the overall effect on tourism expenditure and employment would be very limited.

Since this study, wind farms have become a more common feature in Scotland and any negative effects on the tourism economy as a result of their existence would now be apparent.

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 level[20]. Nationally, the report found that, while Scotland had experienced a significant increase in onshore wind energy (with the number of turbines increasing from 1,082 in 2009 to 3,772 in 2019), employment in tourism

[19] Moffat Centre (2008) *The Economic Impact of Wind Farms on Scottish Tourism.* [online] The Scottish Government. Available at: https://www.gov.scot/publications/economic-impacts-wind-farms-scottish-tourism/

[20] BiGGAR Economics (2021) *Wind Farms & Tourism Trends in Scotland: Evidence from 44 Wind Farms.* [online] Available at: https://biggareconomics.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/BiGGAR-Economics-Wind-Farms-and-Tourism-2021.pdf

related sectors had increased by 20%. At the local authority level, those local authorities which had seen the largest increase in onshore wind energy, also experienced increases in tourism employment, equal to, or greater than, other areas across Scotland.

The report included case studies of 44 onshore wind farms constructed between 2009 and 2019. This included an updated analysis of 28 wind farms (included in a previous report[21]) constructed prior to 2015, and 16 additional wind farms constructed between 2015 and 2019. The study reported on changes in tourism-related employment in the data zones within 15 km of each wind farm. Of the 28 wind farms previously analysed, the local areas surrounding 18 of those experienced an increase in tourism employment above the Scottish average, in the years following the construction. Of the local areas surrounding the additional 16 onshore wind farms, 11 experienced increases in tourism employment, which outperformed the Scottish average. These results strongly suggested that tourism employment in local areas across Scotland changed independently of wind farms located in the area.

The report concluded that there was no pattern or evidence to suggest that the development of onshore wind farms in Scotland had any negative effects on the tourism economies in the immediate areas surrounding wind farms, the local authority areas, or indeed, across the country as a whole.

These conclusions are not surprising given that:

- Onshore Wind Policy Statement acknowledges that while concerns about the impact on tourism exist, current evidence does not indicate negative effects but instead highlight the potential for developments to support local tourism through improved access, recreational opportunities and community-focused initiatives contributing positively to local economies and aligning with a 'people and place' approach;
- There are high levels of public support for renewable energy;[22]
- As wind farms are well-established in Scotland, tourists might already expect to see wind farms when visiting Scotland, especially rural Scotland;
- The factors that determine the success of the tourism sector do not include the presence or otherwise of an onshore wind farm; and
- Issues that influence tourism include the ability and willingness to travel, economic performance (and so whether tourists have disposable income available for leisure trips), exchange rates, the quality of the overall tourism

[21] BiGGAR Economics (2017) *Wind Farms and Tourism Trends in Scotland.* [online] Available at: https://biggareconomics.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Wind-farms-and-tourism-trends-in-Scotland.pdf

[22] DESNZ (2025). Public Attitudes Tracker: Energy Infrastructure and Energy Sources. Winter 2024, UK. [online] Gov.UK. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/desnz-public-attitudes-tracker-winter-2024/desnz-public-attitudes-tracker-energy-infrastructure-and-energy-security-winter-2024-uk#:~:text=In%20Winter%202024%20%5Bfootnote%201,from%2026%25%20to%2021%25.

product, the effectiveness of destination marketing and the quality and value for money of the services offered by tourism businesses.

NPF4 also does not identify tourism impacts as a material concern for onshore wind development that requires examination. Overall, it is accepted that onshore wind does not adversely impact tourism interests.

## 4.2 Tourism in the Local Area

### 4.2.1 The Wedding Sector

Tourism has an important role in the economy of the local area, with 13.6% of the population working in food and accommodation services (Table 3-3). Tourism associated with weddings are a significant driver of tourism in Gretna, with over 3,500 weddings taking place every year and 800,000 visits to wedding related shops[23]. The importance of the wedding industry cannot be understated, for reference, there were 26,573 marriages in Scotland in 2023[24] meaning that Gretna hosted over 10% of weddings in Scotland. It is estimated that activity relating to weddings is reported to have contributed £37 million to the Local Area in 2020[25].

The reason people come to Gretna for weddings comes from its historical appeal. During a time of stricter marriage laws in England in the 18th century, young people would come to Scotland from England to get married due to more relaxed marriage regulations[26]. As Gretna was one of the first places people would cross from in England into Scotland, many people had their marriages certified in Gretna. While legal requirements and conditions for marriage have changed over time, becoming more consistent between Scotland and England, Gretna has remained an attractive wedding destination due to the romantic and historical appeal of the location.

### 4.2.2 Tourism Growth Opportunities in the Local Area

However, the significant reliance on the wedding sector has resulted in concerns of an overreliance on a single tourism sector with limited growth increases in earnings[27] therefore, there has been a push towards diversifying the tourism sector into other areas. The Gretna Local Place Plan has identified tourism opportunities from the natural environment, namely by improving access to the Solway.

The other tourism opportunity identified in the Local Place Plan is to better utilise the heritage around Gretna. Gretna was built during the First World War to provide homes for 30,000 employees at a munitions factory[28] and therefore, the Local Place

[23] Dumfries and Galloway Council (2024), Gretna, Rigg and Gretna Green - Local Place Plan
[24] Visit Scotland (2024), Vital Events Reference Tables 2023
[25] Dumfries and Galloway Council (2024), Gretna, Rigg and Gretna Green - Local Place Plan
[26] Gretna Green (NA), Visitor FAQs. [online] Available at: https://www.gretnagreen.com/visit/faqs/?srsltid=AfmBOop8h1fND-IqfDoaklGQojlKlDlCpNvWAGns1CbDyR30dPU01SwZ.
[27] Dumfries and Galloway Council (2024), Gretna, Rigg and Gretna Green - Local Place Plan
[28] Visit Scotland (NA), *Gretna and Gretna Green*. [online] Available at: https://www.visitscotland.com/info/towns-villages/gretna-and-gretna-green-p244351

Plan has identified the story around Gretna as a munitions centre as a potential tourism offering[29].

Other potential tourism offerings include sports activities from Gretna's football club and retail opportunities from the Gretna Gateway Outlet Village[30]. Gretna is also a destination that is visited due to its central location on the English Scottish border and near the main motorway. Table 4-1 highlights the main tourism attractions within 15 km of the Proposed Development.

[29] Dumfries and Galloway Council (2024), Gretna, Rigg and Gretna Green - Local Place Plan
[30] Undiscovered Scotland (NA), Gretna Green. [online] Available at: https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/gretna/gretna/index.html.

**Table 4-1 Tourism Attractions within 15 km of West Scales Energy Park**

| Attraction | Description |
|---|---|
| Annan Museum | Museum that tells the story of 3,000 years of Annan's history |
| Annandale Distillery | One of Scotland's oldest working distilleries with historic exhibition and onsite tours |
| Borders Historic Route | Historic and scenic route covering 90 miles from Edinburgh to the Scottish Borders |
| Bouldover Climbing Centre | Indoor climbing and bouldering facility |
| Caledonia Park Designer Outlet | Shopping district with over 50 stores featuring designer names and popular high-street brands |
| Famous Blacksmiths Gretna Green Experience | Illustrates the history of love and romance that took place in Gretna Green |
| Galloway Tourist Route | Scenic route going from Gretna to Ayr |
| Gretna Green Famous Blacksmiths Shop | Shopping featuring cottage-style buildings surrounding a courtyard |
| Hebbs Alpacas | Family run alpaca farm offering alpaca walks |
| Lonsdale Cinema | Cinema featuring mainstream and independent films |
| Powfoot Beach | Small beach along the coast towards Annan |
| Repentance Tower | Remains of a military tower dating to the mid-16th century |
| Star of Caledonia | Proposed cultural landmark |
| The Devil's Porridge Museum | Museum showcasing the lives of the people who worked at the munitions factory |
| Thomas Carlyle's Birthplace | Childhood home of Thomas Carlyle open to the public for visits |
| Westlands Country Park | Outdoor place for clay pigeon shooting, fly fishing and luxury hot tub lodges |

Source: Visit Scotland (NA), Gretna and Gretna Green; Visit Scotland (NA), Annan; Google Search.

## 4.3 West Scales Energy Park Impact on Tourism

In the local area, tourism activity is primarily driven by the wedding industry and by heritage attractions associated with Gretna's historic significance. Tourism is linked to the wedding sector through the use of wedding venues by couples and guests, the demand for accommodation, food and drink, and related leisure activities. In addition, the wedding industry supports a wide range of local businesses and retail activities.

The main tourism drivers come from Gretna's appeal as a historic destination, the wedding sector acting as a bedrock of the local tourism economy. Existing evidence of the impact of onshore wind farms on tourism as well as the primary drivers to existing tourism assets suggests that these activities are not expected to be negatively impacted by the presence of West Scales Wind Farm.

Furthermore, West Scales Energy Park could support efforts to diversify the tourism offering in the local area. Community benefit funding is a well-established practice in Scotland's onshore wind sector; therefore, West Scales Energy Park has the potential to deliver funds that could be allocated to support and develop tourism opportunities identified by the local stakeholders such as access to the natural environment and the heritage of the local area.

# 5. Supply Chain

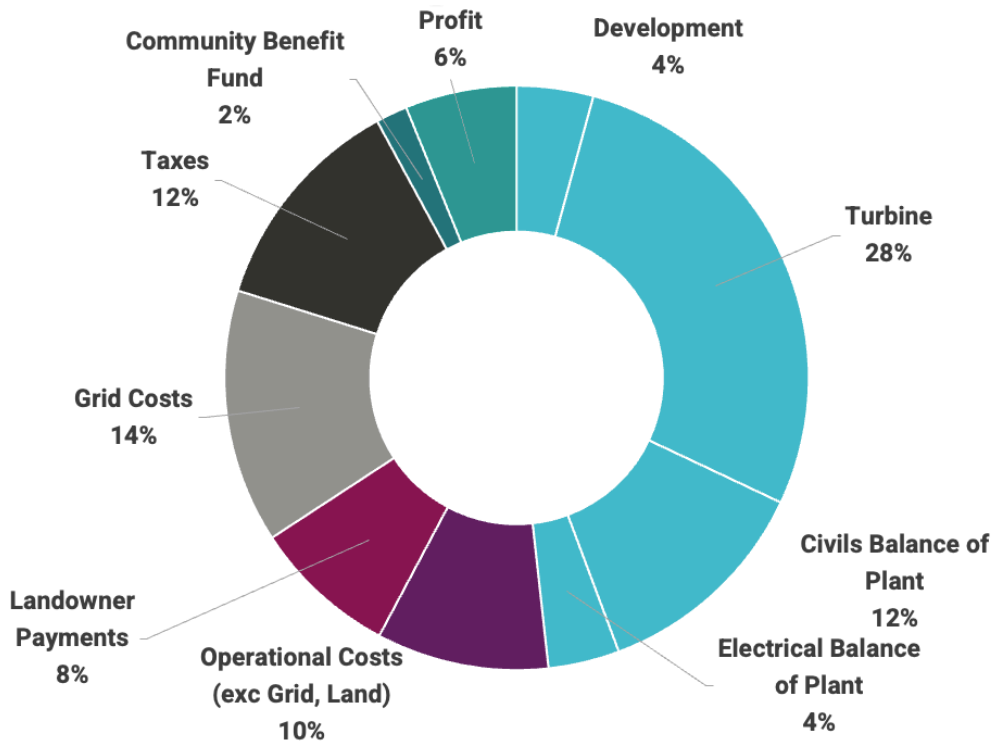
There are supply chain opportunities for the developer to collaborate and implement in Dumfries and Galloway.

## 5.1 Maximising Benefits through the Supply Chain

As outlined in Section 2.4 and the principles defined in the Guidance from Scottish Renewables, for a project to maximise its socio-economic benefits, it needs to be place-based, innovative, collaborative, flexible, transparent and deliverable.

The supply chain is vital for maximising economic benefits from wind farm development. The distribution of the income of a typical onshore wind farm in Scotland is shown in Figure 5-1. 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.

**Figure 5-1 Distribution of Revenue of a Typical Onshore Energy Park 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 Eurowind Energy and the Proposed Development because of the number of proposed onshore wind projects that could be progressed in Dumfries and Galloway over the next ten years. The opportunities for repeat work within the business community can create bonds and networks within the supply chain that will encourage cooperation.

## 5.2 Assessment Approach for the Supply Chain

As outlined in Section 2.4 for a project to maximise its socio-economic benefits, it needs to be place-based, innovative, collaborative, flexible, transparent and deliverable. 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 collaborate with clusters of expertise.

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.

The rest of this section considers the implications of this for the Proposed Development.

Eurowind Energy recognises the importance of early and proportionate supply chain engagement in maximising the economic benefits associated with West Scales Energy Park. As the Proposed Development is at an early stage of development, Eurowind Energy is proactively seeking to understand the capacity, capabilities, and interests of the local and regional business base and remains open to ideas on how best to facilitate meaningful supply chain participation. This approach reflects the relatively small scale of the Proposed Development, while acknowledging that targeted engagement can still deliver tangible local and national economic benefits.

### 5.2.1 Understanding the local business base

To support this, Eurowind Energy is committed to engaging with and exploring membership of the appropriate intermediary organisations that are well placed to represent and understand the local business community, such as the Dumfries and Galloway Chambers of Commerce, and regional economic development bodies including the South of Scotland Enterprise.

Eurowind Energy will work collaboratively with these organisations to develop a database of potential local and regional suppliers. This database will then be shared with Tier 1 contractors appointed to the project, particularly those that may be new to the area, to facilitate local subcontracting opportunities and reduce barriers to entry for smaller businesses.

### 5.2.2 Supplier engagement

In addition, Eurowind Energy is committed to promoting supply chain opportunities to local and regional suppliers through transparent and accessible engagement mechanisms. This includes providing information on supplier engagement via the project website and public exhibition materials, as well as maintaining clear points of contact for businesses wishing to register their interest.

Eurowind Energy will also seek to support or participate in “meet the buyer” style supply chain engagement events in collaboration with events hosted alongside other developers or through organisations such as Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of Commerce, the South of Scotland Enterprise and the Developers Forum to enable local businesses to gain a clearer understanding of the scale, timing, and nature of potential opportunities.

### 5.2.3 Progressive procurement practices

Eurowind Energy also recognises the role of progressive procurement practices in enabling smaller and locally based businesses to participate in the supply chain. While maintaining appropriate standards for health, safety, security, environment,

and quality, Eurowind Energy is committed to ensuring that relevant requirements, such as health and safety obligations, accreditation standards, and competency expectations, are communicated as early as possible and when practical.

This approach is intended to give potential suppliers sufficient visibility and time to prepare for participation. Where feasible, Eurowind Energy will also encourage procurement models that place appropriate responsibility for insurance and risk management at the Tier 1 contractor level, reducing barriers for smaller subcontractors further down the supply chain.

### 5.2.4 Publishing statistics

As part of its wider Scottish portfolio, Eurowind Energy is committed to reviewing and monitoring its supply chain practices. In relation to the Proposed Development, Eurowind Energy will seek to gather data on supply chain participation during the construction phase and will encourage Tier 1 contractors to support similar data collection and reporting. Where practicable, this information will be used to inform project-level reporting on supply chain outcomes and to support continuous improvement across the wider portfolio.

## 5.3 Commitments and Monitoring for the Supply Chain

Eurowind Energy aims to take a proactive, transparent, and proportionate approach to supply chain engagement for West Scales Energy Park, supporting local and regional businesses where possible and maximising the net economic benefits arising from the Proposed Development.

**Table 5-1 Eurowind Energy Supply Chain Commitments and Monitoring**

| Commitment |
|---|
| Work with economic development bodies like the South of Scotland Enterprise and Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of Commerce, to identify potential local suppliers. |
| Share information on potential local suppliers with Tier 1 contractors to support local subcontracting. |
| Participate in to support a minimum of one supplier engagement activities, such as “meet the buyer” events, on a collaborative basis. |
| Apply progressive procurement practices, including early communication of requirements, to support SME participation |
| Publish statistics on local content. |

Source: BiGGAR Economics

# 6. Skills Development

Skills development initiatives are a key enabler of supply chain capabilities, increasing the economic benefits of the Proposed Development.

## 6.1 Maximising Benefits though 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 Eurowind Energy can help ensure that the community directly benefits from the jobs and opportunities created by the project.

Skills development can enhance the **capacity of the local workforce** to meet the technical demands of the renewables sector. Offering training and upskilling opportunities can help prepare local workers 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 Eurowind Energy 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 West Scales Energy Park. This capacity-building in the local business community supports the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises, encouraging economic diversification and strengthening areas of expertise and delivery locally.

Through initiatives that target specific skills gaps and industry requirements, Eurowind Energy can maximise the immediate economic benefits of the Proposed

Development but also participate and contribute to a workforce that can be competitive in future renewable energy projects. This creates a foundation for the region's long-term economic vitality, ensuring local communities remain integral to the sector as it develops.

## 6.2 Assessment Approach for Skills Development

To help ensure the benefits from renewable energy projects are maximised through skills development, guidance from Scottish Renewables suggests developers should:

- **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;
- Work collaboratively with relevant training/education partners and community bodies to **develop bespoke labour market development solutions**, including apprenticeships where appropriate; and
- **Adhere to progressive employment and recruitment practices** that meet or exceed current industry best practices.

The rest of this section considers the implications of this for this project.

Eurowind Energy recognises that skills and workforce development play an important role in supporting participation in the onshore wind supply chain and in maximising the socio-economic benefits associated with West Scales Energy Park. While the scale of the Proposed Development means that direct employment opportunities will be limited, particularly at the developer level, Eurowind Energy acknowledges that the Proposed Development can support skills development indirectly through its contractors and through collaborative engagement with regional stakeholders in other capacity.

### 6.2.1 Fair and High-Quality Employment

Eurowind Energy is committed to promoting the creation of fair, inclusive, and high-quality employment opportunities associated with the Proposed Development. At a corporate level, this includes adherence to progressive employment and recruitment practices, for which the developer has an Equality and Inclusion Policy committing to gender equality, representation and equal opportunities reported on in ESG and annual reports.

**"We recognise that a diverse and inclusive workforce is a key business driver. A team that reflects varied perspectives and experiences is more effective, creative, and productive, which is**

**particularly valuable in a global company like Eurowind Energy."**

Source: Eurowind Energy (2024), Sustainability Report

Eurowind Energy is in the process of committing to recognised good-practice standards, such as the Living Wage, recognising that these commitments are implemented at an organisational and corporate level than a project-specific level, but with influences on employment practices across the supply chain.

### 6.2.2 Training

Given that most employment and training opportunities associated with West Scales Energy Park may be delivered through Tier 1 contractors and their subcontractors, Eurowind Energy will seek to engage with contractors to understand and, where practicable, encourage the provision of jobs, apprenticeships, and training opportunities supported by the Proposed Development. This will include seeking information from contractors on workforce requirements and skills needs, helping to ensure that employment opportunities arising from the Proposed Development contribute to longer-term skills development rather than short-term labour demand alone.

### 6.2.3 Workforce Planning and Skills Alignment

Eurowind Energy recognises the importance of understanding local and regional labour market capacity and the availability of relevant skills, particularly in the context of other onshore wind, grid, solar, and energy infrastructure projects that may create competing labour demands within Dumfries and Galloway and the wider South of Scotland region.

Research into workforce and skills requirements within Scotland's onshore wind industry[31] has identified Dumfries and Galloway as an area where recruitment is already challenging and where a future workforce gap is anticipated. The region is expected to experience high demand for labour across all phases of onshore wind development, highlighting a particular need for targeted skills development.

To support this, and in coordination with existing activities in the area, Eurowind Energy intends to engage collaboratively with the Developer Forum hosted by the South of Scotland Enterprise and industry groups to maintain an up-to-date understanding of skills demand and workforce requirements relevant to onshore wind development.

This approach will help inform proportionate engagement with education and training providers and support alignment between anticipated skills needs and existing or planned training provision, thereby contributing to effective skills

[31] ClimateXChange, (2024). Mapping the current and future workforce and skills requirements in Scotland's onshore wind industry

development and delivery outcomes associated with the Proposed Development in the local area in case of competing demand.

### 6.2.4 Schools and Early Skills Engagement

Engagement with schools and young people can help raise awareness of skills pathways and careers in the renewable energy sector. Given the scale of West Scales Energy Park, schools engagement would be undertaken where possible, collaboratively with other developers or regional partners. This approach is intended to make effective use of resources while ensuring that engagement activities are relevant and appropriately timed.

Eurowind Energy is committed to supporting and participating in careers events or similar initiatives at local secondary schools, particularly where these align with wider regional skills and education activities.

## 6.3 Commitments and Monitoring for Skills Development

As part of the next phase of this project, it will be important Eurowind considers what steps it may take and any future actions it may be able to commit to in relation to skills development. Once these actions have been identified, it will also be important to consider how intended outcomes will be monitored and reported on.

**Table 6-1 Eurowind Skills Development Commitments and Monitoring Proposal**

| Commitment |
|---|
| Commit to Living Wage and fair and inclusive policies at a corporate level. |
| Engage with relevant education and training providers, including Dumfries and Galloway College, to understand skills provision relevant to onshore wind development. |
| Encourage Tier 1 contractors to support apprenticeships, training, and upskilling opportunities. |
| Support and participate in collaborative schools and careers engagement activities. |

Source: BiGGAR Economics

# 7. Community Empowerment

This section outlines the measures proposed to support community empowerment and ensure community benefits are shaped by local priorities.

## 7.1 Potential Community Empowerment Benefits

It is good practice for wind farm developers to aim to provide community benefits worth at least £5,000/MW, however over the last 20 years, as experience of delivering projects and understanding of community priorities has grown, a plethora of mechanisms for delivering community benefit have evolved. These include:

- provisions for shared equity arrangements with host communities;
- support for housing and social infrastructure in host communities;
- funding to support operational and/or staff costs of community anchor organisations;
- financial support for specific local roles such (e.g. nature wardens or rangers);
- financial support for local people to undertake professional training and development;
- local electricity discounts and other direct financial benefits for residents; and
- the provision of recreational infrastructure (paths and tracks) during the construction phase.

It is important all relevant mechanisms are considered as part of this assessment.

It is also important to differentiate between the *value* of funding a developer may provide and the *benefit* that funding may generate for the community. Community benefit packages that are designed to address the needs and aspirations of host communities and delivered in a way that puts communities at the heart of decision making are likely to generate greater benefits than those that are not.

## 7.2 Maximising Community Empowerment Impacts

To ensure the community empowerment benefits from renewable energy projects are maximised, guidance from Scottish Renewables suggests developers should:

- work with local communities to **understand local needs, aspirations, appetite and delivery capacity**;
- develop a **community benefit package tailored to local needs** that is consistent with best practice principles and (where feasible) a proposition for community ownership;

- work 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;
- work 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; and
- engage with regional partners in the public and third sectors to identify and develop opportunities to **generate regional benefits**; ad
- 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.

The rest of this section considers the implications of this for this project.

### 7.2.1 Community Benefit Fund

Eurowind Energy is committed to establishing a community benefit fund of £5,000 per installed MW of generating capacity. This fund will support projects and initiatives that reflect local priorities and create lasting value for communities near the Proposed Development.

To ensure this fund is consistent with the objective of maximising socio-economic benefits, it will be important to set out how the benefits from this fund will be maximised. This should include establishing **transparent, community-led governance arrangements.** To ensure the fund is empowering, it is important Eurowind Energy works with local stakeholders to develop governance arrangements that place decision-making in the hands of the community.

**Through previous projects, Eurowind Energy has worked with local communities to identify priorities and shape community benefit approaches that respond to local needs.**

In support of this approach, Eurowind Energy has already undertaken community consultation in relation to West Scales Energy Park, including seeking feedback on priorities for the use of community benefit funding. Consultation responses identified a range of potential focus areas, including:

- reducing local electricity costs;
- supporting local infrastructure;
- youth and sports provision;
- education and skills;
- community transport;

- environmental and nature projects;
- EV charging infrastructure; and
- support for local charities and community groups.

Eurowind Energy will ensure that the outcomes of this consultation are shared with the organisation responsible for managing the community benefit fund, once appointed, to help ensure that funding decisions reflect locally expressed priorities.

### 7.2.2 Shared Ownership

Eurowind Energy has previous experience on Uisenis Wind Farm, a project on the Isle of Lewis, where community benefit funding has been accompanied by opportunities for enhanced community involvement for up to 20%. Building on this experience, Eurowind Energy intends to work with local stakeholders to develop governance arrangements that place decision-making in the hands of the community, rather than the developer.

Shared ownership objective in the onshore wind sector deal, while it's not appropriate for all projects, Eurowind energy is committed to exploring the feasibility of shared ownership on all its site

## 7.3 Commitments and Monitoring for Community Empowerment

As part of the next phase of this project, it will be important Eurowind Energy considers what steps it may take and any future actions it may be able to commit to in relation to community empowerment. Once these actions have been identified, it will also be important to consider how intended outcomes will be monitored and reported on.

**Table 7-1 Eurowind Energy Community Empowerment Commitments and Monitoring**

| Commitment |
|---|
| Establish a community benefit fund. |
| Develop a bespoke package of community benefits informed by local priorities and aspirations. |
| Develop proposals for a community ownership offer to present to the local community. |

Source: BiGGAR Economics

# 8. Environmental Protection and Enhancement

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

## 8.1 Potential Environmental Benefits

Wind farm developers are expected to comply with a number of policies designed to ensure any adverse effect projects could have on the natural environment are effectively mitigated. However, it is sometimes possible for activity undertaken to achieve this to be delivered in a way that creates additional benefits for local communities. For example, rerouting access tracks can help ensure access to a site is maintained during a project but if this is done in a way that will improve access or enhance the experience of users this can create additional spillover benefits that should be considered as part of the socio-economic impact assessment.

## 8.2 Maximising Environmental Impacts

For West Scales Energy Park, opportunities to deliver additional environmental and recreational benefits are considered in the context of the scale of the Proposed Development, the characteristics of the site and the availability of existing facilities in the surrounding area.

The Proposed Development is a small-scale wind farm, and as such, the scope for delivering extensive on-site recreational infrastructure or public access enhancements is limited.

Recreational access to the site is not considered to represent a significant opportunity to maximise benefits in this instance, particularly given the presence of the nearby Star of Caledonia, which is located within an area that already offers a wide range of established outdoor access and recreational opportunities.

In this context, duplicating or introducing additional recreational provision at West Scales would be unlikely to deliver meaningful additional benefit.

Instead, Eurowind Energy's approach to environmental benefit focuses on ensuring that the Proposed Development is designed and delivered in a manner that protects existing environmental assets which includes sensitive site design, implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, and adherence to good practice during construction, operation, and decommissioning.

The Eurowind Energy Sustainability Policy highlights, the developers aim to protect biodiversity in all projects, and where possible, achieve a net-positive impact on biodiversity.

## 8.3 Commitments and Monitoring for Environmental Protection and Enhancement

As part of the next phase of this project, it will be important Eurowind Energy considers what steps it may take and any future actions it may be able to commit to in relation to the local environment. Once these actions have been identified, it will also be important to consider how intended outcomes will be monitored and reported on.

**Table 8-1 Eurowind Energy Environmental Commitments and Monitoring**

| Commitment |
| --- |
| Consider proportionate opportunities for environmental enhancement where these are compatible with site conditions and project scale including those outlined in the Habitat Management Plan. |
| Deliver and monitor commitment on net positive impact on biodiversity. |

Source: BiGGAR Economics

# 9. Economic Impact Assessment

This section estimates the economic impact that could be generated from the West Scales Energy Park.

### 9.1.1 Modelling the Economic Impact of Onshore Wind Farm Developments

The approach followed in estimating the economic impact from 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 [32].

### 9.1.2 Sources of Economic Impact

Impacts have been measured across two different project stages: development and capital expenditure, and operational expenditure (over the lifetime of a development, assumed to be 40 years).

There are three significant types of economic impact associated with the wind farms:

- direct impacts: the economic value generated through the contracts associated with West Scales Energy Park;
- 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 West Scales Energy Park and on behalf of its contractors.

This approach captures the wider economic activity associated with the construction and operation of the wind farms.

For example, if a hotel receives a significant level of custom for half a year from contractors working on one of the wind farms, then the jobs supported during this time at the hotel will be captured in this model. These will be in addition to the direct jobs of the contractors.

Similarly, if the wind farm procured the services of an equipment rental company the operator would be included in the jobs impact. A proportion of a mechanics job, who was paid to maintain the equipment would also be included in this model.

### 9.1.3 Measures of Economic Impact

Economic impacts are reported with respect to the following measures:

[32] RenewableUK (2015), Onshore Wind: Economic Impacts in 2014.

- Gross Value Added (GVA): a commonly used measure of economic output, which 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.
- 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 West Scales Energy Park. As an example, a job that lasts for 18 months would support 1.5 years of employment.

### 9.1.4 Study Areas

Economic impacts are reported inclusively and were estimated with respect to the following study areas:

- Dumfries and Galloway; and
- Scotland.

## 9.2 Development and Construction

The assessment of the economic impact arising from the development and construction of the West Scales Energy Park utilises the extensive work that BiGGAR Economics has carried out in the onshore wind sector. This includes an evaluation of existing wind farm developments carried out in 2015 by BiGGAR Economics on behalf of RenewableUK. The analysis has been updated over time drawing on evaluations of individual wind farm developments and on experience with developers working across Scotland. This body of research and experience provides evidence to estimate costs per MW based on a development's number of turbines and its capacity.

The West Scales Energy Park is expected to have 4 turbines with a total generating capacity of up to 24.8 MW. The Proposed Development will also have 12 MW of Solar PV Array Capacity and 12 MW of BESS. It was estimated that the total development and construction expenditure would be £49.6 million. The expenditure was split according to the following component contracts:

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

The greatest expenditure component was associated with turbines, equivalent to £18.3 million, or 37% of total development and construction spend. The following largest expenditure was associated with the balance of plants, amounting to £9.9 million (20% of total expenditure). Solar energy and battery storage amounted to £9.3m and £8.1m respectively of total expenditure. It was estimated that

development and planning would account for 4% of spending, and that grid connection would also account for 4% of total expenditure.

**Table 9-1 Development and Construction by Contract Type**

| | % CAPEX | Value (£m) |
|---|---|---|
| Development and Planning | 4% | 2.0 |
| Turbines | 37% | 18.3 |
| Balance of Plant | 20% | 9.9 |
| Grid Connection | 4% | 2.1 |
| Solar Energy | 19% | 9.3 |
| Battery Storage | 16% | 8.1 |
| **Total** | **100%** | **49.6** |

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis of case study evidence from comparable previously constructed wind farms. Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

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

Based on the evidence from similar developments within Dumfries and Galloway, it was estimated that approximately 32% of the West Scales Energy Park's contracts will be carried out by Scottish businesses, with a value of £15.9 million. It was estimated that spending on businesses based in Dumfries and Galloway would be approximately £5.5 million equivalent to 11% of total development and construction expenditure.

The greatest opportunity for Scottish businesses is expected to be in contracts associated with the balance of plant, which would be worth up to £9.1 million. The value of balance of plant contracts are likely to be the largest opportunity for businesses in Dumfries and Galloway, worth up to £3.4 million.

### Table 9-2 Development and Construction Expenditure by Study Area

| | Dumfries and Galloway | | Scotland | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | % | £m | % | £m |
| Development and Planning | 40% | 0.8 | 75% | 1.5 |
| Turbines | 2% | 0.4 | 10% | 1.7 |
| Balance of Plant | 34% | 3.4 | 91% | 9.1 |
| Grid Connection | 18% | 0.4 | 77% | 1.6 |
| Solar Energy | 4% | 0.3 | 11% | 1.1 |
| Battery Storage | 3% | 0.2 | 12% | 0.9 |
| **Total** | **11%** | **5.5** | **32%** | **15.9** |

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

Having estimated the size of the contracts that could benefit each of the study areas, it was possible to estimate the GVA and short-term employment that these are likely to support. This was done by splitting each contract category into its component contracts and assigning each to an industrial sector, based on its Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)[33] code. Direct GVA was then estimated by applying the relevant turnover per GVA ratio from the UK Annual Business Survey (ABS) [34].

It was estimated that the development and construction of the West Scales Energy Park would generate £2.2 million direct GVA in Dumfries and Galloway and £6.9 million direct GVA in Scotland.

### Table 9-3 Development and Construction, Direct GVA by Study Area (£m)

| | Dumfries and Galloway | Scotland |
|---|---|---|
| Development and Planning | 0.4 | 0.8 |
| Turbines | 0.2 | 0.9 |
| Balance of Plant | 1.3 | 3.7 |
| Grid Connection | 0.1 | 0.6 |
| Solar Energy | 0.1 | 0.4 |
| Battery Storage | 0.1 | 0.5 |
| **Total** | **2.2** | **6.9** |

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

The number of direct jobs supported development and construction contracts was also estimated by dividing the expenditure in each contract by the turnover per job

[33] Office for National Statistics (2009), Standard Industrial Classification of industrial Activities (SIC 2007).

[34] Office for National Statistics (2020), Annual Business Survey 2018 - Revised.

ratio for the relevant sector. It was estimated that the development and construction of the West Scales Energy Park would generate 81 direct years of employment in Scotland including 27 years of employment in Dumfries and Galloway.

**Table 9-4 Development and Construction, Direct Employment by Study Area (Years of Employment)**

| | Dumfries and Galloway | Scotland |
|---|---|---|
| Development and Planning | 4 | 9 |
| Turbines | 4 | 14 |
| Balance of Plant | 14 | 41 |
| Grid Connection | 2 | 8 |
| Solar Energy | 1 | 4 |
| Battery Storage | 1 | 5 |
| **Total** | **27** | **81** |

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. Specifically, 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 West Scales Energy Park. 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[35] to direct GVA and direct employment. Since the multipliers refer to sectoral interactions occurring at the level of the Scottish economy, it was necessary to adjust them when considering impacts taking place in Dumfries and Galloway.

By combining the direct, indirect, and induced impacts it was estimated that the development and construction of the West Scales Energy Park will generate:

- £3 million GVA and 35 years of employment in Dumfries and Galloway; and
- £12.0 million GVA and 134 years of employment in Scotland.

[35]Scottish Government (2023), Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables.

### Table 9-5 Economic Impact of Development and Construction Spending (£m)

| | Dumfries and Galloway | Scotland |
|---|---|---|
| Direct GVA | 2.2 | 6.9 |
| Indirect GVA | 0.3 | 3.1 |
| Induced GVA | 0.5 | 2.0 |
| **Total GVA** | **3.0** | **12.0** |

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

### Table 9-6 Economic Impact of Development and Construction Spending (Years of Employment)

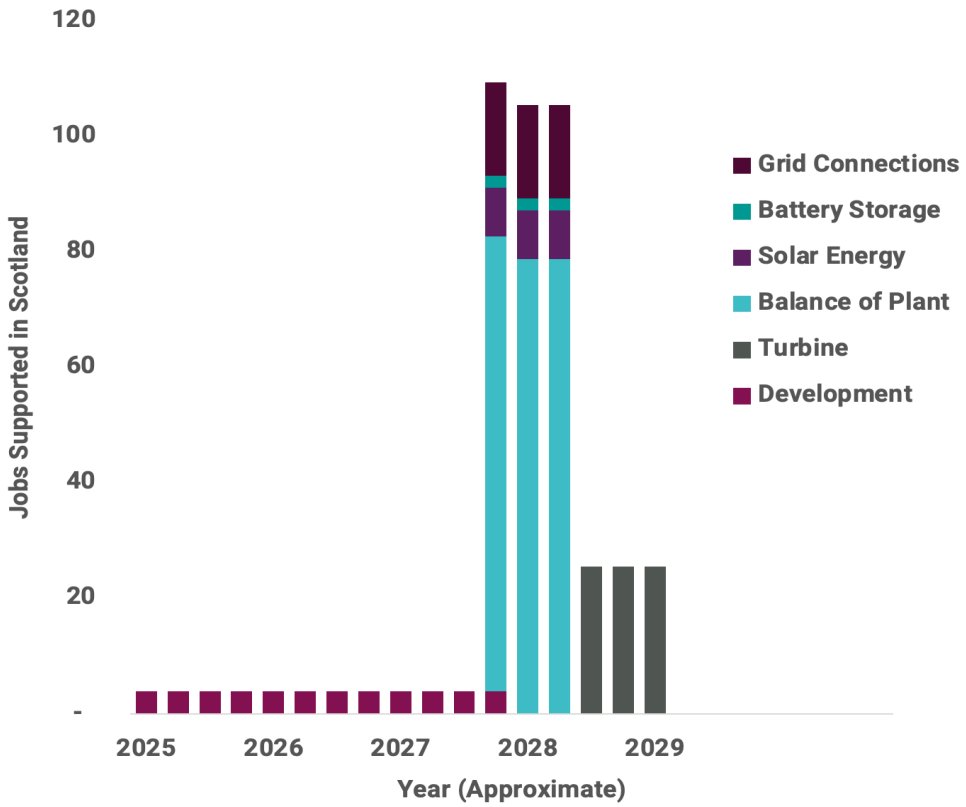
| | Dumfries and Galloway | Scotland |
|---|---|---|
| Direct Employment | 27 | 81 |
| Indirect Employment | 4 | 34 |
| Induced Employment | 4 | 18 |
| **Total Employment** | **35** | **134** |

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

The estimated figures show that the West Scales Energy Park would contribute to the provision of high-quality local employment opportunities during the development and construction phase and help maximise the value of local expenditure. These are in line with the requirements of the NPF4 Policy 11(c).

The employment impacts in Scotland will peak during the construction phase, in particular, during the initial balance of plant works. It is estimated that during this phase up to 109 jobs will be supported across the Scottish economy. An indicative employment profile for Scotland is shown in Figure 9-1.

**Figure 9-1 Employment in Scotland over time (Direct and Indirect impacts)**




Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

## 9.3 Operation and Maintenance

The initial stage in determining the economic impact stemming from the operations and maintenance of the West Scales Energy Park involved assessing the annual total expenditure necessary for its operation. Based on the number of turbines and the West Scales Energy Park's capacity, it was estimated that the annual cost of operations and maintenance (OPEX) is likely to amount to approximately £1.6 million.

It was further assumed that businesses in Dumfries and Galloway could benefit from a total £0.6 million in operations and maintenance contracts (34% of OPEX) annually, and that annual expenditure in Scottish contractors could be up to £1.2 million (62% of OPEX).

| | Dumfries and Galloway | | Scotland | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | % | £m | % | £m |
| O&M - Wind Element | 42% | 0.5 | 86% | 0.9 |
| O&M - Solar Element | 42% | 0.1 | 62% | 0.1 |
| O&M - BESS Element | 19% | 0.0 | 40% | 0.1 |
| **Total** | **34%** | **0.6** | **62%** | **1.2** |

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

The total turnover generated in each study area was then divided by the turnover per 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 West Scales Energy Park is likely to generate £0.3 million direct GVA and 2 direct job in Dumfries and Galloway, and £0.5 million direct GVA and 4 direct jobs across Scotland.

As with the development and construction of the West Scales Energy Park, it was necessary to estimate the indirect and induced impacts associated with operations and maintenance contracts. This was done by applying the relevant Type 1 and Type 2 GVA and employment multipliers.

By combining the direct, indirect, and induced impacts it was estimated that the operations and maintenance of the West Scales Energy Park will generate:

- £0.4 million GVA and 2 jobs in Dumfries and Galloway; and
- £1.0 million GVA and 7 jobs in Scotland.

Similarly to the Development and Construction phase, the estimated figures show that the West Scales Energy Park would contribute to the provision of high-quality local employment opportunities and help maximise the value of local expenditure throughout its operational lifetime. These are in line with the requirements of the NPF4 Policy 11(c).

## 9.4 Non-Domestic Rates

The West Scales Energy Park is expected to generate a stream of revenue to Dumfries and Galloway through the annual payment of non-domestic rates. The West Scales Energy Park 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).

To estimate the economic impact generated by non-domestic rates, it was first necessary to consider the rateable value of the development and apply the appropriate poundage rate. This was done by applying guidance developed by the

Scottish Assessors Association[36] to information about the performance of the West Scales Energy Park.

Using this approach, it was projected that over its operational period, the West Scales Energy Park is expected to make an annual contribution of approximately £0.5 million to public finances. Across its 40-year operational lifespan, this contribution towards non-domestic rates is anticipated to accumulate to around £19.4 million.

[36] Scottish Assessors Association (2023). Practice Note 2: Valuation of Onshore Wind Turbines

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