

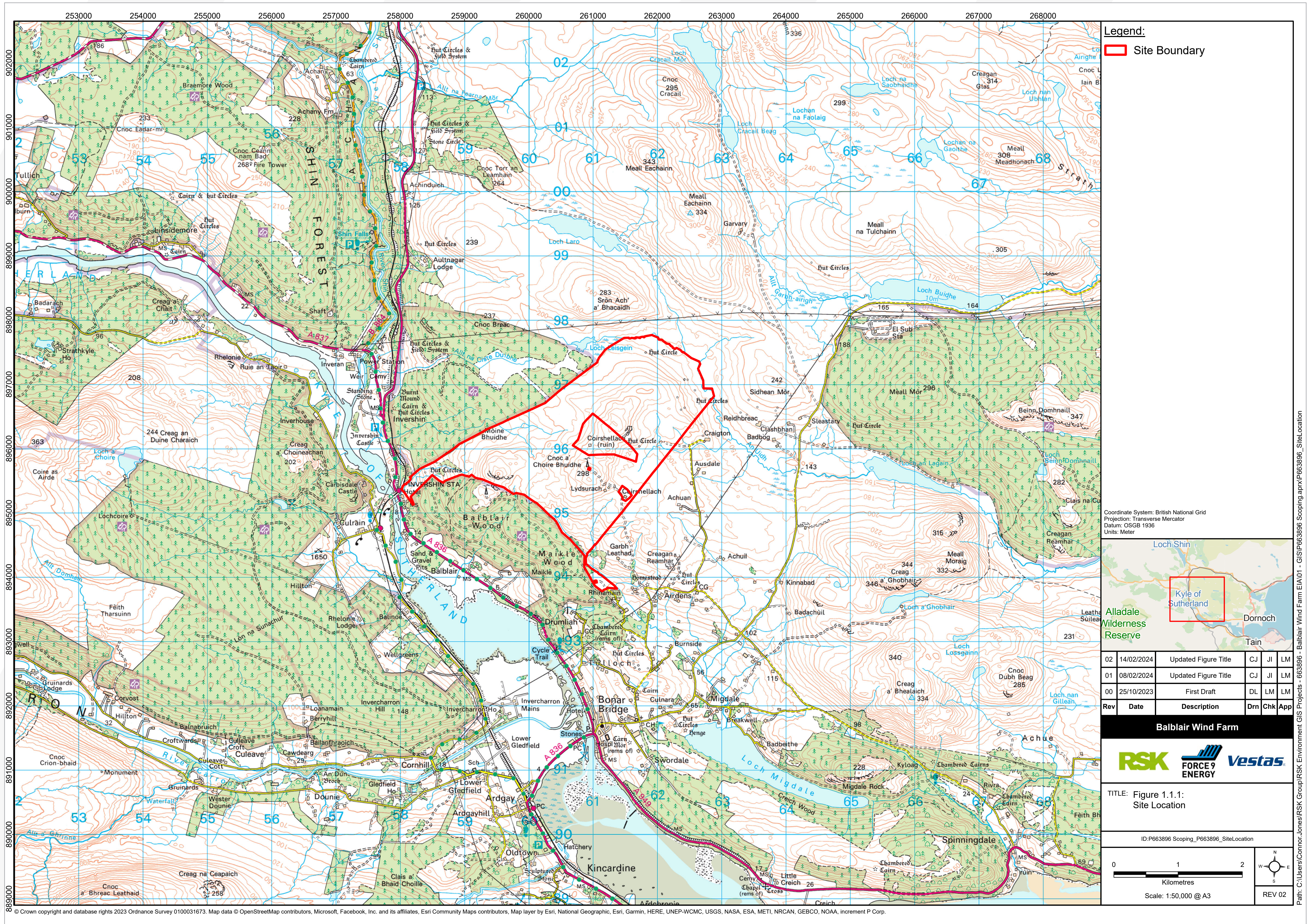
WELCOME TO OUR EXHIBITION

Thank you for visiting our exhibition for the proposed Balblair wind farm.

Vestas Development A/S and Force 9 Energy are committed to giving local people the opportunity to feed back their views and suggestions directly to our project team, at every stage of the development process.

Today's exhibition provides an early opportunity for you to hear about our initial proposals for the wind farm and for us to listen to your views and take these into account as we continue to develop the project.

Following this first public exhibition, we will review the feedback received, and in conjunction with ongoing discussions with key stakeholders and consultees, plan to host a second round of public events in later this year.



Site location

VESTAS

Vestas is a global leader in sustainable energy solutions. Vestas designs, manufactures, installs and services wind turbines around the world and has delivered more than 177 GW of wind power capacity in 88 countries, which is estimated to have avoided 2.13 billion tonnes of CO2 emissions. Since 2001, Vestas has been active in the United Kingdom and employs around 1,600 staff spanning technology, manufacturing, operations and maintenance, and support functions.

Vestas is funding the development and design of this wind farm project and is committed to supplying the wind turbines, managing project construction and providing long-term operation and maintenance services for the plant.



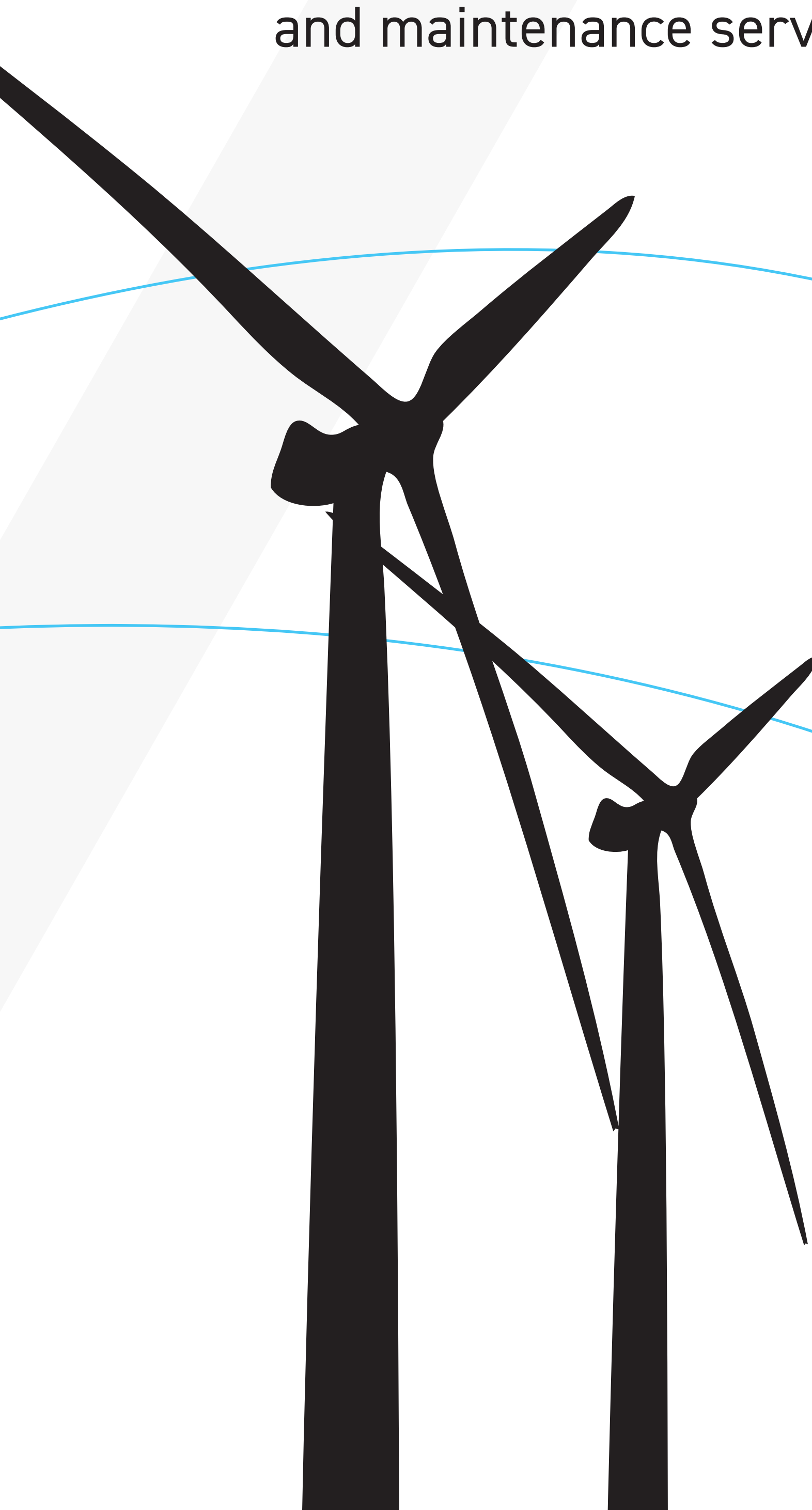
FORCE 9 ENERGY



Force 9 Energy Limited is a successful UK wind farm developer committed to delivering high quality renewable energy projects in the UK. We have offices in Glasgow and Amersham in Buckinghamshire.

We are an experienced developer and choose potential sites very carefully. We have successfully taken ten wind farm projects through the planning process. Six of these wind farms are now fully operational.

Our operational and consented projects amount to a total installed capacity of over 500MW, and we continue to seek new opportunities for sustainable wind farm development.



Please note, all graphics, wireframes and photomontages in this exhibition are for representational purposes only.

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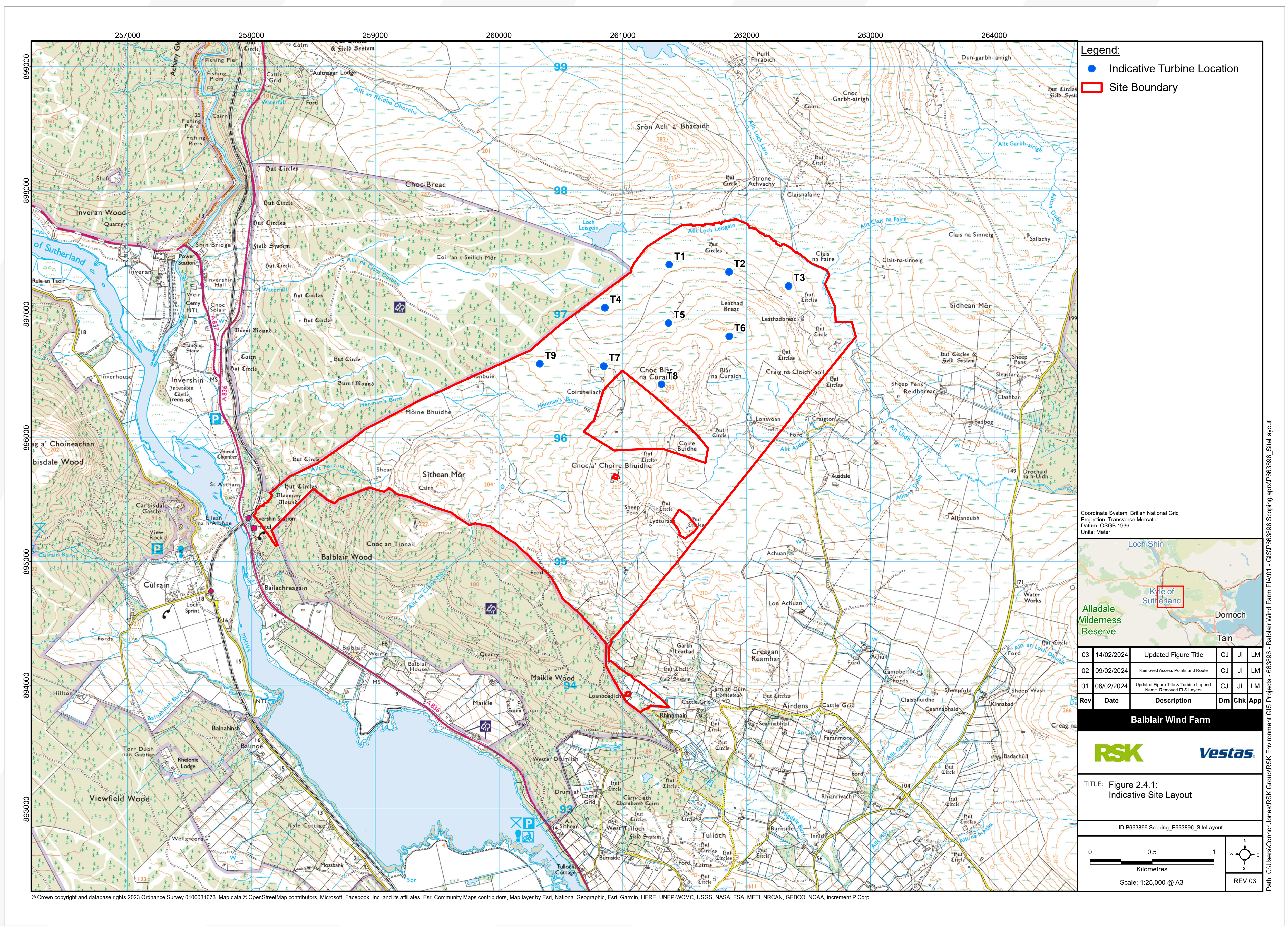
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BALBLAIR WIND FARM

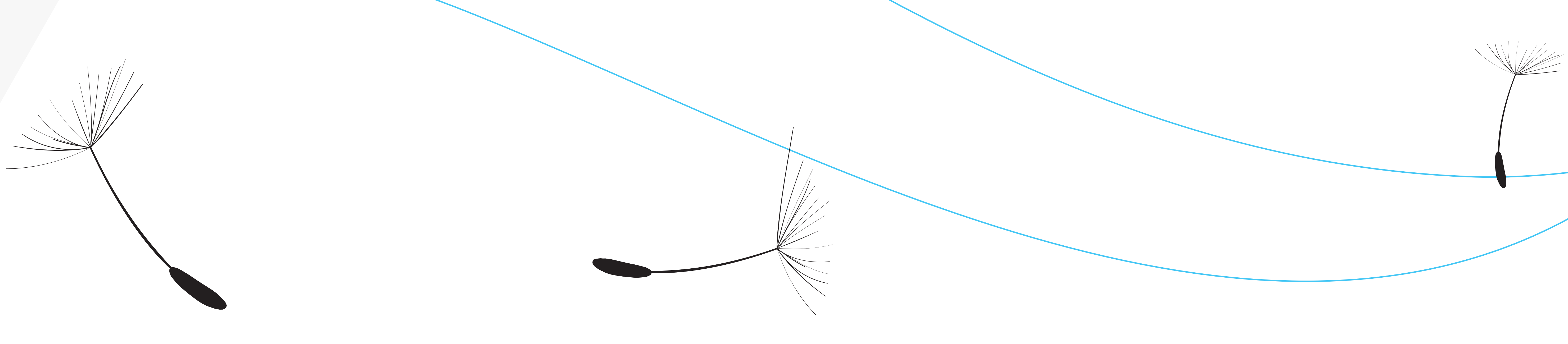
The proposed wind farm site is located on land within the Balblair Estate, 2km north-west of Bonar Bridge. The site location is shown outlined in red on the map below.

Our initial assessments for the site suggest it could accommodate up to 9 turbines, with an energy storage system. As the combined output capacity would be over 50MW, the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) will determine the application for consent, with the Highland Council a statutory consultee.

In February 2024 we submitted a Scoping Request to the ECU. The Scoping Request seeks consultee feedback on the development proposals and seeks to agree the environmental topics that will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which will accompany any future application for the development.



Turbine locations



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ASSESSING VISUAL IMPACT

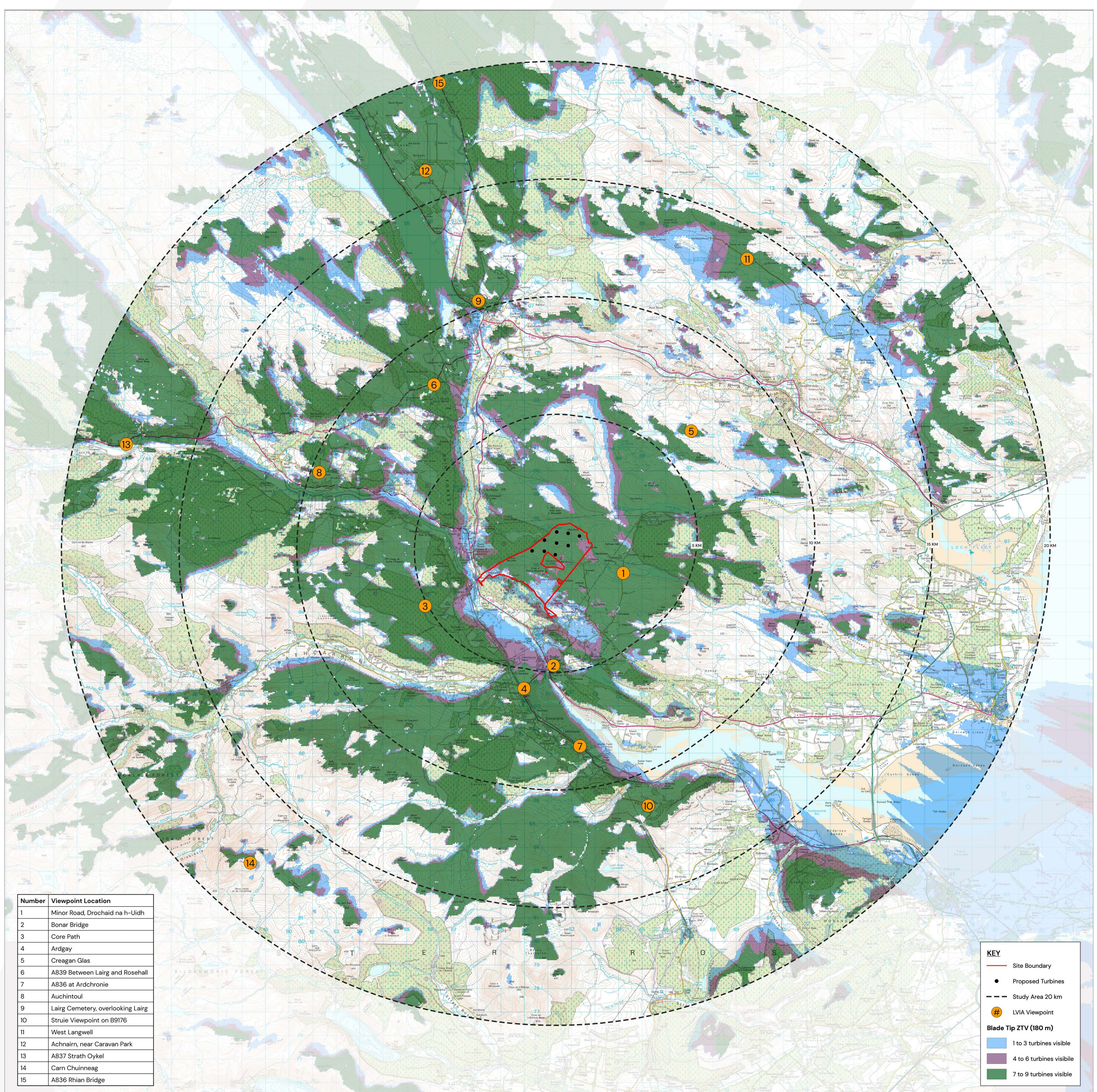
To help identify which landscape and visual resources may be affected by the proposed development, a computer-modelled zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) plan has been produced, as shown below.

This illustrates the maximum theoretical area of visibility of the proposed wind farm based on topography.

It should be noted that although ZTVs indicate theoretical visibility, the actual visibility of the proposed wind farm can be very different. ZTVs are based on Ordnance Survey digital information of landform (i.e. hills, valleys and mountains in the area). They do not take into consideration features such as trees, shrubs, buildings or any other physical structures or vegetation.

A more accurate portrayal of the actual visual impact of the development is shown through the production and analysis of wirelines and photomontages and the assessment of landscape and visual effect is undertaken in the field.

If you wish to discuss or view visibility of the wind farm from a particular location please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the project team and we will be happy to assist.



Indicative Zone of Theoretical Visibility



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ASSESSING PROJECT IMPACTS

As part of the development process, we have commissioned an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA'). The EIA will consider the potential impacts of the wind farm on a wide range of aspects of the environment and will help inform project design.

The EIA will accompany the application for consent for the wind farm and its scope will be agreed with the Scottish Government and its agencies (e.g. Nature Scot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Historic Environment Scotland) through the scoping process. The EIA work is being undertaken by independent experts who are professionally qualified in their various fields.

The final number and locations of wind turbines will be determined by constraints identified during the EIA and, importantly, by public and stakeholder consultation.

The potential impacts, which will be examined as part of the EIA for Balblair Wind Farm, include:

Landscape and Visual

A comprehensive assessment is being undertaken to examine the impacts of the proposal on the character and appearance of the surrounding landscape, views from residential properties and recreational areas, as well as public rights of way and transport routes. We are also carefully considering cumulative landscape and visual effects. Areas within 45km of the proposed development have been taken into account in scoping its visual effects and the landscape context.

Noise

Strict guidelines exist concerning noise emissions from wind turbines and the final design of the wind farm will take full account of these guidelines. The potential noise effects to be considered include construction traffic noise along the public road, construction plant on the wind farm site, as well as from the wind turbines and substation once these are operational.

Ecology and Ornithology

Surveys have been undertaken to establish the bird and animal species which use the habitats on and around the site. The effects of the windfarm on these species will be considered in detail and habitat management plans will be put in place, where required, to help enhance the environment for these species.

Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat

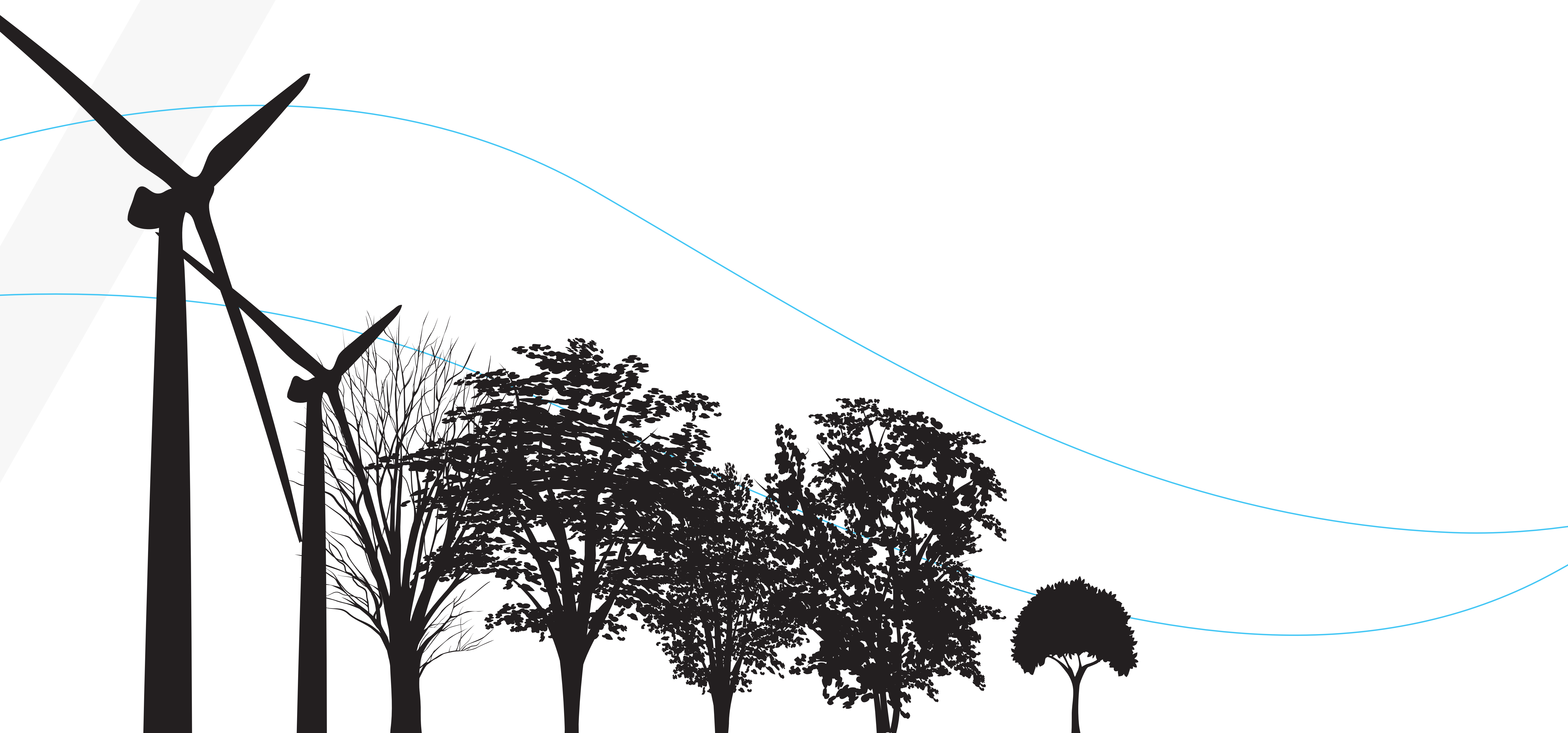
Surveys of the site will be undertaken to establish where sensitive water features are located, including areas of deep peat etc. Our turbines and access roads will avoid such areas.

Archaeological and Cultural Heritage

Archaeological and cultural heritage assets on and close to the site will be visited to establish what effect (if any) the windfarm will have on them, or their setting.

Traffic and Transport

Consultants will undertake a traffic survey in the area to establish what effect the introduction of windfarm construction traffic would have upon the local road network. Proposals will then be set out as to how best to minimise disruption for local people, particularly at busy times of the day.



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POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF BALBLAIR WIND FARM

Aside from its wider socio-economic and environmental benefits wind power is compatible with other land uses and can provide a boost for rural economic diversification.

Vestas and Force 9 Energy are committed to giving local businesses every possible opportunity to share in the financial and employment benefits of the construction and operation of the Balblair wind farm. If constructed, Balblair will offer opportunities for local businesses such as accommodation providers, hire companies, fencing contractors, tradesmen and machinery plant owners. If you are part of a local business, please contact us and we will register your interest and keep you informed about valuable opportunities for local businesses connected with the wind farm.

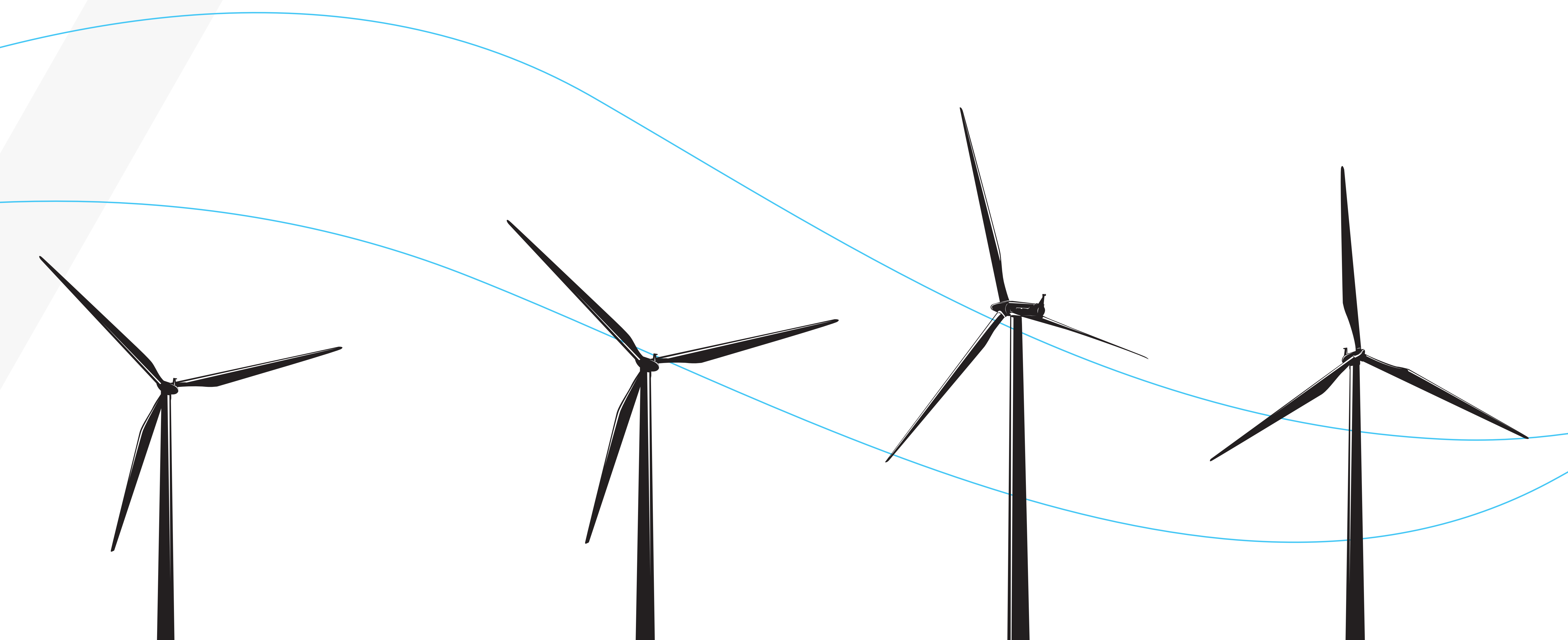
Community Benefit

Vestas is committed to paying Community Benefit at the prevailing Scottish Government recommended rate: currently at a value equivalent to £5,000 per Mega Watt of installed capacity, for every year of operation (anticipated to be 30 years) to help fund community projects. For illustrative purposes, if a 40 MW wind farm is constructed, this would be worth £200k per year (index linked) for local communities, for each year of operation – a total of up to £6 million over the project's lifetime.

These Community Benefit funds would be administered by a trust or similar body in which local people would serve as the trustees. The funds would be available for a variety of local good causes and, subject to certain guidelines, it would be up to the Trustees as to how best to distribute the available funds.

Wind Power in Scotland

As Scotland aims to reach Net Zero by 2045, demand for electricity is expected to increase significantly. To ensure that Scotland is able to meet this heightened demand using clean, renewable energy, the Scottish Government has set ambitious targets to more than double the nation's onshore wind generating capacity from 9.3GW (current installed capacity) to 20GW by 2030. As onshore wind farms are the lowest cost way to generate renewable electricity, developments such as the proposed Balblair wind farm will play a key role in Scotland's transition to a net zero society. In addition to the environmental benefits, the onshore wind industry supports a supply chain across the country which employs close to 9,000 people, and brings benefits to Scotland in the form of investment and skill development.



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NEXT STEPS

We are currently gathering information regarding the proposed wind farm, and are engaging in discussions with community councils, local residents and local businesses, and these conversations will help inform and shape the design of the project.

Please take the time to complete the feedback forms provided, to let us know your views on the proposals and to provide any comments that you may have. As the design evolves, and responds to key constraints and issues raised, we intend to hold a further round of consultation to give you a further opportunity to give us your thoughts about the emerging proposals.

If you have any further questions regarding any aspect of the proposals, please contact us via the details below:

Address Balblair Wind Farm, c/o Cavendish, 1 West Regent Street,
 Glasgow, G2 1RW
Telephone 0141 264 2831
Email info@balblairwindfarm.co.uk

TIMELINE



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