



OLIVER FOREST WIND FARM

PUBLIC EXHIBITION

21 February –
16 March 2023



Andershaw Wind Farm, South Lanarkshire. 11 turbines, 140m tip height

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This exhibition is designed to share our early stage plans for the proposed Oliver Forest Wind Farm. We want to hear your views as we shape the development during this phase.
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About Statkraft

- The largest generator of renewable energy in Europe
- A state owned utility, with origins in Norwegian hydropower over 125 years ago
- 5,000 employees in 20 countries, all working towards our low carbon future
- Operating in the UK since 2006
- Distributed over £3.5 million to communities near operating wind farms

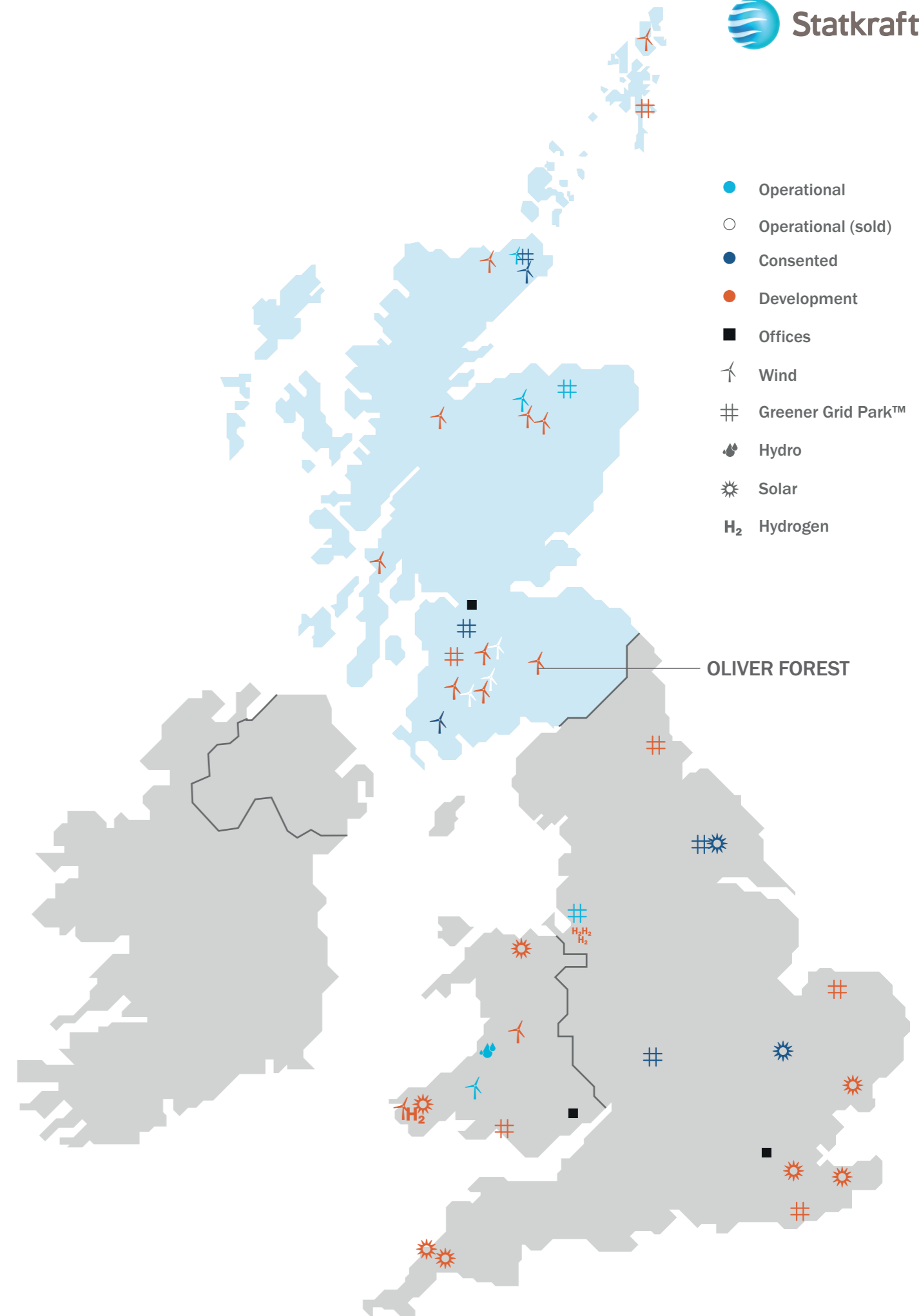


Twentyshillig Hill Wind Farm, Dumfries and Galloway, 9 turbines, 140m tip height

Welcome

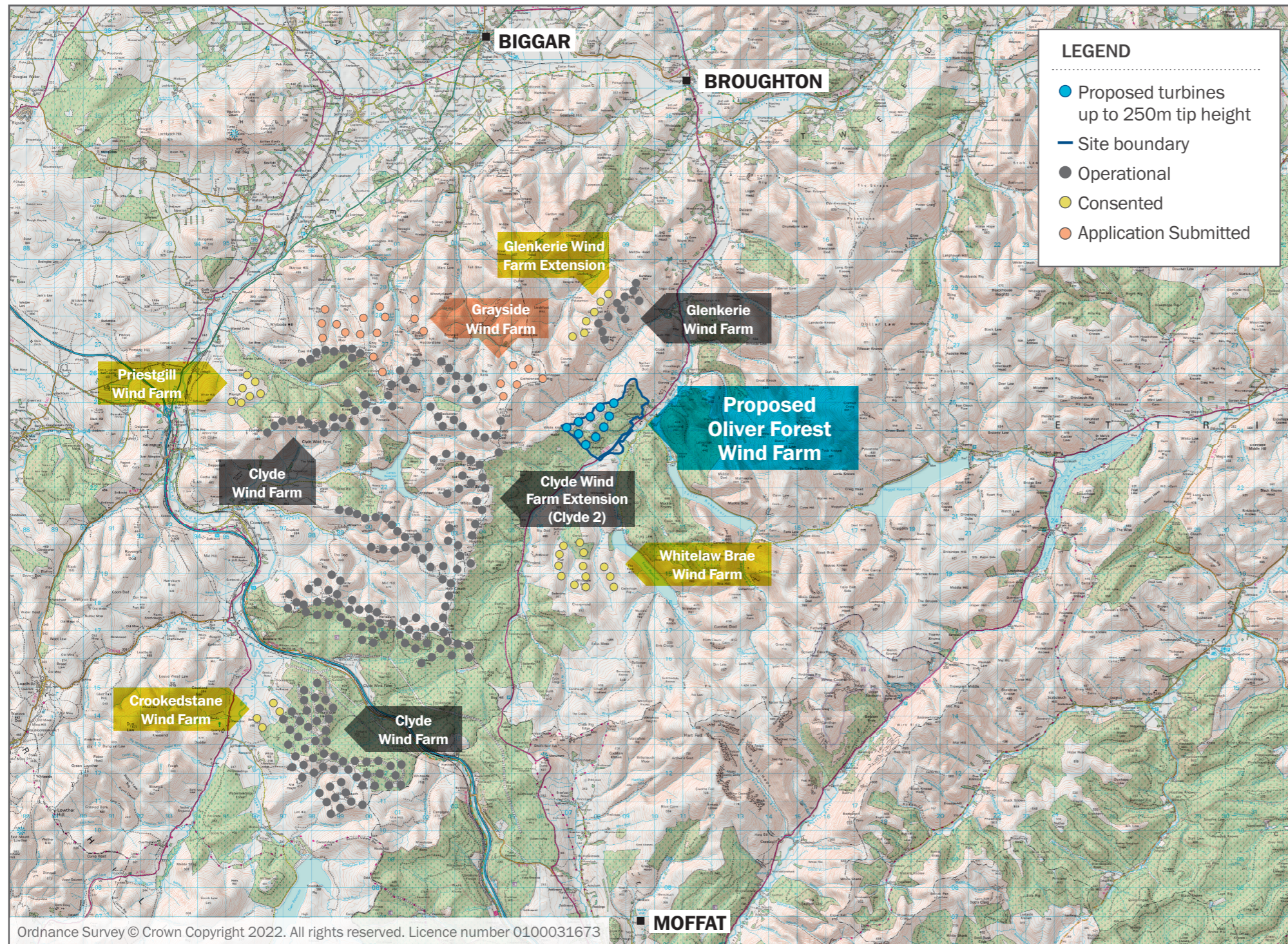
Statkraft in the UK

- Scottish Head Office in Glasgow
- Own or operate six wind farms and one hydro plant
- Constructed Windy Rig and Twentyshilling Hill Wind Farms in Dumfries and Galloway, which we now operate
- Over 700MW in development
- Delivering grid stability services for National Grid ESO in Moray and Liverpool



This is an excellent site to contribute to Scotland's energy security and ambitions of reaching net zero emissions by 2045.

The wind farm is located at Tweedsmuir, approximately 12.5km south of Broughton and 19km north of Moffat.




Oliver Forest Wind Farm Key Facts:

 **10** Up to 10 wind turbines proposed

£5,000 Per MW installed per year for a Community Fund As recommended by Scottish Government

 A maximum height to blade tip: **250m**

 Exciting new opportunity to talk about **shared ownership**

 **Local suppliers** are encouraged to register their details with us on our website

Why this site?

- Excellent wind resource
- No nationally or internationally designated sites within the site boundary
- Compatible with existing commercial forestry
- Site characterised by suitable ground conditions with some areas of shallow peat
- Will contribute towards Scotland's decarbonisation targets









Baillie Wind Farm, Thurso. 21 turbines, 110m tip height

	No. of Turbines	Max Blade Tip Heights	Expected Installed Capacity (MW)	Estimated Generation (homes equivalent)	Community Fund (per year)
Oliver Forest Wind Farm	Up to 10	Up to 250m	Up to 66MW <small>(Section 36 consent application)</small>	Just over 74,000 <small>Homes per year ⁽¹⁾</small>	£330,000 <small>per year ⁽²⁾</small>

(1) Based on 66MW Installed Capacity, wind resource assessment and average Scottish domestic consumption of 3,520kWh pa (BEIS Dec. 2021). Candidate turbine still tbc'd.
 (2) Community Benefit Fund based on 66MW x £5k per MW of installed capacity. If consented, value of fund determined by actual installed capacity. Candidate turbine still tbc'd.

Statkraft will continue to engage with the local community and stakeholders about the emerging Proposal.

1. SITE SELECTION & SUITABILITY	2. PRE-PLANNING	3. SUBMIT APPLICATION & AWAIT DECISION	4. CONSTRUCTION	5. OPERATION	6. DECOMMISSION
<p>(12 months)</p> <p>Extensive research to identify site suitability: positive indicators include good wind speed and minimal environmental and technical constraints.</p> <p>No public engagement is carried out during this time because the site may not pass the criteria required for being suitable for development.</p> 	<p>(6 to 18 months)</p> <p>We request the view of the Scottish Government, Scottish Borders Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council and South Lanarkshire Council on the level of study required (known as “Scoping”).</p> <p>Scoping is sent to local and neighbouring Community Councils and consultees such as NatureScot, SEPA and Historic Environment Scotland.</p> <p>There are likely to be further changes to the layout as studies continue and feedback from communities and residents is received. Two public exhibitions will take place to discuss the design and its changes with the local community.</p> 	<p>(12 to 24 months)</p> <p>An application for Section 36 consent is submitted to the Scottish Government, accompanied by a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report showing the results of all studies undertaken. This is publicly available information and will be available on the project and Energy Consents Unit website.</p> <p>Interested parties and consultees such as Scottish Borders Council, South Lanarkshire Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council and Community Councils hosting and neighbouring the proposal can formally comment on the application and the EIA Report.</p> 	<p>(12 to 24 months)</p> <p>If Oliver Forest is approved, construction begins at least one year after consent.</p> <p>Construction typically takes 12–24 months and planning conditions, including the provision of a Construction Environmental Management Plan, are used to manage elements of construction.</p> 	<p>(Up to 40 years)</p> <p>The turbines are managed from a regionally based maintenance team, and operations are controlled by detailed planning conditions.</p> <p>We are committed to community benefit and shared ownership opportunities. A community fund is active throughout the operational lifetime of the project for a range of community initiatives.</p> 	<p>(12 months)</p> <p>At the end of the planning period, turbines are removed. A financial bond or guarantee is put in place before construction starts, to cover the decommissioning cost.</p> 

The process of gathering robust environmental baseline data on a site is vital to designing a wind farm. This is carried out by specialist environmental and technical consultants.

This information is incorporated into an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and will be publicly available when an application is submitted to planning.

As part of designing and assessing the suitability of this site for a wind farm, consultation is undertaken by specialist environmental consultants with a number of consultees including Scottish Borders Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council and South Lanarkshire Council, NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Historic Environment Scotland.



Photo taken from Nether Oliver Craggs Fort looking east over the Tweed valley towards The Chesters Enclosure.

The EIA Report will cover a range of topics including:

- Landscape and Visual Amenity
- Ecology
- Cultural Heritage
- Forestry
- Hydrology
- Noise
- Traffic and Transport
- Climate Change
- Land Use, Socioeconomics and Tourism

What will the project look like?

As part of our studies, we have created images showing how the wind turbines could look from several locations in the surrounding area.

We are working with Scottish Borders Council, South Lanarkshire Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council and NatureScot to finalise the viewpoint locations for assessment. This means the viewpoint locations may change slightly between now and when we submit a planning application.

A selection of the finalised viewpoint locations will be available to view at a second exhibition, before submission.

One of our key design objectives will be creating a wind farm which is appropriate for and takes into account the existing landscape character and visual features of the surrounding area.

As developers, our challenge is to find the right balance between maximising the electricity output of a site and carefully siting and designing the proposal to relate to the existing landscape, including other wind developments.

Our studies will include an appropriate landscape and visual assessment and will consider the proposed development on its own, as well as in the context of other existing, consented and proposed wind farm developments.



The assessment will pay particular regard to:

- Effects on the landscape character of the site's immediate area, as well as the character of the wider area.
- Effects on the special qualities of landscape designations up to 45km, such as Upper Tweeddale National Scenic Area.
- The amenity of residential properties near to the proposed development and in the surrounding area (c. 2km).
- Other viewpoints, such as within settlements, commuter routes, walking routes and local areas of interest.
- Visual effects associated with visible night-time turbine lighting.

Ecology, Ornithology & Forestry



There are no national ecological or ornithological designations within the site. The Tweedsmuir Hills Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located to the east and Moffat Hills SSSI to the south-east. The River Tweed Special Area of Conservation (SAC) runs along the southern boundary of the site.

Ecology and ornithology surveys have been undertaken on the site since 2022 and are still ongoing. These surveys will look at the habitats present on the site (including in watercourses within and adjoining the site) and the use of the site by birds, mammals and fish. The surveys are undertaken in accordance with guidance issued by NatureScot and the findings will be used to inform the design of the Oliver Forest Wind Farm.

The site primarily consists of commercial coniferous plantation. Some felling will be required to accommodate turbines and associated infrastructure. Compensatory planting will be proposed as part of our plans.

Biodiversity enhancement measures are being considered and will be outlined in the EIA Report.

Geology, Hydrology & Peat



Desk and field-based surveys are being undertaken in order to determine the underlying bedrock of the site, establish the presence and depth of peat, identify private and public water supplies in the area that will be avoided.

Some residents close to the site will be contacted so our specialists can fully understand the location and catchments of any private water supplies (PWS). This is to ensure PWS can be avoided and appropriate mitigation measures proposed during the construction period.

Careful design of the wind farm will minimise impacts on the water environment of the site and surroundings including buffers around watercourses and through the design of suitable watercourse crossings if required.

Initial surveys to identify the presence of peat showed some isolated areas of deeper peat, but in general indicated peat of less than 0.5m. We will avoid peat excavation where possible, and a Peat Management Plan will ensure the appropriate management including re-use of any excavated peat during construction.

Cultural Heritage



The cultural heritage assessment will be undertaken in-line with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) guidance. Desk-based and field-based surveys are being undertaken in order to investigate archaeological and cultural heritage assets within the site and surrounding area. Three Scheduled Monuments and a number of non-designated assets are known to be located within the southern part of the site.

The information gathered from these surveys will be used to inform the design of the wind farm and associated infrastructure to avoid where possible, any direct impacts on identified assets.

In addition, an evaluation of the potential impacts on the setting of off-site cultural heritage assets will be completed as part of the EIA process and this will be supplemented by the provision of viewpoint visualisations within the EIA Report.

Noise



A noise assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the current best practice guidance and standards. The noise assessment will consider the potential effects of construction works and traffic and operation of the proposed wind farm on nearby residential properties. The assessment will take into account other wind farm schemes operating or in development in the area.

Background noise monitoring will be carried out surrounding the site to understand existing noise levels. The background noise levels will be used to determine the noise limits that the wind farm would have to operate within.

These limits are informed by Government guidance (ETSU-R-97). If consented, the future operational site would operate within levels considered acceptable under these guidelines.

Access, Traffic and Transport



The transport route to the site would be from the A701 via a new or upgraded forest access junction.

A transport assessment will consider the impacts of increased traffic volumes expected on local roads during construction and how to minimise this impact. Likely measures include a Wear and Tear Agreement with relevant Councils (Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway), the provision of a Construction Traffic Management Plan and an Abnormal Load Transport Management Plan.

The assessment of route(s) for construction traffic, as well as long and heavy loads is still to be undertaken. We will have more information on this at our second exhibition.

All road works and measures required to ensure the safe and efficient access for the turbine deliveries will be published in the EIA Report.

Land-Use, Socioeconomics and Tourism



An assessment of the potential economic effects of the wind farm will be 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 all potential positive and negative impacts for the development including regional and local communities, as well as tourists, tourism related businesses and other recreational groups where appropriate. We welcome your ideas on how we can maximise the economic benefits our project could bring.



Climate Change



The Scottish Government has set a legally binding target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. Developments such as Oliver Forest Wind Farm are key to meeting this target. Whilst Scotland has continued to make good progress in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, the need for low carbon energy supplies is paramount if Scotland is to achieve this net zero target.

By 2030, The Scottish Energy Strategy calls for 50% of ‘all energy’ to come from renewables. It emphasises that onshore wind is now one of the cheapest forms of electricity and will therefore continue to play an important role in this.

A carbon balance assessment will quantify the anticipated emissions savings of Oliver Forest Wind Farm using Scottish Government guidance. A “carbon payback period” will be calculated, demonstrating how long it will take for the carbon emissions saved by Oliver Forest Wind Farm’s renewable electricity generation to offset the carbon generated for its development.

“We need more renewable energy, but why here?”



This is one of the most common questions we are asked when we propose a wind farm. This is a very understandable question, and the answer goes beyond the fact that Scotland has one of the strongest wind speeds in Europe. We were pleased to be able to answer this question with the detail it deserves during a webinar hosted by the news website FutureNetZero. You may be surprised to know that our analysis shows less than 10% of land in Scotland is suitable for development of onshore wind.

[You can watch the full webinar here.](#)



RICHARD MARDON,
VP Development, Statkraft UK

Richard takes us behind the scenes of the development process, with a step by step guide on the challenges faced in finding the best sites to maximise Scotland’s excellent natural wind resource.

Since 2002 Richard has worked exclusively in onshore wind in the UK, and has had oversight of the development, construction and operation of several completed Scottish wind projects.



Andershaw Wind Farm, South Lanarkshire. 11 turbines

What is “Net Zero”?

Credit: www.nationalgrid.com/stories/energy-explained

Net zero means achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out.

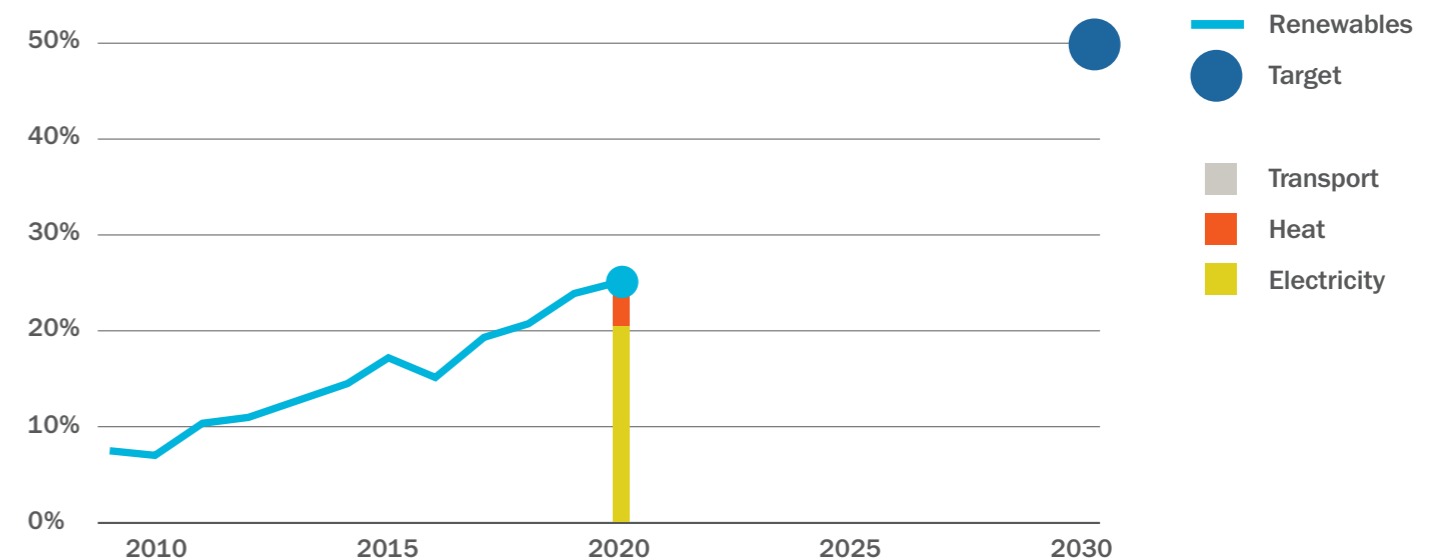
“Think about it like a bath – turn on the taps and you add more water, pull out the plug and water flows out. The amount of water in the bath depends on both the input from the taps and the output via the plughole. To keep the amount of water in the bath at the same level, you need to make sure that the input and output are balanced.

Reaching net zero applies the same principle, requiring us to balance the amount of greenhouse gases we emit with the amount we remove. When what we add is no more than what we take away we reach net zero. This state is also referred to as carbon neutral; although zero emissions and zero carbon are slightly different, as they usually mean that no emissions were produced in the first place.”

HOW IS SCOTLAND DOING?

Scotland’s share of renewable energy (gross final consumption)

Scotland, 2009 - 2020



Source: Scottish Energy Statistics Hub

We want our wind farms to bring benefits to the local area. We have several new initiatives that will be available for Oliver Forest Wind Farm that we want to talk to you about.

“ Windy Rig Wind Farm is another valuable contract for GTR. We are just one of several local businesses who are directly benefiting from the many wind farm developments within this area. This can only be a good thing for both local businesses and the local economy especially during the current pandemic.”

Tanya Russell, Director, GTR Contracts Ltd



Community Benefit Fund

Committed to setting up a Community Benefit Fund for Oliver Forest of £5,000 per MW installed per year. We are keen to work with communities to deliver a fund that can meet local community needs and priorities.

Shared Ownership

Progress the opportunity, if there is interest for local groups to have a financial interest in our project, with the support of organisations such as [Local Energy Scotland](#).

Local Investment

Work with local business groups to increase awareness of the opportunities in construction and operations. We have successfully used local contractors on our recent construction projects.

Education & Enterprise

We welcome ideas on how our project can support local education and employment opportunities and boost local businesses.

Your Views are Important to Us

We hope to submit a planning application towards the end of 2023/early 2024. Before then we will hold another public exhibition to share further details of the proposed Oliver Forest Wind Farm.

We welcome your comments and feedback as our proposal develops. Please register your comments by completing a feedback form **by 31 March 2023**.

As the project progresses, we will continue to engage with local stakeholders and communities.

Comments made to Statkraft are not representations to the consenting authority. If an application is submitted there will be an opportunity for you to submit a formal response to the Scottish Government at that time.

Thank you for attending the Oliver Forest Wind Farm Exhibition.

We would like to keep you updated as our plans progress:



[Click here to complete the online feedback form](#)



Register for updates:
www.oliverforestwindfarm.co.uk



0800 772 0668
(local call rate applies)



Freepost Statkraft
(no stamp or further address details required)



UKProjects@statkraft.com

Statkraft UK

1 West Regent Street
Glasgow
G2 1RW

For more information
about Oliver Forest Wind Farm
www.oliverforestwindfarm.co.uk

www.statkraft.co.uk

Phone: 0800 772 0668

Statkraft is a proud partner of SolarAid, helping to provide access to clean energy for the most vulnerable across Africa.



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