

# Windburn Wind Farm

## Welcome

The exhibition banners displayed provide information about the proposals and the pre-application public consultation process as well as visualisations of how the wind farm would look if constructed.

*Please take time to view the information provided, to ask questions of a member of the project team and to fill out a feedback form.*

## About the developer

Windburn Wind Farm is part of a joint venture between Wind2 and companies managed by Octopus Energy Generation.

Wind2 is a specialist wind developer founded in 2016 by Gerry and Paula Jewson, former owners and founders of West Coast Energy. The company has staff based in Perth, Edinburgh and the Highlands, as well as in Wales and England, with significant expertise in renewable energy and a track record of successfully developing onshore wind farms throughout the UK. Wind2 is working on the development of a number of subsidy free renewable energy projects and is committed to investing across Scotland.

Octopus Energy Generation is one of Europe's largest investors in renewable energy assets and energy transition projects, managing more than 300 large-scale green energy projects spanning 13 countries across technologies including onshore wind, offshore wind and solar energy.

## About the consultation process

The design for Windburn Wind Farm has been subject to extensive consideration from landscape architects and environmental consultants. Following the previous round of exhibitions held in June 2023, the draft layout of the proposed wind farm has been refined to reflect our increased knowledge of the site and its constraints.

During this second round of consultation events, we are looking to provide the local community with the opportunity to view the updated proposals and provide further feedback prior to the submission of an application to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit in early 2024.

As well as hosting public events like these, we have created a dedicated project website at [www.windburnwindfarm.co.uk](http://www.windburnwindfarm.co.uk) where members of the public can access the most up-to-date information about the project and provide feedback online. Once an application has been submitted, all information will be available on the websites for the Energy Consents Unit; Clackmannanshire Council; and Perth and Kinross Council.



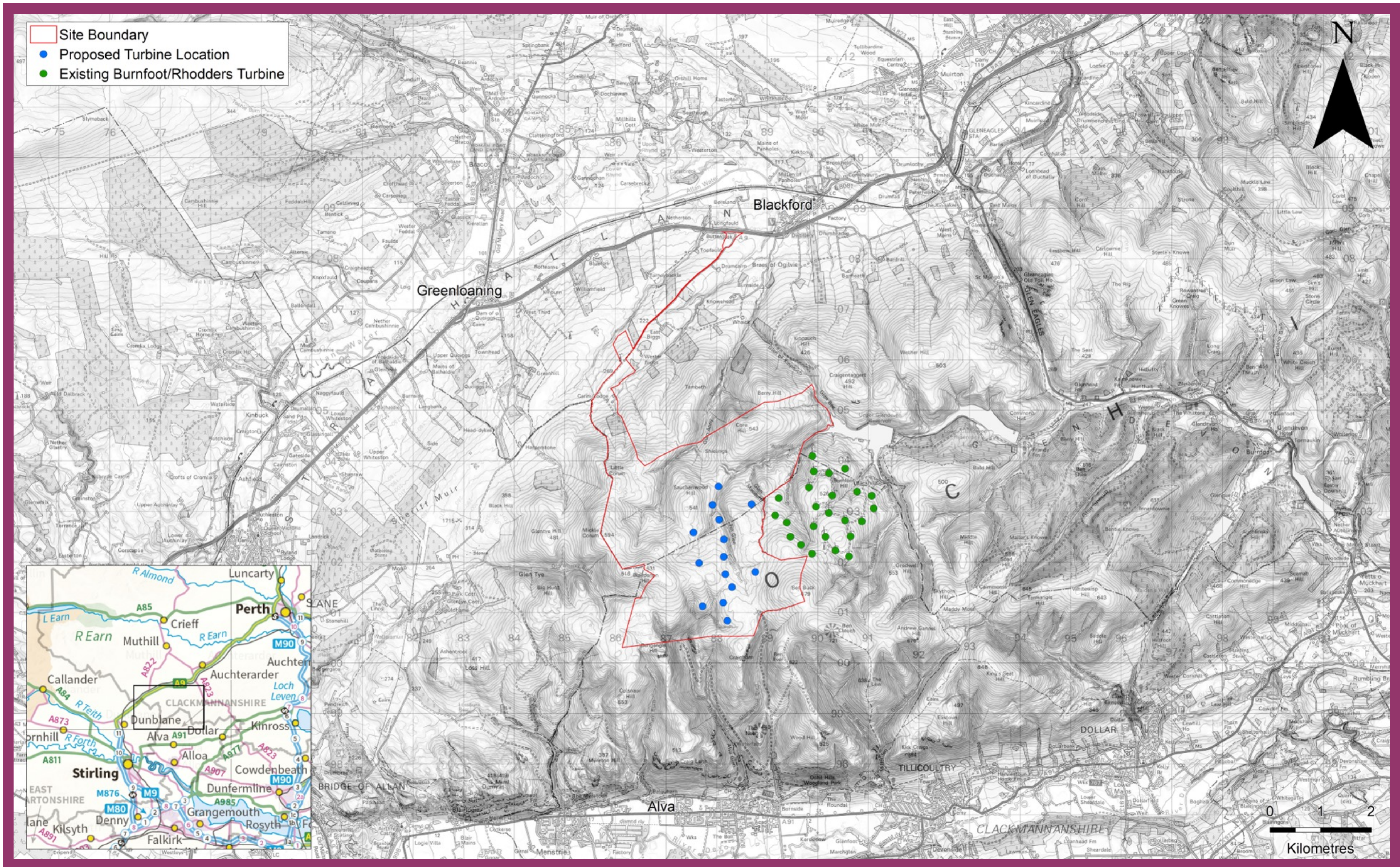
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# About the Project

The proposed Windburn Wind Farm is located on an undulating moorland plateau, within the Ochil hills. The nearest proposed turbine is approximately 3.3km north of the settlement of Alva, 5.2km south of the settlement of Blackford and 5.6km south-east of Greenloaning. The proposed Windburn Wind Farm site is located across both Clackmannanshire Council and Perth & Kinross Council administrative areas.

Our current proposals for the site are for 14 wind turbines, each with a blade tip height of up to 149.9m, and ancillary infrastructure including battery storage. On this basis, the wind farm would have an installed capacity of approximately 70 megawatts (MW), with a further c.35MW of battery storage capacity.

Based on this capacity, the project would have the potential to generate sufficient carbon-free electricity to meet the needs of around 71,000 UK homes and offset c.106,000 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> per annum <sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Calculation correct as of December 2022 based on RenewableUK methodology, utilising the most recent statistics from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) (<https://www.renewableuk.com/page/UKWEDEexplained>)

# Environmental Impact Assessment

As part of the preparation of the final planning application, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is currently in progress which includes an assessment of the potential impact of development on:

- Landscape and Visual Amenity, including impact on designated landscapes;
- Ecology and Ornithology;
- Water and Soils, including Peat and Carbon;
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage;
- Site Access, Traffic and Transport; and
- Socio-economics, Recreation, Tourism and Land Use; and
- Other environmental Issues (inc. Aviation, Noise and Telecommunications).

The results of the EIA will accompany the final application to be submitted to the Energy Consents Unit.

*If you have any comments or questions about the proposed wind farm layout or about the EIA process, please feel free to discuss with a member of the project team.*

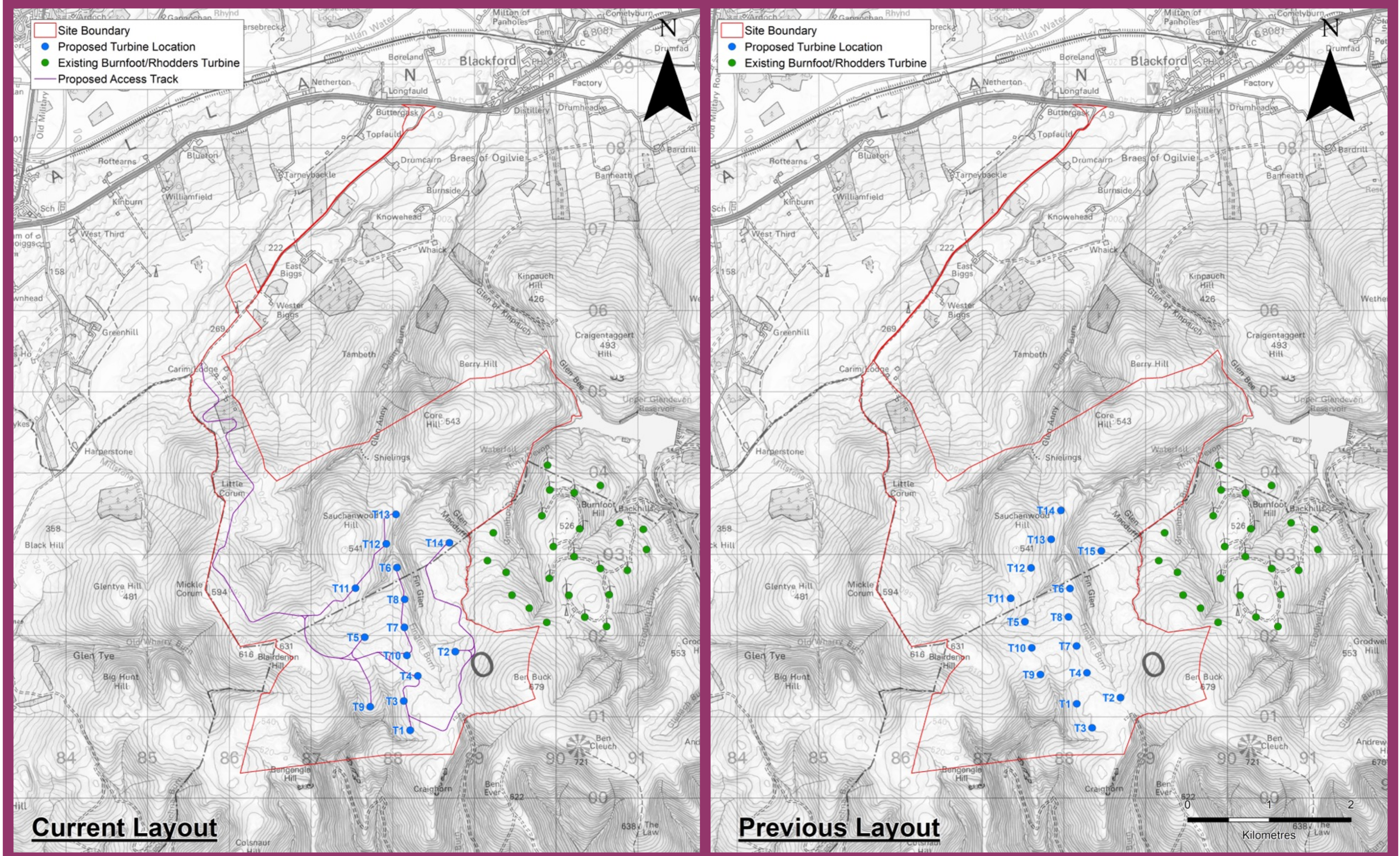
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# Changes since the June 2023 Public Exhibitions

## Wind Turbine Layout and Application Boundary

The Public Exhibitions in June 2023 presented a 15 turbine scheme with tip heights of up to 149.9m. The design of this scheme had 10 turbines in Clackmannanshire and 5 turbines in Perth and Kinross.

The current proposals for Windburn Wind Farm are for a 14 turbine scheme (1 less turbine than at the June 2023 exhibitions, removed from the site area within Clackmannanshire), with blade tip heights remaining at 149.9m.

Since the June 2023 exhibitions, all the remaining wind turbines have undergone relocation, in the form of minor and moderate adjustments. Overall, the current 14 turbine layout is considered to be an improvement with regards to the impact on views towards the proposed development from various key viewpoints.

The above Figures show a comparison of the (now superseded) 15 turbine layout presented at the Public Exhibitions in June 2023 and the current 14 turbine layout. Also shown on the above Figures are the amendments to the application boundary from what was presented in the June 2023 exhibitions.

## Access Track and Other Infrastructure

In the time since the June 2023 Public Exhibitions, work has been ongoing regarding the route of the onsite access tracks or the location of ancillary infrastructure, such as the substation compound and temporary construction compounds. As part of the ongoing site design work, the location of the ancillary infrastructure has been investigated, and an anticipated layout has been progressed. An indicative access track layout is shown above in the 'current layout' image.

Work to identify the appropriate upgrades to the A9 / Sheriffmuir Road junction has progressed since the June 2023 Public Exhibitions. Following discussions with the Perth and Kinross Council roads department and Transport Scotland, the below Figure shows the current proposed junction upgrade / road realignment to facilitate the delivery of the turbine components. Discussions are ongoing with key consultees regarding this element of the project, to ensure the final proposals are fit for purpose.

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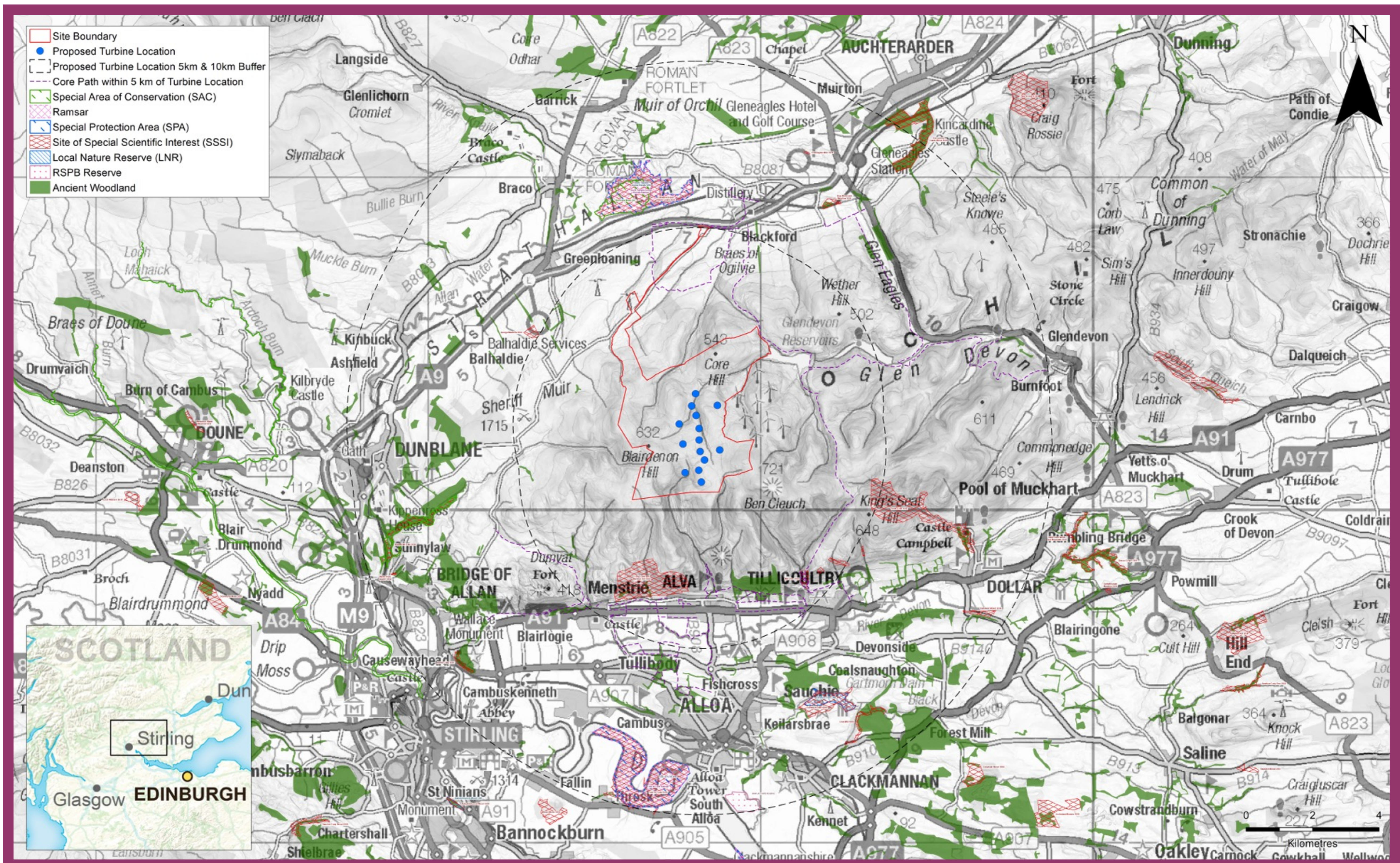
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# Environmental Considerations <sup>(1)</sup>

## Ecology and Ornithology

Further ecology and ornithology surveys have been undertaken on the Windburn Wind Farm site since the June 2023 Public Exhibitions. These surveys have informed the site design and helped to reduce potential impacts on important habitats, and protected species. Consultation regarding the scope of ecology and ornithology surveys has been undertaken with Clackmannanshire Council, Perth and Kinross Council and other key consultees such as NatureScot. The site is characterised by heathland, bog, springs, grassland and watercourses.

*Please see the printed Figures provided for more detail on peat depths across the site.*

A calculation of carbon emissions caused during construction of the wind farm and subsequently saved during the years of operation will be undertaken to work out how long it will take to ‘pay-back’ the carbon emitted during construction of the development. It is estimated that the proposed Windburn Wind Farm would have a pay-back period of between approximately 12 – 20 months.

*Please see the printed Figures provided for more detail on peat depths across the site.*

## Water and Soils, including Peat and Carbon

The proposed design aims to limit the potential effects on soils and the water environment, by careful positioning of the turbines, access tracks and other ancillary infrastructure.

Peat probing surveys have been undertaken to establish peat depths across the site. Turbines have been located on areas of less than 1m of peat. The onsite access tracks have also been designed to avoid deeper areas of peat where possible, and where not possible, the track is to be ‘floated’ to avoid excavating large quantities of peat.

## Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

Archaeology surveys have been undertaken to identify any archaeological features on site which have been avoided through careful siting of the access tracks and other infrastructure. An evaluation of the potential impacts on the setting of off-site cultural heritage features will be included in the EIA.

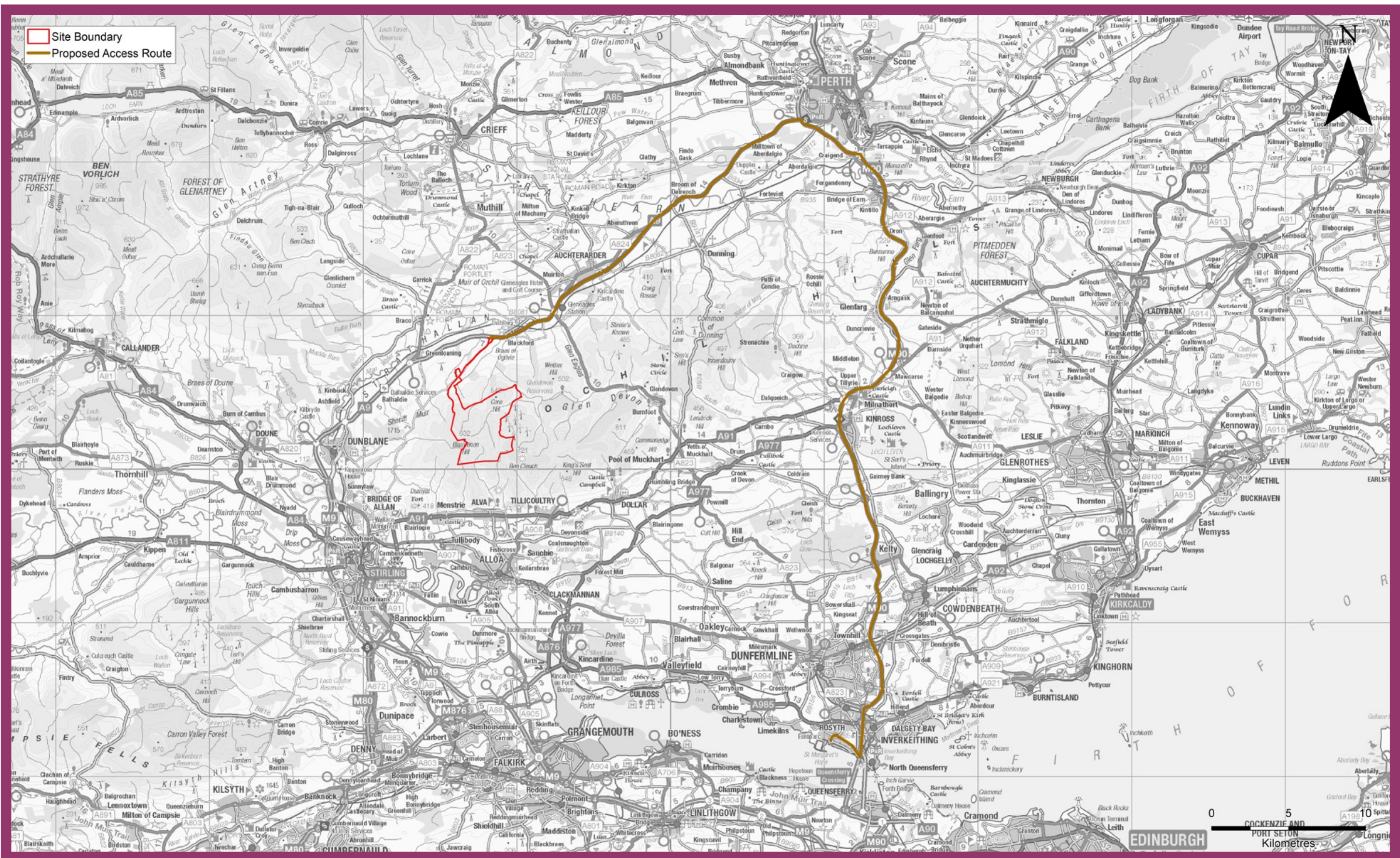
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## Environmental Considerations <sup>(2)</sup>

### Noise

Given the closest residential property is approximately 2.7km from the nearest turbine it is not considered likely that operational turbine noise will be a key constraint for the proposed development.

### Transport and Access

Wind turbine components (WTCs) will likely be delivered to, and transported from the Port of Rosyth as Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs). The anticipated route would incorporate the M90, the A9 and C468 (Sheriffmuir Road) before reaching the site via a new access track.

The transport route is shown on the figure below. It is anticipated that delivery of the WTCs would be accompanied by police escort and occur outwith busy commuter times to reduce disruption.

The requirement for borrow pits onsite is being assessed. Onsite borrow pits have the potential to minimise traffic movements and disruption on the wider network, however nearby quarries are also being considered to supply the material required. In addition, vehicle movements will be carefully controlled by a Traffic Management Plan.

### Economics and Tourism

An assessment of the potential economic effects of the wind farm is being undertaken and will set out the expected job creation, economic value and benefit to the local and wider economy through the different stages of the development life cycle. It will assess those who may be affected by the development including regional and local communities, as well as tourists, tourist related businesses and recreational groups where appropriate.

The socio-economic analysis will also focus on the potential impacts of expenditure from the proposed community benefit fund and community shared ownership income streams.

A study into the numbers of people using the Ochil Hills recreationally (hill walking, cycling etc.) is underway. This will allow further insight into patterns of usage and also whether the development of wind turbines (the operational Rhodders and Burnfoot Wind Farms) has had an impact on the numbers of people using the Ochils recreationally.

### Other Issues

A number of other issues will also be assessed including shadow flicker, aviation, forestry and telecommunications.

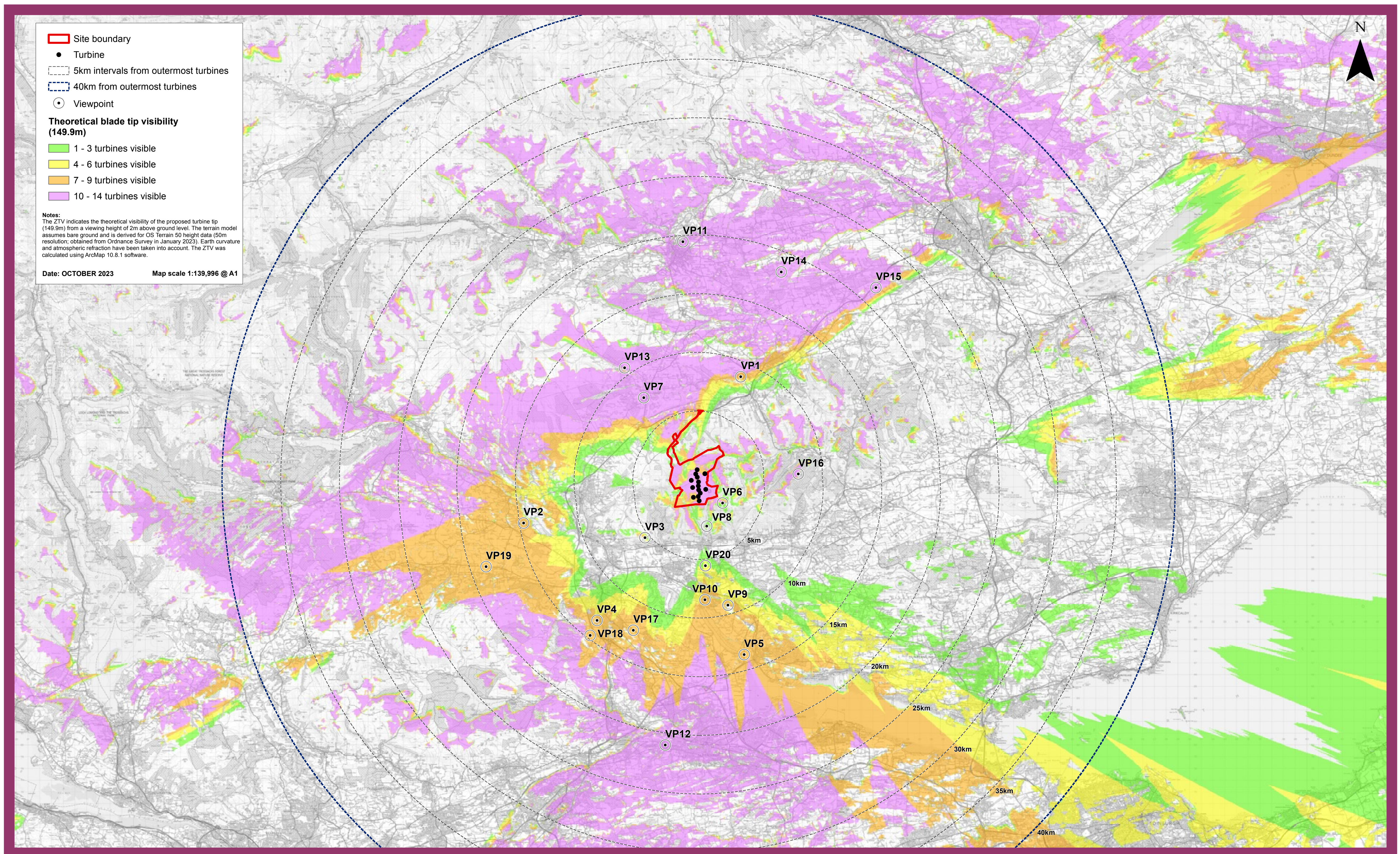
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## Environmental Considerations <sup>(3)</sup>

### Landscape and Visual Amenity

Landscape and visual amenity impact is a key consideration for the Windburn Wind Farm. To inform the decision-making process, approximately 20 viewpoints are being agreed with Clackmannanshire Council, Perth and Kinross Council and NatureScot, which will give a comprehensive impression of the potential visual impacts of the proposed development. Photomontages and wirelines are being prepared to give a realistic indication of what the development will look like from these locations.

The Figure above shows the potential visibility of the development (blade tip visibility) from the surrounding area. It does not include the screening effect of ground cover features, such as vegetation and buildings, which can significantly reduce the actual amount of visibility of the wind farm.

The photomontages on the banners that follow illustrate a number of the predicted views from key viewpoints. It is important to remember that the photomontages are for illustrative purposes only and, whilst useful in the prediction of the appearance of the proposed wind farm, the perception of the proposed development to the human eye may vary, particularly during different weather conditions.

There are a number of operational wind farms, in the wider area. The EIA will contain a full assessment of a range of potential cumulative effects.

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