# welcome :

**Welcome to the Dunside wind farm community exhibition.**
EDF Renewables UK has now submitted an application for consent to the Scottish Government for the Dunside wind farm located in the Lammermuir Hills.

This event provides information about the final stage of design work and environmental investigations carried out since our last exhibitions in autumn 2022.

From the beginning of the project, EDF Renewables UK has listened to the local community and stakeholders and incorporated local knowledge and perspectives into the proposed plans for Dunside wind farm.
The responses received at previous exhibitions and sent via our website have been used to inform the final design of the proposed wind farm.

We have drawings and visualisations from the application available to view today and are happy to explain the work that has taken place to complete our submission.

If you have any questions or feedback after you have viewed the information displays please visit our website to get in touch. You can use the QR code here to reach this.

**Scan the QR code to visit our website:**

Dunside wind farm

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dunsidewindfarm.co.uk

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EDF Renewables UK, Atria One, Level Seven, 144 Morrison Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8EX

# EDF Renewables UK :

## EDF Renewables UK is one of the UK and Ireland's leading renewable energy companies, developing, building, operating and maintaining innovative wind power, solar and battery storage projects.

EDF Renewables UK is supporting Scotland's transition to green energy with 10 operational onshore wind farms across the country. We are also currently building Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind farm which is located 15.5km off the Fife coast and will produce up to 450MW of low carbon energy providing power for around 399,000 homes[1].

Our portfolio of renewable energy developments across the UK and Ireland includes:

- **41 renewable energy projects** throughout the UK and Ireland at various stages of the development process
- **two of the UK and Ireland's largest offshore wind developments** at Neart na Gaoithe (NNG) off the coast of Scotland and Codling Wind Park in the Irish Sea
- **large scale solar farms** Burwell and Sutton Bridge in Lincolnshire
- plans for a **major solar farm and battery storage project** at Longfield in Essex
- **a 22 turbine wind farm development** at Garn Fach in mid-Wales
- **our private wire and battery storage projects** designed to support the needs of the rapidly expanding electric vehicle market.


With these ground-breaking projects across the UK and Ireland, our expert team is determined to help England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland to achieve their ambitious low carbon targets.

Our projects are already **making an important contribution to the UK and Ireland's green economy** but we want to do even more.

[1] Load factors based on the five year rolling averages on unchanged configuration basis using Table 6.5 of 'Digest of UK Energy Statistics' – latest figures as per July 2022 release.

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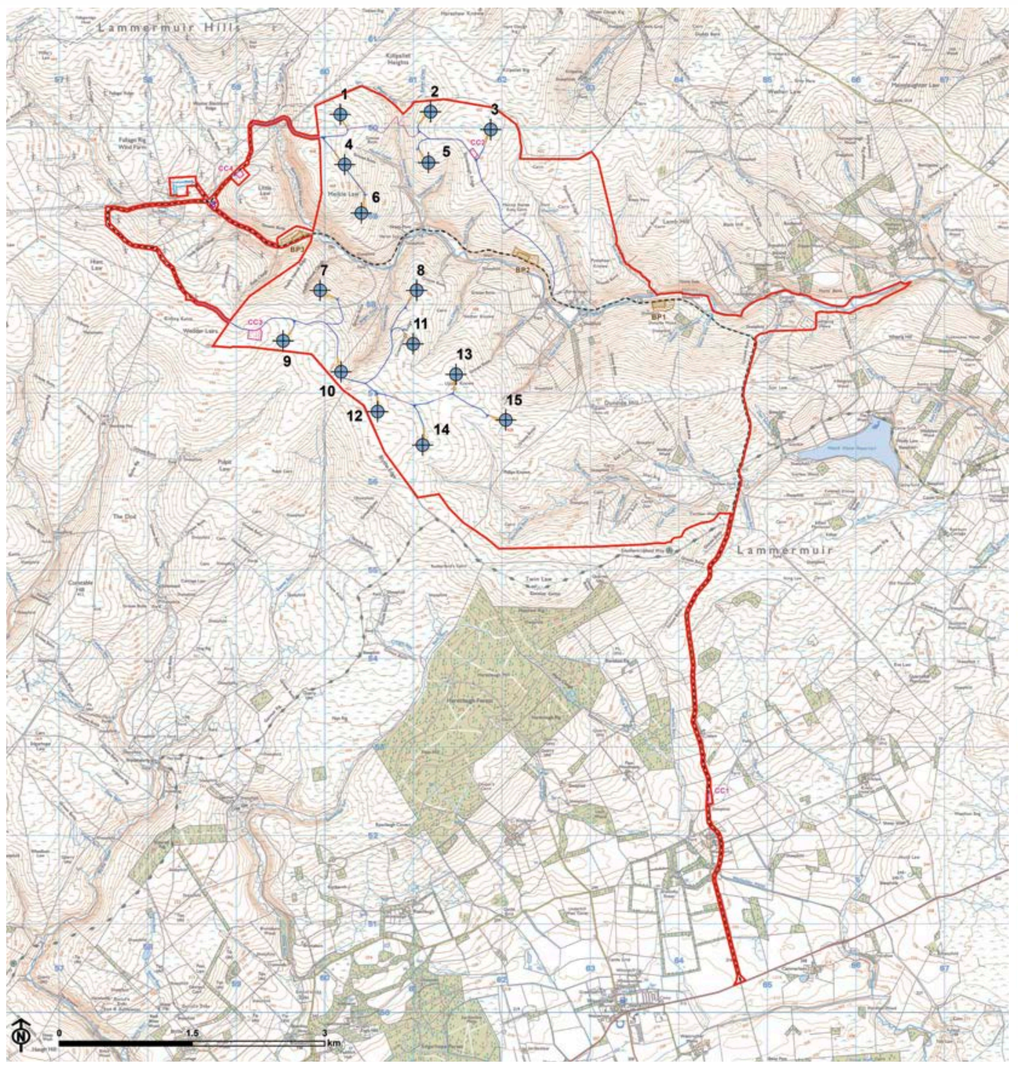
# Dunside wind farm :




**Proposed Site Layout**

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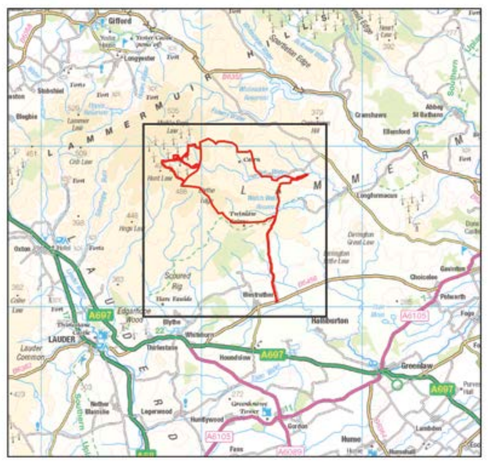
- Turbine
- Site Boundary
- Substation extension
- Construction compound
- Existing construction compound
- Borrow pit
- Borrow pit search area
- Temporary hardstanding
- Permanent hardstanding
- Battery storage
- Proposed new track (floating)
- Proposed new track
- Proposed light vehicle track (3m wide)
- Proposed existing track upgrade
- Existing track




## Dunside wind farm

In October 2022, we presented information on the midway stages of developing a wind farm, called Dunside, to the east of our operational Fallago Rig wind farm. The project has been developed with input from local residents and stakeholders to ensure it is designed appropriately. We also sought to identify opportunities to make a positive contribution to the local area.

Since the exhibitions in October 2022, environmental surveys and assessments have been completed, and responses from the public and statutory consultees have fed into the final design process.

After reviewing all feedback since the first consultations in spring 2022 and taking into account key environmental and technical considerations, including potential effects on landscape, ecology, cultural heritage and noise receptors, we have now developed the final layout for the application for consent. The number and size of turbines has been refined and reflects both the environmental surveys and landscape design work, and feedback from the public exhibitions and stakeholder consultations.

**The final proposal now includes:**

- A maximum of 15 turbines of up to 220m to blade tip
- A total installed capacity of approximately 108MW

This would produce enough low carbon electricity to meet the average annual domestic needs of over 62,000 homes each year* and save over 106,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions annually**

* Load factors based on the five year rolling averages on unchanged configuration basis using Table 6.5 of 'Digest of UK Energy Statistics' - latest figures as per July 2022 release.

** Based upon BEIS's "all fossil fuels" emissions statistic of 450 tonnes of carbon dioxide per GWh of electricity supplied in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics (published July 2022, p96).

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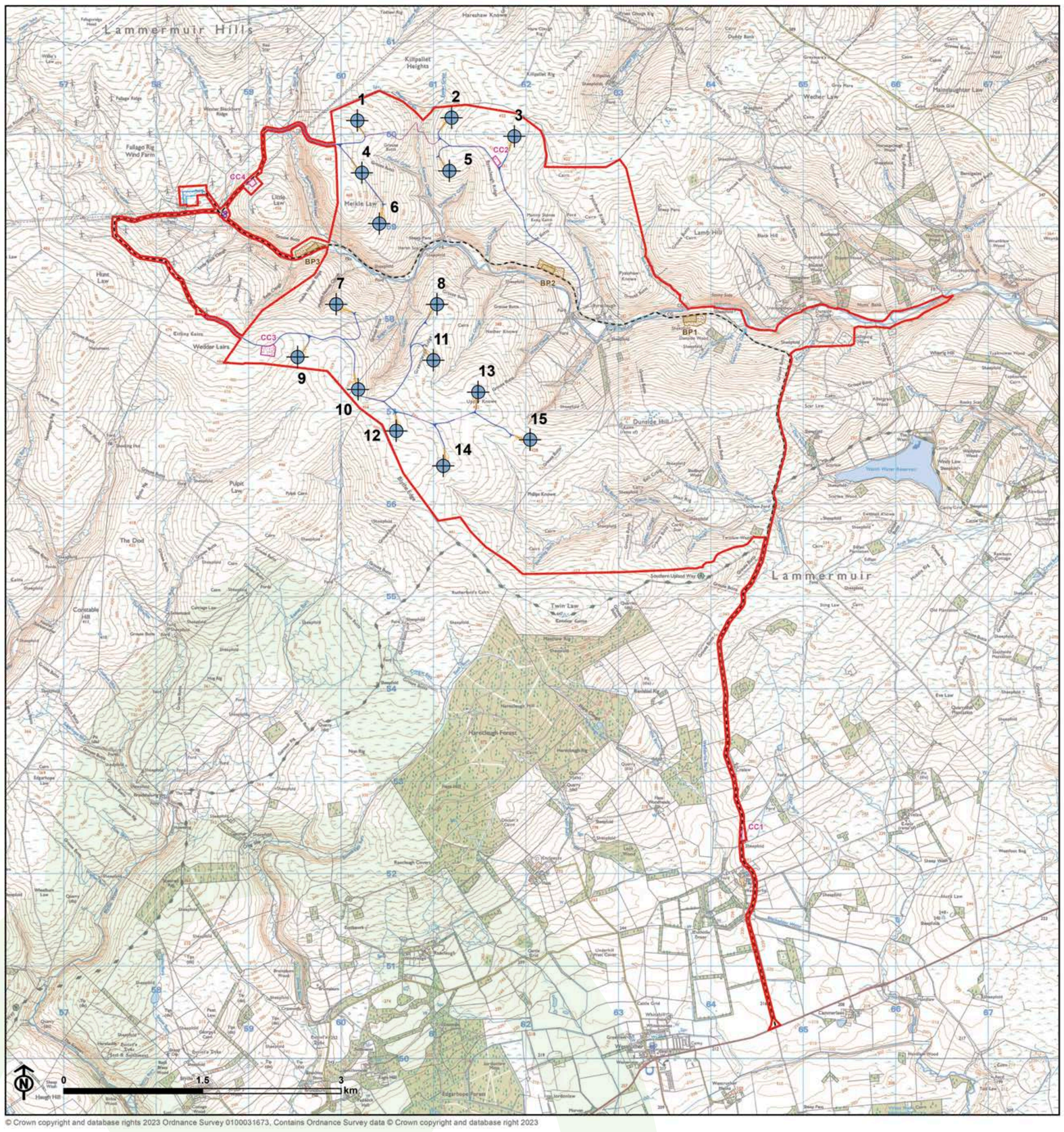




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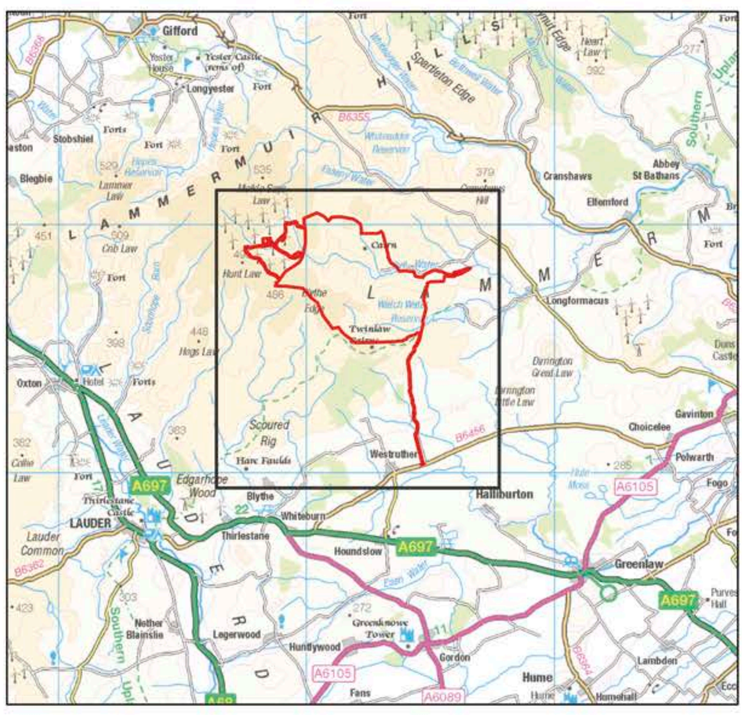


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# environmental considerations : and environmental impact assessment

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) involved extensive surveys of the baseline environmental conditions of the site and consideration of how those existing characteristics will be affected by the construction, operation and decommissioning of the wind farm. The information has been compiled into an EIA Report which accompanies the application which will be used by EIA consultees and the Scottish Government in considering the application.

As part of the EIA, consultation has been undertaken to obtain feedback on the proposals from consultees including NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Historic Environment Scotland, local authorities (including Scottish Borders Council and East Lothian Council) and nearby community councils.

The assessments presented in the EIA Report include ecology, ornithology, landscape assessment, hydrology and soils, cultural heritage, traffic and transport, noise and aviation. Through the design of the wind farm and the implementation of appropriate good practice during construction and operation, and mitigation where required, the effects on environmental, recreational, and residential sensitivities have been avoided as far as possible.

## Ecology

A detailed habitat survey was completed to highlight any sensitive habitats that should be avoided during design and construction. Protected species surveys were undertaken across the site and confirmed low levels of bat activity and evidence of otters using the site. Through careful site design, mitigation, and good practice,  there will be no significant negative effects on these ecological features. An Outline Restoration and Enhancement Plan has been prepared which proposes a number of measures for habitat management to improve biodiversity across the site, including riparian planting to provide habitat connectivity and measures to provide areas of species rich native grassland, heath improvement and to encourage bog restoration.

## Ornithology

Two years of ornithology surveys have been undertaken which identified the following key species for assessment: curlew, golden plover, lapwing, short-eared owl, golden eagle and pink footed goose. Where breeding locations of key species were located, these have been taken into consideration as part of the design process, to minimise the risk of disturbance, displacement and collision effects. Through the implementation of design measures and mitigation to be implemented for curlew through the Outline Restoration and Enhancement Plan, including habitat management to maintain and increase the breeding curlew population, there will be no significant effects on ornithology.

## Landscape & Visual Effects

A detailed Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been undertaken as part of the EIA. The LVIA has considered the potential effects arising from the addition of the proposed wind farm on the following:

- **physical elements of the landscape**
- **landscape character**
- **special qualities of protected and designated landscapes, including the Lammermuir Hills Special Landscape Area (SLA), Lammermuir Moors SLA and Eildon and Leaderfoot National Scenic Area**
- **views from sensitive locations, for example residential properties, settlements, hilltops and routes; and**
- **cumulative effects that may arise from other wind farm developments**

The LVIA is accompanied by visualisations (photomontages and wireframes) that show what the final proposal looks like in the landscape from surrounding viewpoints.

Some landscape and visual effects are inevitable as a result of introducing a wind farm to the landscape. However, the scheme has been carefully designed to minimise effects from key views where possible.

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# environmental considerations : and environmental impact assessment

## Cultural Heritage

The effects upon cultural heritage features was an important design consideration, particularly in relation to setting effects on the Mutiny Stones long cairn Scheduled Monument (SM). The closest turbine (T3) is approximately 1km to the north-west of the SM. A detailed cultural heritage assessment has drawn upon desktop research, evaluation of visualisations of layout options and field studies to allow for the verification of all known heritage assets, confirming their interpretation, location and potential to be impacted by the wind farm. There will be no direct effects on cultural heritage during construction, however there will be a moderate effect on the setting of the Mutiny Stones (around 1km from the nearest turbine), as well as on Byrecleuch Farmstead due to turbines being visible from these locations.

## Hydrology and Soils

The potential effects on hydrology, hydrogeology and peat during construction and operation of the wind farm have informed design decisions about the location and type of infrastructure, including the most suitable type of track to use in various locations, based upon recorded peat depths, informed by engineering constraints. Appropriate buffers to watercourses have been applied to minimise potential for pollution during construction and operation of the wind farm.

Detailed peat probing was undertaken across the site and results were used to inform the design. The site is generally a mix of Class 4 and Class 5 peatlands with sections being classed as mineral soil (Class 0) with no peat indicated. Areas where deep peat (greater than one metre) has been identified have been avoided in designing the turbine layout.

As a result of implementation of standard construction practices, as well as additional mitigation at sensitive locations, there will be no significant effects on hydrology or peat during construction or operation of the wind farm.

## Noise

Reducing noise effects on nearby residential properties was a key development consideration. Detailed modelling exercises were undertaken to ensure that the final design will not give rise to significant noise effects at residential properties. If consented, the wind farm would have strict noise limits placed upon it which the operational scheme would be obliged to operate within.

## Traffic and Transport

The site will be accessed via the existing Fallago Rig Wind Farm access junction on the B6456, to the east of Westruther. The junction will provide access to the Site for all abnormal loads associated with the turbine deliveries, as well as access for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) delivering construction materials and general Site traffic. The assessment considered the potential for effects on local road users, as well as recreational users within the site. A traffic management plan will be agreed with the roads authority in advance of construction work beginning to minimise the potential impact of traffic on local road users and residents.

Temporary footpaths will be put in place where there is potential for construction traffic to pose a hazard to users of popular walking routes affected by the proposed works.

## Shadow Flicker

A detailed shadow flicker assessment has been undertaken for properties in close proximity to the wind farm, at Byrecleuch.

## Other

The EIA also includes an assessment relating to aviation which has identified mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts upon radar which are to be secured through planning conditions. Socio-economics are covered in a stand-alone supporting report and the Section 36 application is also supported by a planning statement to assess the policy compliance of the proposals.

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# photomontages :

VIEWPOINT 1: TWIN LAW CAIRNS

VIEWPOINT 3: MINOR ROAD NEAR WANSIDE RIG

VIEWPOINT 4: SOUTHERN UPLAND WAY WATCH WATER RESERVOIR

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# photomontages :

VIEWPOINT 5: MINOR ROAD NEAR WRUNK LAW

VIEWPOINT 7: B6456 WESTRUTHER

VIEWPOINT 14: B6362 ABOVE LAUDER

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# technical considerations :


## Access to the Site

Access to the site has been planned to mirror that used for Fallago Rig wind farm, with access taken from the main road (B6456) to the east of Westruther. Using the existing access route will minimise the need for new infrastructure to be constructed to access the site from the public road. New wind farm tracks would be constructed within the wind farm to link the turbines and associated infrastructure which form the proposed wind farm.

## Grid Connection

The proposed wind farm will connect into the network at the existing Fallago Rig wind farm substation via underground cables. Given its proximity to the proposed development this would avoid the requirement for overhead lines to connect the wind farm to the national grid.

## Construction Works

It is estimated it would take approximately 19 months to construct the wind farm. Where possible, construction activities will be carried out concurrently to reduce the overall length of the construction programme. Phasing of the construction process may result in civil engineering works progressing in some areas of the site while turbines are being erected elsewhere. To minimise disruption to land use, site restoration would be undertaken as early as possible.

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# community benefits of Dunside wind farm

If successful with the application for consent, EDF Renewables UK would establish a local community benefit fund when the wind farm becomes operational.




The fund value would be in line with the **recommended Scottish Government guidance** of £5,000 per megawatt of installed capacity per year, for the lifetime of the wind farm.

The fund would be designed to meet specific local objectives and would be administered by a third party at arms' length from EDF Renewables UK.

## Community ownership

EDF Renewables UK supports the principle of community investment in our wind farms and would welcome the views of local community groups on this.

## Community liaison

As part of our public consultation, we have been liaising with various stakeholders including local residents and community councils.

## Supply chain opportunities

If the application is successful, our contracting strategy encourages packages of work on the construction of the wind farm to be made available to local suppliers and contractors. We would welcome discussions with interested parties on this.

## Environmental benefits

Dunside wind farm has the potential to make a lasting and valuable contribution to the Scottish Borders, generating clean, green energy, empowering local communities and supporting Scotland's net zero carbon targets.

At EDF Renewables UK we are passionate about creating a net zero future where clean energy powers our lives. Should this development proceed, we fully expect Dunside wind farm to play a vital role in our mission for a greener and cleaner Scotland.

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# what is happening now?

- **EDF Renewables UK** has submitted a Section 36 application to the Scottish Government in June 2023.
- **Once the application is validated,** there is a 28-day consultation period following the submission, during which consultees, including members of the public, can make representations to the Scottish Government and/or Scottish Borders Council to help inform their determination of the application.
- **Scottish Borders Council is a key consultee** for the Section 36 application. The Council will now evaluate the application and the planning committee will decide whether to object to it or not. If the Council objects to the application, it would be determined by Scottish Ministers following a Public Local Inquiry.
- **The application for consent has been submitted to** the Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government and is awaiting validation. Once validated, it will be advertised in the Public Notices of local newspapers and the consultation period will begin. This is expected to start on the 30th June.
- **Hard copies of the EIA Report will be available for public viewing** in Westruther Village Hall, Haddington Library and at the Scottish Borders Council offices in Newton St Boswells. Electronic versions of the report are also available to download from the project website **(www.dunsidewindfarm.co.uk)** and the Council and Energy Consents Unit planning portals.

If you have any further questions, you can contact us below or **scan the QR code above** to go to the Dunside website where we have FAQs about the project.

Email: **info@dunsidewindfarm.co.uk**

Website: **www.dunsidewindfarm.co.uk**

Post: **FAO Ruth Shewan, EDF Renewables UK, Atria One, Level Seven, 144 Morrison Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8EX**

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