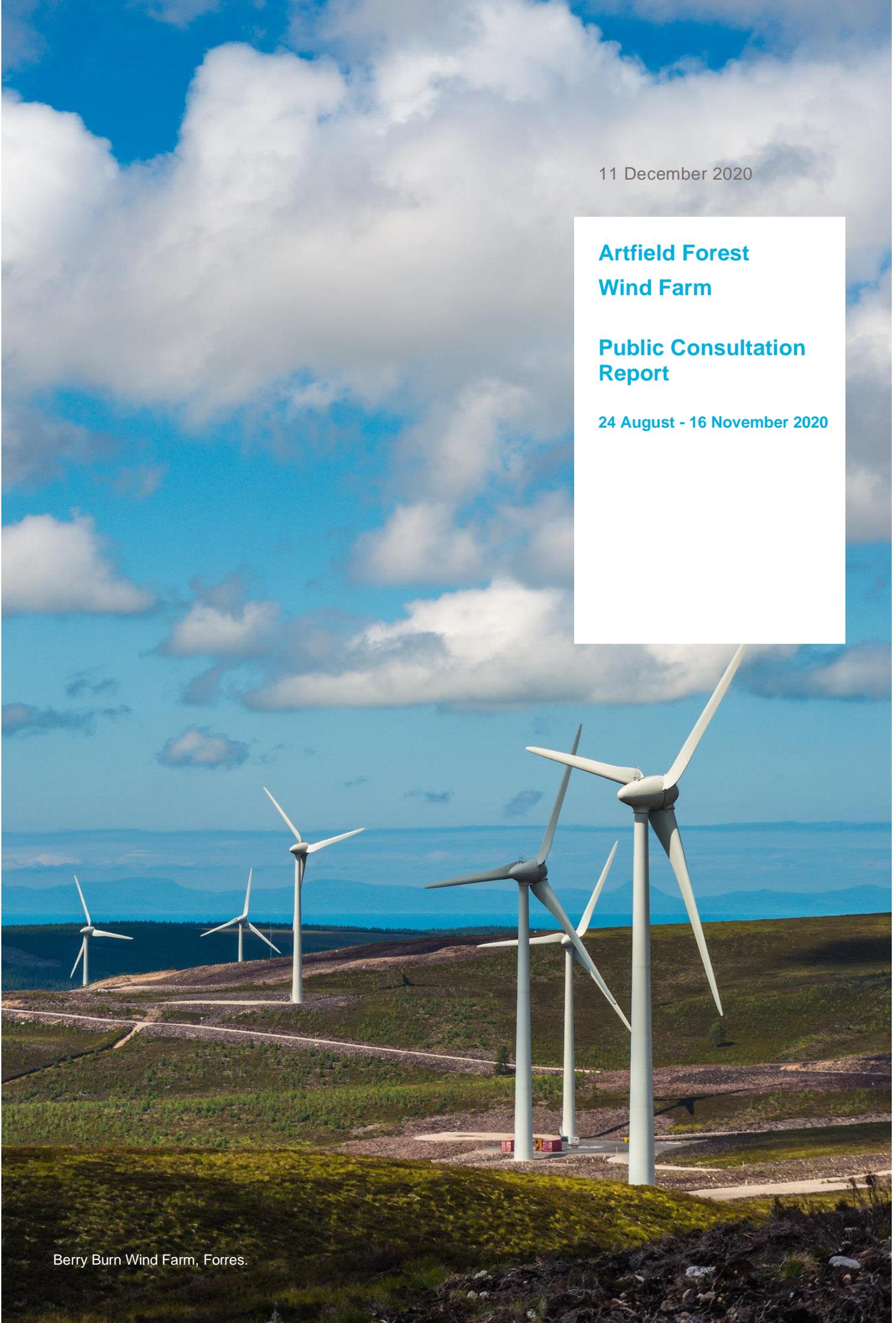


11 December 2020

## **Artfield Forest Wind Farm**

### **Public Consultation Report**

**24 August - 16 November 2020**



## ABOUT ARTFIELD FOREST WIND FARM

Artfield Forest Wind Farm is a proposal for a 12 wind turbine project, located approximately 8km northeast of Glenluce, within the administration boundary of Dumfries and Galloway Council.

A programme of community engagement and consultation for the proposal commenced in May 2020. The engagement and consultation was held primarily online, adhering to Scottish Government advice in relation to Covid-19.

## INITIAL CONSULTATION PERIOD

It was important to provide communities with several opportunities to engage with the project and the project team during Covid-19 restrictions. To achieve this, a dedicated project website was made available to the public earlier than usual, launched when the scoping request was first submitted.

The host and neighbouring community councils within Dumfries and Galloway were directly contacted and offered an opportunity to virtually meet the development team, to find out more about the proposal and have seek their feedback on the consultation approach before the wider community were contacted.

## THE CONSULTATION PERIOD

This report presents the findings of the feedback received during the consultation period 24/08/2020 and 16/11/2020 via the virtual public exhibition and non-digital sources such as postal feedback forms. Responses submitted after this date will continue to be evaluated and responded to, if required. The timing of the consultation period activity fell in line with the traditional development steps of a project, engaging and consulting with surrounding communities ahead of submitting a formal planning application.

It is intended to submit a Section 36 application for the proposed Artfield Forest Wind Farm to the Scottish Government in early 2021.

## PROJECT SUMMARY KEY FACTS

	No. of Turbines	Max Blade Tip Heights	Installed Capacity (MW)	Estimated Generation (homes equivalent)*	Community Fund (per year)
<b>Artfield Forest</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>180m</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>Over 60,000 homes*</b>	<b>Estimated £336,000 per year**</b>

\* Based on 12 x 5.6MW turbines, onsite wind speed measurements and average household consumption of 3618kWh pa (BEIS 2019)

\*\* Based on Scottish Government's recommendation for £5,000 per MW of installed capacity.

## ADVERTISING THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Consultation on the proposed Artfield Forest Wind Farm was held from 24 August to 16 November 2020. A dedicated consultation website was set up, which could be accessed via a link from the Artfield Forest project website.

The event was publicised in various ways, including:

- **Local press:** Advertised in the Dumfries & Galloway Standard over a two week period (appendix 1);
- **Local social media:** Online advert on Stranraer & Wigtownshire Free Press social media for a week (hardcopy of the paper not printed during Covid) (appendix 1);
- **Community mail out/direct mail:** Mailing to over 900 homes within 10km of the site with details of how to take part in the consultation (appendix 2 and 3). Feedback cards and freepost envelopes, for residents who would prefer to write back, rather than go online, were included in the mailing (appendix 4);
- **Engaging local representatives:** Writing to local elected representatives, including the host and neighbouring Community Councils and local ward members within Dumfries and Galloway – in line with Community Councils listed by the Energy Consents Unit (see appendix 2);
- **Community Council social media:** Community Councils kindly helped to publicise via their Facebook pages; and
- **Dedicated project website:** news of the consultation was available on the Artfield Forest project website throughout the consultation period, and all those subscribed to receive news updates were notified.

The information contained in the online consultation included:

- **Exhibition boards:** This is the project information usually presented at village hall exhibitions;
- **Pre-recorded videos:** To introduce the project team and addressing key aspects of the project;
- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's):** To help address the key questions visitors may have when visiting the consultation website for the first time. This section was frequently updated to include responses to new queries raised by attendees;
- **Predicted Viewpoints:** A 'slider tool' allowed visitors to easily compare and contrast the current landscape with a photomontage of the predicted view from a number of selected viewpoints;
- **Live Q&A sessions:** Several opportunities provided to join a live, online chat with the project team throughout the online exhibition;
- **Request an appointment:** A 'call-back' function on the website provided the opportunity to request a one-to-one conversation with the Project Manager; and
- **Online feedback forms:** To leave feedback and comments or to ask the Project Team questions.

The project information displayed will continue to be available on the project website, which is continually being updated with the latest project information.

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## SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

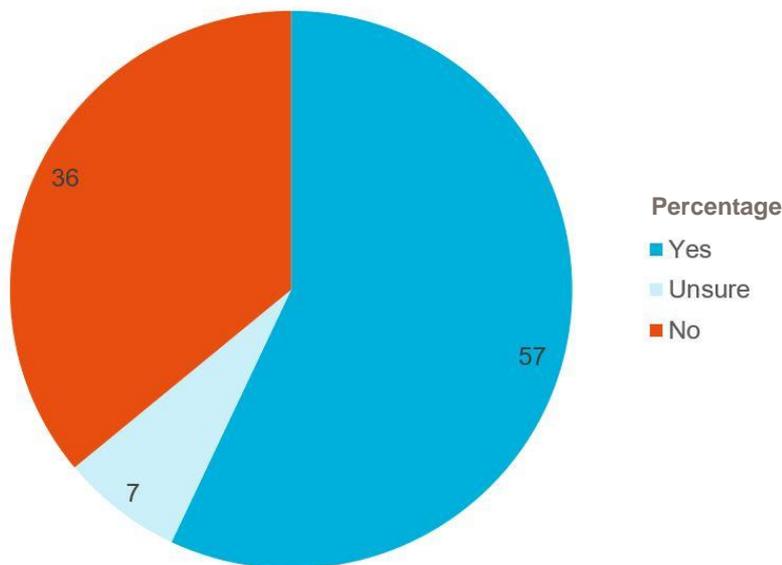
This section of the report provides an overview of the feedback received during the consultation period for Artfield Forest Wind Farm (24 August to 16 November).

Over 223 visits were recorded to the dedicated project website.

64 feedback forms were returned from the community mailing, providing an important source of information for the project team to understand the communities position on the proposal. A summary of the quantitative and qualitative feedback received from the feedback forms is provided below.

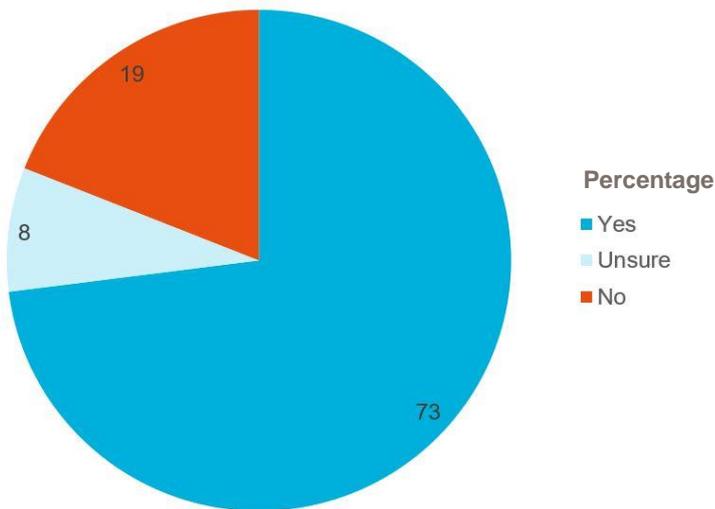
The online and postal feedback form contained several questions:

**Figure 1: Do you think this is an acceptable location for a wind farm?**



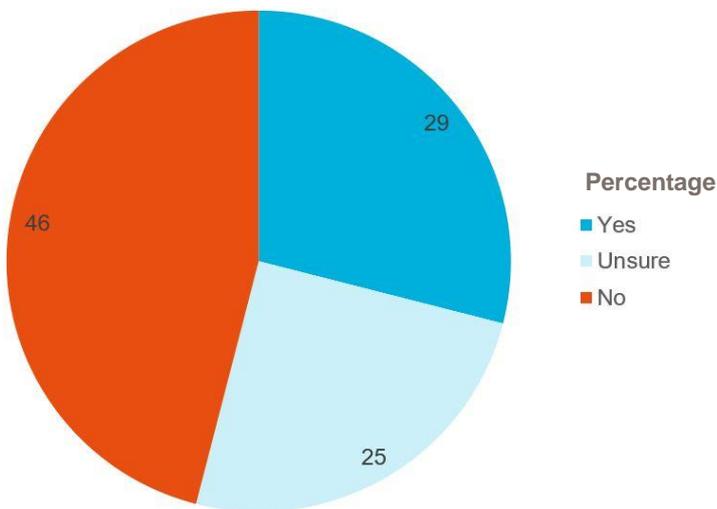
Based on 70 responses.

**Figure 2: Is bringing improved broadband to the area of interest to you?**



Based on 64 responses.

**Figure 3: Is Shared Ownership of interest to you?**



Based on 69 responses.

Shared ownership is a relatively new proposal for communities and some of the uncertainty around this may be because not enough is known about what shared ownership may entail for communities. To answer some of the questions respondents may have regarding this opportunity a virtual roundtable event is being arranged with Local Energy Scotland to discuss shared ownership in more detail with community representatives.

---

## KEY TOPICS RAISED FROM THE CONSULTATION

Overall feedback received from residents showed majority support for our proposal. However, some residents do not support the project, and we thought it would be useful to outline the main topics raised, along with a summary of our responses. All comments made have been taken into account as we finalise our application.

All those who submitted a question or comment received a response, within the limits of data protection principles.

### WILL THERE BE A LOCAL ENERGY DISCOUNT SCHEME?

Interest for a local energy discount scheme, similar to those provided by other wind farm schemes in the area, was raised by several respondents.

If the project is consented, a Community Benefit Fund of £5,000 per MW installed will be established. Based on the current proposal, this would deliver a fund of £336,000 per annum for the lifetime of the project. Statkraft aim to have maximum flexibility regarding how community funds are used, as it is recognised communities best understand how funds could be utilised to meet local needs and ambitions.

The ideas in relation to an electricity discount scheme will be passed across to community councils and if an electricity discount scheme, or similar, is preferred by communities this can then be considered in detail.

### THERE ARE ALREADY ENOUGH/TOO MANY WIND FARMS IN THE AREA

While the majority of feedback showed residents felt that this was a good location for a wind farm, several respondents raised concerns about the potential cumulative impact of the project in the area. Less than 10% of the land area in Scotland is suitable for large onshore wind farms. This presents a great opportunity for Dumfries & Galloway to be at the forefront of Scotland's net zero ambitions.

As developers it is good to hear and understand what local people think of wind farm developments in the area. The challenge for developers and for the Artfield Forest project has been to find the right balance between maximising the electricity output of a site and blending in with the existing landscape.

The cumulative impact of the project will be assessed in detail as part of the planning application, and all of these assessments will be made available in the planning application (and on our website).

### WILL THERE BE ANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES?

Statkraft are committed to working with the local supply chain and is already working with several Dumfries & Galloway companies on the construction of our Windy Rig and Twentysilling Hill projects.

As an existing member of Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of Commerce, work will continue with them and other business groups in the area to ensure local suppliers are aware of the opportunities from our projects. Local businesses have been invited to register their details on our [Local Supplier Database](#).

Should the project gain consent, 'Meet the Developer' events for businesses will be organised

---

### WHAT WILL THE IMPACT BE ON WILDLIFE?

Independent experts have carried out and rigorously assessed detailed onsite wildlife surveys and the potential effects on birds, sensitive habitats and on protected species, including bats and water voles.

Biodiversity was a key consideration at the project design stage, and subsequently significant adverse impacts on wildlife and important habitats will be avoided through careful planning.

All the reports which can be made publicly available in relation to wildlife will be included with the planning application documents. Some information relating to sensitive species is confidential and can only be shared with particular statutory consultees.

### WILL YOU BE FELLING ANY TREES AND IF SO, WILL YOU BE REPLACING THEM?

The proposed wind farm is situated within an extensive area of commercial forestry whereby felling and replanting is common. If the project is consented, some tree felling will be required to facilitate the wind farm infrastructure, but we will seek to minimise felling. In Scotland, there is a legal requirement to replant any felled areas which are to be kept clear for the duration of the wind farm. The legal requirement will be fulfilled for this project, and detailed information on the proposed replanting will be publicly available in the planning application documents.

### INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT BROADBAND

Bringing improved broad band to the area is of interest to the majority of respondents. High quality broadband is required to operate wind farms, including Artfield Forest Wind Farm, should it be consented.

Statkraft are the only developer to commit to funding a broadband feasibility study for each of its onshore wind farm development projects. This will assess the potential for fibre and wireless line of sight broadband, required for an operational wind farm, to benefit the local and wider community as well. If there is an opportunity for our wind farms to help improve broadband connections for residents/businesses in the area, then we would be happy to explore this with the community.

Statkraft have commissioned a feasibility study which can be used to start discussions with local residents and their elected representatives, where interest is shown by local communities. Feedback received has shown there is significant interest from local respondents to improve broadband in the area and discussions will be followed up.

## NEXT STEPS

As the application for our planning submission is finalised, the next steps for local engagement are:

- Continue to receive feedback and respond to queries.
- Liaise and review with our technical team regarding project-specific feedback.
- Progress setting up a shared ownership (virtual) roundtable with Local Energy Scotland to provide more information to those in the community interested in shared ownership opportunities.
- Follow up with community stakeholders regarding the potential for enhanced access to broadband by sharing the findings of the feasibility study.
- Continue to engage with elected representatives, community councils and local residents to keep them updated on progress.
- Respond to correspondence and calls from local residents.
- Recording and storing all comments made regarding suggestions for community benefit funding.
- Continue to update our project website [www.artfield-forest.co.uk](http://www.artfield-forest.co.uk)



Statkraft UK  
1 West Regent Street  
Glasgow  
G2 1RW

[www.artfield-forest.co.uk](http://www.artfield-forest.co.uk)

APPENDIX 1

NEWS PAPER PUBLIC NOTICE: DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY STANDARD WEEK 1: 21.08.20

40 21.8.2020
www.dumfriesandgallowaystandard.co.uk

## Public Notices

**Public Notices**

**PRE-PLANNING APPLICATION COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT**  
**Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020**

Planning application for the western extension to Kibbans Quarry Notice is hereby given that a pre-planning application community engagement event is to be held, on behalf of Hoddam Contracting Co. Limited, in respect of a proposal for the western extension to the existing Kibbans Sand and Gravel Quarry.

In accordance with Scottish Government's current restrictions on public gatherings, on account of Covid19, the event is scheduled to take place online on Monday 31st August, between the hours of 4pm and 7pm. To access the consultation event, please contact Tom Lewis, in writing, at Johnson Poole & Bloomer, 50 Speirs Wharf, Glasgow, G4 9TH or [consultations@jpb-scotland.co.uk](mailto:consultations@jpb-scotland.co.uk) or by telephone 0141 3311456.

The online consultation event will be attended by the project's lead planning consultant and a representative of the applicant who will be available to answer questions and provide any additional information or clarification as required.

Any persons wishing to make comments to the prospective applicant, prior to the formal submission of the planning application to Dumfries and Galloway Council, may do so by either:

- (1) visiting the website at [www.hoddamquarry.co.uk](http://www.hoddamquarry.co.uk);
- (2) contacting Tom Lewis, in writing, at Johnson Poole & Bloomer, 50 Speirs Wharf, Glasgow, G4 9TH or [consultations@jpb-scotland.co.uk](mailto:consultations@jpb-scotland.co.uk) or by telephone 0141 3311456. All comments and questions should be submitted no later than Tuesday 22nd September 2020.

Please note, comments made to the prospective applicant do not constitute representations to the Planning Authority. A further opportunity to make representations to Dumfries and Galloway Council will be available following formal submission of the planning application.

Further details about the proposals can be found at [www.hoddamquarry.co.uk](http://www.hoddamquarry.co.uk) or requested by writing directly to Tom Lewis at Johnson Poole & Bloomer, 50 Speirs Wharf, Glasgow, G4 9TH or [consultations@jpb-scotland.co.uk](mailto:consultations@jpb-scotland.co.uk) or by telephone on 0141 3311456.

**PLANNING**

The applications, associated plans and documents can be viewed online by following the ePlanning link on the Council's website at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/eplanning](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/eplanning). Written comments may be made by email to [Planning@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:Planning@dumgal.gov.uk) or via the Council's website, as noted above, by 049921001 (Type A).

**Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended**  
**Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, Reg 20(1) (A)**  
Ref No/Type Address/Proposal  
20/1206/F18 (A) Gardens Cottage, Brookside House, Collicle, Dumfries - Change of use of outbuilding to form holiday lodge and siting of 3 holiday pods, installation of sewage treatment plant and associated works.

**POST ADOPTION STATEMENT – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005**  
**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2**

A Post Adoption Statement has been prepared in accordance with Section 18 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 for the Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 2. Local Development Plan 2 was adopted October 2018. Local Development Plan 2 along with its accompanying Environmental Report and Post Adoption Statement can be viewed on the Council's web site at <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15344/Strategic-Environmental-Habitat-and-Equality-Assessment>.

**ROADS**  
**(U362N HOLYWOOD VILLAGE) (TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER) ORDER 2020**

The Council has made an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to temporarily close U362N from Holywood Parish Church access West for 250m from 7am on 31/8/20 to 7pm on 6/9/20. The closure is necessary to facilitate SPEN works. Alternative route available via U362N, U365N, A76 and vice versa. Emergency access will be available if required. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

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**Location:**  
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We're not expecting you to arrive with pre-existing knowledge of the software or the tourism industry. This is a role that you will grow into, and as you gain knowledge your responsibilities will increase.

Please email your CV and a covering letter to [recruitment@supercontrol.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@supercontrol.co.uk)

**INSTRUCTOR - ENGINEERING**  
**Barony Campus, Dumfries**

**£25,254 - £26,374 per annum**

**Ref: ASWF/ILM/004/20**

Are you a service engineer within the agricultural or forestry sector? Are you looking for a new challenge? We are seeking a highly motivated individual to help consolidate and grow SRUC's engineering education and training provision at our Barony Campus.

For further information and to apply, [www.sruc.ac.uk/jobs](http://www.sruc.ac.uk/jobs)  
**Closing date: 7th September 2020**  
SRUC Leading the way in Agricultural and Rural Research, Education & Consultancy. SRUC: A Charitable company limited by guarantee, SC003712. Registered in Scotland No SC103046

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**Twice daily**

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**Statkraft**

**Invitation to Artfield Forest Wind Farm Virtual Public Exhibition**

We invite you to attend a virtual public exhibition for our Artfield Forest Wind Farm proposals.

In line with Scottish Government guidance for online consultation due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we will hold an online public exhibition for Statkraft UK's Artfield Forest Wind Farm. We are committed to listening to communities as we seek to shape our development before it is finalised.

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Website: [www.artfield-forest.co.uk](http://www.artfield-forest.co.uk)  
Project Hotline: 0800 772 0668  
Write to: Freepost Statkraft (no stamp required)

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**Free Helpline: 0800 917 8616**  
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NEWS PAPER PUBLIC NOTICE: DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY STANDARD WEEK 2: 25.08.20

30 25.8.2020
www.dumfriesandgallowaystandard.co.uk

## Public Notices

**Public Notices**



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Project Hotline: 0800 772 0668  
Write to: Freepost Statkraft (no stamp required)

**Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence**

Robert Keating trading as Robert Keating Transport of 26 Ardron Drive, Linton, Dumfries, DG2 0AE is applying to change an existing licence as follows: to add an operating centre to keep 2 goods vehicles and 4 trailers at The Garage, Kirkcubbin Water, Perth, Dundee, DD1 7NS. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their site or employment of that site would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Kirkcubbin House, 385 Hamilton Lane, Linton, DG2 0AE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of the notice. Representatives meet at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

**It pays to advertise**

### Property

**Houses For Sale (Private)**

**Skyview, Queens Road, Sanquhar, DG4 6DL**

3 bed/2 bath detached bungalow with white garage, nice garden and lovely views. Built in 2013 and currently a holiday let/second home. Offers over £185,000, telephone for viewing availability

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If you are proactive and confident, with a strong customer service background and a natural aptitude for working with computers, you may be just right for our growing Client Care team.

**Starting salary:** You will start on **£18,000 - £20,000**, depending on experience

**Location:** Castle Douglas

You'll work with clients to help them grow their business, building a trusting relationship. You'll help set up their accounts, provide online learning tutorials, user support and explore ways that they can use SuperControl to innovate.

We're not expecting you to arrive with pre-existing knowledge of the software or the tourism industry. This is a role that you will grow into, and as you gain knowledge your responsibilities will increase.

Please email your CV and a covering letter to [recruitment@supercontrol.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@supercontrol.co.uk)

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\* Lines open 8.30am-5.30pm, Mon-Fri

ONLINE PUBLIC NOTICE: STRANRAER AND WIGTOWNSHIRE FREE PRESS 1 WEEK: 24.08.20



**Stranraer and Wigtownshire Free Press**

24 August · 🌐

...

**ADVERT: Find out about a proposed wind farm near Glenluce.**



### Invitation to Artfield Forest Wind Farm Virtual Public Exhibition

We invite you to attend a virtual public exhibition for our Artfield Forest Wind Farm proposals, located 8km northeast of Glenluce.

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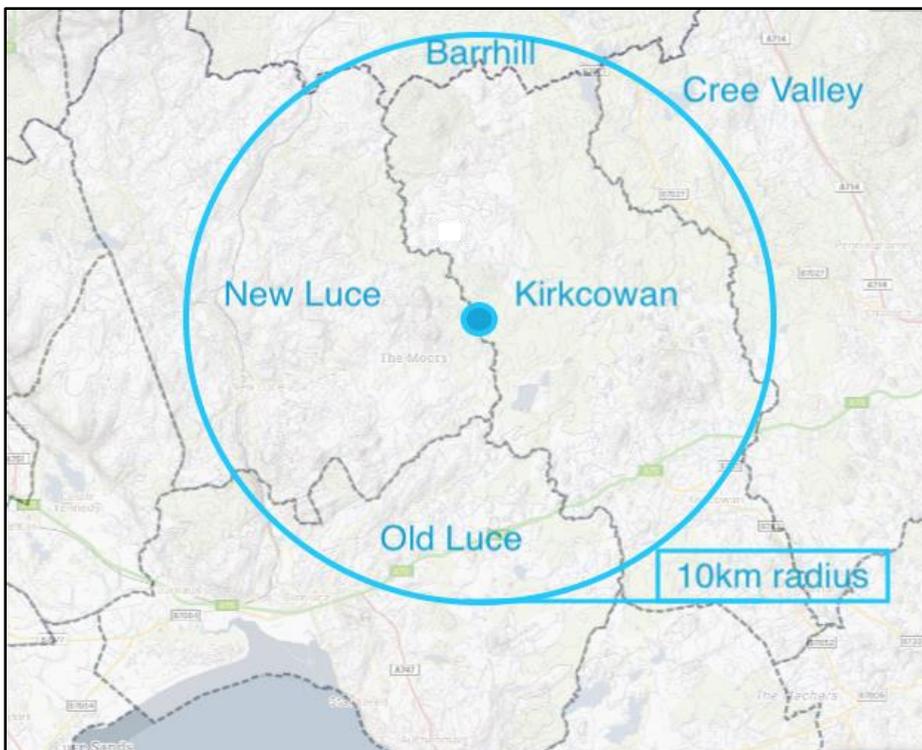
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**Website: [www.artfield-forest.co.uk](http://www.artfield-forest.co.uk)**  
**Project Hotline: 0800 772 0668**  
**Write to: Freepost Statkraft (no stamp required)**

## APPENDIX 2

### 10KM LOCAL CONSULTATION ZONE

For Artfield Forest Wind Farm, we have primarily focused our engagement in the communities nearest the proposals, as well as notifying communities further afield.



The site is located in the Mid-Galloway & Wigtown West ward and the community councils in the area are large geographical areas. The map outlines our focus area, which has been within a 10km radius of the site. Key things to note include:

- The Artfield Forest site boundary covers two Community Council areas: Kirkcowan and New Luce.
  - The majority of the 10km radius area is covered by Kirkcowan Community Council, New Luce Community Council and Old Luce Community Council, with Cree Valley Community Council and Barrhill Community Council also within 10km of the site.
  - The Mid-Galloway & Wigtown West electoral ward covers the four Dumfries & Galloway Community Council areas illustrated.
  - The Girvan & South Carrick ward (South Ayrshire Council) covers the 10km boundary area of Barrhill Community Council area - we have focused engagement in Dumfries & Galloway as the key consultee local authority to the proposals.
-

APPENDIX 3

MAILING: INVITATION TO ARTFIELD FOREST WIND FARM ONLINE CONSULTATION



**Invitation to Virtual Exhibition:**  
**24 August – 18 September 2020**



---

**We're innovative and community focused**

Statkraft is dedicated to engaging with communities and finding different ways to bring positive benefits.

We want to talk to you about how our project can bring new investment to your community. We are open to your ideas.

**Community Benefit Fund**  
We are committed to a Community Benefit Fund that delivers £5,000 per MW installed as per Scottish Government recommendation. If consented, the project will generate over £330,000 per year for local groups and initiatives.

**Shared Ownership**  
We are open to offering Shared Ownership on our projects. If there is local interest, we would like to hear your views on enabling the community to have a financial share in the project.

**Improved Broadband**  
Join our online exhibition to find out more about our feasibility study to gauge the potential opportunity for this project to facilitate improved broadband access.

**Local supply chain**  
We want to work with local businesses to deliver our projects. Visit our project website for information on how local businesses can register their interest.



**Artfield Forest Wind Farm Proposal**

We would like to tell you more about ourselves and our proposal for a sustainable energy project, including community investment and improved broadband potential in your area.



Join our online public exhibition: meet the team and have your say.

We are bringing forward proposals for Artfield Forest Wind Farm, located approximately 8km northeast of Glenluce. In line with Scottish Government advice in relation to Covid-19, we are holding a series of online consultation events, where you can find out more about the plans and help shape the project.

**About Us**

Statkraft is Europe's largest generator of renewable energy, with origins going back 125 years in Norwegian hydro power. Our Scottish headquarters are in Glasgow and we have 4000 employees across 17 countries.

[www.statkraft.co.uk](http://www.statkraft.co.uk)

Please return the freepost reply card provided.

Phone the project hotline: 0800 772 0668

[www.artfield-forest.co.uk](http://www.artfield-forest.co.uk)

1 West Regent Street, Glasgow, G2 1RW





**Artfield Forest Wind Farm Proposal**



**Project Summary**

**Community engagement is very important to us.**

**Online Exhibition:**

We would like to invite you to our online public exhibition. We are committed to listening to communities as we seek to shape our development before it is finalised.

[www.artfield-forest.co.uk](http://www.artfield-forest.co.uk)

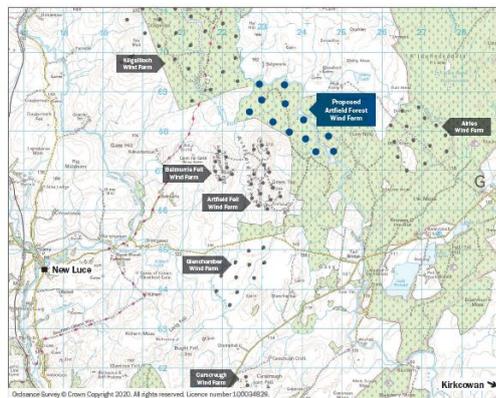
**12** Up to 12 wind turbines proposed

**£336k** Up to £336,000 per year for a Community Fund\*

A maximum height **180m**

Exciting new opportunity to talk about shared ownership and local suppliers

Potential for improved broadband provision



Our exhibition is being held online due to COVID19 restrictions in place.

The exhibition will be available to visit between 24 August – 18 September.

Ask questions, chat online or book a phone call

Live chat sessions with the project team

Visit exhibition by joining:  
[www.artfield-forest.co.uk](http://www.artfield-forest.co.uk)

We believe there could be an exciting opportunity for our project to bring improved broadband to the area. Please visit our online exhibition to find out more.

You can find out more about our projects and the way we work at [www.statkraft.co.uk](http://www.statkraft.co.uk)

\* Based on 12 x 5.6MW turbines, and £5,000 per MW installed.



## APPENDIX 5

This appendix outlines the elected representatives we have communicated with during the engagement and/or consultation phases.

### HOST AND NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITY COUNCILS WITHIN DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Kirkcowan Community Council  
New Luce Community Council  
Old Luce Community Council  
Cree Valley Community Council

### MID GALLOWAY AND WIGTOWN WEST WARD MEMBERS

Councillor Katie Hagmann  
Councillor David Inglis  
Councillor Jackie McCamon  
Councillor Jim McColm

### MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Finlay Carson MSP