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Introduction

- 4.1 This Chapter identifies the climate change, energy and planning legislation, policies and targets relevant to the determination of the planning application for the Proposed Development.
- 4.2 It is important to note that it is not the purpose of this chapter to provide an assessment of the Proposed Development against these climate change, renewable energy and planning policies and targets. Instead, it outlines the context in which the Proposed Development should be considered, including the urgent needs case for rapidly increased renewable energy generation over the next decade in response to the global climate emergency. More detailed analysis and assessment of the Proposed Development against these policies and other material considerations is contained in the separate supporting Planning Statement which accompanies this application.
- 4.3 This Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) Report has been prepared to support a planning application for the Proposed Development under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended. The application will be submitted to Dumfries and Galloway Council, and this EIA Report forms a key part of the supporting documentation. In accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, the EIA Report presents the findings of the assessment of likely significant environmental effects arising from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The applicant has sought to design the Proposed Development in a way that minimises environmental impacts and reflects the duties set out in relevant planning and environmental legislation. The planning authority will consider the application in the context of the Development Plan, national planning policy, and other material considerations, including the urgent need for renewable energy generation in response to the climate and nature crises.
- 4.4 In the case of applications made under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (hereinafter referred to as “the 1997 Act”), the statutory Development Plan plays a central role in the determination of the application. Section 25 of the 1997 Act requires that decisions be made in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The applicant has sought to develop a scheme that aligns with national and local planning policy, including the spatial principles and climate objectives set out in National Planning Framework 4 (“NPF4”) and the Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 2 (“LDP2”). The EIA process has informed the design evolution of the Proposed Development, and the findings are presented in this EIA Report to support the planning authority’s consideration of the application.
- 4.5 **Technical Appendix 4.1: Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance**, provides a summary of specific relevant legislation, planning policy and guidance for each technical discipline considered in the EIA Report.

Policy on Climate Change and Energy

International Commitments and Agreements

- 4.6 In order to understand the need for a continuing increase of renewable energy generation in Scotland, it is important first to understand the international framework

towards tackling climate change. The key targets and obligations in this regard are outlined below.

The COP21 UN Paris Agreement

- 4.7 On 12 December 2015 delegates from nearly 200 different countries gathered at the Paris Climate Conference (“COP21”) and adopted a legally binding international agreement – known as “the Paris Agreement” – by which all countries vowed to cut their carbon emissions. They agreed:
- a long-term goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius (°C) above preindustrial levels;
 - to aim to limit the increase to 1.5°C, since this would significantly reduce risks and the impacts of climate change;
 - on the need for global emissions to peak as soon as possible, recognising that this will take longer for developing countries; and
 - to undertake rapid reductions thereafter in accordance with the best available science, so as to achieve a balance between emissions and removals in the second half of the century.
- 4.8 Under the agreements, countries are also legally obliged to make new post-2030 commitments to reduce emissions every five years. The Paris Agreement does not itself represent Government policy in the UK or Scotland. However, the purpose of domestic and renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction targets is to meet the UK’s commitment in the Paris Agreement.

COP26 Glasgow

- 4.9 In addition to the Paris Agreement, consideration should also be given to the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (“COP26”) event held in Glasgow in November 2021 at which there was worldwide consensus on the severity of the current climate emergency, in particular recognition of the loss and damage that the current impacts of climate change are already having. Following two weeks of intense talks, nearly 200 countries agreed to the Glasgow Climate Pact to continue to pursue efforts to limit global average temperature increases to 1.5°C in accordance with the Paris Agreement. All countries also agreed to speeding up the pace of climate action this decade and to revisit and strengthen their current emissions targets to 2030. These outcomes further emphasise the importance of rapidly increasing renewable energy generation capacity over the next decade in response to the global climate emergency.

COP28 Dubai

- 4.10 More recently, at COP28 held in Dubai at the end of 2023 concluded with an agreement that signals the “*beginning of the end*” of the fossil fuel era. Agreement was reached on the world’s first “*global stocktake*” which recognises that science indicates that global greenhouse gas emissions need to be cut by 43% by 2030 (compared to 2019 levels) in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The “*global stocktake*” recognises that Parties are off track when it comes to meeting their Paris Agreement goals and calls on Parties to take actions towards achieving, at a global scale, a tripling of renewable energy capacity.

COP29 Baku

- 4.11 COP29 took place in Baku in November 2024. COP29 worked on enabling the pledges made during COP28 (including a tripling of global renewable energy capacity by 2030) through climate finance agreements.

COP30 Belém

- 4.12 COP30 took place in Belém, Brazil in November 2025. COP30 advanced momentum on renewable energy, reaffirming the global goal to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030 as part of the Belém Political Package, while launching a coordinated \$1 trillion plan to expand and strengthen power grids to support large-scale clean energy deployment.

UN Emissions Gap Report (November 2025)

- 4.13 The 16th and most recent UN Emissions Gap Report was published in November 2025. The report tracks global efforts in limiting warming and reflects on progress since the adoption of the 2015 Paris Agreement, marking ten years since its introduction.
- 4.14 The report sets out the current international position on climate change, with the key findings being inter alia:
- Global greenhouse gas emissions continued to rise in 2024.
 - While the projected global temperature increase for this century has fallen slightly, the reduction is not sufficient to avoid a significant escalation in climate-related risks and damages.
 - Nations remain far from meeting the Paris Agreement goal of limiting warming to well below 2°C. The lack of stringent mitigation action to date means that pathways limiting warming to 1.5°C now involve higher levels of overshoot.
- 4.15 The report concludes that this overshoot must be minimised through faster and deeper cuts in greenhouse gas emissions to reduce climate risks and damages, and to keep the possibility of returning to 1.5°C by 2100 within reach, although doing so will be extremely challenging.
- 4.16 It emphasises that immediate mitigation is required, particularly through expanded wind and solar deployment, which continues to benefit from falling costs and growing market uptake and is central to combatting climate change. However, current deployment levels remain insufficient, and achieving accelerated emissions reductions will require overcoming significant policy, governance, institutional, and technical barriers. In this context, the Proposed Development is therefore considered timely.

UK Context

- 4.17 Although the overarching position in the UK is that energy policy is not a devolved matter, the UK Government have made it clear that the Devolved Administrations must play an important role in helping the UK meet international and EU climate change targets. The key UK targets in this regard are outlined below.

Net Zero: The UK's Contribution to Stopping Global Warming (2019)

- 4.18 At COP21, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was invited to publish a Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C and associated greenhouse gas emissions pathways. The IPCC released this Special Report on 8 October 2018. In response to the IPCC's Special Report, the UK Government requested advice from the Committee on Climate Change (a non-departmental public body that advises the Government on the climate) on the implications of the Paris Agreement. This included requesting advice on what further action was needed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- 4.19 On 2 May 2019 the Committee on Climate Change published their advice in '*Net Zero: the UK's Contribution to Stopping Global Warming*'. The report made the following recommendations:
- UK overall: a new tougher emissions target of net zero greenhouse gases by 2050, ending the UK's contribution to global warming within 30 years. This would replace the previous target of an 80% reduction by 2050 from a 1990 baseline.
 - Scotland: a target of net zero greenhouse gases economy by 2045, reflecting Scotland's greater relative capacity to remove emissions than the UK as whole.
 - A net zero greenhouse gases target for 2050 would deliver on the commitment that the UK made by signing the Paris Agreement.
- 4.20 The UK targets in the report have since been legislated through the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019, which came into force on 27 June 2019. Prior to this, the UK was committed under the Climate Change Act 2008 to reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% of their 1990 levels by 2050. As discussed later in this chapter, the Scottish net-zero targets in the report have also since been legislated.
- 4.21 In terms of the new net-zero targets, the report makes it clear for both the UK and Scotland that *"this is only possible if clear, stable and well-designed policies to reduce emissions further are introduced across the economy without delay."* It continues that *"current policy is insufficient for even the existing targets."*
- 4.22 The Committee on Climate Change report sets out various scenarios for UK net zero greenhouse gases in 2050. These include one of extensive electrification, particularly of transport and heating. Page 23 of the Executive Summary states that this would need to be *"supported by major expansion of renewable and other low carbon power generation. The scenarios involve around a doubling of electricity demand, with all power produced from low carbon sources (compared to 50 % today)."*
- 4.23 The Committee on Climate Change scenarios for electricity generation estimate that to keep the UK on track to meet its net zero target, that renewable energy deployment will require a fourfold increase across the UK from current levels. It identifies that this quadrupling of renewable energy will require approximately 22 to 29 gigawatts (GW) of onshore wind capacity by 2030 and solar capacity increased to 23 to 43 GW. Currently, capacity for both is approximately 13 to 14 GW each.
- 4.24 The technical annex to the report specifically addresses integrating variable renewables into the UK electricity system. The annex makes it clear that variable renewable electricity such as large-scale onshore wind energy is now the cheapest form of electricity generation in the UK and can be deployed at scale to meet UK electricity demands.

- 4.25 The report's 'further ambition scenario' for the power sector aims to see low-carbon sources providing 100% of power generation in 2050, with variable renewable sources (including onshore wind) anticipated to contribute some 57% of this total low carbon power generation.
- 4.26 Since the targets in the 'Net Zero: the UK's Contribution to Stopping Global Warming' report have been legislated through the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019, the IPCC have released further reports on the impacts of climate change. The most recent report being the 'Synthesis Report of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)' which integrates the main findings of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) and the associated three Special Reports (including the 2018 Special Report detailed in paragraph 4.14 above). With regards current progress (globally) in climate change adaptation planning and implementation, the 'Synthesis Report of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)' states the following:
- "Adaptation planning and implementation has progressed across all sectors and regions, with documented benefits and varying effectiveness. Despite progress, adaptation gaps exist, and will continue to grow at current rates of implementation. Hard and soft limits to adaptation have been reached in some ecosystems and regions. Maladaptation is happening in some sectors and regions. Current global financial flows for adaptation are insufficient for, and constrain implementation of, adaptation options, especially in developing countries."*
- 4.27 With regards future climate change, the 'Synthesis Report of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)' states the following:
- "Continued greenhouse gas emissions will lead to increasing global warming, with the best estimate of reaching 1.5°C in the near term in considered scenarios and modelled pathways. Every increment of global warming will intensify multiple and concurrent hazards."*

The Sixth Carbon Budget

- 4.28 In December 2020 the Committee on Climate Change published 'The Sixth Carbon Budget', describing what the potential path options to net zero by 2050 look like and detailing the steps that must be taken to achieve this.
- 4.29 A key recommendation of the report is that the UK Government requires a reduction in UK territorial greenhouse gases of 78% by 2035 relative to 1990 levels. The report advises that this can be done through the following four steps:
- take up of low carbon solutions;
 - expansion of low carbon energy supplies including onshore wind;
 - reducing demand for carbon intensive activities; and
 - land and greenhouse gas removals.
- 4.30 Key benefits for the UK are seen as including the opportunity for low carbon investment, recognised at a time when it is needed to support the UK's economic recovery from the COVID-19 health crisis.
- 4.31 Page 23 refers to the devolved nations and sets out that *"UK climate targets cannot be met without strong policy action across Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland"* and recognises that although the main policy levers are held by the UK Government, that Scotland can take action through complementary measures at the devolved level including supporting policies such as *"planning and consenting"*.

The UK Energy White Paper, Powering our Net Zero Future (2020)

- 4.32 The UK Government published its Energy White Paper '*Powering our Net Zero Future*' in December 2020. The White Paper sets out the UK Government's current thinking on the way in which the UK should work towards meeting its net zero targets. It advises that, although retiring capacity will need to be replaced, that modelling suggests overall that the demand for electricity could double as transport and heat switch from petrol/diesel and gas, respectively, to electricity. It notes that this will require a fourfold increase in low-carbon generation by 2030 if the increased demand and net zero targets are to be met.
- 4.33 The various actions set out in the White Paper are described as "*a strong signal to project developers and the wider investor community about the government's commitment to deliver clean electricity.*" In the section 'Our Key Commitments', the White Paper states that "*onshore wind and solar will be the key building blocks for the future generation mix, along with offshore wind.*"

British Energy Security Strategy (2022)

- 4.34 The British Energy Security Strategy policy paper was published in April 2022. The strategy identifies that if the UK is to reduce rapidly increasing energy bills and keep them down for the long term, the UK needs to reduce its dependence on imported oil and gas and to source more of its energy domestically instead.
- 4.35 Whilst primarily focusing on offshore wind rather than onshore wind, the strategy highlights that onshore wind is one of the cheapest forms of renewable power, and advises that improvements will be made to infrastructure UK wide, in order to facilitate more onshore wind development. The strategy seeks to increase deployment of wind and solar energy, and identifies that it expects the measures detailed in the strategy to result in an electricity generation mix that is 95% low carbon electricity by 2030.

Energy Act 2023

- 4.36 The Energy Act 2023 received Royal Assent on 26 October 2023. The 2023 Act, which was originally introduced as the Energy Security Bill in 2022, seeks to build on the commitment set out in the April 2022 British Energy Security Strategy to reduce the UK's dependence on fossil fuel markets, by improving domestic energy production and making the UK more self-sufficient with regards energy use.
- 4.37 Following the introduction of the 2023 Act into law, the Energy Security Secretary Claire Coutinho commented that the "*Energy Act is the largest piece of energy legislation in a generation. It will boost investment in clean energy technologies and support thousands of skilled jobs across the country. It lays the foundations for greater UK energy independence, making us more secure against tyrants like Putin, and helps us to power Britain from Britain.*"

Climate Change Committee Progress Report to Parliament (2024)

- 4.38 The most recent Climate Change Committee's progress reports to Parliament 'Progress in reducing emissions' was published in July 2024. As with previous reports, it restates the need for renewable energy and stronger actions on reducing emissions. The report advises that "*The UK has a successful track record of emissions reductions, having met all its targets so far. Territorial emissions have now fallen by over half. We should celebrate this, and the Committee applauds the efforts of successive governments to achieve it. However last year, despite some*

progress, the previous Government signalled a slowing of pace and reversed or delayed key policies. The new Government will have to act fast to hit the country's commitments.”. The Report goes on to say “The cost of key low-carbon technologies is falling, creating an opportunity for the UK to boost investment, reclaim global climate leadership and enhance energy security by accelerating take-up. British-based renewable energy is the cheapest and fastest way to reduce vulnerability to volatile global fossil fuel markets. The faster we get off fossil fuels, the more secure we become.”

Clean Power 2030 Action Plan (2024)

- 4.39 The Clean Power 2030 Action Plan set out the UK Government's strategy for delivering a secure, affordable and low-carbon power system by 2030. Developed with the Scottish Government, the plan sets ambitious renewable energy deployment goals, including 27-29GW of new onshore wind and 45-47GW of new solar capacity, alongside wider reforms to support clean energy investment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Onshore Wind Pipeline 2025 Report

- 4.40 The Onshore Wind Pipeline Report published by Renewable UK in September 2025 identifies onshore wind as central to the UK's clean energy transition, highlighting both the sector's resilience and continued growth. The report notes that the national pipeline has expanded to more than 47 GW, with 15.8 GW of onshore wind capacity currently operational. While this represents notable progress, the report also identifies a significant gap between the UK's current installed capacity and the level required to meet the 2030 onshore wind ambitions set out in the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan referenced above.

UK Battery Strategy (2023)

- 4.41 The UK Battery Strategy sets out the Government's vision for establishing a globally competitive battery supply chain by 2030. Its overarching ambition is for the UK to develop a supply chain that supports both economic prosperity and the transition to net zero, positioning the UK as a world leader in the sustainable design, manufacture and use of batteries, underpinned by a strong and innovative research ecosystem.
- 4.42 The Strategy is structured around a DESIGN–BUILD–SUSTAIN framework, as follows:
- **DESIGN:** Design and develop the batteries of the future that are smaller, lighter, and offer better capacity and value, building on UK world-leading research and innovation;
 - **BUILD:** Working closely with our domestic industry and international partners to secure a resilient UK battery manufacturing supply chain that supports our strong domestic growth and thriving export markets; and
 - **SUSTAIN:** Enable the development of a thriving and sustainable sector, supported by proportionate regulations that drive investment across the supply chain, from raw materials through to end of life and recycling.
- 4.43 The Strategy highlights that battery storage (like that included within the Proposed Development) will play a critical role in enabling more flexible energy use that supports decarbonisation goals. Battery technologies help balance the energy

system, maximise usable output from renewable generation, and reduce the need for additional new generation capacity.

- 4.44 To realise its ambition, the Strategy sets out several policy measures, including providing sustained, targeted support for large-scale, long-term research and innovation across all stages of the battery supply chain. This is complemented by the continued convening of the Battery Strategy Taskforce, which advises Government on delivery of the Strategy, emerging risks to supply chain security, and new opportunities for the UK.

Powering Up Britain (2023)

- 4.45 In March 2023, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero published a new energy plan entitled 'Powering up Britain' which restated the Government's commitment to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Wind (albeit offshore) and solar are at the forefront of the document, with the plan aiming to accelerate the deployment of such renewable technologies, stating:
- 4.46 *'Our goal is to develop up to 50GW of offshore wind by 2030 and to quintuple our solar power by 2035.'*
- 4.47 The Powering Up Britain strategy also acts as an introduction to Powering Up Britain: Energy Security Plan, and Powering Up Britain: Net Zero Growth Plan, both of which are complementary and should be read alongside each other.
- 4.48 With respect to the Energy Security Plan, it strongly emphasises the important of the renewable technologies that form part of the Proposed Development, stating:
- **Onshore Wind** – "With over 14 gigawatts currently deployed in the UK, low-cost onshore wind is an important part of the energy mix, accounting for around a quarter of installed renewable capacity."
 - **Solar** – "The UK has huge deployment potential for solar power, and we are aiming for 70 gigawatts of ground and rooftop capacity together by 2035. This amounts to a fivefold increase on current installed capacity. We need to maximise deployment of both types of solar to achieve our overall target."
 - **Battery Storage** – "The Government is facilitating the deployment of electricity storage at all scales through the joint Government and Ofgem Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan. Our approach centres on creating a best-in-class regulatory framework by removing regulatory and policy barriers to the implementation of storage, ensuring that markets reflect the value of flexibility to the system and investing in innovation."

Build Back Greener Strategy (2021)

- 4.49 This Build Back Greener Strategy was first published by the UK Government in October 2021 and sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet net zero targets by 2050. Key policies in the plan include inter alia:
- "By 2035 the UK will be powered by entirely clean electricity, subject to security of supply
 - 40GW of offshore wind by 2030, with more onshore, solar and other renewables – with a new approach to onshore and offshore electricity networks to incorporate new low carbon generation and demand in the most efficient manner that takes account of the needs of local communities

- Deployment of new flexibility measures including storage to help smooth out future price spikes”

Scotland Context

- 4.50 The Scottish Government has continually adopted more ambitious climate change and renewable energy policy and targets than that of the UK Government. These key targets, and the strategies and policies to delivering them, are outlined below.

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

- 4.51 The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 initially established long term statutory targets for Scotland of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050, with an interim target of reducing emissions by at least 42% by 2020. The Act also placed climate change duties on Scottish public bodies and included provisions on climate change including adaption, forestry, energy efficiency and waste reduction.
- 4.52 Section 44 of the 2009 Act places climate change duties on Scottish public bodies. It states that a “*public body must, in exercising its functions, act: in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of (Scotland’s climate change) targets; in the way best calculated to help deliver any (Scottish adaption programme); and in the way that it considers most sustainable*”. This means that all public sector organisations, including the Scottish Ministers and local planning authorities, are obliged in exercising their functions to do so in a manner which is consistent with meeting the net zero climate change target.

Scottish Energy Strategy (2017)

- 4.53 The Scottish Energy Strategy (SES) was published in 2017 and was therefore also prepared in the context of the lower greenhouse gas emissions targets set initially under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. The SES sets out the Scottish Government vision for the future energy system in Scotland for the period through to 2050. The Strategy identifies that Scotland’s long-term climate change targets will require the near complete decarbonisation of our energy system by 2050, with renewable energy meeting a significant share of our needs.
- 4.54 The SES sets a target for the equivalent of 50% of the energy for Scotland’s heat, transport and electricity consumption to be supplied from renewable sources by 2030. This 50% target roughly equates to of 17 GW of installed capacity in 2030. The latest figures on the Scottish Government’s Energy Statistics Hub identify that in 2022, 29.5% of total Scottish energy consumption came from renewable sources.
- 4.55 Alongside these energy targets, the SES also sets out six strategic priorities. These include:
- “System security and flexibility – we should have the capacity, the connections, the flexibility and resilience necessary to maintain secure and reliable supplies of energy to all of Scotland’s homes and businesses as our energy transition takes place.
 - Renewable and low carbon solutions – we will continue to champion and explore the potential of Scotland’s huge renewable energy resource, and its ability to meet our local and national heat, transport and electricity needs – helping to achieve our ambitious emissions reduction targets.”

- 4.56 The SES advises that onshore wind energy development is essential to Scotland's transformation to a fully decarbonised energy system by 2050 and brings opportunities which underpin our vision to grow a low carbon economy and build a fairer society.
- 4.57 The SES notes that the Scottish Government want to *"see a significant increase in shared ownership of renewable energy projects in Scotland – putting energy into the hands of local communities and delivering a lasting economic asset to communities across Scotland"*. The ambition is for at least half of newly consented renewable energy projects by 2020 to have an element of shared ownership. The Scottish Government believe that *"Shared ownership will play a key part in helping to meet our targets of 1 GW of community and locally-owned energy by 2020 and 2 GW by 2030."* The Scottish Government *"expect community involvement in onshore wind developments to continue to play a vital role in reaching these targets."*

The Climate Emergency Declaration (2019)

- 4.58 At the SNP Conference in April 2019, Scotland's First Minister declared a climate emergency:
- "As First Minister of Scotland, I am declaring that there is a climate emergency. And Scotland will live up to our responsibility to tackle it."*
- 4.59 In May 2019 the Scottish Government formally declared a climate emergency. In a speech to the Scottish Parliament, the Climate Change Secretary stated:
- "There is a global emergency. The evidence is irrefutable. The science is clear. And people have been clear: they expect action."*
- 4.60 The Minister also highlighted the important role of the planning system in achieving climate change objectives, stating:
- "...the next National Planning Framework and review of the Scottish Planning Policy will include considerable focus on how the planning system can support our climate change goals."*

The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019

- 4.61 The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 ("the 2019 Act") received Royal Assent on 31 October 2019 and came into force in March 2020. The Act responds to the Paris Agreement and the declaration of a 'climate emergency' in Scotland. It amends the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and commits Scotland to a new target of net zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045, and introduced interim and annual targets for reductions of at least 56% by 2020, 75% by 2030 and 90% by 2040 (% reduction of emissions targets are relative to 1990 baseline). To help ensure delivery of the long-term targets, the framework includes statutory annual targets for every year to net zero.
- 4.62 In April 2024, in response to the findings of the Committee on Climate Change ("CCC") Report to the Scottish Parliament (March 2024), the Scottish Government abandoned its target of achieving a 75% reduction in emissions by 2030, stating that the target is unachievable. The Scottish Government did however note its continued commitment to reaching net zero by 2045, a target that remains embedded in statute.
- 4.63 The interim and annual targets introduced by the 2019 Act have been superseded by the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2024 ("the 2024 Act"). The 2024 Act is covered in detail in the following sections of this chapter (paragraphs 4.66 to 4.67).

Scottish Government Climate Change Plan: 2026-2040

- 4.64 The Scottish Government published a new Climate Change Plan in March 2026, following a consultation that closed in January 2026. The Plan covers the period 2026–2040 and sets out the policies and proposals required to ensure that Scotland’s carbon budgets for this period, established under the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 can be met.
- 4.65 The Plan outlines that Scotland has already achieved significant success in renewable energy deployment, with 73.1% of all electricity generated in 2024 coming from renewable sources. Scotland also remained a net exporter of electricity to the rest of the UK, exporting 19.7 TWh to other UK nations in 2024. Building on this success, the Plan confirms that renewable energy capacity is expected to grow, supported by a strong pipeline of future projects that will play a key role in decarbonising the UK power system.
- 4.66 The Plan also highlights a wide range of benefits associated with the transition beyond reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including:
- **Financial benefits:** Direct financial gains and cost savings arising from the implementation of the Plan’s policies;
 - **Economic opportunities:** Growth in green jobs and increased opportunities for Scottish businesses as part of the transition to net zero;
 - **Health impacts:** Improved public health outcomes due to reduced emissions and associated mitigation measures;
 - **Co-benefits:** Wider societal benefits across Scotland resulting from decarbonisation.

A Stronger and More Resilient Scotland: Programme for Government 2022-23 (2022)

- 4.67 The Programme for Government is published every year at the beginning of September and sets out the actions that the Scottish Government will take in the coming year and beyond, alongside subsequent initiatives and policy programmes,
- 4.68 The Scottish Government’s ‘*A stronger and more resilient Scotland*’ was published in September 2022. This document reaffirms the Scottish Government’s commitment to targets set out in prior programmes by confirming that these commitments “*remain in place and our ambition to deliver them is undiminished: the more so since we are clear that much of the answer to the current cost crisis and the poverty it will cause lies in our journey to net zero, investment in a strong economy, and in building a fairer society.*”.
- 4.69 Page 11 notes that “*Scotland has the potential to become a global green energy powerhouse, for Europe and beyond. Scotland’s vast potential for renewable energy generation opens up opportunities for exporting electricity and green hydrogen, and attracting energy intensive industries.*”.

Onshore Wind Policy Statement 2022

- 4.70 The Scottish Government’s ‘Onshore Wind Policy Statement 22’ (OWPS 22) was published in December 2022 (replacing the previous version from 2017), focusing on the following areas:
- main ambitions and aspirations;

- delivering on their ambitions in Scotland;
 - environmental considerations: how to achieve a good balance and maximise benefits;
 - benefits to local communities and financial mechanisms;
 - benefits to Scotland;
 - aviation considerations;
 - technical considerations; and
 - energy systems and regulation.
- 4.71 The OWPS '22 has been published with a purpose of restating the importance of onshore wind as a tool to accelerate Scotland's transition towards a net zero society. The policy cites the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and subsequent global energy crisis as an additional reason for the further development of onshore wind in Scotland. The statement emphasises the importance of onshore wind in Scotland as a cheap and reliable source of zero carbon electricity. Within the statement, the Scottish Government commits to an overall ambition of 20GW of total installed onshore wind capacity by 2030 (which remains in place despite the Scottish Government withdrawing, in April 2024, the target of a 75% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, compared to 1990 levels), increasing the current installed capacity by 11.3GW. Referring to the projection that Scotland's peak demand for electricity will at least double within the next two decades, the report states that *"This will require a substantial increase in installed capacity across all renewable technologies."*
- 4.72 The statement highlights the relative inexpensiveness to develop, and increasing profitability of onshore wind, showing that the cost of onshore wind has continued to fall over the contract for difference allocation rounds – showing costs of around 45% lower than in 2015.
- 4.73 The necessity for taller turbines has been reaffirmed in section 3.4.6 *"...What would previously have been considered 'taller' turbines are now more common and must continue to be deployed in appropriate locations..."* whilst in section 3.4.7 it reiterates why these turbines are a necessity *"Taller turbines have a higher installed capacity which results in the need for fewer turbines per site."*
- 4.74 The statement clarifies the Scottish Government's position on the construction of new wind farms and their effect on the landscape further in section 3.6.2 *"The only areas where wind energy is not supported are National Parks and National Scenic Areas. Outside of these areas, the criteria for assessing proposals have been updated, including stronger weight being afforded to the contribution of the development to the climate emergency, as well as community benefits"* in accordance with NPF4.
- 4.75 The OWPS '22 promotes community benefits, and the Scottish Government continues to encourage community benefits from all renewable energy businesses (it should be noted however, that this is a voluntary arrangement that is separate and distinct from the planning and consenting process). Along with community benefits, the statement advocates for an increase in shared ownership of renewables developments. The Scottish Government has set a target of 2GW of community and locally owned energy by 2030 as a minimum and encourages developers to consider shared ownership opportunities in all projects.

Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan 2023

- 4.76 On 10 January 2023, the Scottish Government published the Draft version of its 'Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan - delivering a fair and secure zero carbon energy system for Scotland'. This plan outlines the key ambitions for Scotland's energy future, with an even greater focus on renewable energy. It is predicted that these policies would result in a net jobs gain across the energy production sector and will increase renewable energy exports whilst also reducing exposure to future global energy market fluctuations.
- 4.77 The Plan outlines several of the government's targets to reach a net zero Scotland, with the main milestones and dates outlined as:
- to substantially increase Scotland's renewable electricity generation capacity from the current level of 13.4 Gigawatts (GW) with an additional 20GW resulting in an overall capacity of at least 33.4GW by 2030;
 - aims to have 8-11GW of installed offshore, and an additional 12GW of installed onshore wind capacity by 2030;
 - for renewable and low-carbon hydrogen power to provide 5GW (the equivalent of 15% of Scotland's current energy needs) by 2030, increasing to 25GW by 2045; and
 - to phase out the necessity for new petrol and diesel cars by 2032, and to reduce total car kilometres by 2030.
- 4.78 The plan also outlines general commitments made by the Government to assist with the transition to net zero, which include the following:
- to establish a national public energy agency – 'Heat and Energy Efficiency Scotland';
 - to increase the contributions of solar, hydropower and marine energy within Scotland's energy mix;
 - to accelerate the decarbonisation of domestic industry, transport and heat in buildings;
 - to generate surplus electricity – allowing for the export of electricity and renewable hydrogen to support decarbonisation across Europe;
 - to create energy security – through the development of Scotland's resources and additional energy storage;
 - to allow for a just transition by maintaining or increasing employment in Scotland's energy production sector against a decline in North Sea production; and
 - to maximise the use of Scottish manufactured components in the energy transition, ensuring high-value technology and innovation.
- 4.79 Page 120 of the Draft Energy Strategy highlights the UK Government's decision not to award the Scottish Cluster, led by the Acorn Project at St Fergus, track 1 status in their carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) cluster sequencing process. The Draft Energy Strategy goes on to state that this decision from the UK Government will have a negative effect on Scotland's ability to meet emissions reduction targets. As a result of this, it is highlighted that Scotland *"will require contingency planning to identify the additional emissions reduction effort that may be needed from other sectors to meet Scotland's 2030 target."*

- 4.80 Page 130 of the Draft Energy Strategy emphasises the crucial role that battery storage will play in achieving net zero by providing fast-responding, dispatchable power when required. It also highlights the existing shortfall in Scotland's battery storage capacity: as of September 2021, only 124 MW of the total 864 MW of energy storage capacity in Scotland was provided BESS. The importance attributed to battery storage minors the support in NPF4 which supports development proposals for all forms of renewable, low carbon and zero emissions technologies

Onshore Wind Sector Deal 2023

- 4.81 On 21 September 2023, the Scottish Government published 'The Onshore Wind Sector Deal'. The deal sets out the commitments from the Scottish Government and the onshore wind farm industry to deliver 20GW of onshore wind energy by 2030. The Government and the onshore wind farm industry's commitments within the deal include:
- support the enhancement of current skills and training provisions through further higher education and training to focus on delivery of the needs of the wind industry;
 - continue to collaborate with local communities, building on good practices to enhance its existing 'good neighbour' approach through engagement at all stages of the project's lifecycle and offering impactful community benefits and practical routes to shared ownership;
 - new onshore wind projects will enhance biodiversity and optimise land use and environmental benefits;
 - develop evidence to support a more strategic approach to delivering the investment in our electricity network and to inform a coordinated approach to the transportation of wind turbine components across Scotland's road network; and
 - deliver cooperative coexistence between onshore wind deployment and safe aviation operations.

The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2024

- 4.82 Scotland's emissions reduction targets have been amended, as set out in the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2024, which came into force on 23 November 2024. The 2024 Act amends the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and supersedes parts of the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019, as a result of the Scottish Government accepting in April that the emissions goal set within the 2019 Act (a reduction in emissions of at least 75%, against baseline levels, by 2030) was "out of reach". This 2024 Act replaces the system of annual and interim emissions reduction targets (75% reduction by 2030 and 90% by 2040), which are focussed on Scottish emissions of greenhouse gases in a given year, with a new system of periodic carbon budgets that are focussed on emissions over a five year period.
- 4.83 The Scottish carbon budget target is a target for the aggregate emissions reduction over a number of years, not a target for a single year. As a result, the Scottish Government is required to set budgets for five-year periods, not including the final budget, which may be shorter. This is because the final budget will run until the net-zero emissions target year, which might be less than five years after the previous budget period. The Scottish Government are currently preparing the carbon budget which will establish target emissions for the next five years.

- 4.84 The 2024 Act does not change the existing statutory target of net zero emissions by 2045. The emissions reductions targets set out are significant and the 2009 Act states the Scottish Ministers have a duty to ensure the targets are met. All Scottish public authorities also have a duty to exercise their functions in a way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of the targets.

Scottish Government Green Industrial Strategy (2024)

- 4.85 The Scottish Government Green Industrial Strategy, published in September 2024, has the overarching purpose of ensuring that Scotland secures the maximum possible economic benefit from the global transition to net zero. The Strategy identifies five key opportunity areas in which Scotland is particularly well placed to develop internationally competitive economic clusters.
- 4.86 The first opportunity area, '**Maximising Scotland's Wind Economy**', seeks to build on Scotland's natural resources, established onshore and offshore wind sectors, and position Scotland as a leader in material circularity of wind turbines and components. The Strategy sets out a number of actions for this opportunity area, several of which align with the Proposed Development, including
- Supporting investment to improve essential infrastructure, expand supply chains, and secure manufacturing opportunities;
 - Developing and maintaining a pipeline of investment propositions, supported by clear information on the timing and nature of renewable energy opportunities; and
 - Working with the UK Government to maximise the benefits to Scotland from key UK-wide funding schemes.
- 4.87 Opportunity Areas 3 and 5 are also relevant to the Proposed Development:
- **Area 3: Supporting green economy professional and financial services with global reach** – building on Scotland's strengths in high-value, tradable service sectors and considering how the Scottish Government can support future innovation and growth.
 - **Area 5: Establishing Scotland as a competitive centre for the clean Energy Intensive Industries of the future** – supporting the electrification of existing energy-intensive industries where appropriate, and positioning Scotland as an attractive location for both existing and new clean industries that will benefit from Scotland's growing renewable electricity capacity.

Planning Policy

Scottish Government Planning Policy

- 4.88 The Scottish Government adopted the National Planning Framework 4 ("NPF4") on 13 February 2023. NPF4 has now replaced National Planning Framework 3 ("NPF3") and the Scottish Planning Policy 2014 ("SPP"). NPF3 and SPP no longer represent Scottish Ministers' planning policy and should not form the basis for (or be taken into consideration when) determining planning applications or Section 36 applications.
- 4.89 NPF4 is now also part of the statutory Development Plan alongside Local Development Plans (LDPs), in this case the Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 2 (2019). A Chief Planner's Letter was issued on 8th February 2023 entitled 'Transitional Arrangements for National Planning Framework 4'. It

contains advice intended to support consistency in decision making ahead of new style LDPs being in place.

- 4.90 NPF4 and the relevant LDPs are to be read together as the Development Plan. However, where there is an incompatibility between one document and the other, it should be noted that NPF4 is, at the time of writing, the more up-to-date document than the Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 2. In addition to this NPF4 should attract greater weight in the determination process as it is a national planning policy document which outlines out the national spatial strategy.

National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)

- 4.91 NPF4 sets out an overarching spatial strategy for Scotland until 2045. It is based upon two prior rounds of consultation. These consultations identified the need for a rebalancing of the planning system to ensure that climate change is a guiding principle for all future plans and decisions. As expected, the urgency of the need to tackle climate change and the fundamental role of the planning system in delivering the radical change required to tackle and adapt to climate change is therefore a central focus for much of the NPF4: *“The world is facing unprecedented challenges. The global climate emergency means that we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the future impacts of climate change.”*
- 4.92 Within the spatial strategy, for the Central Area (which includes the Site) the NPF4 identifies that *“We will only meet our climate change commitments if we make significant changes to the densely populated central belt of Scotland”* and states that *“We need to work together to decarbonise buildings and transport and tackle congestion, make more efficient use of existing land and buildings, generate renewable energy and establish supporting electricity and heat networks”*.
- 4.93 The NPF4 states that the priority for these areas will include *“A coherent strategy that focuses on climate change and responds to the challenges of the pandemic will drive forward change to tackle inequalities and build a new, greener, future for this part of the country”* and highlights that national developments such as *“Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure”*, of which the Proposed Development would be, will *“support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area”*.
- 4.94 Considering Scotland as a whole, the NPF4 in section 3 of Annex B, states that *“A large and rapid increase in electricity generation from renewable sources will be essential for Scotland to meet its net zero emissions targets”*. Further to this, as onshore electricity generation (including energy storage) with a generating capacity in excess of 50MW, the Proposed Development is a national development for the purposes of NPF4 as Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure.
- 4.95 This means that the Proposed Development is a significant development of national importance that will help to deliver the spatial strategy, and that the principle of development is established.
- 4.96 In terms of national planning policy, the main policies that are most relevant to the Proposed Development are Policies 1, 3, 5 and 11. The following will look at the relevant aspects of these policies in more detail.

Policy 1: Tackling the climate and nature crisis

- 4.97 A key policy is Policy 1: Tackling the climate and nature crises. This policy requires that *“significant weight will be given to the global climate and nature crises”* when considering all development proposals. The addition of this policy is reflective of the

increased prominence and weight which the Scottish Government now expect to be given to the climate emergency in all planning decisions. It goes on to state that Local Development Plans must: *“address the global climate emergency and nature crisis by ensuring the spatial strategy will reduce emissions and adapt to current and future risks of climate change by promoting nature recovery and restoration in the area.”*

Policy 3: Biodiversity

- 4.98 Policy 3: Biodiversity is another policy which will impact the decision-making process for the Proposed Development. This policy intends to: *“protect biodiversity, reverse biodiversity loss, deliver positive effects from development and strengthen nature networks”* and states that Local Development Plans should *“protect, conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity in line with the mitigation hierarchy. They should also promote nature recovery and nature restoration across the development plan area, including by: ...restoring degraded habitats or creating new habitats...”*.
- 4.99 For applications that require an EIA such as the Proposed Development, the policy states that applications *“will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, including nature networks so they are in a demonstrably better state than without intervention.”*

Policy 5: Soils

- 4.100 Policy 5: Soils intends to *“protect carbon-rich soils, restore peatlands and minimise disturbance to soils from development.”* and is especially relevant to this Proposed Development due to the relative prevalence of peatland on the Site. Policy 5 (a) goes on to say that:
- “Development proposals will only be supported if they are designed and constructed:*
- i. In accordance with the mitigation hierarchy by first avoiding and then minimising the amount of disturbance to soils on undeveloped land”*
- 4.101 Policy 5 (d) goes into further detail regarding what is required of developments that are proposed on peatland, carbon rich soils, or priority peatland habitat. It states that in these instances:
- “a detailed site-specific assessment will be required to identify:*
- the baseline depth, habitat condition, quality, and stability of carbon rich soils;*
 - ii. the likely effects of the development on peatland, including on soil disturbance; and*
 - iii. the likely net effects of the development on climate emissions and loss of carbon.*
- This assessment should inform careful project design and ensure, in accordance with relevant guidance and the mitigation hierarchy, that adverse impacts are first avoided and then minimised through best practice. A peat management plan will be required to demonstrate that this approach has been followed, alongside other appropriate plans required for restoring and/ or enhancing the site into a functioning peatland system capable of achieving carbon sequestration.”*

Policy 11: Energy

- 4.102 Regarding onshore wind, Policy 11: Energy, intends to “*encourage, promote and facilitate all forms of renewable energy development onshore and offshore.*” Policy outcomes are identified as: “*expansion of renewable, low carbon and zero emission technologies*”. The policy declares that development proposals for wind farms outwith National Parks and National Scenic Areas should be supported, whilst also considering the impacts that have been identified. It is recognised that “*significant landscape and visual impacts, ... are to be expected for some forms of renewable energy. Where impacts are localised and/or appropriate design mitigation has been applied, they will generally be considered to be acceptable*”. In terms of the impacts, the policy goes on to state that: “*In considering these impacts, significant weight will be placed on the contribution of the proposal to renewable energy generation targets and on greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets*”.
- 4.103 Policy 11: Energy is as follows:
- a) Development proposals for all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies will be supported. These include:*
- i. wind farms including repowering, extending, expanding and extending the life of existing wind farms;*
 - ii. enabling works, such as grid transmission and distribution infrastructure;*
 - iii. energy storage, such as battery storage and pumped storage hydro;*
 - iv. small scale renewable energy generation technology;*
 - v. solar arrays;*
 - vi. proposals associated with negative emissions technologies and carbon capture; and*
 - vii. proposals including co-location of these technologies.*
- b) Development proposals for wind farms in National Parks and National Scenic Areas will not be supported.*
- c) 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.*
- d) Development proposals that impact on international or national designations will be assessed in relation to Policy 4.*
- e) In addition, project design and mitigation will demonstrate how the following impacts are addressed:*
- i. impacts on communities and individual dwellings, including, residential amenity, visual impact, noise and shadow flicker;*
 - ii. significant landscape and visual impacts, recognising that such impacts are to be expected for some forms of renewable energy. Where impacts are localised and/or appropriate design mitigation has been applied, they will generally be considered to be acceptable;*
 - iii. public access, including impact on long distance walking and cycling routes and scenic routes;*
 - iv. impacts on aviation and defence interests including seismological recording;*

- v. *impacts on telecommunications and broadcasting installations, particularly ensuring that transmission links are not compromised;*
- vi. *impacts on road traffic and on adjacent trunk roads, including during construction;*
- vii. *impacts on historic environment;*
- viii. *effects on hydrology, the water environment and flood risk;*
- ix. *biodiversity including impacts on birds;*
- x. *impacts on trees, woods and forests;*
- xi. *proposals for the decommissioning of developments, including ancillary infrastructure, and site restoration;*
- xii. *the quality of site restoration plans including the measures in place to safeguard or guarantee availability of finances to effectively implement those plans; and*
- xiii. *cumulative impacts.*

In considering these impacts, significant weight will be placed on the contribution of the proposal to renewable energy generation targets and on greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Grid capacity should not constrain renewable energy development. It is for developers to agree connections to the grid with the relevant network operator. In the case of proposals for grid infrastructure, consideration should be given to underground connections where possible.

f) Consents for development proposals may be time-limited. Areas identified for wind farms are, however, expected to be suitable for use in perpetuity.”

Other Relevant NPF4 Policies

- 4.104 In addition to the above NPF4 policies, the following are also considered applicable to the Proposed Development: 2) Climate mitigation and adaptation, 4) Natural Places, 7) Historic assets and places, 12) Zero Waste, 13) Sustainable transport, 14) Design, quality and place, 18) Infrastructure First, 19) Heating and cooling, 20) Blue and green infrastructure, 21) Play, recreation and sport, 22) Flood risk and water management, 23) Health and safety, 25) Community wealth building, 26) Business and industry, 29) Rural development, 30) Tourism, and 33) Minerals.

Development Plan Policy

- 4.105 The Proposed Development falls within the administrative boundary of Dumfries and Galloway Council, and as such, the statutory Development Plan relevant to its determination is the Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2), adopted on 3 October 2019. LDP2 sets out the spatial strategy and land use policies for the region and is used to assess planning applications. While NPF4 now takes precedence where there is any conflict, LDP2 remains a key material consideration in the planning process.

Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2)

- 4.106 The primary development plan policy relevant to the assessment of the Proposed Development is ‘Policy IN1 – Renewable Energy’ of the Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 2 (2019) (LDP2).

- 4.107 Policy IN1 sets out the Council's support in principle for renewable energy developments, including wind and solar energy, where they are appropriately sited and designed. The policy requires proposals to demonstrate that they:
- Do not result in unacceptable adverse impacts on the landscape, natural and historic environment, or residential amenity;
 - Are compatible with other land uses;
 - Take account of cumulative impacts;
 - Are supported by appropriate mitigation measures where necessary;
 - Contribute to national and local renewable energy targets.
- 4.108 In addition to Policy IN1, the following LDP2 policies are considered relevant to the Proposed Development:
- Policy OP1 – Development Considerations;
 - Policy OP2 – Design Quality and Placemaking;
 - Policy ED2 - Business Development and Diversification in the Rural Area;
 - Policy HE1: Listed Buildings;
 - Policy HE2: Conservation Areas;
 - Policy HE3: Archaeology;
 - Policy HE4: Archaeologically Sensitive Areas;
 - Policy HE5: Hadrian's Wall;
 - Policy HE6: Gardens and Designed Landscapes;
 - Policy NE1: National Scenic Areas;
 - Policy NE2: Regional Scenic Areas;
 - Policy NE4: Sites of International Importance for Biodiversity;
 - Policy NE5: Species of International Importance;
 - Policy NE6: Sites of National Importance for Biodiversity and Geodiversity;
 - Policy NE7: Forestry and Woodland;
 - Policy NE8: Trees and Development;
 - Policy NE11: Supporting the Water Environment;
 - Policy NE12: Protection of Water Margins;
 - Policy NE13: Agricultural Soil;
 - Policy NE14 – Carbon Rich Soils;
 - Policy NE15: Protection and Restoration of Peat Deposits as Carbon Sinks;
 - Policy IN2 – Wind Energy;
 - Policy IN7: Flooding and Development; and
 - Policy IN8: Surface Water Drainage and SuDS.
- 4.109 Supplementary guidance documents associated with LDP2 provide further detail on the application of these policies. These include guidance on Design Quality and

Placemaking, and the Wind Energy Landscape Sensitivity Study, which informs the assessment of landscape capacity for wind energy development across the region.

- 4.110 **Table 4-1** lists the other LDP2 policies (aside from Policy IN1: Renewable Energy) and their associated supplementary guidance documents considered to be relevant to the Proposed Development. These policies and guidance are addressed in the Planning Statement accompanying the application and, where appropriate, within the relevant technical chapters of this EIA Report.

Table 4.1: Relevant LDP2 Policies and Supplementary Guidance

LDP2 Policies	Associated Supplementary Guidance
Policy OP1: Development Considerations	Design Quality and Placemaking
Policy OP2: Design Quality and Placemaking	Design Quality and Placemaking
Policy ED2: Business Development and Diversification in the Rural Area	
Policy HE1: Listed Buildings	Historic Built Environment Guidance
Policy HE2: Conservation Areas	Annan Conservation Area Character Appraisal Management Plan
Policy HE3: Archaeology	Historic Built Environment Guidance
Policy HE4: Archaeologically Sensitive Areas	Historic Built Environment Guidance
Policy HE5: Hadrian's Wall	Historic Built Environment Guidance
Policy HE6: Gardens and Designed Landscapes	Historic Built Environment Guidance
Policy NE1: National Scenic Areas	
Policy NE2: Regional Scenic Areas	
Policy NE4: Sites of International Importance for Biodiversity	
Policy NE5: Species of International Importance	
Policy NE6: Sites of National Importance for Biodiversity and Geodiversity	
Policy NE7: Forestry and Woodland	Trees and Development
Policy NE8: Trees and Development	Trees and Development
Policy NE11: Supporting the Water Environment	
Policy NE12: Protection of Water Margins	
Policy NE13: Agricultural Soil	
Policy NE14: Carbon Rich Soil	
Policy NE15: Protection and Restoration of Peat Deposits as Carbon Sinks	
Policy IN2: Wind Energy	Wind Energy Development Considerations Wind Energy Landscape Capacity Study
Policy IN7: Flooding and Development	
Policy IN8: Surface Water Drainage and SuDS	Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems

Emerging Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 3 (LDP3)

- 4.111 The Council is in the process of preparing the Emerging Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 3 (LDP3). According to the Local Development Plan Scheme (February 2026), the Plan is at a very early stage, with the most recent stage being a call for sites and ideas, which ran between January and March 2025. The Scheme sets out that the next stage will be the publication of a Draft Proposed Plan in April 2027, with adoption anticipated in December 2028.
- 4.112 Given that the emerging Plan is at such an early stage, there is currently limited material evidence-base documentation relevant to the Project, and the emerging policies are not yet at a sufficient stage to carry weight in decision-making.
- i. Nonetheless, as the plan-making process progresses, any emerging policies or evidence of relevance will be taken into account and addressed within the forthcoming application.

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Technical Appendix 4.1: Legislation, Policy and Guidance