

# Chapter 14

## Socioeconomics

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## Glossary

Term	Definition
Environmental Impact Assessment	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a means of carrying out, in a systematic way, an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects from a development.
Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations	The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations)
Environmental Impact Assessment Report	A document reporting the findings of the EIA and produced in accordance with the EIA Regulations
The Proposed Development	The proposed Daer Wind Farm development
The Proposed Development Area	The area within which the Proposed Development will be located.

## List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
SES	Scottish Energy Strategy
PAC	Pre-Application Consultation
LPA	Local Planning Authority
SUP	Southern Upland Partnership

## 14.1 INTRODUCTION

- 14.1.1 This chapter of the EIAR assesses the potential socioeconomic impacts occurring as a result of the Proposed Development. It will provide an assessment at a local, regional and national levels and discuss the potential socioeconomic impacts of the Proposed Development upon these areas.
- 14.1.2 As stated in Chapter 1: Introduction of the EIAR the Proposed Development is located in both Dumfries & Galloway and South Lanarkshire local authority areas, in the southern uplands of Scotland. The site consists of two land parcels, Daer, which is wholly within South Lanarkshire, and Kinnelhead which is wholly within Dumfries & Galloway.
- 14.1.3 The chapter will outline policies considered relative to the potential socioeconomic impacts of the Proposed Development should it be granted consent and how the Proposed Development will contribute to help meeting the targets or objectives set out within regional and local strategies.
- 14.1.4 Potential additional socioeconomic benefits that could be considered should the Proposed Development gain a consent are also discussed.

## 14.2 METHODOLOGY

- 14.2.1 This chapter will consider the socioeconomic impacts nationally, regionally and locally associated with the Proposed Development.
- 14.2.2 This chapter will outline policy, advice and guidance documents relevant to onshore wind farm development socioeconomics and identify areas in which the Proposed Development could contribute to achieving the outcomes of these.
- 14.2.3 This chapter will also consider the impacts of the Proposed Development on tourism as requested by Visit Scotland in Scoping Opinion on 30 January 2019.
- 14.2.4 Where other EIA chapters follow methodology widely recognised by statutory and governing bodies, there is no such recognised methodology for Socioeconomic assessments. This chapter takes the approach to highlight how the Proposed Development supports national and regional strategy and policy documents relating to Socioeconomics and highlight what the Proposed Development has to offer locally should it be granted consent.

## 14.3 PLANNING AND GUIDANCE

- 14.3.1 All relevant national planning policies, guidelines, development plans and other material considerations are addressed in Chapter 4 (Climate Change, Legislative and Policy Context). A summary of those planning policies related to socioeconomics are summarised below.

### National Policy, Advice and Guidance

#### Scotland's Economic Strategy

- 14.3.2 Published in 2015, Scotland's Economic Strategy<sup>1</sup> sets out an ambition to make Scotland's economy more resilient and more cohesive and improve the quality of life of the country's citizens.
- 14.3.3 The strategy takes an approach that considers the two key pillars, which are to increase competitiveness and to tackle inequality. This is with the overarching aim to support long term, sustainable economic growth. The two 'pillars' are understood to be co-dependent upon each other. The Scottish Government seeks to do this by "supporting entrepreneurialism and access to finance, encouraging companies to become more innovative and to exploit new commercial opportunities, and to help businesses to grow and expand both at home and overseas".

<sup>1</sup> Scotland's Economic Strategy (2015) Available: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/03/5984> (accessed 28/01/2021)

- 14.3.4 The approach is stated in the strategy to be outcome focussed and seeks to place emphasis on partnership working to achieve its desired goal, at national, regional and local levels.
- 14.3.5 The strategy considers its four priorities to be investment, innovation, inclusive growth and internationalisation.
- 14.3.6 The Proposed Development represents an additional major investment by the Applicant in the area. The Proposed Development will bring additional investment in modern technologies, skilled jobs and contracting opportunities which will help to further decarbonise, modernise and diversify the local economy and wider southern uplands area of Scotland which are discussed further in the remainder of the chapter. In doing so, the Proposed Development is considered to be in alignment with Scotland's Economic Strategy.

### Scotland's Energy Strategy 2017

- 14.3.7 Scotland's Energy Strategy was published in 2017<sup>2</sup>. The strategy outlines a vision for the future of Scotland's Energy sector and introduces additional targets for 2030, seeing renewables at the forefront of the Scottish Economy. The SES, in relation to renewables and low carbon solutions states that:
- "This is an area where Scotland has a history of innovation, where high investment is expected and where Scottish companies will be well placed to develop deeper ties with their international trading partners. The move to renewable and low carbon solutions is central to our ambitions of producing sustainable, inclusive growth."*
- 14.3.8 The Strategy is guided by three core principles:
- A Whole System View
  - An Inclusive Energy Transition
  - A Smarter Local Energy Model
- 14.3.9 One of the proposed targets is to achieve a largely decarbonised energy system by 2050 which meets Scotland's climate change targets. For these targets to be met, further installed renewable energy capacity is required. The Proposed Development will contribute towards these targets being met, having a catalytic effect.
- 14.3.10 The strategy acknowledges that onshore wind is currently the cheapest means of energy generation and a decarbonised economy will ultimately require more, cheaper, cleaner energy.
- 14.3.11 It also acknowledged that this will be particularly beneficial to more rural areas, like those in the area in which the Proposed Development is situated (the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Strategy states that over 22% of the region is classified as rural or remote rural) as an opportunity to enable these areas to make the transition towards a decarbonised economy.

### National Tourism Policy Context

- 14.3.12 The national tourism strategy<sup>3</sup> confirms the importance of tourism to Scotland's economy and emphasises the resilience of the sector in recent times. However, it cautions that Scotland must remain competitive, by developing and changing to retain visitors in order to prevent losing visitors to other tourism destinations. The mission is for the industry as a whole to break from the status quo and achieve an overnight visitor spend of between £5.5bn and £6.5bn by 2020, generating an additional £1bn or more (at 2011 prices).
- 14.3.13 A Tourism Development Plan for Scotland<sup>4</sup> has been developed to set out the framework to assist and promote growth in Scotland's visitor economy to 2020. It supports the national tourism strategy by the Scottish Tourism

Alliance. The tourism Development Plan for Scotland sets out a much broader development strategy and proposals across a wider agenda, highlighting the important role played by local partners, notably Area Tourism Partnerships and local authorities.

- 14.3.14 Scotland's Responsible Tourism Plan 2020<sup>5</sup> recognises that sustainable commitments must be set out in order to protect our country. The tourism sector is obligated by this Plan to support the Scottish Government's climate change targets and collaborate with industry to encourage low carbon growth. These key priorities and actions mirror what wind farms are achieving including what the Proposed Development can add to.

## Regional Guidance

### South Lanarkshire Economic Strategy 2013 - 2023<sup>6</sup>

- 14.3.15 The South Lanarkshire Economic Strategy sets out the vision *for South Lanarkshire to have one of the strongest most dynamic economies in Scotland, where businesses, communities and residents achieve their full potential and prosper.*
- 14.3.16 The strategy recognises the importance of transitioning to a low carbon economy in addressing climate change targets set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (now superseded by the 2018 Act). The strategy also recognises that renewable energy generation plays an integral part in this.
- 14.3.17 The strategy recognises skills development as a fundamental part of the strategy, following the region's struggle with unemployment since the 2008 recession. *Skills, learning and employability* is considered a key development theme of the strategy.
- 14.3.18 The strategy highlights the importance of building a *sustainable skills base* for the future. South Lanarkshire College promotes the Rural Energy Academy, offering courses to help people achieve careers in industries such as the construction and energy industries.
- 14.3.19 The Proposed Development will offer skilled employment opportunities during the construction and operational phases. Meet the Buyer Events will be held and discussed further in this chapter below.

### Dumfries and Galloway Regional Economic Strategy 2016 - 2020<sup>7</sup>

- 14.3.20 Setting out a regional economic strategy for Dumfries and Galloway, the strategy was produced to *ensure that the economic priorities for the region are clearly identified and that interventions to support these are prioritised by all Partners involved.* It was officially adopted by the Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Team in 2015. It aligns itself with Scotland's Economic Strategy.
- 14.3.21 The strategy sets out the following vision and key actions for delivery:
- The economic ambition for our region is to ensure that every member of every community has equality of access to a prosperous future. An economy which is capable of taking advantage of opportunities, by combining an appropriate skilled workforce and connected infrastructure, to support more prospectus and inclusive communities.*

<sup>2</sup> Scottish Energy Strategy (2017) Available: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-energy-strategy-future-energy-scotland-9781788515276/>

<sup>3</sup> Scottish Tourism Alliance, The National Strategy: Tourism 2020, 2012, <http://scottishtourismalliance.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Scottish-Tourism-Strategy-TourismScotland2020.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> VisitScotland, Tourism Development Plan, 2013, [http://www.visitscotland.org/pdf/Tourism%20Development%20Plan%20for%20Scotland\\_VisitScotland\\_efile.pdf](http://www.visitscotland.org/pdf/Tourism%20Development%20Plan%20for%20Scotland_VisitScotland_efile.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> VisitScotland, Tourism Declares: our responsible tourism plan, 2020, available at [VisitScotland's Responsible Tourism Plan | VisitScotland.org](https://www.visitscotland.org/responsible-tourism-plan) accessed 08/12/2020

<sup>6</sup> South Lanarkshire Economic Strategy [https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/8508/south\\_lanarkshire\\_economic\\_strategy\\_2013\\_-2023](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/8508/south_lanarkshire_economic_strategy_2013_-2023)

<sup>7</sup> Dumfries and Galloway Economic Strategy 2016 – 2020 (2015) Available: [https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/media/18717/Regional-Economic-Strategy-2016-20/pdf/Regional\\_Economic\\_Strategy\\_2016\\_-\\_2020.pdf?m=636592257429570000](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/media/18717/Regional-Economic-Strategy-2016-20/pdf/Regional_Economic_Strategy_2016_-_2020.pdf?m=636592257429570000)

The strategy will be delivered by:

- Growing businesses by capitalising on the strength of the regions base to increase productivity and provide the conditions for business growth
- Developing places by empowering the regions communities to address economic challenges and opportunities
- Creating a culture of better skills and opportunity which will retain and attract people of working age and improve the competitiveness for individuals and businesses
- Investing in large investment projects that will impact on the region's economy
- Creating a shared vision and partnership working across the public, private and third sectors along with our providers of further and higher education

14.3.22 The current economic strategy is due to end after 2020 however as no replacement strategy has been implemented at the time of writing, the 2016 – 2020 strategy remains relevant to the decision-making process. It is expected that if the strategy is replaced it will contain similar if not more ambitious goals than the 2016 – 2020 strategy.

14.3.23 The Proposed Development supports the aims of the regional economic strategy of Dumfries and Galloway and will provide skilled jobs for those living in the area during the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development. The full-time jobs created by the Proposed Development will help overcome the challenge stated in the strategy that employment is often seasonal. Meet the Buyer Events will help enrol local services to the Proposed Development. This will contribute positively to Strategic Action 3: Better Skills, Better Opportunities to *create a vibrant culture of opportunity in the region to retain and attract people of working age and improve competitiveness of individual businesses.*

14.3.24 The strategy identifies *Energy – particularly renewables and their supply chain* as a sector with value and with identified growth that has the potential to provide highly paid skilled jobs.

14.3.25 The Proposed Development will pay into a community benefit fund which is expected to contribute positively to Strategic Action 2: Developing Places to *empower the region's communities to address their distinct economic challenges and opportunities.* Proposed uses of the community benefit fund are outlined in section 14.5 below.

14.3.26 By producing and providing renewable electricity the Proposed Development is expected to contribute positively to supporting Strategic Action 4: Well Developed Infrastructure. Although the focus of this is not on energy infrastructure, the Proposed Development will contribute towards the 2030 target in relation to the shift towards electric vehicles by providing electricity to the national grid to increase the supply of electricity available.

## Meet the Buyer Event

14.3.27 If the Proposed Development is consented, one of the first steps the Applicant will undertake is to arrange a 'Meet the Buyer' event. This will be an organised and advertised event that will invite local businesses and Trades people to come and speak to the Applicant so the Applicant can understand the services offered and advise on its procurement process. The Applicant will then form a register of interest and this will be transferred to the key Contractor to enable them to utilise local services. The Applicant will also use it within its project team for ascertaining things like availability of local accommodation such as B&Bs.

## Community Action Plans

14.3.28 The Applicant is aware that Community Action Plans are in place for areas within South Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.

14.3.29 The accompanying PAC Report to the EIAR provides further details of community engagement undertaken by Liberty One Communications on behalf of the Applicant with the following community councils:

- Kirkpatrick & Juxta

- Crawford & Elvanfoot
- Moffat & District
- Duneaton
- Leadhills
- Tweedsmuir
- Closeburn
- Thornhill
- Sanquhar
- Wanlockhead
- Wamphray
- Ettrick and Yarrow
- Upper Tweed
- Johnstone
- Kirkmichael

14.3.30 As noted above, the Proposed Development will also offer community benefit payments via a community benefit fund to the surrounding communities. The level and structure of the fund will be determined by the Applicant post consent. This fund could be put towards achieving placemaking and other desires of these communities. A proportion of the community benefit fund is proposed to support initiatives outlined in section 14.5 below.

## 14.4 SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS

### Contributions to Climate Change and Net Zero Targets

14.4.1 Both Dumfries and Galloway Council and South Lanarkshire Council declared climate emergencies in 2019. These local level movements follow on from the Scottish Government (see section 4.2 of Chapter 4 of the EIAR for further information on the Scottish Government's declaration).

14.4.2 Dumfries and Galloway Council set out a 12-point plan to reduce carbon emissions in the region to reach net zero by 2025. DGC consider climate change a pressing issue that should be addressed.

14.4.3 South Lanarkshire Council passed a motion to support the building of the council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy and bring the timescales forward. The target for the region to achieve net zero by or before 2045 was agreed.

14.4.4 The Proposed Development will have an electricity generating capacity which will add significantly to the total amount of renewable electricity generation on the national grid. This will not only contribute to current national targets set out in the Scottish Energy Strategy (SES) and the accompanying Onshore Wind Energy Policy Statement but will help further decarbonise the energy requirements of the South Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway areas. In doing so, this will help future proof the economy of these areas as the demand for renewable heat and electric transport continues to rise.

14.4.5 The SES and the accompanying Onshore Wind Energy Policy Statement along with other recent relevant policies emphasise that the supply of renewables will need to increase significantly against the demand for heat and transport, particularly for the growth in use of electric vehicles. The SES sets the target that 100% of cars and light goods vehicles will be powered by electricity by 2050. On top of this, Scotland has set the target for all new vehicles in the country to be electric by 2030.

14.4.6 The SES and Scottish Onshore Wind Policy Statement provides more evidence of a continuation of ever stronger positive support for onshore wind development as part of the Scottish Government's renewables strategy.

## Impacts During the Lifecycle of the Proposed Development

- 14.4.7 As highlighted in the sections above, the Proposed Development will present job opportunities at local, regional and national levels throughout the life cycle of the project.
- 14.4.8 In the planning stage, Natural Power Consultants have been appointed as the lead EIA consultants. The EIA has been managed from its global headquarters near St John's Town of Dalry in Dumfries and Galloway and employs approximately 100 people locally at this location.
- 14.4.9 Should the Proposed Development be granted consent, employment opportunities will be available during the planning consent discharge stage and continue through to the construction phase with opportunities for local contractors. Further positive supply chain impacts on local, regional and national levels are also expected.
- 14.4.10 Should the Proposed Development be granted consent it is expected that there will be employment opportunities for managing the satisfaction of planning condition requirements with LPAs and commissioning of relevant pre-construction surveys.
- 14.4.11 Based on information provided by the Applicant of another similar scale project within its portfolio at construction stage it is expected that the Proposed Development could directly support approximately 84 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) local jobs and approximately 255 FTE jobs within Scotland for the duration of the construction phase. It is expected that during the construction phase there will also be positive impacts on the local hospitality sector with construction site workers residing in accommodation locally to the site.
- 14.4.12 It is expected during the operational lifetime of the Proposed Development that full time jobs will be created to manage the wind farms operation, ongoing maintenance and habitat management. Based on the information provided by the Applicant of a similar scale project within its portfolio, it is reasonably expected that the Proposed Development could directly support approximately 24 FTE local jobs and approximately 33 FTE jobs within Scotland during the operational phase.
- 14.4.13 Based on other similar projects that the Applicant has been involved with, business rates to the value of somewhere in the region of £12,950 per MW of installed capacity would be paid annually and split between the two local authorities according to the assets within each area.
- 14.4.14 In addition, the Proposed Development will also provide a direct economic benefit in the form of land rents to the various hosting landowners and an indirect benefit where these funds are reinvested in the local area.
- 14.4.15 Furthermore, it is an asset which will significantly increase the renewable energy generated on Scottish Water land and therefore accords with the Scottish Water Strategic Plan (see paragraph 14.6.14). Hosting private renewable energy investment is one of this utility's four-pronged approach to energy management, stating it hosts private investment in renewables on its land where it provides a good return for customers and is compatible with providing high quality services<sup>8</sup>.

## 14.5 ADDITIONAL SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS

### Potential Southern Upland Way Enhancement

- 14.5.1 Sections of the Southern Upland Way have been identified that could be upgraded including additional signage and way markers and path improvements where the path passes the Proposed Development. These would be funded through the community benefit associated with the Proposed Development.
- 14.5.2 Upgrades of these identified sections described in further detail in the draft outdoor access plan within Chapter 13: Infrastructure and Aviation of the EIAR as requested by Scotways within its scoping opinion on 13 February 2019.

- 14.5.3 These upgrades will have a positive impact for those who live in the local area using the paths for recreational purposes on a regular basis. It is anticipated they would also have a positive impact with regards to tourism and the promotion of the Southern Upland Way.

### Southern Upland Partnership

- 14.5.4 The Applicant is a patron of the Southern Upland Partnership and has liaised closely with its senior staff about how any community benefit funds from the Proposed Development could assist the Partnership and local communities with their aspirations.
- 14.5.5 The Applicant is proposing to contribute towards the hire a Project Officer for the SUP team. The post will cover the eastern half of Dumfries and Galloway and rural South Lanarkshire, concentrating on the corridor of the Southern Upland Way. The position will involve working with local communities to identify the key initiatives that local people would like to see given more support.
- 14.5.6 Although the post will cover a variety of projects, there will be emphasis on projects that will expand wildlife/rural tourism which will have an aim to provide an additional source of income for the rural communities in Dumfries & Galloway and South Lanarkshire. The main aim of the proposed position is to support local communities so as to strengthen and enhance the local economy in a sustainable way<sup>9</sup>.

### Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Biodiversity Net Gain Fund

- 14.5.7 Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Partnership (GSAB) has been exploring the idea of hosting a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) fund. The fund would be managed through a board of public sector representatives, landowners, private businesses and local communities called the Biosphere Partnership Board. The Biosphere Partnership can receive and administer funds from developers working across SW Scotland, such as the community benefit fund associated with the Proposed Development to deliver biodiversity mitigation projects<sup>10</sup>.
- 14.5.8 Examples of projects the fund can be put towards outlined by the GSAB Partnership include but is not limited to:
- Supporting key biodiversity projects, that apply for funding.
  - Direct support to local owners/managers for habitat management works.
  - Engagement with local schools / communities to develop community green space for biodiversity.
  - Educational work and activities with both adults and children to raise awareness and understanding about biodiversity.

### Developing a Degraded Landscapes Biodiversity Fund

- 14.5.9 Green Action Trust, Scottish Land Commission and the Applicant are developing a degraded landscapes biodiversity fund. The purpose of the fund is to transform derelict and degraded land into positive and productive environments to enhance biodiversity, which in turn will benefit the local population and the surrounding environment<sup>11</sup>.
- 14.5.10 The Proposed Development would be able to contribute towards the Degraded Landscapes Biodiversity Fund to deliver biodiversity net gain which will in turn provide environmental and social benefits.
- 14.5.11 The Proposed Development could contribute to helping local communities to remove surrounding derelict and degraded sites. It is important to remove such sites as they can have negative impacts on communities.

<sup>9</sup> Taybor. P. 2020. The Southern Uplands Partnership: Project proposal to RWE.

<sup>10</sup> Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere. 2020. 'GSAB Biodiversity Net Gain Fund'.

<sup>11</sup> Green Action Trust. 2020. Developing a Degraded Landscapes Biodiversity Fund.

<sup>8</sup> Available online: <https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=www.scottishwater.co.uk/-/media/ScottishWater/Document-Hub/Key-Publications/Energy-and-Sustainability/Scottish-Water-Energy-Programme.pdf> (last accessed 23 November 2020)

Negative impacts include eliminating potential for new income streams such as tourism. Degraded sites can also make communities feel forgotten, adding to adverse effects on mental and physical wellbeing<sup>12</sup>.

14.5.12 Helping to remove the degraded sites, generates an opportunity to create more positive productive environments which will encourage extra outdoor activity, improve mental wellbeing and bring communities closer to nature.

14.5.13 Examples of options for biodiversity enhancement on derelict sites include:

- **Conserving and enhancing priority habitats.** This can be achieved through limiting the number of activities on the land and the number of invasive species damaging the priority habitats, while improving site management;
- **Action to conserve priority species.** Advertisement and campaigns to raise awareness of the species and their conservation;
- **Increasing Habitat Connectivity.** Create areas which allow habitats to easily more from one area to another. This will allow species to adapt to the pressures of climate change and human activity;
- **Increasing people's access to wildlife.** Ensure there are easy access routes for local communities to get to wild-life rich areas. This can also attract visitors to the area which will be enticed to use local amenities, boosting the local tourism and business. This is also beneficial to mental wellbeing to be in contact with nature.

14.5.14 There is an opportunity here to deliver a real positive impact for the communities surrounding the Proposed Development.

## 14.6 IMPACT OF WIND FARMS ON TOURISM AND RECREATION

14.6.1 The visual impact on tourism and recreational receptors has been considered in detail throughout Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of the EIAR. The visual impact on tourists and visitors to places of historical interest has also been considered in detail in Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage Assessment of the EIAR. The direct impacts on access is considered in the Supporting Document: Planning, Design and Access Statement.

14.6.2 Recreational groups such as The British Horse Society and the Mountaineering Council of Scotland have also been consulted in relation to the Proposed Development.

### Dumfries and Galloway

14.6.3 It is acknowledged that tourism is an important part of the economy in the Dumfries and Galloway area. Dumfries and Galloway's regional tourism strategy 2016-2020 considered that tourism contributes £302m to the local economy<sup>13</sup>. It is also acknowledged there is an ambition to continue to increase the value of tourism from £300m to £330m.

14.6.4 From a 2015 and 2016 Scotland Visitor Survey, visitors to Dumfries & Galloway were very positive about their overall experience with 95% giving a satisfaction rating of 7 or more out of 10. Furthermore, visitors said they would recommend Dumfries & Galloway as a holiday destination to family or friends – 95% scoring 7-10 out of 10<sup>14</sup>. These results were achieved in an area where wind farms are a prominent feature of the landscape.

<sup>12</sup> Greenspace Scotland. 2020. Negative impact of vacant land on communities. Available at: [Negative impact of vacant land on communities | Greenspace Scotland](#). Accessed on 20/01/2021.

<sup>13</sup> Dumfries and Galloway Regional Tourism Strategy 2016-2020 (2016) Available: [Dumfries Galloway Regional Tourism Strategy 2016-2020.pdf \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](#) (accessed 04/12/2020)

<sup>14</sup> Visit Scotland: Scotland Visitor Survey 2015 and 2016 – Dumfries & Galloway summary (2017) Available: [Layout 1 \(visitscotland.org\)](#) (accessed 04/12/2020)

14.6.5 Reports show from 2016-2018 there was a 24% increase in total trips and an 18% growth in net tourism spend in Dumfries and Galloway. The area also has the biggest day tourism increase across all of Scotland's Regions<sup>15</sup>. These results were achieved in an area where wind farms have been present in the landscape since 1996.

### South Lanarkshire

14.6.6 Tourism is an important part of South Lanarkshire's culture and economy and its strategy is to increase visitor expenditure, visitor number and employment. South Lanarkshire recognises that there is a need to support more opportunities to increase tourism, especially in the more rural areas. Its main goal from 2016-2020 is to increase tourism by 2.5% each year<sup>16</sup>.

14.6.7 South Lanarkshire's area tourism strategy 2016-2020 believes wind farms can create a competitive edge by turning the developments into experiences. This can be achieved by wind farm developers opening their sites to allow for visitor access via the provision of cycling and walking paths<sup>17</sup>. The Proposed Development will seek to improve the Southern Upland Way which borders the north of the site. Further details are contained within the Draft Outdoor Access Plan presented in EIAR Chapter 13: Infrastructure & Aviation.

14.6.8 South Lanarkshire conducted a landscape capacity study for wind energy which outlined a survey on impacts of wind farms on tourism in Scotland. It showed little concern about views being affected by one wind farm compared with more than one wind farm being visible in the same view<sup>18</sup>. This suggests that a wind farm development will not have significant impacts on South Lanarkshire's aim to increase tourism by 2.5% per year.

14.6.9 There are now several surveys and research studies on public attitude towards wind farm development and the potential effects they have on tourism. These include the following:

- Scottish Government (2018). Economic impacts of wind farms on Scottish tourism: report<sup>19</sup>
- Suration poll on behalf of Scottish Renewables: Renewable Energy Poll<sup>20</sup>;
- BiGGAR Economics Wind Farms and Tourism Trends in Scotland<sup>21</sup>;
- ClimateXChange: the impact of Wind Farms on Scottish Tourism<sup>22</sup>;
- Visit Scotland Position Statement: Wind Farms<sup>23</sup>.

<sup>15</sup> Visit Scotland (2019), Insight Department: Dumfries and Galloway Factsheet 2018. Available [Dumfries and Galloway Factsheet 2018 \(visitscotland.org\)](#) (accessed 04/12/2020)

<sup>16</sup> South Lanarkshire Council (2013). South Lanarkshire Economic Strategy 2013-2032. Available at [South Lanarkshire Economic strategy 2013 -2023 Plans and policies - South Lanarkshire Council](#) (accessed 27/01/2021)

<sup>17</sup> South Lanarkshire's area tourism strategy 2016-2020 (2016). Available at [LTAP\\_2020\\_PR\\_PDF.pdf](#). (accessed 27/01/2021)

<sup>18</sup> South Lanarkshire Council (2016). South Lanarkshire a Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy. Available at [South+Lanarkshire+Landscape+Study+for+Wind+Energy\\_Part1.pdf \(www.gov.scot\)](#). Accessed on 27/01/2021

<sup>19</sup> Scottish Government (2018). Economic impacts of wind farms on Scottish tourism: report. Available at [Economic impacts of wind farms on Scottish tourism: report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) (accessed 04/12/2020)

<sup>20</sup> Renewable Energy Poll (2018) Available: <https://www.suration.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Final-Tables-Scottish-Renewables.pdf> (accessed 04/12/2020)

<sup>21</sup> BiGGAR Economics: Wind Farms and Tourism Trends in Scotland (2017) Available: <http://www.biggeconomics.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Wind-Farms-and-Tourism-Trends-in-Scotland-Oct17.pdf> (accessed 04/12/2020)

<sup>22</sup> ClimateXChange: The Impact of Wind Farms on Scottish Tourism (2012) Available: [The Impact of Wind Farms on Scottish Tourism \(climatexchange.org.uk\)](#) (accessed 04/12/2020)

<sup>23</sup> Visit Scotland Position Statement: Wind Farms (2014) Available: [visitscotland-position-statement---wind-farms---oct-2014.pdf](#) (accessed 04/12/2020)

14.6.10 Overall, the research concludes that development of wind farms has not resulted in any negative economic impact on tourism and in some cases, it can have positive impacts. An example of this is Whitelee Wind Farm Visitor Centre which is located near Glasgow and opened in 2009<sup>24</sup>. The visitor centre has welcomed more than 500,000 visitors since opening, showing wind farms/renewable energy landscapes can have a positive effect on tourism.

14.6.11 The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) in Chapter 5 of the EIAR has assessed the following receptors which have relevance to tourism and recreation. These include the following which also feature in Viewpoints (VP) used in the LVIA:

#### Long distance walking routes

- The Southern Upland Way
- The Annandale Way
- Roman Reivers Route

#### Roads

- A701 (runs between Edinburgh and Dumfries)
- A702 (runs between Edinburgh and the M74 at Abington) (VP 4)

#### Hill summits

- Tinto Hill (VP 1)
- Pykestone Hill (VP 2)
- Culter Fell (VP 3)
- Lowther Hill (VP 9)
- Comb Head (VP 10)
- Hod's Hill (on the Southern Upland Way) (VP 12)
- Queensberry Hill (VP 17)
- Hart Fell (VP 18)

#### Settlements (which may include tourist accommodation).

- Moffat
- Elvanfoot

14.6.12 The LVIA also includes a viewpoint from Dear Reservoir in the assessment. The Chapter is supported by Figures and Visualisations.

### Daer Reservoir – A Renewable Energy Landscape

14.6.13 At Daer Reservoir, Scottish Water produces renewable energy from hydro schemes with a capacity of 365 kW.

14.6.14 Should the Proposed Development gain consent, approximately 100 MW of renewable energy would be produced by onshore wind turbines adding to the hydro scheme and creating a renewable energy landscape. The generation of this additional renewable electricity on Scottish Water's land will make a significant

contribution to targets set by Scottish Ministers for Scottish Water to generate 300% of its own electricity usage from its own assets and those hosted by 2030<sup>25</sup>.

14.6.15 This potential future landscape has the opportunity to be reflective of Scotland's Energy Strategy towards generating 50% of Scotland's overall energy consumption from renewables by 2030 and achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2045.

## 14.7 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

14.7.1 The Proposed Development has the potential to offer positive socioeconomic benefits nationally, regionally and locally.

14.7.2 The Proposed Development has the potential to create job opportunities throughout the construction and operational phases and contribute to meeting the goals of both South Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway's Regional Economic Strategies. As per the Office for National Statistics' low carbon and renewable energy economy, UK: 2018 survey<sup>26</sup>, it was estimated that 23,100 jobs were supported by Scotland's low carbon and renewable energy sector and supply chain. These employment opportunities will be created during the lifecycle of the project in a relatively rural area and foster their diversification into new industries.

14.7.3 The Proposed Development will also help support community initiatives in the surrounding areas.

14.7.4 In the absence of the Proposed Development this opportunity would not be present to contribute to meeting carbon reduction and renewable energy generation targets set out in regional and national policy.

14.7.5 Furthermore, this opportunity would not be present to help meet the goals set out in community action plans or the opportunity to upgrade sections of the Southern Upland Way.

14.7.6 It is therefore concluded that the Proposed Development will result in a net economic benefit to the surrounding area, to both hosting local authorities and to the country as a whole. As with other impacts, the magnitude of economic change relative to a do-nothing baseline will be greatest within the site itself and be increasingly diluted by geography moving from the site to the national level. Whilst the significance of economic impact will also be more significant at the site level and less significant because of the dilution at a national level it will be positive and represent a net economic gain overall.

<sup>24</sup> Scottish power renewables (2016). UK's biggest onshore windfarm celebrates visitor milestone. Available at [Whitelee Windfarm Welcomes 500,000th Visitor - ScottishPower Renewables](https://www.scottishpower.com/news/whitelee-windfarm-welcomes-500000th-visitor). Accessed 09/12/2020

<sup>25</sup> Available online: <https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://sw-prod-93-north-eu-502220-cd.azurewebsites.net/-/media/ScottishWater/Document-Hub/Key-Publications/Strategic-Plan/030220StrategicPlanASustainableFutureTogether.pdf> (last accessed 03/03/2021)

<sup>26</sup> ONS, Low Carbon and renewable energy economy, UK: 2018. Available at [Low carbon and renewable energy economy, UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/green-economy/low-carbon-and-renewable-energy-economy). Accessed 11/02/2021

