

## **THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY**

**The proposals for Scoop Hill Wind Farm are at the Application Stage, and the deadline for representation to the Scottish Government is 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.**

**This exhibition is therefore an opportunity for local people to learn more and subsequently engage with the developer to influence their plans.**

**Please take your time to explore the exhibition and feel free to let us have your feedback before you leave or take away our information sheet and make your own representation directly to the Scottish Government.**

**Your perspective, local knowledge and opinion is very much welcomed.**

## **ABOUT SAVE OUR HILLS MOFFAT**

**We are a group of Moffat residents who believe that while wind energy is an important part of the renewable energy mix, the proliferation of windfarms in Dumfries and Galloway is in danger of overwhelming the countryside, changing our horizons and leaving a legacy of consequences that were never envisaged. This comes at a considerable cost to our own local traditional industries, especially agriculture and tourism, and is desecrating our countryside.**

**Our Group's main aims are:**

**To oppose plans for very large wind farms in and around the town of Moffat, such as the Scoop Hill wind farm development.**

**To support renewable energy projects in Annandale which are fit for scale and fit for purpose.**

# **SCOOP HILL WIND FARM**

## **Key Elements of Scoop Hill proposal**

- **75 turbines – most between 200 and 250 metres high. A height only previously used offshore.**
- **Nearest turbines will be 3 miles SE of Moffat**
- **Will cover 22 square miles of Annandale Hills**
- **Will be visible from Moffat, Beattock, Lockerbie, Lochmaben and the M74**
- **Nearly 45 years lifecycle – 18 months construction; 40 years in use; 2 years decommissioning**
- **75 concrete, steel and stone turbine foundations and 75 crane hardstands - left in situ after decommissioning**
- **Installed Capacity 525 Mega Watts – anticipated to operate at a capacity factor in the region of 50%**
- **Once operational, 11 full-time permanent staff will be employed**
- **40 miles of new access tracks constructed and left in situ after decommissioning**

## **DO WE NEED SCOOP HILL WIND FARM?**

**The facts indicate that we don't.**

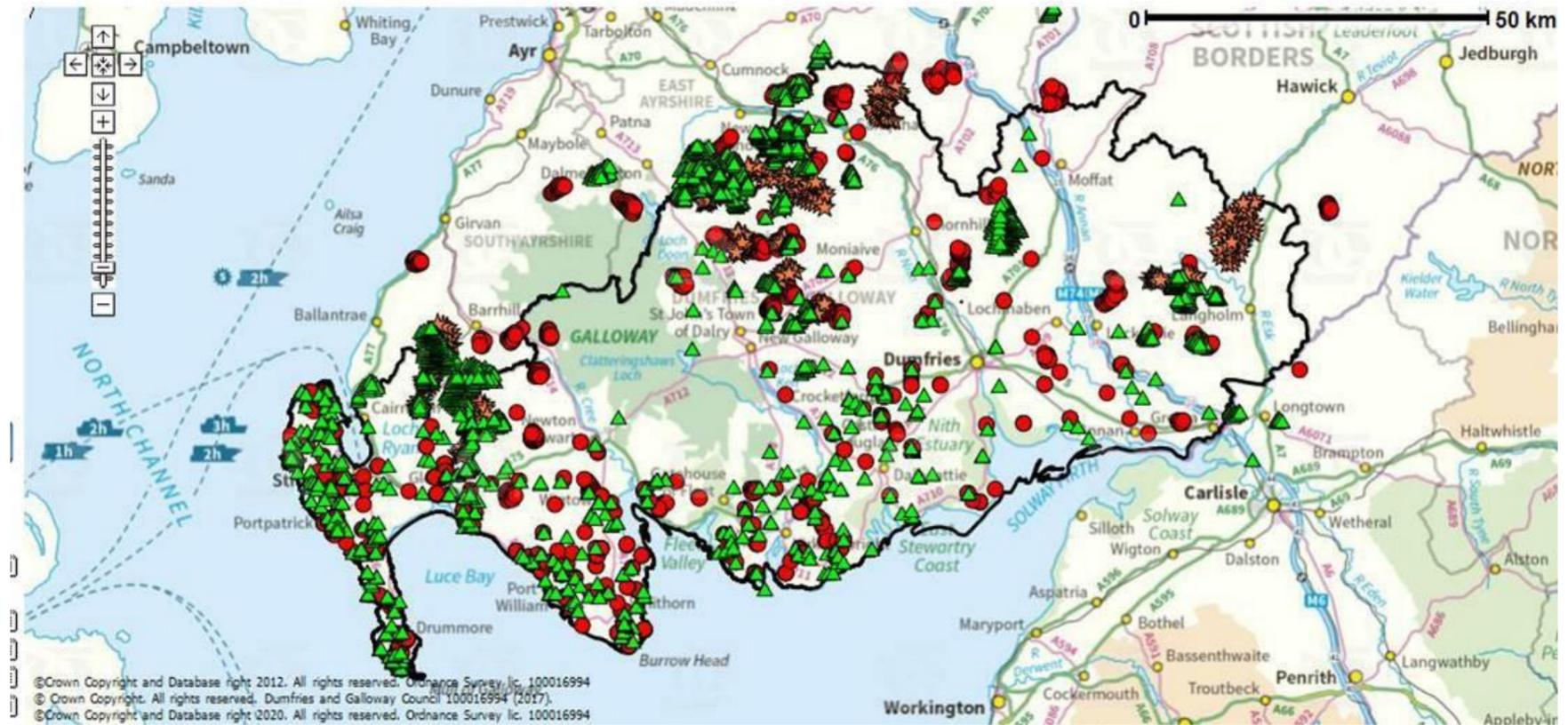
**Dumfries and Galloway, and the immediate surrounding area, already has 1,000 MW of installed wind farm capacity.**

**Demand for electricity in the region is less than 100 MW, i.e. we produce ten times more than we need.**

**We are in fact a substantial exporter of electricity, mostly to England and contribute more than our fair share to Scotland's wind energy output.**

**Scotland itself is on track to achieve her targets already. In 2020 she produced 97.4% of its gross electricity consumption from renewable sources and in addition had net exports of 19.3 Terawatt Hours.**

# Wind farms across Dumfries and Galloway (pre November 2020)



**Key: Green = Operational                      Red = Refused                      Pink = Planning**  
 (Source D & G Council)

## WIND FARMS AROUND MOFFAT AND DISTRICT – OVERVIEW

### Operational

- Clyde South
- Clyde Wind Farm North
- Clyde Wind Farm Central
- Minnygap
- Harestanes
- Dalswinton
- Minsca
- Ewe Hill
- Langhope Rig

### Approved

- Little Hartfell
- Crossdykes
- Hopsrig
- Loganhead Craig

### Application Lodged or currently in Appeal

- Faw Side
- Scoop Hill
- Auchencairn
- Blackwood
- North Lowther

### Under Construction

- Solwaybank

### In Scoping (pre-planning)

- Callisterhall
- Westerkirk

Source: CWL, Figure 1.3. 31/03/2020

## **What is the Alternative to Scoop Hill?**

**Wind energy has many valuable attributes that make it a strong contender in the clean energy stakes and should be a major player in our efforts to reduce carbon emissions and climate warming.**

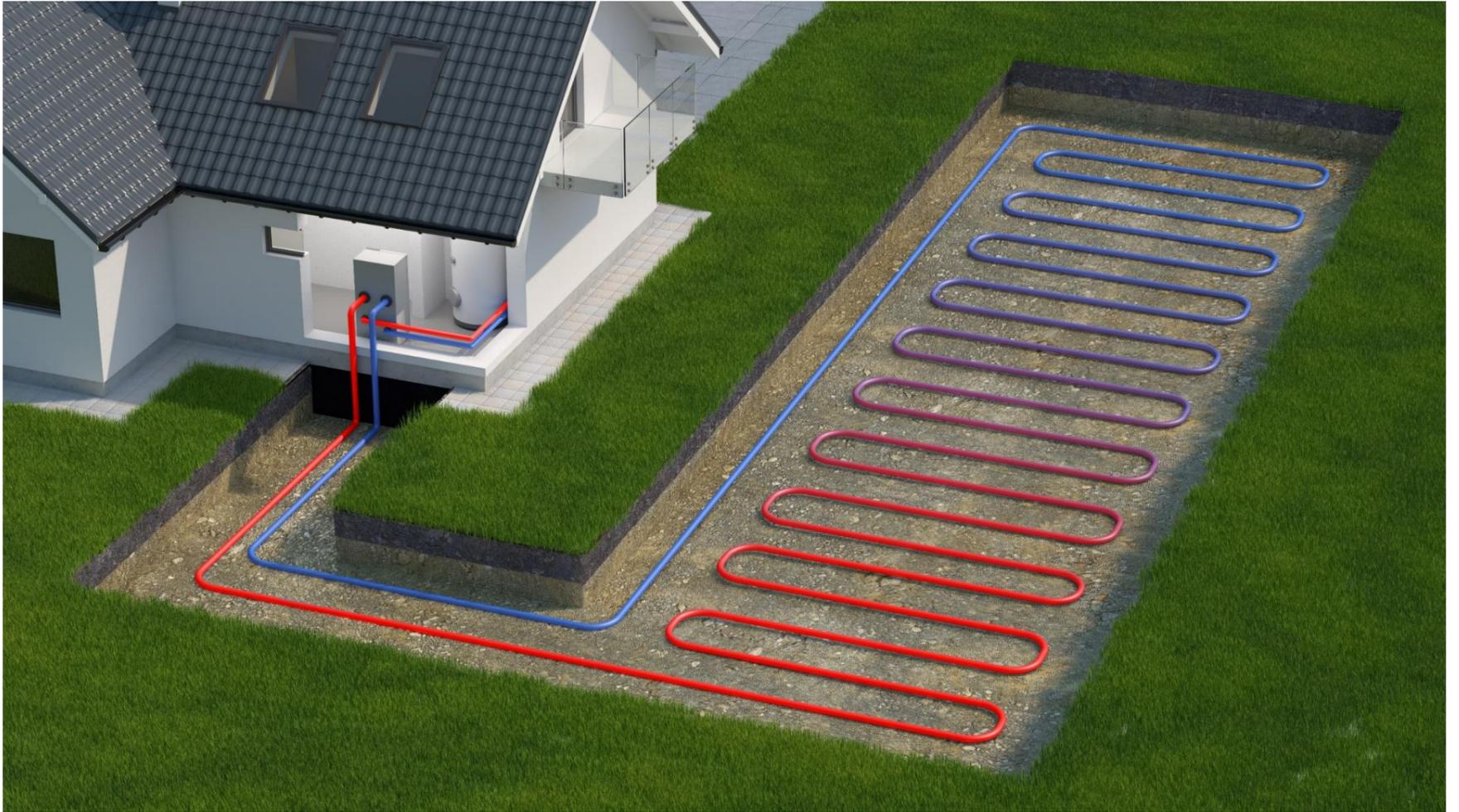
**But a balanced solution is what is needed; a solution which takes cognizance of the many facets of the problem and uses a variety of means to deal with it.**



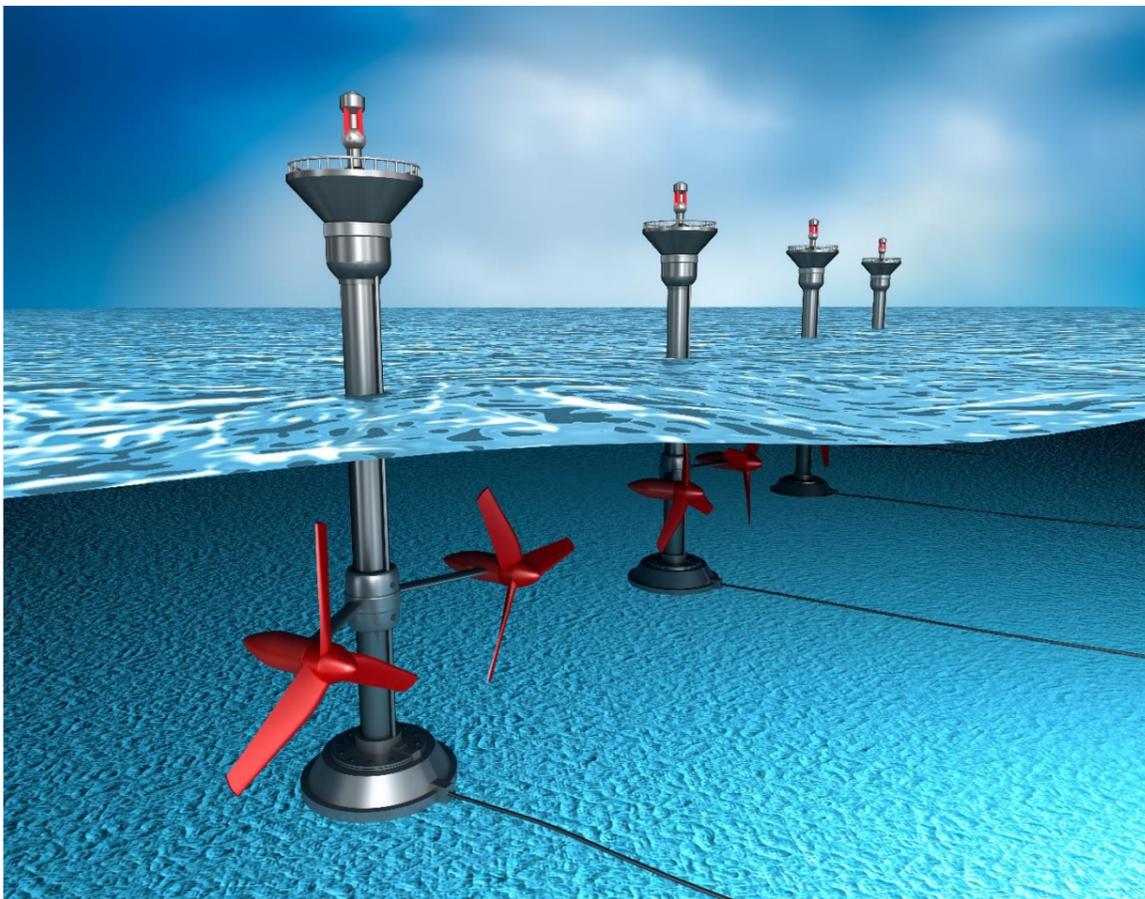
## **How do we go about it?**

- **PRODUCE MORE energy from alternative sources :-**
  - **Hydroelectric – water power**
  - **Hydrogen**
  - **Solar panels**
  - **Airborne wind energy**
  - **Geothermal**
  - **Wave energy - marine power**
  - **Wave sub – marine power**
  - **Solar thermal power**
  - **Space solar energy**
  - **Bio gas**

## • Heat Pumps



## • Floating turbines and fixed off-shore turbines.



# **What about Unintended consequences**

**Modern day governments and industry have a bad record of ‘leaping before they look’.**

**Premature or unresearched decisions can result in unintended harmful and expensive consequences.**

**What fire and pollution risks are associated with Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS’s)?**

**The installation of banks of batteries are suggested as a way to cover electricity requirements in periods of low or zero wind. The rapid rise of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS’s) that utilize Lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery technology brings with it massive potential – but also a significant range of risks.**

## **Extract from CWL Planning Application, Section 2 Detailed Project Description**

**2.15.1 Four Energy Storage Facilities are proposed as part of this planning application.**

**2.15.2 The largest energy storage facility, adjacent to the main substation and control room, is expected to contain approximately 25 containerised units and associated electrical infrastructure and would connect directly into the adjacent Scoop Hill substation via underground cables.**

**2.15.3 The three smaller units will contain fewer containerised units and associated electrical infrastructure and would connect directly into the satellite substations via underground cables, as they will be located adjacent to each other.**



Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm

Copyright Vatenfall UK

# What effect will Scoop Hill have on local weather conditions?

**Scoop Hill turbines will take 330,000 hp of energy out of a weather system when operating at claimed capacity.**

**‘Most of the wind energy extracted by wind farms is in the lowest few hundred meters of the atmosphere. Thus, the winds in the lower atmosphere will have less kinetic energy, which could have a significant impact on, say, the movement of water vapor by the wind. In turn, that might affect precipitation.’. C.Doswell. Research Meteorologist**



## ***How long will it be before the Scoop Hill turbines become obsolete?***

**Scoop Hill turbines are designed to last 40 years. Technology is moving at breakneck speed. Already there are bladeless turbines and towerless air turbines being tested.**

### ***How seriously will local habitat be affected?***

**Hundreds of thousands of tons of concrete will be permanently embedded in our hills in the construction of Scoop Hill windfarm.. Concrete causes damage to the most fertile layer of the earth, the topsoil. What long term effect will the 'run off' from 150 acres of mostly impervious hard surfaces, have on soil erosion, water pollution and flooding around the windfarm?**

### ***Do we know how low frequency noise from the turbines will affect humans and wildlife?***

**'... the particular chaos of wind turbine "noise" is causing havoc. Insomnia, heart problems, perception disorders, dizziness. These are just a few of the disease symptoms that can be caused by infrasound.'**

**(Mastersource.org/infrasound 29 May 2019)**

**The answer to all these questions is: WE DON'T KNOW.  
Research has either not taken place or is inconclusive.**

# HOW WILL SCOOP HILL AFFECT TOURISM?

**CWL currently have three wind farms in planning across the Borders and Dumfries and Galloway: Sanquhar II, Faw Side and Scoop Hill**

**They commissioned Biggar Economics in October 2020 to produce a report “**Economic Impact of Community Windpower’s Projects in the South of Scotland**” jointly covering these three wind farms.**

**Biggar’s research is based on data which dates from 2017 (already 4 years out-of-date) and some as far back as 2008. They conclude:**

**“... there is no research evidence that shows fears of negative effects on Scotland’s tourism economy as a result of wind farm developments.”**

**The John Muir Trust however state:**

**“... we consider the evidence base used by Biggar in these studies to be **inappropriate for any reliable analysis of local economic****

**impacts of wind farms.” Wind Farms and Tourism Trends in Scotland’, Douglas Wynn BSc (Soc) MSc (Econ)**

**VisitScotland strongly agrees with the advice of the Scottish Government the importance of tourism impact statements should not be diminished, and that, for each site considered, an independent tourism impact assessment should be carried out. This assessment should be geographically sensitive and should consider the potential impact on any tourism offerings in the vicinity.**

**Save Our Hills Moffat call for CWL to produce a specific Tourism Impact Assessment for the town of Moffat, a recognised tourist destination.**

**Visit Moffat has declared it is against the Scoop Hill proposal and endorses Save Our Hills’ request.**

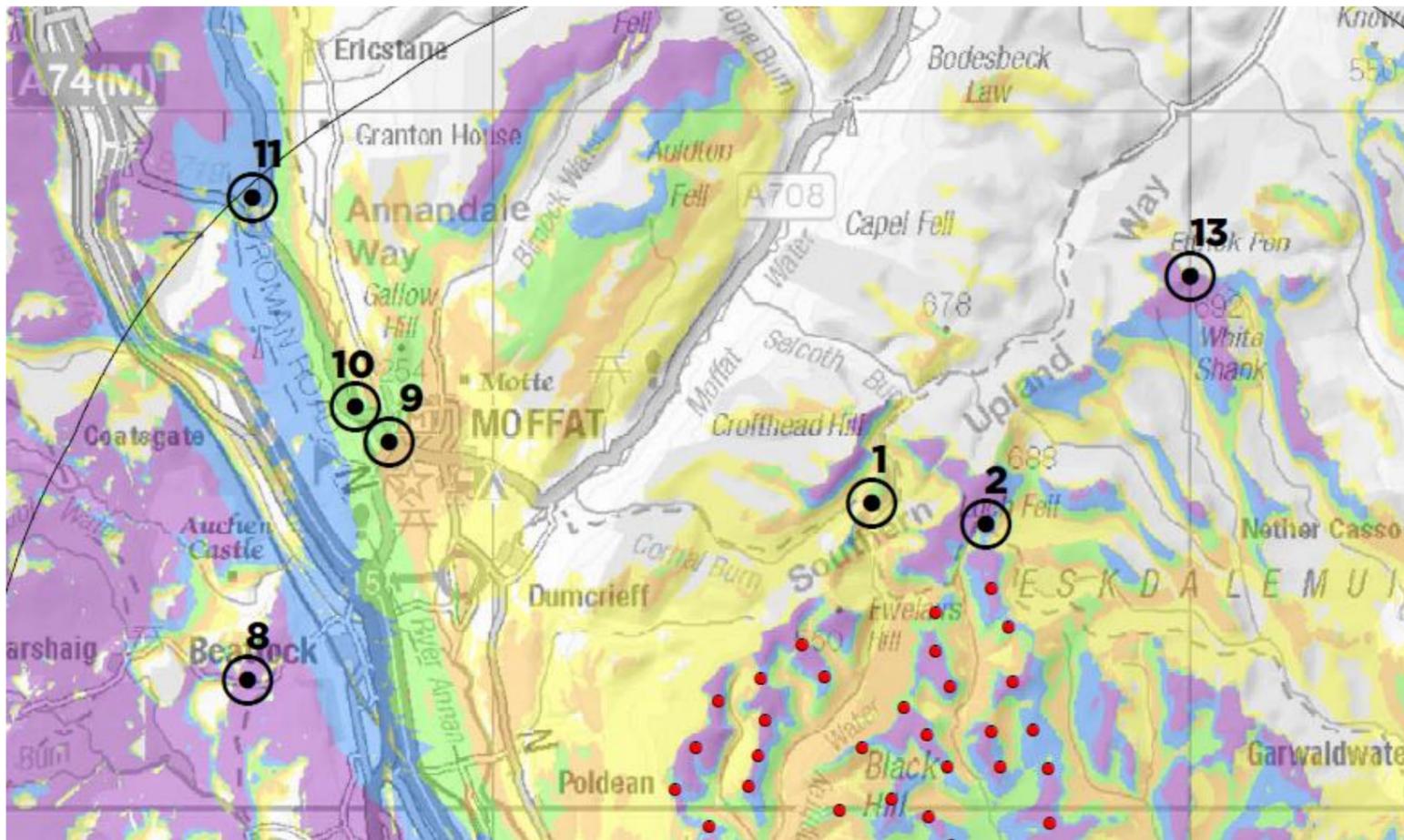


**Artist's impression of view from Gallow Hill, portraying the number, positioning and height of visible turbines, based on the applicant's proposed site layout**

**CWL have informed us that this artist's impression is inaccurate and that "the hand drawn image presents a view of 31 turbines when in fact, only 21 turbines will be visible from this location and applied included angle. The turbine components are not to scale (they are much larger than they would be in reality) and furthermore, the turbines appear to be coloured black and not white.**

**It is for this reason that CWL will commission a further photomontage from this viewpoint, and this will be presented in the forthcoming public exhibition in Moffat Town Hall. "**

**We recommend you visit their exhibition on 8<sup>th</sup> July in Moffat Town Hall.**



**Key: Purple 61-75; Blue 46-60; Green 31-45 turbines; Buff 16-30; Yellow 1-15**

**Based on CWL Figure 6.7b - Blade Tip Zone  
No. of Theoretically Visible Turbines\***

Park Circle	15 - 30
A701 by Community Nature Reserve	15 - 30
High Street	1 - 15
Holm Road	15 - 30
Gallow Hill	15 - 45
Crosslaw Burn	1 - 15
Camping and Caravan Park	15 - 30

# Right to roam?

Images taken on Queensberry Hill, July 2021



## **Extracts of RSPB reply to Scottish Government in relation to Scoop Hill Wind Farm application [22 Jan 2021]**

**We have significant concerns** about the impact that this proposal will have on golden eagle through collision risk, habitat loss, the potential for complete abandonment of a territory and impact on roost sites.

Furthermore, we believe that the assessment of such impacts through both construction and operation is incomplete, and as such **we object to this application**. We also have concerns regarding osprey and black grouse.

**We would be willing to reconsider our position should there be substantial changes to the design which can subsequently demonstrate that the impact on golden eagle has been reduced to an acceptable level.**

## **Annex 1 – RSPB Scotland’s detailed objection relating to Scoop Hill Wind Farm and its impact on ornithological receptors.**

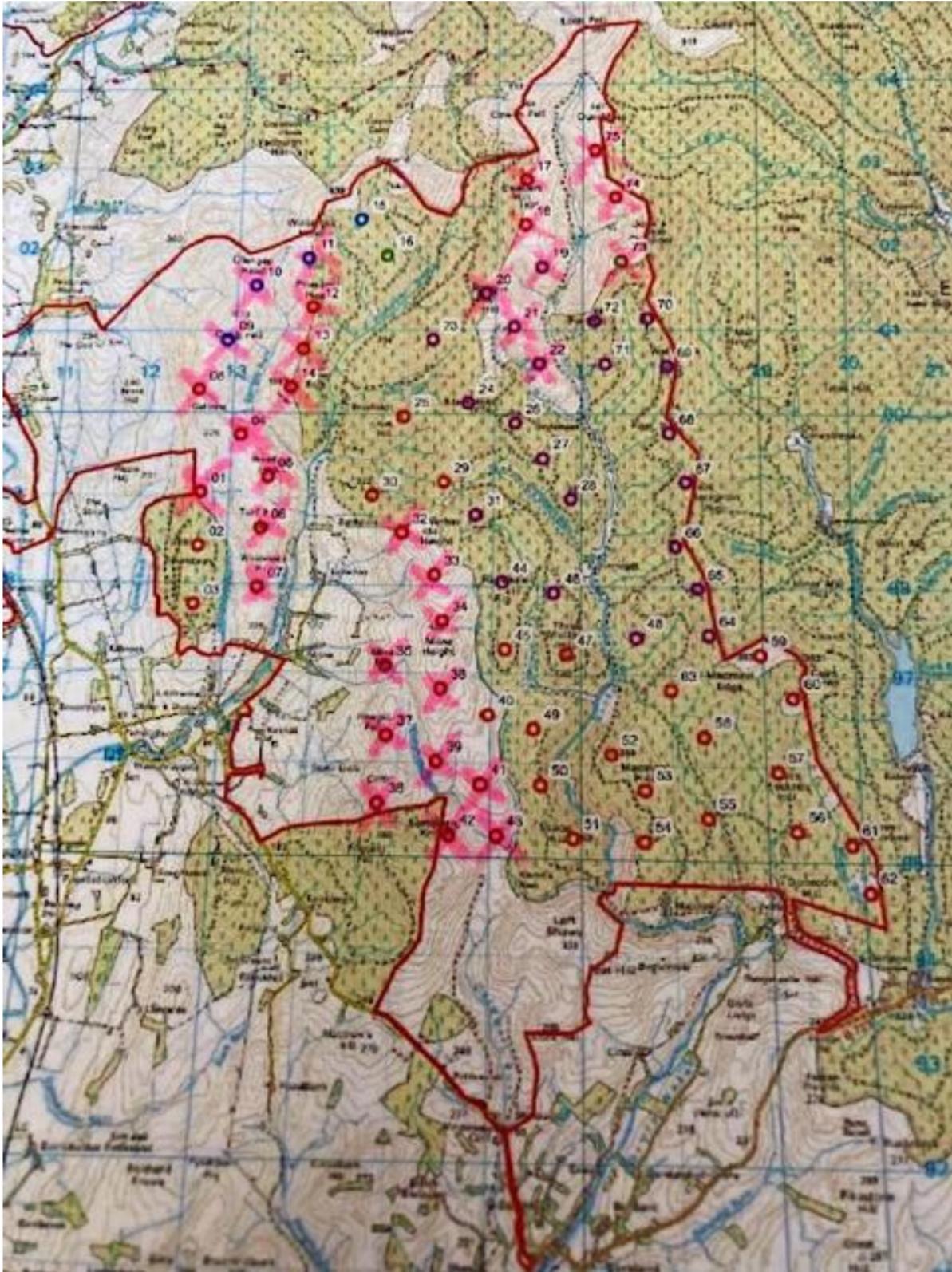
### **1.2 - South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project**

**...Therefore, it is our opinion that this development directly, and significantly, threatens the reintroduction project, whose partners include The Scottish Government. It could negatively impact both the success of the project and the overall recovery of the golden eagle population in southern Scotland.**

#### **1.3.1 - Collision Risk and Impact on the Natural Habitat Zone Population**

**As stated in the EIAR, this development has the **potential to eliminate 11 golden eagles** through collision across the 40-year operational period, or one bird every 3.64 years. This alone is an unacceptable level of risk to a fragile population, which is currently the subject of a reintroduction programme with the aim of helping this vulnerable population to recover.**

# **Turbines recommended for removal by RSPB:**



## **Annex 2**

**Those turbines that are designated for open ground habitats (T1, 4-14, 17-22, 32-43 and 73-75) will likely have a significant negative impact on the golden eagle through loss of important foraging habitat. Therefore, complete removal of these turbines from the design would adequately mitigate against the impacts stated.**

# DOES IT ALL BOIL DOWN TO MONEY?

## Some facts

**Community Benefits are complicated, vague and hard to understand. This has led to them becoming a most contentious issue:**

- **There is no obligation for a developer to pay any money to communities affected by a nearby windfarm. It is a voluntary payment, though it is expected to be honoured and is customarily paid.**
- **The financial appeal of a Community Benefits package should not be taken into account when Community Councils or members of the community appraise the application. It is a separate consideration.**
- **Community benefits are voluntary initiatives; they are not a material consideration in the planning process. Planning permission will be assessed against the provisions in Scottish Planning policy, the local authority's development plan, and any other material considerations.**

**[ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-good-practice-principles-community-benefits-onshore-renewable-energy-developments/> ]**

- **Whilst the lay person may get the impression that Community Benefits are a generous pay-back from the developer as part of the profit from the development, they are actually paid for by the consumer in his/her monthly energy bills.**

**If the agreement on the amount and form of payment of Community Benefits is not agreed with the affected communities until after planning consent has been given to the developer, then the communities involved have no bargaining powers, because the developer has already got planning consent before he has to finalise any Community Benefits agreement.**

**An analogy might be :- You are living in your house when someone comes along and says he would like to buy it from you. He offers you a very good price and you are tempted. But there is a condition. He wants the contract signed and the Title Deeds in his hands before he finally decides the price he will pay – or indeed whether he will pay at all! Would you sell?**

**At present no comprehensive Community Benefit plan has been put forward by CWL, but the sum of £500k per annum - shared between six communities - has been mentioned. This is a risible figure when compared to the industry-recognised standard payment, which would be £2.625m per annum between the six communities.**

# Where do we go from here?

**The questions we must ask ourselves are:**

**1 Why are CWL here?**

**2 Are the Annandale hills a fitting place for an industrial scale windfarm?**

**3 Is money more important than our natural heritage?**

**4 Is there an alternative option?**

**Many other communities have asked themselves similar questions when faced with planning proposals for windfarms in their localities. Some objected - 40 communities in the Highlands alone – and had their objections overturned by the Scottish Government. Others had their objections upheld and the development stopped. In the Scoop Hill instance, we still have some say in the outcome. The first three questions are a matter of personal preference but the last is worth exploring further.**

# IS A MOFFAT COMMUNITY-OWNED WIND FARM A CREDIBLE ALTERNATIVE?

**Some enterprising communities decided to by-pass the CWL's of this world and CONSTRUCT THEIR OWN COMMUNITY-OWNED WINDFARM.**

**A Recent high-level report finds Scotland's community-owned wind farms have provided, on average, 34 times more benefit payments to local communities than privately owned wind farms.**

**Janet Foggie, Chief Executive of Community Energy Scotland, says "This valuable study confirms what our sector has long-known; that the benefits from community energy vastly exceed those from privately-owned generation. The report reaffirms the importance of communities retaining control and ownership of renewable energy, to maximise the benefits to local people.**

**Could this be the answer for Moffat?**

**Taking the performance figures of other Community owned windfarms:-**

**THREE small turbines could bring a financial return many times that offered by CWL from the SEVENTY FIVE giant turbines planned for Scoop Hill.**

## *A comparison of the financial benefits arising from private and community owned wind farms*

### 5.2.3 Industry standard compared with community owned average

The average annual donations in respect of community owned wind farms on a £ per installed MW per annum basis is presented in Figure 5.2 below. Across the eight community owned wind farms studied, it is approximately £170,000 per installed MW per annum.

**This is 34 times more than the industry standard for privately owned wind farms.** in fact, the community wind farm with the highest annual donation is 60 times more than the industry standard for private wind farms in Scotland.

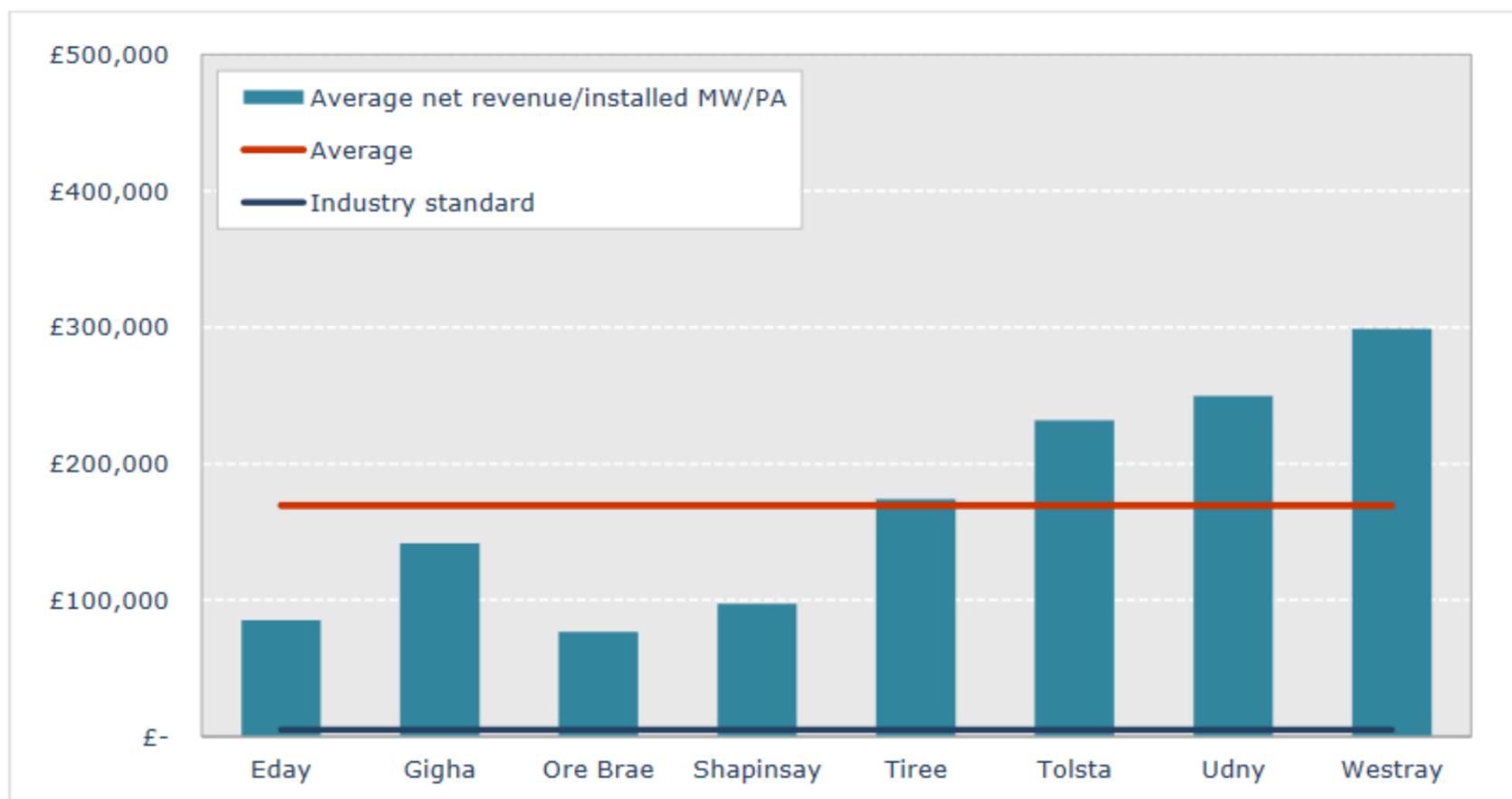


Figure 5.2 Average net revenue on an installed MW per annum basis of community owned wind farms analysed

<http://www.pointandsandwick.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Financial-comparison-of-private-and-community-wind-farms-report-FINAL-1.pdf>

The following photos were taken in April 2021 near Carsphairn, as part of the construction of Windy Rig wind farm.



Windy Rig, near Carsphairn



Windy Rig, near Carsphairn



Windy Rig, near Carsphairn



En route to Windy Rig, near Carsphairn

**THANKS FOR  
JOINING US TODAY**  
Don't forget to complete  
the CC consultation form.