

# Quantans Hill Wind Farm

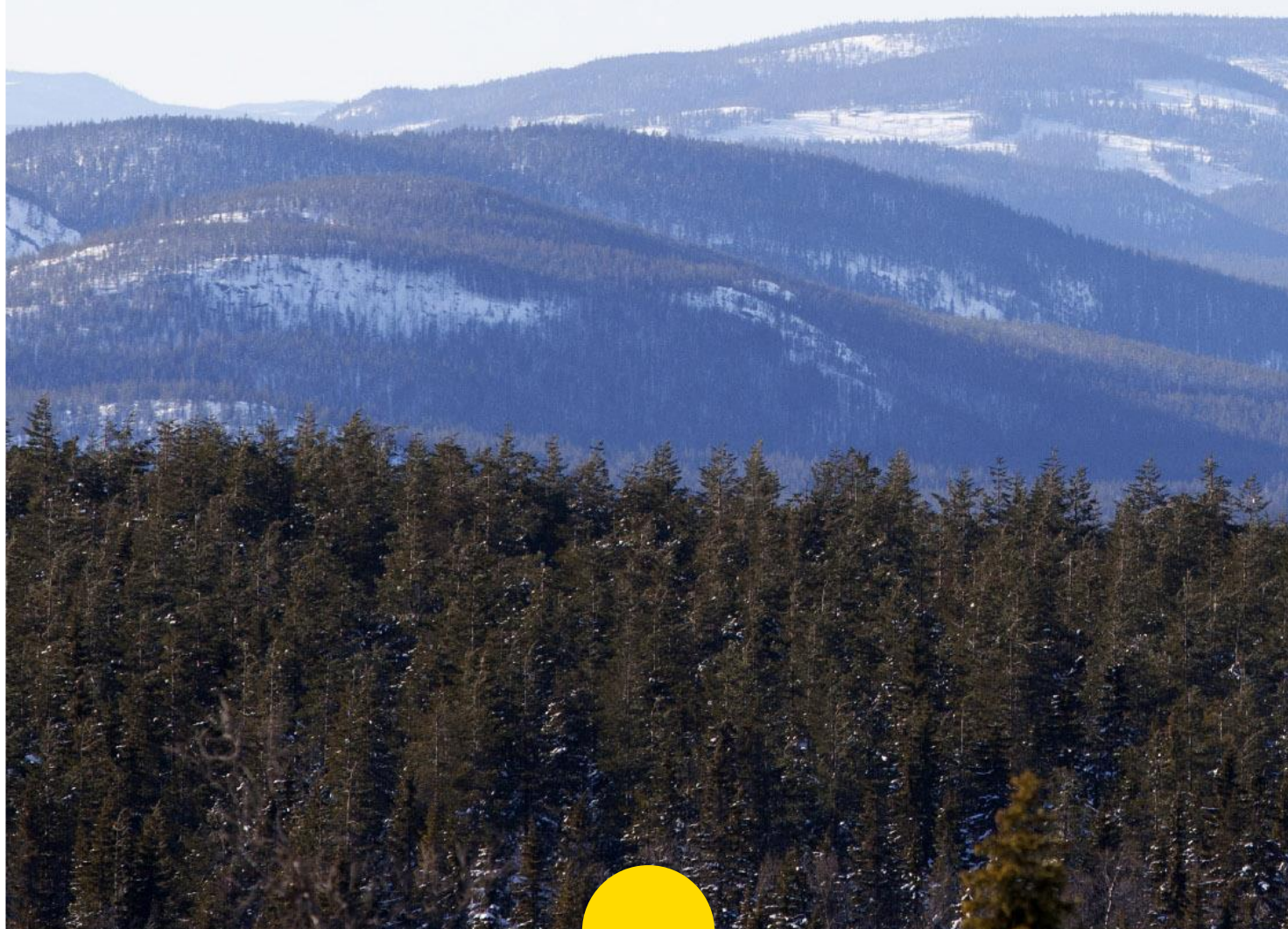
## PAC Report

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# Quantans Hill Wind Farm

## Pre-Application Community Consultation Report

Confidentiality class: C1 – Public



**VATTENFALL**

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# 1. Executive Summary

This document sets out the steps taken by Vattenfall to consult with local communities on the proposed Quantans Hill Wind Farm near Carsphairn in Dumfries and Galloway.

Commencing at the earliest opportunity, at Scoping in June 2020, and continuing over an 18 month period, this engagement process took place in its entirety against the backdrop of the global Covid-19 pandemic. This unprecedented emergency raised many challenges for developer, communities and stakeholders alike. For Vattenfall, we were unable to meet people in person, hold public events, offer community workshops, go door to door or facilitate informal face to face conversations for much of the period, with government guidance at times changing quickly. For local people and stakeholders, the engagement experience was by necessity digital and remote, often using previously unfamiliar technologies such as video calls, and during a period when stakeholder organisations were frequently under acute pressure.

Innovation and flexibility in our communications activities were thus essential throughout the process. We focussed on first building awareness, informing stakeholders and publicising the proposals at the earliest opportunity and seeking initial feedback, before launching a broad reaching campaign encompassing online materials and events, direct mail and local and social media. Opportunities for dialogue and discussion were created and publicised at each step of the design process, with surveys also available for those who wished to express their views and have their voices heard.

A combination of covid-related factors - and the fact that Carsphairn is a community already well versed in wind farm planning – meant that flexibility was key. Similarly, measures were taken to include the ‘digitally excluded’ with opportunities to join the conversation by more traditional methods, whilst realising the benefits digital engagement can bring.

With a very small local population, the numbers reached by the engagement process are low compared to other proposals closer to more populous areas. Nevertheless, we are pleased with the level of response both in terms of proportion of local population and given the ‘consultation fatigue’ reported by a community which has been subject to a number of wind farm proposals for various sites over recent years.

We were also pleased with the content and quality of the feedback received. This resulted in many adjustments being made to the proposed scheme design. We listened not only to those who wished to constructively engage, but also to those who took a zero-tolerance approach to all new wind farms. By seeking to better understand that position, and listen constructively with respect, we have enriched our appreciation of the specific challenges facing Carsphairn and the wider area, providing a solid platform from which Vattenfall can deliver not only renewable energy but also socio-economic value to communities across south west Scotland.

## 2. Introduction

Vattenfall is proposing the development of an c. 92.4MW onshore wind farm at Quantans Hill near Carsphairn in south west Scotland with further scope for a co-located 50MW battery energy storage system.

Details of the project first entered the public domain in June 2020, at which point the Pre-Application Community Consultation commenced.

### 2.1. Purpose of this report

A Pre-Application Community Consultation (PACC) report, although not required by regulations, has become standard practice for onshore wind projects in Scotland making Section 36 planning applications. This report aims to evidence the ways in which Vattenfall engaged with the local community and demonstrate how the feedback arising has been incorporated into the proposals being submitted to planning. The planning procedure includes a formal process of consultation with interested parties managed by the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit after submission of an application and advertisement in both local and national press. This report summarises engagement undertaken by the developer before application.

### 2.2. Consenting procedure

Applications to construct electricity generating stations above 50MW in installed capacity in Scotland are made to Scottish Ministers. These applications are commonly called 'Section 36' applications after the governing legal framework, Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and supporting legislation. Such planning applications assess the significant environmental effects of the proposed generating station.

More information about the Quantans Hill Wind Farm application, including the governing policy and legislation and its projected environmental impacts, can be found on the Vattenfall webpage at [www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshill](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshill).

## 3. Background and Context

### 3.1. Quantans Hill Wind Farm

Quantans Hill Wind Farm is a proposed renewable energy project by Vattenfall.

The site lies approximately 2km north east of the village of Carsphairn in Dumfries and Galloway. It is contained within one ward boundary (Dee and Glenkens) and community council area (Carsphairn Community Council).

The site has long been of interest to wind farm developers and has been subject to a previous wind farm application. In 2011, local media reported plans for a 30 turbine wind farm, and in 2016 a proposal by E.ON was reduced from up to 19 turbines to 12 before withdrawing their Section 36 application to Scottish Ministers due, we believe, to changes in the subsidy regime.<sup>1</sup>

The site is presently a mix of upland grazing and commercial forestry. Some landowners include members of the local community, with links stretching back generations.

Vattenfall's initial proposal consisted of 21 turbines, each up to 250m tip height, plus battery storage and associated infrastructure.

After gathering extensive environmental data and local feedback, the proposal has been revised to one of 14 turbines, to a maximum tip height of 200m, plus battery storage and associated infrastructure.



*Figure 1 Location of Quantans Hill Wind Farm and site boundary*

### 3.2. Carsphairn and the local area

Quantans Hill Wind Farm lies close to Carsphairn, a small, rural and relatively remote community. It is the most northerly settlement within the Stewartry district of the local authority area of Dumfries and Galloway and has an estimated population of approximately 186<sup>2</sup>.

In 2020, the village's school was mothballed, and at the time of writing Dumfries and Galloway Council is proposing its permanent closure. Economic activity is predominantly related to agriculture and tourism.

Carsphairn is currently in receipt of community benefit funding from operational wind farms and a community trust has been established to administer and distribute this funding. The community will also be a beneficiary of the community benefit fund being established by Vattenfall at the under-construction South Kyle Wind Farm

Over recent years, the community of Carsphairn has been invited to participate on numerous consultations and engagement programmes related to wind farms including Troston Loch, Lorg, Shepherds Rig, Benbrack, Cornharrow, Glenshimmeroch, Torrs Hill, Enoch Hill and Windy Standard. With this in mind, it is unsurprising that

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.eonenergy.com/about-eon/media-centre/planning-application-submitted-for-proposed-quantans-hill-wind-farm/> (accessed 3 November 2021)

<sup>2</sup> <https://info.dumgal.gov.uk/CommunityCouncils/Home/Detail/47>

the community council, other stakeholders and members of this small community, have expressed to Vattenfall a degree of 'consultation fatigue'.

Vattenfall's Quantans Hill Wind Farm Community Consultation took place during a period when the village was being impacted by the active construction of two wind farms – South Kyle Wind Farm by Vattenfall, and Statkraft's Windy Rig. Road traffic impacts and incidents, particularly relating to the latter development - including a crane road traffic accident which led to significant and lengthy road disruption for local people – were consistently raised as an issue of concern framing the community's attitudes to Quantans Hill and other developments in the area.

### 3.3. Vattenfall

Vattenfall is one of Europe's largest providers of electricity and heat. Employing c.20,000 people across Northern Europe including around 300 in the United Kingdom, the company was established in 1909 as one of the world's first state-owned power producers, and it remains wholly owned by the Swedish state. Vattenfall entered the UK market in 2008 and has since invested more than £3.5billion in UK energy systems with 1GW of wind in operation.

Today, addressing the climate crisis defines work at Vattenfall, and that is why Vattenfall is focussed on one goal: to enable fossil fuel free living within one generation. Its portfolio of wind energy projects across Scotland and the UK continue to grow and it expects on- and offshore wind to form the backbone of the energy system.

Vattenfall's investment in Scotland's energy systems is extensive. At time of writing, developments at Edinbane (Skye), Clashindarroch (Aberdeenshire) and Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm are generating power; whilst South Kyle Wind Farm (East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway) and the Shawfair District Heating Project (Midlothian) are in construction.

Vattenfall is now developing a pipeline of further opportunities across Scotland, including Quantans Hill Wind Farm in Dumfries and Galloway. In Scotland, Vattenfall has half a gigawatt of onshore wind farms – worth approximately £500m of investment – due to go into planning within 2021/2022, a combined investment with the potential to provide 600-700 jobs directly onsite during construction plus ancillary and support jobs in the local areas. This includes proposals for Whiteneuk Wind Farm, also in Dumfries and Galloway.

In 2020, Vattenfall commenced construction of South Kyle Wind Farm, a 50 turbine project approximately 12 miles north of Quantans Hill. Vattenfall focusses on bringing investment and opportunity for local communities when building its wind farms. At South Kyle Wind Farm Vattenfall pioneered an approach focused on delivering social value for the communities which host and are closest to the wind farm. Quantans Hill Wind Farm is an opportunity to build on this and create further opportunities for businesses, skills, jobs and the natural environment across the wider south west Scotland region.

The views of local communities, businesses and stakeholders are critically important in the design of Vattenfall's wind farms. Local feedback is an essential contributor to Vattenfall's design process, balancing the need to efficiently generate more renewable electricity with the aspirations of local communities whilst protecting and enhancing the natural environment.



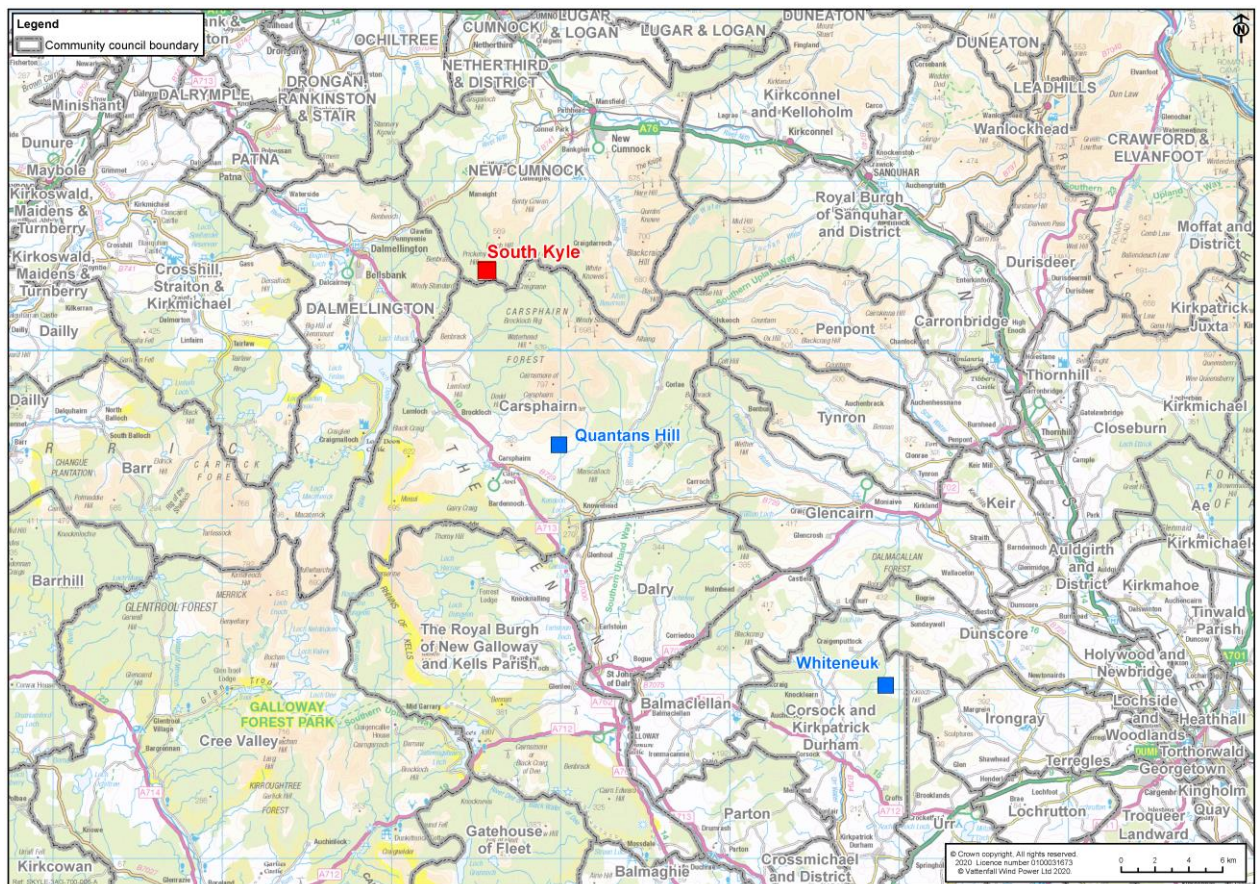


Figure 2 Vattenfall's onshore wind projects in South West Scotland (December 2021)

### 3.4. Covid Emergency

Commencing in late June 2020, Vattenfall's Pre-Application Community Consultation for Quantans Hill Wind Farm took place throughout the Covid-19 Emergency. This disrupted Vattenfall's typical approach to engaging with communities, in the same way most industries were forced to adapt to a new way of working. In particular, it was neither possible nor advisable to host traditional public events or attend in person meetings for much of the development phase.

The pandemic has also impacted community consultation in other ways including the availability and accessibility of key stakeholders as a result of furlough, home-working, remote-learning and suspension of meetings/actions as prioritisation of the covid response took precedence.

Additionally, variances in covid restrictions – over the period of time, and between different nations and regions – created a confusing backdrop for communities, individuals and stakeholders with expectations of how Vattenfall could and should engage varying considerably.

Throughout, Vattenfall has taken a consistently cautious approach putting the safety of communities and colleagues first, and undertaking an extensive and ongoing local communications plans in the stead of more traditional, singular public events and stakeholder meetings. One positive side effect of this has been a greater use of more sophisticated digital tools and ways of working, which some stakeholders have remarked has improved their ability to engage with the materials and process, although others have not shared this view.

## 4. Community consultation objectives and strategy

Throughout the first half of 2020, extensive desk-based research was undertaken to develop a Community Consultation Strategy for Quantans Hill Wind Farm.

As well as mapping key stakeholders, information was gathered on the challenges and aspirations of the local community. A regional approach was also developed – including Vattenfall's proposals for Whiteneuk Wind Farm (also in Dumfries and Galloway) and South Kyle Wind Farm which would commence construction in late 2020.

### 4.1. Objectives

The key objectives of this strategy were identified as

- To ensure all relevant parties (statutory or otherwise) are informed of the proposal, providing pathways and opportunities to access pertinent details;
- To establish a framework of engagement;
- To create opportunities for stakeholders to engage with the project team and influence where appropriate;
- To present the proposal within the wider context of Vattenfall's strategic objectives and align with Scottish Government objectives; and
- To provide measurable outcomes.

Specifically, communications objectives were to

- Ensure key stakeholders and the people living in the area are informed, engaged, consulted and involved;
- Build positive and productive relations with communities and stakeholders, overcoming mistrust and misconceptions left by previous developers active in the area;
- Create and drive the narrative of the development through clear, consistent communications; and
- Anticipate and manage criticisms and concerns in a fair, informed and appreciative manner.

## 4.2. Strategy

To achieve these objectives, Vattenfall mapped key stakeholder audiences; identified a broad scope of communications channels; designed a clear narrative, style and resources; and planned implementation.

Target Audiences	Communications Channels*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local communities and stakeholders</li> <li>Governmental, NGOs and statutory stakeholders</li> <li>Suppliers and contractors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct: print, calls, emails</li> <li>Digital: web, surveys, e-news, webinars</li> <li>Local media: proactive news generation and advertising</li> <li>Social media: Vattenfall plus 3<sup>rd</sup> party channels</li> </ul>
Content	Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear and consistent style</li> <li>Well sign-posted</li> <li>Inviting, enabling and welcoming feedback</li> <li>Linking to opportunities and experience at South Kyle Wind Farm</li> <li>Reflecting Vattenfall's values and drive for fossil free living within a generation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Liaison Officer recruited from South West Scotland</li> <li>Supported by Vattenfall UK resources</li> <li>Additional support from local Dumfries and Galloway businesses (eg ECO Group and Natural Power)</li> </ul>

\*NB Further channels which were identified but not possible to pursue due to the ongoing Covid-19 emergency include in person meetings; in person public events; participating in local events; door to door conversations and schools/college presentations.

## 4.3. Engagement Plan

A comprehensive Engagement Plan was developed and updated throughout the period. With the covid emergency continuing to prevent or limit face to face interaction, Vattenfall focused on maximising opportunities for local people to

- know about the proposals;
- connect with Vattenfall (digitally, via phone or in writing);
- ask questions and discuss; and
- provide feedback

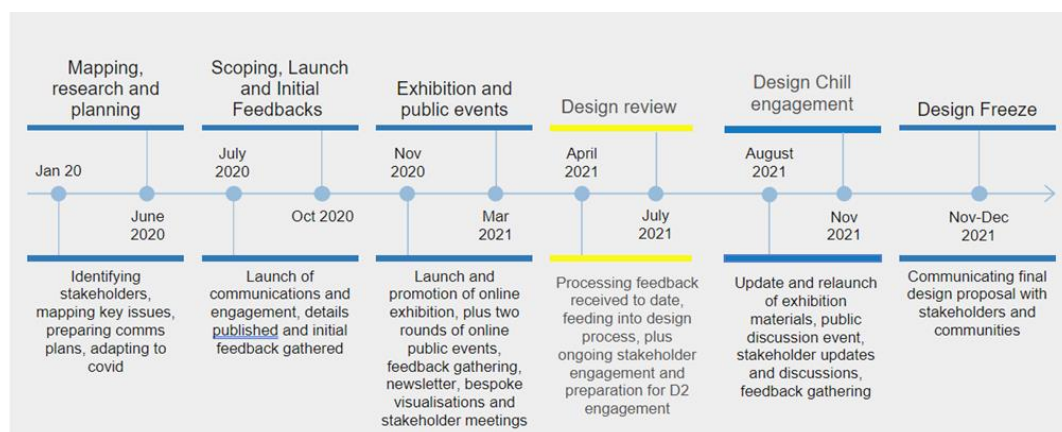


Figure 3 illustration of engagement plan

The above illustration highlights the key phases in this Engagement Plan which are laid out in greater detail in the following section of this document.

## 5. Activity: informing the community and enabling and encouraging feedback

To help us design the best wind farm we can, Vattenfall proactively engaged with local people, communities and stakeholders from Scoping (June 2020) to Submission (early 2022).

As indicated earlier in this document, this period coincided with the global Covid-19 pandemic. It was therefore necessary to significantly adapt our approach away from traditional 'village hall' led engagement to a broader, online and in-print strategy designed to maximise opportunities for local people to discuss our plans and for the design team to gather feedback.

Throughout, our aim has been to inform, listen, answer, be accessible and, where feasible, add value and/or reduce burdens on communities and volunteers.

To achieve this, we utilised a broad range of media including local and community press, social media, community online and social media (eg Dumfries and Galloway What's Going On), digital and online tools and direct mail, across the 18 month period and following the strategy and engagement plan (see section 3).

Throughout, the key audiences for the community consultation have been:

- Community councils and elected representatives;
- Neighbours;
- Wider local communities; and
- Other key stakeholders, groups, organisations and service providers.

Activity was implemented across a series of steps. Phase 1 gathered feedback on the wind farm proposal as outlined at scoping. This was then fed into the scheme design review and resulted in an updated scheme design. Phase 2 engagement publicised and sought feedback on this revised proposal. In Phase 3, we updated stakeholders on the proposal's final scheme design and on the final steps towards submission to Planning.



## 5.1. Phase One - Scoping Launch to Design Review

### 5.1.1. Launch and initial feedback

At the earliest opportunity, we informed stakeholders and communities of our intention to develop plans for a wind farm at Quantans Hill. Thus, to coincide with the proposal being submitted to scoping, we reached out to stakeholders, community councils, local media and the local population.

CHANNEL	DETAIL
Web	Project webpage created and published with overview of proposals and links to all scoping documents plus contact form
Media	News coverage generated through media release to local and regional outlets
Social Media	Details and links published via locally targeted social media platforms, including sponsorship arrangement with local news page
Stakeholders – initial contact	Email to key stakeholders including community councils, elected representatives and local groups
Neighbours	Letter posted to all 90 properties within 2km of site boundary
Feedback survey	Initial feedback survey created and shared with stakeholders and across all channels, with results published on project webpage
Stakeholder meetings	Online meetings held with stakeholders
Community	Responded to enquiries and questions from local members of the community
FAQs	FAQs document created and shared via project webpage and email



Figure 4 example of social media activity launching community consultation

### 5.1.2. Public Virtual Exhibition (Winter 2020/21)

After gathering initial feedback, we moved onto delivering a public exhibition, newsletter and discussion events.

With the pandemic still prohibiting gatherings and meetings, we developed a bespoke, interactive online exhibition portal. This was a new way of working for Vattenfall and in this respect the pandemic has accelerated our use of digital technology. Although digital engagement has its limitations, it has enabled us to reach a much larger audience than we might otherwise expect, including those for whom engaging at a village hall has not been possible due to family or work commitments, transport difficulties, or a number of other issues which we are aware can limit participation at physical events,

This was launched in December 2020, and was accessible via the project webpage – [www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshill](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshill) - or direct via the site designer portal.

The exhibition was designed to replicate as far as possible the experience of a traditional village hall event. Exhibition 'boards' were created (Appendix I) covering a comprehensive range of topics and areas of discussion including

- Vattenfall and our approach
- Background to the proposal
- Proposed location and layout
- Potential for community benefits, shared ownership and Vattenfall's approach to supporting big ideas
- Opportunities for jobs and businesses
- Landscape sensitivity, turbine height and landscape restoration
- Ecology, forestry and how we will protect the natural environment
- Habitat management
- Protecting heritage and archaeology on and around the site
- Transport and traffic planning
- Mitigating noise, shadow flicker and potential impacts on local residents
- Protecting and supporting local tourism, recreation and access
- Aviation, airspace and lighting
- Battery storage
- Expected project timeline and next steps

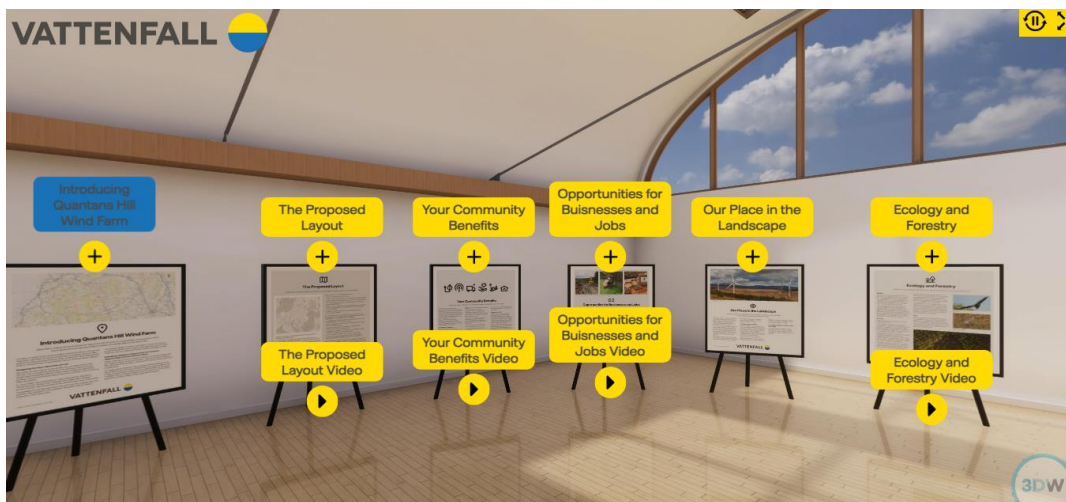


Figure 5 screenshot of online exhibition

Additionally, the exhibition included:

- Virtual Visualisations  
3D technology was employed to show how the wind farm may look within the landscape. Feedback and research identified five key vantage points including from key locations in the village - Carsphairn community garden and Carsphairn war memorial – and popular walking/hill walking sites including the Southern Upland Way and Cairnsmore of Carsphairn. Interactive elements were included with pan and zoom facilities.
- Video drive throughs  
Virtual video drive throughs were also created and made available via the exhibition. As with the visualisation tool above, the locations were selected based on feedback and research, and were designed to offer consultees a representation of how the wind farm would look when driving to and through the area. Drive throughs were created approaching from both and north and south. A third drive through showed how the wind farm would appear from the Southern Upland Way walking route.
- Feedback survey  
This second survey provided further opportunities for visitors to provide more detailed feedback on the proposals
- Webinar details  
Information on and links to forthcoming discussion and information events.

The exhibition was publicised via local media, on the project webpage, via social media, directly via email to stakeholders, and through a printed newsletter posted to all addresses within the local area.



Figure 6 screen shot of the virtual visualisation portal within the exhibition, showing locations of vantage points and video drive-throughs

### 5.1.3. Newsletter

A newsletter was created and posted to all homes in the local area. As well as signposting the online exhibition, this 6pg publication (a joint initiative with Whiteneuk, Vattenfall's other proposed wind farm in Dumfries and Galloway) provided information about Vattenfall, the proposed developments, layout map, opportunities for local jobs and business, progress updates on environmental data gathering, and community benefits.

It also provided details of the various ways in which people could get involved, provide feedback and ask questions – via mail, email, phone, online or via online public event (see below), and the opportunity to arrange bespoke visualisation sessions.

The newsletter was made available online and was emailed to stakeholders.

Around 1200 copies were printed and posted to all properties located within 5km of the Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk sites, with address data sourced from a commercially available Royal Mail database. The posted newsletter also included an enclosed postal survey for those who could not respond online



Figure 7 front page of community newsletter

### 5.1.4. Public Meetings

With the pandemic still ruling out public 'village hall' meetings, we instead offered a series of online, free to join events.

Following a similar format to more traditional in person events, these included presentations from Vattenfall and our independent environmental consultants, followed by Q and A sessions. To facilitate these events, we engaged local Dumfries and Galloway business EcoGroup.

The events were publicised via various online media, local social media, print and by direct invitation, and times were varied throughout the campaign to suit as many participants as possible. Participants were encouraged to register via the Eventbrite platform

EVENT	DATE / TIME	REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS
Quantans Hill: discussing Vattenfall's proposals for a new wind farm	16/12/20 1pm	9
Quantans Hill: discussing Vattenfall's proposals for a new wind farm (2 <sup>nd</sup> opportunity)	15/2/21 7pm	11

These events were recorded and the videos subsequently uploaded to the Quantans Hill project webpage so that those who were unable to attend these events were able to catch up in their own time.



### 5.1.5. Bespoke Visualisations

We also offered and held bespoke virtual visualisation sessions with site neighbours. Using a video call, this enabled local people to interactively see how the wind farm might look from and around their property under various conditions. Where digital connectivity proved to be a barrier, we instead provided still images on request delivered either email or post.



*Figure 8 example of bespoke visualisation offered and provided to local residents on request*

### 5.1.6. Stakeholder Meetings

In addition to public meetings, we endeavoured to meet with as many key local stakeholders as possible.

As noted earlier, throughout the pandemic Vattenfall has taken a precautionary, safety-first approach and until very recently avoided all in-person meetings unless business critical.

This approach has been welcomed by some stakeholders, providing more flexibility and accessibility than traditional engagement. Others expressed a preference to wait until it was possible to meet in person and highlighted poor digital connectivity experienced by some in the area.

Nevertheless, we were able to meet with and discuss the proposals via video call with:

- Carsphairn Community Council
- Dalry Community Council
- Local elected representatives
- Glenkens District Trust
- Galloway Glens
- Dumfries and Galloway Council
- South of Scotland Enterprise
- Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of Commerce
- Dumfries and Galloway College
- Carsphairn Heritage Initiative

We also reached out to Glencairn and Moniaive Community Council and all relevant ward councillors offering meetings, calls and/or one to one sessions and requesting feedback, although these offers were not accepted.

Zoom meetings were also held with ward councillor Pauline Drysdale and the local constituency office of Alister Jack MP. Members of the project team also met with local MSP Finlay Carson although this discussion was limited to the topic of Vattenfall's South Kyle development and maximising opportunities for local people and businesses.

## 5.2. Phase two - design review and update announcement (Spring – Autumn 2021)

Over spring 2021, the project proceeded through Vattenfall's design review process, taking on board environmental data and feedback gathered to date. During this period, engagement continued at a baseline level.

By late summer an updated scheme design and layout had been developed. The refreshed proposal saw a reduction in the height and number of turbines, as well as other key features such as enhanced access for recreational activities.

To inform stakeholders of the update, explain the process and changes, and gather further feedback, the third wave of the engagement campaign was initiated over late summer and autumn of 2021.

As before, Vattenfall's goal was to inform and update local communities and stakeholders, and enable and encourage feedback.

Activities during this period included:

CHANNEL	DETAILS
Advertising	Full page adverts placed in community title the Glenkens Gazette informing of design review process
Exhibition	Online exhibition updated and relaunched
Web	Project webpage updated
FAQs	Refreshed FAQs document created and published
Video	A short animation video was created explaining how the proposal for Quantans Hill Wind Farm had evolved
Survey	A fresh feedback survey was created, published and circulated
Community update event	Online webinar for the local community*
Stakeholders	Emailed details of refreshed proposals and invitation to share and participate in above event
Community Council	Carsphairn Community Council confirmed they were sharing it with their own contact list
Social media	Targeted social media activity to communicate updates and promote online event.

The third webinar followed a similar format to previous events. Held on 26.08.21, we again offered a different start time to the earlier events (11.30am), listed it on Eventbrite, and promoted it directly, via stakeholders, online and via social media. 11 individuals registered to attend.



Vattenfall's Ray Wind Farm in Northumberland

After gathering extensive environmental data and local feedback, we're refreshing our proposals for **Quantans Hill Wind Farm** and **Whiteneuk Wind Farm** in Dumfries and Galloway.

Local feedback has helped us identify ways we can better strike a balance between the need to generate more renewable electricity and the aspirations of local communities, whilst protecting wildlife, habitats, heritage and the environment.

Details of our refined proposals will be published soon, with updated online exhibitions and webinars plus - we hope - opportunities to meet safely.

**At both Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk, the proposed wind farms will be reduced in scale, with layouts sensitive to landscape, habitats and heritage.**

The refreshed proposals will also reflect Vattenfall's determination to maximise opportunities for local communities, jobs, businesses and skills. This will build on our work at South Kyle Wind Farm north of Carsphairn, where a wide range of local and regional businesses are supplying the construction project - a glimpse of the potential post-pandemic recovery opportunities for Dumfries and Galloway should Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk Wind Farms proceed.

Keep up to date with the latest details and register for updates at:

[www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm)  
[www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneukwindfarm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneukwindfarm)

There, you can also find out more about the substantial community benefits which would be generated by the wind farms.

Alternatively please write to:  
 Whiteneuk and Quantans Hill Wind Farm Team, Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd,  
 St Andrew's House, Haugh Lane,  
 Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3QQ  
 T 01563 595044

VATTENFALL 

Figure 9 advertisement in Glenkens Gazette

**to protect  
watercourses**



Removed



Repositioned

Carsphairn 



Figure 10 screenshot from video animation produced to illustrate how the site design had evolved

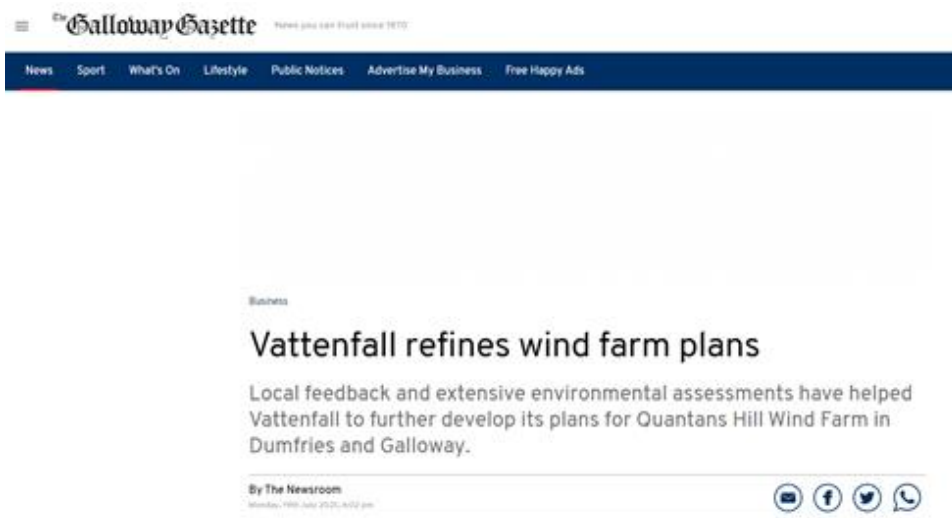


Figure 11 headline of news article in local press

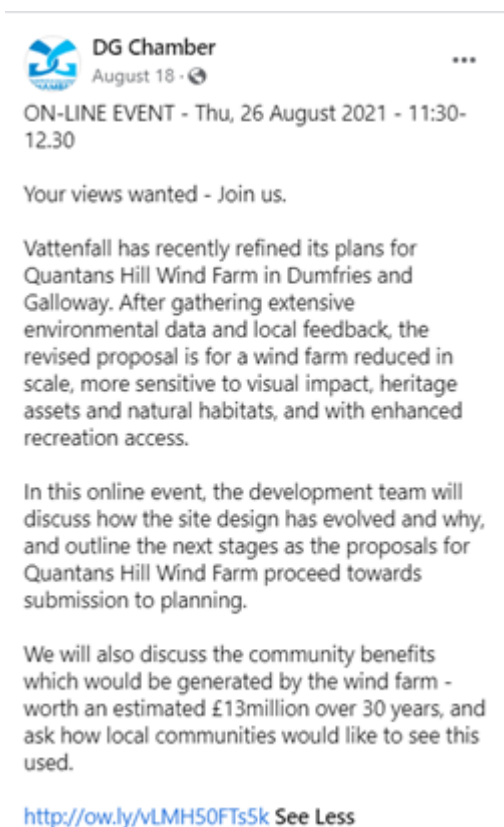


Figure 12 example of third party social media communicating site design update and opportunity to engage



### 5.3. Phase three - design Freeze to Planning Submission (Autumn/Winter 2021)

Once the proposed scheme design was finalised, Vattenfall updated online materials and informed key stakeholders of the details and that the proposal would soon be submitted to Planning . Zoom calls were offered to discuss the final details, and to answer any questions about the plans or process.

Activities during this period included:

CHANNEL	DETAILS
Exhibition	Online exhibition updated to reflect finalised design details and stage in process
Web	Project webpage updated
Drive throughs visualisations	Updated and refreshed to include final details
Stakeholders	Emailed updated details to key stakeholders including community councils and ward councillors offering further discussion prior to submission.

Carsphairn Community Council expressed a preference to meet via Zoom in January. A meeting was held with a representative of Dalry Community Council to go over the final detail and discussed particular questions relating to aviation lighting and access.

## 5.4. Community Benefits Consultation

A distinct engagement campaign was initiated to discuss how and where community benefits arising from Quantans Hill Wind Farm may be used.

Mindful that the community closest to Quantans Hill – Carsphairn – is already in receipt of wind farm funding, we wanted to explore the potential to develop a flexible, strategic offering with the capacity to tackle ideas which require big, upfront investment.

Initial research was undertaken to identify key themes in local development plans, and feedback was gathered from local communities and stakeholders. Initial, exploratory discussions were then held with potential delivery partners – all local to the region wherever possible.

From these foundations, we then engaged specialist agency Stantec to explore in depth the potential, opportunities, and local priorities for the communities neighbouring the development, and produce a Community Development Strategy.

To guide this, Stantec undertook a programme of community engagement from April to July 2021, and held discussions with Carsphairn Community Council, Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Ltd and Glenkens District Trust (who represent other community councils in the wider area). An online survey, publicised via stakeholders and social media, was also generated to invite local feedback on the report's findings.

The findings and recommendations from this work have now been reported, and publicised inviting wider stakeholder groups and the local community to feed back. This activity has been supported by targeted email and social media activity.

### 5.4.1 Shared Ownership

Throughout the pre-application community consultation, the opportunity for shared ownership has been highlighted by Vattenfall. We received little indication that this was something the community wished to explore further at this point. However, we remain very much open to discussing shared ownership with any interested groups or individuals.

## 5.5. Reach

As indicated above, a broad campaign of engagement was initiated across an 18 month period to ensure local people knew about the proposals and had the opportunity to provide feedback. Precise audience reach across the campaign is difficult to quantify. However, the following highlights suggest news of the proposal, its update and invitations to provide feedback were consistently well publicised across the local area and wider region.

### 5.5.1. Known media coverage

News articles have appeared in local weekly titles the Dumfries Courier and Galloway Gazette, as well as daily titles The Herald and The Scotsman. A news piece ran on local radio (West Sound) and on STV's news webpage, as well as in further Scottish business and trade press.

### 5.5.2. Community newspaper

Full page advertisements were placed in three issues of the Glenkens Gazette, the free local community title which distributes c. 1,500 printed copies to local retailers and, during lockdown, via direct mail.

### 5.5.3. Online news sponsorship

Vattenfall partnered with online news outlet Dumfries and Galloway What's Going On with news articles appearing online, on their social media channels and their e-newsletter. DGWGO reports it reaches 6 million users per month, and their Facebook page alone has in excess of 90,000 likes/followers. An initial post by DGWGO (announcing Vattenfall's plans) achieved a reach in excess of over 10,000.

### 5.5.4. Vattenfall's social media

Throughout the PACC period (June 2020 to October 2021), Vattenfall placed 10 posts on Facebook relating to Quantans Hill Wind Farm and targeted to local audiences. Data from Facebook shows a reach per post of between 1,537 and 8,378, with impressions from 1,566 to 11,383. This activity also generated over 400 link clicks taking readers to further information and/or surveys.

On Twitter, 8 tweets were posted by Vattenfall relating to Quantans Hill Wind Farm. Page impressions ranged from 1,214 to 2,785.

### 5.5.5. Third party social media

Besides DGWGO, news on the Quantans Hill proposal was also shared and publicised by the Facebook accounts of Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of Commerce (2,389 followers), and the Galloway Gazette (5,701 followers).

### 5.5.6. Direct post

As well as letters being posted to all 90 properties within 2km of the site boundary, a newsletter was posted to more than 1,000 homes in the local area for Quantans Hill and neighbouring Whiteneuk.

### 5.5.7. Email

Throughout the consultation, stakeholders were regularly updated by email. Depending on topic and relevance, this ranged from 40 and 70 individuals including elected representatives, local groups, community leaders, community organisations, local government officials and other organisations of relevance within the Dumfries and Galloway area. In some instances, we were informed that these stakeholders had then subsequently shared details with their own contact lists. This included Carsphairn Community Council.

#### 5.5.8. Online Exhibition

The Quantans Hill online exhibition attracted 637 sessions/507 unique visitors, with the page portal attracting a further 270 sessions/181 unique visitors.

#### 5.5.9. Project webpage

Over the period 01.06.20 to 06.01.22, the project webpage ([www.vattenfall.com/quantanshill](http://www.vattenfall.com/quantanshill)) attracted 1,260 page views and 906 unique page views. Peak traffic to the page coincided with the launch of the initial launch period, the exhibition launch, and the first two online meetings. It also suggests a tailing off of webpage traffic as the site design updates were communicated.



Figure 13 graph showing patterns in pageviews at [www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshill](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshill)

## 6. Feedback

### 6.1. Local community – members of the public

As outlined in section 4, Vattenfall implemented a comprehensive local communications campaign to inform local people about the proposals and invite feedback. Throughout, there were numerous opportunities and avenues for feedback to be communicated.

The table below indicates the number of individuals who contacted us and provided feedback via each key channel.

Channel	Period	Individual Respondees*
Email – direct or via webpage	All	14 (Quantans only)
Survey 1 – initial feedback	July-Sept 2020	60
Survey 2 - exhibition	Winter 2020/21	29
Postal survey	Dec 2020-April 2021	19 (relating to both Quantans and Whiteneuk), 0 for Quantans alone
Design update survey	Aug to Oct 2021	3
Other post	All	0
Virtual visualisation online meetings and by email	All	2
Online event	Dec 2020	9
Online event	Feb 2021	11
Online event	Aug 2021	11

\*Vattenfall's proposals for a wind farm at Whiteneuk were also undergoing a community consultation at this time. Thus some respondents included in the table above were responding to both projects.

Whilst the numbers above appear low, they correspond with the small population of Carsphairn and surrounding area (under 200).

Overall, the vast majority of people responding across all channels were local.

The first two online surveys provided us with an insight:

- most were from Dumfries and Galloway (71% and 73%), with a significant proportion from the Carsphairn area (49% and 59%).
- Respondents tended to be over 45yrs
- The vast majority identified as a 'member of the public'.
- Survey one indicated 60% either supported more wind farm development in the region or were neutral on the subject with the largest single cohort strongly supporting more development (38%). The second largest cohort, however, were strongly opposed (31%). When we asked a similar question again the following winter, responses were again very mixed.
- Survey 2 also asked if, having viewed the initial proposal, respondents supported or opposed the development of Quantans Hill Wind Farm. A small majority (56%) were opposed with 40% supportive.

Full analyses of both surveys are included in the appendices.



## 6.2. Feedback received

The majority of feedback received from the public related to the initial scheme design.

Whilst we noted a paucity of specific feedback on elements of scheme design within our control forthcoming, clear and strong opinions were aired, with a number of themes emerging as summarised in the table below.

ISSUE	KEY POINTS
<b>Cumulative impact</b>	Perception that there are too many wind farms already in Dumfries and Galloway, with particular concerns over cumulative visual impact
<b>Proximity to Carsphairn</b>	Concerns over noise, views, perceived impact on property prices, construction related disruption
<b>Development size</b>	Scheme is too big for the area - number and height of turbines
<b>Turbine size</b>	Whilst some were in favour (efficiency and appreciation that tallest turbines could mean fewer turbines), others suggested turbines should be small and linked to local residents
<b>Turbine location</b>	Concerns raised over locations in the south of the site due to proximity to dwellings, and at Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and Benniner due to visual impact
<b>Habitats</b>	A desire to see more native tree planting
<b>Hydrology</b>	Concerns over water pollution, protection of village and private water supplies, and risk of flooding
<b>Ecology</b>	Desire to limit impact on peat
<b>Habitats</b>	Concerns over impact on native species - waders and raptors mentioned
<b>Heritage</b>	Protect medieval rig and furrows, the Carsphairn curling pond (not within site boundary) and the Green Well (again not within the site boundary), and consult with local heritage organisations including Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership and Carsphairn Heritage Group
<b>Access</b>	Suggested access to the site be improved
<b>Traffic</b>	Impact on local roads, concerns over mud/debris and over HGVs moving through the village

It is worth noting that a significant proportion of feedback received – both through the surveys and via social media interaction – expressed a zero tolerance opinion to onshore wind development and, essentially, that no wind farm of any scale should ever be developed at Quantans Hill or indeed anywhere else in the region. Some also expressed considerable cynicism regards the consultation and the industry in general.

## 6.3. Community Councils and other key stakeholders

### 6.3.1. Carsphairn Community Council

As the site boundaries of Quantans Hill Wind Farm are located fully within Carsphairn Community Council's area, and due to the site's proximity to the village, the views of this community council were extremely important to us.

Communication and engagement with Carsphairn Community Council has been ongoing, and details are included in the appendices.

A meeting held with the community council on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 provided an opportunity to discuss the proposals in some detail. The community council made clear their position that they opposed all new wind farm development in the area. Nevertheless, throughout the discussion some constructive feedback was forthcoming, as summarised in the table below.

It is also worth noting that around this time, the village was experiencing significant disruption related to the construction of another wind farm, and this experience was relayed to us during the meeting.

ISSUE	KEY POINTS
<b>Hydrology</b>	Protecting the village water supply is a key concern.
<b>Traffic and roads</b>	At the time of meeting, the village was experiencing significant traffic disruption due to another wind farm development. Concerns also raised about the volume of traffic being experienced by the village generally, along with mud splatter and associated mess.
<b>Construction</b>	Concerns raised over choice of civils contractor, with issues raised relating to current project by another developer.
<b>Battery storage</b>	Concerns raised over citing and size
<b>Opportunities for young people</b>	How can young people from Carsphairn get work from wind farms, especially as colleges and other training providers are so far away from the village
<b>Job opportunities</b>	What employment opportunities will the wind farm bring once operational
<b>Community benefits</b>	Concerns over which local communities will be beneficiaries when the greatest impact will be on Carsphairn. Worried that the council or developer may draw an arbitrary circle on the map to determine area of benefit
<b>Noise and shadow flicker</b>	Both areas of concern for local residents, and questions on what is regarded as an acceptable level of noise
<b>Visual impact</b>	General concerns over visibility of turbines from all parts of the village
<b>Cumulative impact and engagement</b>	The community council told us that local people are 'dead against the wind farms. In Carsphairn we feel we've had enough. We didn't sign up to this. No-one seems to be listening – the local community object but no one listens. It's the cumulative effect, enough is enough. So many are coming at us – fast and furious.'

\*This statement is at odds with the findings of our online surveys which suggests the community is more split on the issue.

### 6.3.2. St Johns Town of Dalry Community Council

Whilst the principal community council was identified as Carsphairn, we also engaged with their equivalent in St John's Town of Dalry due to anticipated visual impact. The project team met with Dalry Community Council on 18th January 2021, and had subsequent discussions with one member. These discussions also related to Vattenfall's proposed development at Whiteneuk, and therefore much of the feedback relates to both projects.

ISSUE	KEY POINTS
<b>Visibility</b>	Turbine height will significantly increase visibility
<b>Engagement</b>	Stressed the importance of community engagement
<b>Grid connection</b>	Details requested – highlighted as possible concern
<b>Land use</b>	Issue raised regarding what land is currently used for.
<b>Walking/mountaineering</b>	Stressed the importance of views to mountaineering/walking activities, particularly in relation to the Southern Upland Way
<b>Forestry</b>	Desire to see less plantation forestry and that we take that into consideration when considering compensatory planting
<b>Turbine</b>	Discussions on blade lengths, height and what this could mean for lighting
<b>Community benefits</b>	Directed to speak to Glenkens District Trust
<b>Walking/hiking</b>	Abundance of walking and climbing locations highlighted across region. Keen to explore opportunity to enhance and improve hill access via wind farms (eg tracks, signposting) making them a tourism asset. Also keen to explore opportunity of a joined up 'wind farm way'

### 6.3.3. Other key stakeholders

As indicated in section 4.1.6 above, we also met with a number of other key stakeholders. Feedback gathered chimed with that received from the public and community councils including

- An acknowledgement of the sense of over development/too many wind farms, and the pressures this is putting on communities to engage
- Concerns of local residents – noise, shadow flicker and visibility
- Eagerness to explore ways to maximising socio-economic opportunities across jobs, skills development and businesses
- Positive response to approach to our community benefits and the engagement process
- Issues around tourism and an eagerness to explore how the wind farm could support and enhance tourism by, for example, encouraging and enabling access to walkers and cyclists.

## 7. Response and outcomes

Vattenfall's aim throughout the design evolution process was to balance the urgent need to enable the decarbonisation of more homes, businesses and transport with the aspirations of local communities, whilst protecting habitats and wildlife.

We therefore welcomed all local feedback – positive and negative – to our proposals for Quantans Hill Wind Farm. The issues, concerns and suggestions raised throughout the process were fed into our robust design review process, providing essential scope and focus as we developed and finalised the wind farm layout.

Where the feedback was categorically against (i.e. blanket opposition to all and any further wind farm development in the area) we sought to better understand the individual reasons behind this position and endeavoured to address specific concerns wherever feasible.

Details of the design evolution process are outlined in Chapter 2 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and on the project website.

The table below provides an overview of how this process responded to key issues arising from the community consultation.

Issue theme	Details	Action
Battery storage	Visual impact of this feature was questioned and raised as an issue	Screening features incorporated into the design
Construction and traffic	Worries about construction impact ranged from concerns about traffic disruption to expectations of water pollution.	Management measures identified for abnormal load, HGVs and general traffic to help ensure route remains safe and disruption kept to a minimum.
Construction and traffic	Concerns raised about choice of contractors	We believe these concerns relate to the recent experiences of local people. Vattenfall will continue its commitment to local content, excellence and safety This is borne out by the appointment to the project of Natural Power, which is located approx..10 miles south of Carsphairn and is one of the area's biggest employers..
Cumulative impact	A number of respondents felt there were too many wind farms in the area already	Turbine numbers and scale reduced
Cumulative impact	Concerns regarding cumulative visual impact	Turbines located nearest to other wind farm sites removed from the proposal
Ecology	Peat protection was highlighted as an important issue	Additional surveying undertaken to identify areas of deep peat, and turbines repositioned accordingly. Habitat Management proposed includes extensive areas of bog restoration, amongst other measures, which will see the development improve biodiversity compared to the baseline.
Engagement	Suggests from various stakeholders we communicate with local residents via Glenkens Gazette and Dumfries and Galloway Whats Going On	Advertising and sponsorship arranged
Engagement	Criticism received over timing of online meetings	Start times varied to suit those who work, have evening or caring commitments etc

Engagement	Digital connectivity issue raised	Whilst within the context of the covid emergency this was the only safe way to connect with local residents. Nevertheless, the engagement campaign included print and telephone channels and every effort was made to encourage and enable as many residents as possible to participate in the consultation.
Forestry and habitats	A preference for less plantation forestry and more native woodland was expressed	Proposed Habitat Management Plan includes riparian native broadleaf planting, equal to almost twice the amount of plantation forestry removed to facilitate the development.
Habitats and wildlife	Concerns raised over protection of wildlife, particularly waders and raptors.	Desk based and survey work undertaken to identify potential risks, and turbine positioning adapted to avoid known bird flight paths and breeding grounds Habitat Management Plan assessed and expected to provide net biodiversity gain on site.
Heritage and archaeology	Feedback asked us to protect medieval rig and furrows (as well as Carsphairn curling pond and the Green Well, neither of which are within the site boundary). It was also suggested we consult Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership and Carsphairn Heritage Group	Extensive research undertaken to identify archaeological and heritage assets, and meetings held with Galloway Glens and Carsphairn Heritage Group. Key heritage features identified through the survey have now been incorporated into the scheme design, to not only protect them but to provide greater access and information. This includes the crash site of a WWII aircraft, which, although some distance from turbines, will be made accessible to visitors by the creation of a new footpath.
Hydrology	Flood risk – Carsphairn has suffered from severe floods and there were concerns that the wind farm may increase flood risk.	Detailed flood impact modelling was undertaken
Hydrology	Water sources – concerns were raised about potential pollution and disruption to both public and private water supplies.	Hydrology assessment undertaken and hard buffer implemented to ensure protection of water courses throughout the site. A number of turbines were also repositioned to better protect water courses. Particular attention was paid to the Benloch Burn which supplies the public water supply for Carsphairn, including extensive redesign of infrastructure and a bespoke Pollution Prevention and Incident Plan drafted in consultation with Scottish Water.
Impact on local residents and proximity	A number of respondents were worried about the proximity of the wind farm to the village/individual dwellings and what this could mean for property prices, and standard of living concerns related to noise, lighting and shadow flicker	Turbine citing designed with reference to detailed noise, residential visual amenity and shadow flicker analysis.
Aviation lighting	Concerns around nighttime views especially in proximity to Dark Skies Park	Proposal to reduce number of lit turbines from 14 to 5 and to proceed with 'activated' aviation lighting should technology be available.



National grid	Questions were raised about how and where the wind farm would connect to the grid,	At the time these questions were posed, Vattenfall did not have information regarding the network operator's route for connection to the national grid beyond the proposal to connect in at the existing Holm Hill substation to the west of Carsphairn
Size and scale	Concerns raised over proposed turbine height of 250m maximum, and how this would impact on the landscape. Other feedback welcomed taller turbines, appreciating the need for greater efficiency in light of the climate crisis.	Proposal turbine height reduced by 20% to a maximum tip height of 200m.
Size and scale	The wind farm was referred to as 'too big', again with concerns on visual impact.	Scale of scheme reduced by one third from 21 turbines to 14.
Socio-economic opportunities	Whilst some recognised the potential and appreciated Vattenfall's commitment to maximising opportunities for local jobs, skills development and businesses, others took a more cynical view and highlighted structural issues particular to Carsphairn including remoteness, and its small and ageing population.	Commitment to build on Vattenfall's achievements at South Kyle Wind Farm in creating and maximising local opportunities. Discussions held with various stakeholders including Dumfries and Galloway College, Dumfries and Galloway Council, and Dumfries and Galloway College to identify and address challenges.
Tourism and access	Some respondents assumed the presence of the wind farm would negatively impact on local tourism, whilst others were keen to explore how the development could support and encourage greater tourism diversity. A desire for recreational access to the site was also fed back to us.	Visibility from both the village and the Southern Upland Way were considered in the design review, with virtual drive throughs created. The updated scheme design has been developed with recreational access in mind, and now include both access footpath for walkers to safely access the site from the village, and an additional pathway to the site of an important heritage feature (which currently is difficult to access) plus interpretative boards and signage
Tourism and access	Idea raised of a connected wind farm 'way' with adjacent wind farms connecting tracks to enable the creation of a long distance walking/riding route along the Glenkens	Initial discussions held with South Kyle Wind Farm project team to explore how this could be realised with SKWF – which is currently under construction – acting as an anchor and stimulus
Tourism and visibility	Importance of hill-walking to the local area was stressed with particular reference to impact on the Southern Upland Way	Visibility of turbines from Southern Upland Way considered in design review with virtual 'walk-through' created.
Visual impact and landscape	Concerns raised over the visibility of the wind farm from the village of Carsphairn	Effects on landscape and visual effects considered throughout design development with landscape architects working closely with the team to minimise, as far as practical, the potential effects. Consideration also given to other wind farm projects in the area.
Visual impact and landscape	Specific concerns raised over turbine sites at Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and Benniner	Possible turbine mooted on prominent 'Knockwhirn' landmark removed from proposal due to impacts on local landmarks, particularly the Cairnsmore of Carsphairn

As outlined in the table above, much of the feedback related to visual impact, size and scale. Vattenfall's design review took this on board, reducing the proposed wind farm's scale and size and undertaking a number of actions to minimise visual impact where feasible as demonstrated in the following screen grabs.

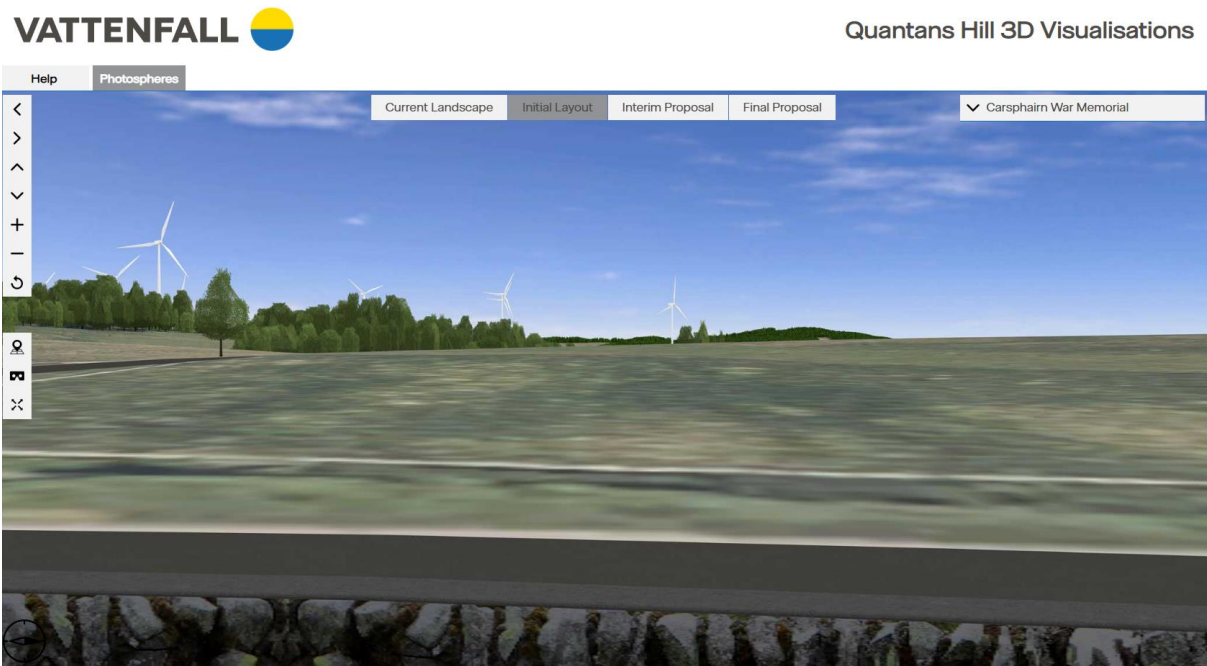
**Southern Upland Way at Stroanfreggan: initial layout**



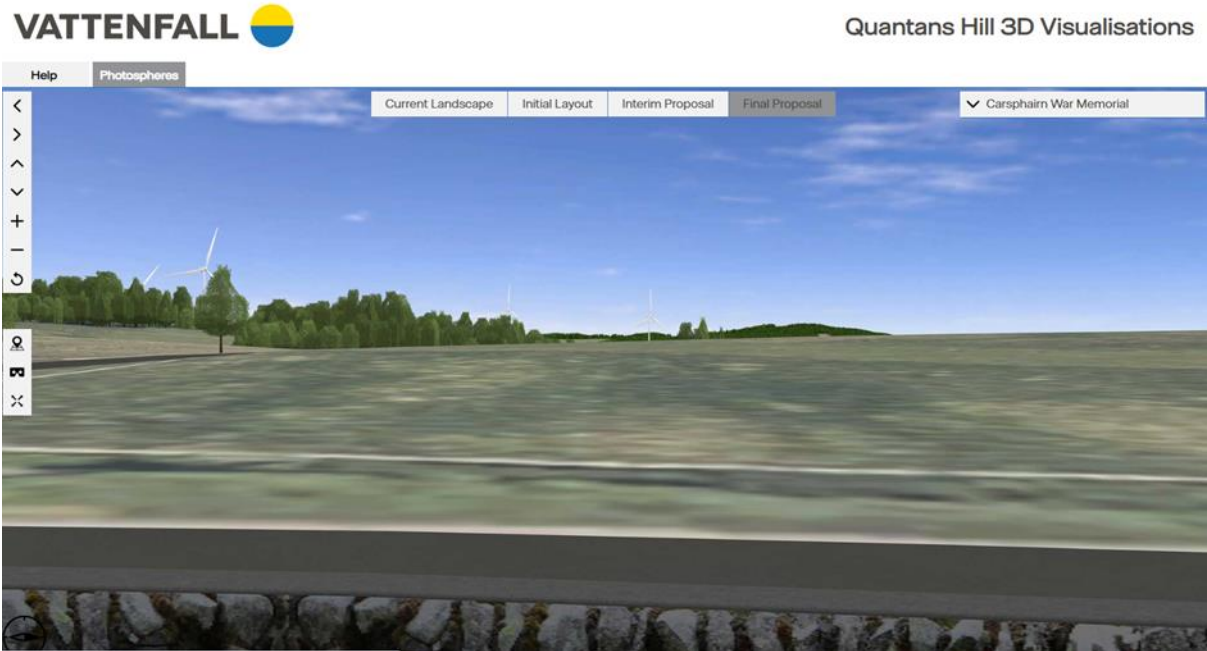
**Southern Upland Way at Stroanfreggan: final layout**



Carsphairn War Memorial: initial layout



Carsphairn War Memorial: final layout











# Quantans Hill Wind Farm

Pre-Application Community Consultation Report

APPENDICES I - IV



VATTENFALL

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# Appendix I: FAQs

**Initial and updated FAQ documents created and published on the project web page**

Quantans Hill Wind Farm PACC Report



# Quantans Hill Wind Farm

## Frequently asked questions

*Version 1 – issued October 2020*



A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a green hooded jacket, a blue shirt, dark trousers, and green rubber boots, stands in a field of tall, dry grass. He is looking off to the right. In the background, there are rolling hills and large, rocky mountains under a clear blue sky. The text 'About the project and developer' is overlaid in large white letters.

# About the project and developer



# Quantans Hill wind farm (1)

## **Q: Where is Quantans Hill wind farm?**

*Quantans Hill is a proposed wind farm in Dumfries and Galloway. The site is around 2km east of Carsphairn, on land that is currently upland grazing, although also subject to separate forestry planting applications. You can view a map of the proposed site [here](#).*

*The project takes its name from a hill in the centre of the site.*

## **Q: What is being proposed?**

*The proposals for Quantans Hill Wind Farm are an early stage and represent the scheme at its greatest possible extent of 21 wind turbines, up to 250m tip height, plus battery storage and related infrastructure. You can view the proposed layout map [here](#).*

*Based on our calculations, this proposed configuration of taller turbines will enable the best possible use of the sites excellent natural wind resource, generating enough renewable electricity to power around 110,000 homes annually and, in turn, generating a community investment windfall for the local area worth up to an equivalent value of around £163,000 every year for the lifetime of the wind farm.*

# Quantans Hill wind farm (2)

## **Q: What stage are the plans at?**

*The proposals for Quantans Hill are at an early stage with the design very much in its first iteration. This is based on around three years of research, assessing the potential of the location and how the excellent wind resource can be harnessed efficiently and sympathetically to the landscape and topography.*

*We are now seeking initial feedback and undertaking detailed impact assessments, all of which will input to the next stage of the scheme design.*

## **Q: Will the proposal change?**

*Almost certainly. However, as the proposals submitted to scoping represent the greatest possible extent of Vattenfall's plans for Quantans Hill Wind Farm, the scheme could get smaller but not any larger. For example, the turbines could be under – but not over – 250m in height. There may also be fewer than the 21 turbines presented at scoping.*

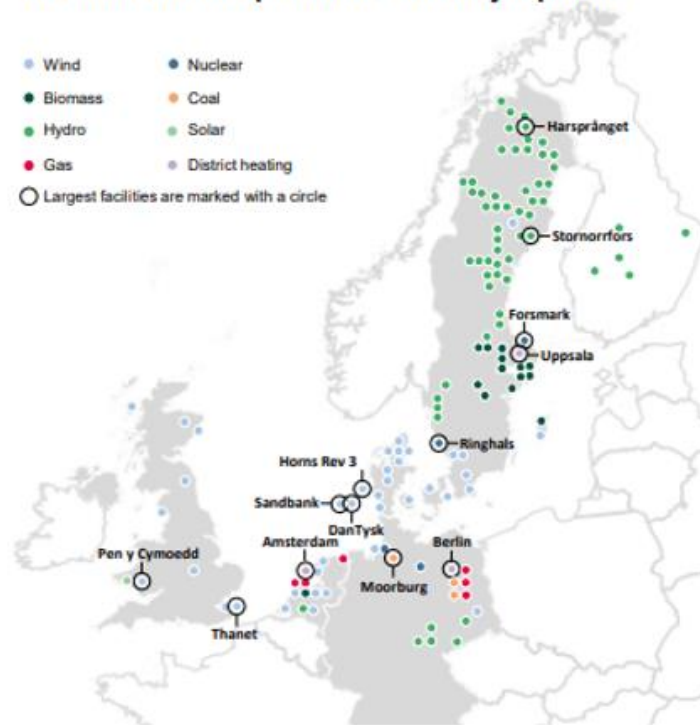
*We are now in the process of conducting detailed impact assessments and gathering local feedback. This will enable us to scrutinise the plans and adapt them accordingly.*

# Who is Vattenfall?

## Basic facts

- One of Europe's largest producers of electricity and heat.
- 100% owned by the Swedish state.
- Main products: electricity, heat, gas, and energy services.
- Main markets: Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, and the UK.
- Almost 20,000 employees.
- Founded in Sweden in 1909 as Kungliga Vattenfallsstyrelsen ('the Royal Waterfall Board')

## Location of our operations and major plants



# What is Vattenfall's experience in the UK?

## Vattenfall – over a decade in the UK

- Entered the UK market in 2008.
- Since then, we have invested over £3.5 billion in the UK energy system.
- 1GW of wind in operation, enough to power nearly 1 million British homes.
- District heating and electricity networks business launched in 2018.
- In Scotland, we have operational and development projects at:
  - South Kyle, Dumfries and Galloway
  - Whiteneuk, Dumfries and Galloway
  - Quantans Hill, Dumfries and Galloway
  - Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm
  - Edinbane, Skye
  - Clashindarroch I & II, Aberdeenshire
  - Aultmore, Moray
  - Ourack, Moray
  - District heating: Shawfair, Midlothian



An aerial photograph of a landscape. The top half of the image shows a dense forest of tall, thin trees, likely conifers, with a winding road visible through them. The bottom half of the image shows a large, open field, possibly a meadow or a cleared area, with some trees scattered along its edge. The text "Landscape and visual impact" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# Landscape and visual impact



# Landscape and visual impact

## **Q: How will the wind farm affect the landscape, and will it be visible from my home?**

*Vattenfall recognises the wide range of opinions people may have on the visual impact of wind farms. For some, they are problematic and unwelcome. For others, they are welcome additions and a positive symbol of the changes we need to make to combat climate change. Others simply don't have an opinion. Points of view – literally and figuratively – on wind farms are many and varied.*

*Taking all of these views into consideration is important in finding the right balance and we use landscape topography wherever possible to inform our wind farm design. Vattenfall will also conduct a detailed landscape impact assessment as part of our planning application.*

*To assist with this, and to help local people understand how the wind farm may look from numerous points across the area, we have produced a virtual 3D model, 'drivethroughs' of local routes, vantage point representations and Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps. We also have the capability to provide bespoke 3D modelled viewpoints from particular addresses in the near vicinity of the wind farm. We will need to show interested people what this looks like virtually and we would be happy to book a 1:1 session with anyone interested in seeing this.*





# Local residents

# Local residents (1)

## **Q: What impact will there be in terms of noise or shadow flicker?**

*Wind farms individually and cumulatively face strict planning requirements about the amount of noise they can generate during their operational periods, and this will be an important aspect of the scoping now being undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment for Whiteneuk. In this regard, Vattenfall's proposals will be limited by current planning restrictions and guidance.*

*As with noise, the possibility of shadow flicker at nearby properties will be 'designed out' of the wind farm through careful turbine location relative to properties. Where turbines cannot be moved, mitigations exist to prevent shadow flicker causing annoyance, for example by stopping certain turbines turning when the risk of shadow flicker is high.*

# Local residents (2)

## **Q: Will local property values be affected?**

*There are a variety of studies about the impact of wind farms on house prices. One of the largest studies is by the Centre of Economics and Business Research (2014) which analysed 82,000 property transactions within a 5km radius of wind farms in England and Wales, and concluded that house prices followed broader trends identifiable within the relevant county.*

## **Q: Will there be aviation lighting?**

*Yes, all structures in the UK over 150m require aviation lights as part of international regulations. The impact of aviation lighting on the night sky will be a particular focus of our environmental impact assessment. Aviation lighting effects can be minimised in a number of ways, including through reductions in the number of turbines with lights.*

*By its nature, aviation lighting is designed to be seen by aircraft passing at height and is therefore much less visible to those close by and at ground level. We will work hard to present a realistic depiction of aviation lighting which we believe will reassure local people.*

# Local residents (3)

## Q: Aren't there enough wind farms locally already?

*If Scotland, the UK, and the rest of the world is to achieve carbon emissions targets, more renewable energy sources will be required everywhere. Onshore wind remains is the cheapest ways to generate renewable electricity, and Quantans Hill Wind Farm would mark a significant step closer to achieving a fossil-free future. In addition, as our society moves away from fossil fuels to heat our homes and fuel transport, we will all need to consume more electricity.*

*Dumfries and Galloway is abundant in wind resource and remains highly attractive to wind developers. Ensuring such developments benefit not only the climate but the local area is, we believe, the responsibility of developers, and that's why Vattenfall is committed to working with communities and agencies to deliver tangible benefits for those who live, work and visit in the local area. We are working hard to deliver this at South Kyle, a 50-turbine wind farm now being constructed north of Carpshairn.*

*We believe if Vattenfall does not take forward this development, someone else will. We want to present the best case to the community that we are responsible partners committed to bringing a range of real, positive benefits to the region and should therefore be the area's 'developer of choice'.*

# Local residents (4)

## **Q: Will local water supplies be impacted?**

*We are aware of the Scottish Water assets within the broader wind farm site boundary supplying the village of Carsphairn. Protecting the integrity of this infrastructure will be of utmost importance in the design and construction of the wind farm. Excavations close to public and private water supplies are strictly regulated. We will liaise with the water authorities and regulators through the planning process of the wind farm.*

# Ecology and ornithology



# Ecology and ornithology (1)

## **Q: How will Whiteneuk protect and enhance the local environment and natural habitats?**

*Vattenfall is committed to protecting the natural environment around our wind farms. As part of our assessment of Quantans Hill, we have spent several years surveying the site across the seasons to understand what birds, bats, protected mammals, fish, and plants live here. Like any form of development, wind farms can affect the wildlife around them.*

*There are a number of ways we address potential adverse environmental impacts:*

- *Through site design, for example the size, number, and location of turbines*
- *Through mitigation during operations, for example managing habitats onsite to encourage wildlife to visit parts of the site where there are no, or fewer, turbines*
- *Through compensation, for example creating new habitats to replicate or improve habitats affected by the location of infrastructure*

*In addition, through their habitat management plans, wind farms are one of the driving forces in British uplands for habitat improvement. For example, our Pen y Cymoedd wind farm in Wales is a key part of one of the country's largest peatland restoration projects benefitting a wide range of rare species such as nightjar.*



# Wind in the energy mix

# Wind in the energy mix (1)

## Q: Aren't wind farms unreliable?

*There is nearly 14GW of onshore wind operational in the UK today. There is around 8GW of offshore wind. Onshore wind is the dominant form of renewable generation in the UK system and generated 29TWh of electricity in 2017. That's equivalent to the annual demand of over 7.5 million British homes.*

*There are times when wind output is low and that is why a balanced energy mix is important. However, it is a misconception that wind is frequently unavailable during times of high demand. The windiest time of year (winter) coincides with points of highest electricity demand. For example, during the 2018 'Beast from the East', wind power was Britain's dominant energy source and on 2 March 2018, wind provided 36% of Britain's power, compared to gas (20%), nuclear (18%), and coal (13%).*

# Wind in the energy mix (2)

## **Q: Aren't you just doing this to secure public subsidy?**

*Though in the past onshore wind was subsidised by the Government, subsidies were ended in 2016. Consistent financial support for onshore wind has been a huge policy success, so much so that onshore wind is now the cheapest way to generate power, bar none.*

*Any future 'contract for difference' auctions (Government low-carbon power support mechanism) available for onshore wind is very likely to see the billpayer 'paid back' by the onshore wind sector in exchange for revenue certainty – a 'win-win' for industry and the public. It has been estimated that additional onshore wind operating under the 'contract for difference' scheme in the 2020s will actually lower household bills by replacing older, more expensive polluting power plants.*

## **Q: Aren't you just doing this to secure 'constraint payments'?**

*Constraint payments are available to all power producers when the electricity grid has insufficient capacity to transport generation. Any income received as 'constraint payments' are a very small part of a wind farm's revenue. Constraint payments are forecast to decline significantly following the commissioning of a major new subsea power cable from Scotland to England (the 'Western Link')*





# Traffic and transport



# Traffic and transport

## Q: How will traffic access the site?

*Should our proposals proceed and achieve consent, it will be some years before Quantans Hill Wind Farm would be built. We anticipate that this would commence no earlier than 2025. Prior to that, on site activity will be very limited to environmental studies with light passenger vehicles.*

*When building a wind farm, Vattenfall is committed to working with local communities, authorities and contractors to both minimise disruption and maximise opportunities. Turbine delivery routes are being explored. However, the most likely route will be from Glasgow south along the M77 towards Kilmarnock, the A77 towards Ayr, and then the A713 towards the site.*

*The impact on local road users will be explored as part of the wind farm's planning application and conditions will be agreed with the relevant authorities regarding traffic movements should we be granted consent, such as limiting the number and timings of site deliveries. Whilst some disruption is inevitable, Vattenfall will try to keep this to a minimum. Some road users may also note an improvement in road condition and quality after the development, including improved surfacing, road widening, and more passing places, especially on roads close to the site.*

# Socio-economic issues

# Socio-economics (I)

## **Q: Will the wind farm create jobs?**

*More than 70% of Vattenfall's onshore wind expenditure in the UK is with British businesses. There are a range of opportunities from very local small businesses to multi-national companies. Typical opportunities for British businesses cover everything from civil and electrical engineering, environmental studies, plant and equipment hire through to communications, security, and cleaning. In the longer term, the wind farm will require technicians to operate and maintain the facility on a daily basis over its lifetime.*

## **Q: Will local heritage be protected?**

*Yes. Protecting heritage assets is an important factor in our development of proposals for Quantans Hill Wind Farm. The scheme design will be adapted to accommodate archaeological and heritage assets on site and in the wider vicinity.*

*Where impacts are unavoidable, it is of course an opportunity to responsibly excavate and learn more about the lives of our ancestors.*

# Socio-economics (2)

## Q: How will the wind farm impact tourism?

*The importance of tourism to the local economy cannot be underestimated, and Vattenfall appreciates that some people may be concerned about the potential impact of Whiteneuk Wind Farm.*

*Whilst individual opinions vary, there have been a number of studies which show no relationship between wind farms and tourism. For example, a 2017 study by BiGGAR Economics showed that between 2009 and 2015, onshore wind increased by 121% in Scotland whilst over the same period the number of people employed in tourism rose by 15%. This includes areas with higher proportions of onshore wind than other parts of Scotland.*

*Studies for the Scottish Government have also found that 64% of tourists polled either had positive or no feelings towards wind farm development. In addition, a 2012 Visit Scotland survey of tourist attitudes found that 80% of UK respondents said their decision on where to go would not be affected by a wind farm.*

*We do, however, appreciate concerns about tourism and are committed to exploring how the proposed wind farm can support the area's tourism aspirations and actively supporting local accommodation providers should construction go ahead.*

# Community investment





# Community investment (I)

## **Q: How will community benefits be delivered?**

*If approved, Quantans Hill Wind Farm could bring many benefits to local communities, including community investment worth equivalent of up to c.£630,000 each year at the scheme's greatest extent, or £18.9 million over the lifetime of the development.*

*The local communities will have the final say over how this investment is used. This could be as a traditional Community Benefit Fund supporting annual grants to local projects. Or, the investment could be used to tackle specific challenges facing local communities.*

## **Q: Will shared ownership be offered?**

*Yes. Vattenfall will offer local communities the opportunity to acquire an interest in Quantans Hill Wind Farm, subject to their being sufficient interest. We would be pleased to discuss this option further with interested groups and individuals.*



# Contact us

# Contact us (1)

**Q: How can I get in touch with the team.**

*Please email Matt and Carol at [QuantansHill.Windfarm@Vattenfall.com](mailto:QuantansHill.Windfarm@Vattenfall.com) or call us on 01563 595 044.*

**Q: How are you engaging with the local community?**

*Vattenfall is engaging with local communities by post, email, phone and through digital means.*

**Q: What impact will Covid have on your plans for engaging with the community?**

*Vattenfall takes Covid precautions extremely seriously. Safety and wellbeing are paramount both for our own teams and for local communities, and for that reason traditional face-to-face engagement events and meetings are currently on hold. This remains under regular review and we hope to resume face-to-face engagement as soon as possible. In the meantime, we will be engaging digitally or over the phone.*

**Q: Where can I find out more?**

*Please visit the Quantans Hill project webpage [here](#).*

# Quantans Hill Wind Farm

Frequently asked questions

Version 2

July 2021



VATTENFALL

# About the project and the developer



# Quantans Hill – a proposed onshore wind project

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## Where is the proposed Quantans Hill Wind Farm?

- Quantans Hill is a proposed wind farm in Dumfries and Galloway. The site is around 2km east of Carsphairn, on land that is currently upland grazing, although also subject to separate forestry planting applications.
- You can view a map of the proposed site [here](#).
- The project takes its name from a hill in the centre of the site.

## What is being proposed?

- Vattenfall is exploring the potential for an onshore wind farm at Quantans Hill.
- As of July 2021, we are proposing a wind farm of up to 14 turbines, each up to 200m tip height plus battery storage and associated infrastructure.
- This is a significant reduction on the initial proposed scheme (June 2020) and follows the gathering of extensive environmental data and local feedback
- You can view the updated proposed layout map [here](#).
- Based on our calculations, this proposed configuration will enable the best possible use of the sites excellent natural wind resource, generating enough renewable electricity to power around 80,000 homes annually and, in turn, generating a significant community investment windfall for the local area.

# Quantans Hill – a proposed onshore wind project

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## What stage are the plans at?

- The proposals for Quantans Hill Wind Farm are in the design stage. This is based on around three years of research, assessing the potential of the location and how the excellent wind resource can be harnessed efficiently and sympathetically to the landscape and topography.
- We anticipate this design will be finalised and submitted to Planning in late 2021.

## Will the proposal change?

- Since first publishing our plans for Quantans Hill, Vattenfall's proposals have changed significantly. Key changes include
  - Fewer turbines (down from 21 to 14)
  - Lower turbines (from a maximum tip height of 250m to no more than 200m)
  - Cumulative impact mitigated by removing turbines closest to nearby developments
  - Water courses and private and public water supplies protected by repositioning and removing turbines, and putting in place enhanced pollution controls
  - Turbines repositioned to protect peat, natural habitats and archaeological assets
  - Enhanced and enabled access for recreational use include a pathway from the village

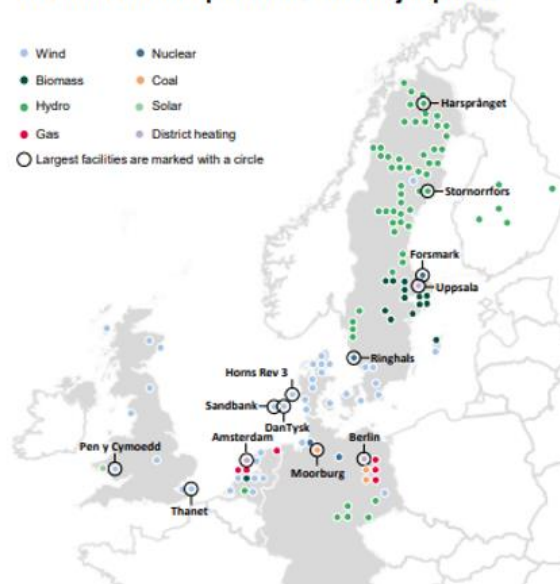
The updated design remains under review and we continue to gather feedback prior to finalising our proposals.

# Quantans Hill – a proposed onshore wind project

## Who is Vattenfall?

- One of Europe's largest producers of electricity and heat.
- 100% owned by the Swedish state.
- Main products: electricity, heat, gas, and energy services.
- Main markets: Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, and the UK.
- Almost 20,000 employees.
- Founded in Sweden in 1909 as Kungliga Vattenfallsstyrelsen ('the Royal Waterfall Board')

## Location of our operations and major plants



# Quantans Hill – a proposed onshore wind project

## What is Vattenfall's experience in the UK?

- Entered the UK market in 2008.
- Since then, we have invested over £3.5 billion in the UK energy system.
- 1GW of wind in operation, enough to power nearly 1 million British homes.
- District heating and electricity networks business launched in 2018.
- In Scotland, we have operational and development projects at:
  - South Kyle, Dumfries and Galloway
  - Whiteneuk, Dumfries and Galloway
  - Quantans Hill, Dumfries and Galloway
  - Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm
  - Edinbane, Skye
  - Clashindarroch I & II, Aberdeenshire
  - Aultmore, Moray
  - Ourack, Moray
  - District heating: Shawfair, Midlothian



# Landscape and visual impact



# Landscape and visual impact

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## **How will the wind farm affect the landscape, and will it be visible from my home?**

- Vattenfall recognises the wide range of opinions people may have on the visual impact of wind farms. For some, they are problematic and unwelcome. For others, they are welcome additions and a positive symbol of the changes we need to make to combat climate change. Others simply don't have an opinion. Points of view – literally and figuratively – on wind farms are many and varied.
  - Taking all of these views into consideration is important in finding the right balance and we use landscape topography wherever possible to inform our wind farm design.
  - Vattenfall will also conduct a detailed landscape impact assessment as part of our planning application
- To assist with this, and to help local people understand how the wind farm may look from numerous points across the area, we have produced a virtual 3D model, 'drivethroughs' of local routes, vantage point representations and Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps.
  - We also have the capability to provide bespoke 3D modelled viewpoints from particular addresses in the near vicinity of the wind farm. We would be happy to book a 1:1 session with anyone interested in seeing this.

# Local residents

# Local residents

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## What impact will there be in terms of noise or shadow flicker?

- Wind farms individually and cumulatively face strict planning requirements about the amount of noise they can generate during their operational periods, and this has been an important aspect of the scoping undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment for Quantans Hill. In this regard, Vattenfall's proposals will be limited by current planning restrictions and guidance.
- Our data gathering has enabled us to identify where noise may be an issue, and adapt our scheme design accordingly. For example, a number of turbines which were initially proposed have now been removed from our plans to ensure Quantans Hill Wind Farm does not exceed strict cumulative noise limits.
- As with noise, the possibility of shadow flicker at nearby properties has been 'designed out' of the wind farm through careful turbine location relative to properties. Where turbines cannot be moved, mitigations exist to prevent shadow flicker causing annoyance, for example by stopping certain turbines turning when the risk of shadow flicker is high.

# Local residents

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## Will local property values be affected?

- There are a variety of studies about the impact of wind farms on house prices. One of the largest studies is by the Centre of Economics and Business Research (2014) which analysed 82,000 property transactions within a 5km radius of wind farms in England and Wales, and concluded that house prices followed broader trends identifiable within the relevant county.

## Will there be aviation lighting?

- Yes, all structures in the UK over 150m require aviation lights as part of international regulations. The impact of aviation lighting on the night sky will be a particular focus of our environmental impact assessment. Aviation lighting effects can be minimised in a number of ways, including through reductions in the number of turbines with lights.
- By its nature, aviation lighting is designed to be seen by aircraft passing at height and is therefore much less visible to those close by and at ground level. We will work hard to present a realistic depiction of aviation lighting which we believe will reassure local people.
- We can also confirm that any aviation lights required on Quantans Hill Wind Farm would not be directly visible from the Scottish Dark Sky Observatory due to screening by topography.

# Local residents

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## Aren't there enough wind farms locally already?

- If Scotland, the UK, and the rest of the world is to achieve carbon emissions targets, more renewable energy sources will be required everywhere. Onshore wind remains is the cheapest ways to generate renewable electricity, and Quantans Hill Wind Farm would mark a significant step closer to achieving a fossil-free future. In addition, as our society moves away from fossil fuels to heat our homes and fuel transport, we will all need to consume more electricity.
- Dumfries and Galloway is abundant in wind resource and remains highly attractive to wind developers. Ensuring such developments benefit not only the climate but the local area is, we believe, the responsibility of developers, and that's why Vattenfall is committed to working with communities and agencies to deliver tangible benefits for those who live, work and visit in the local area. We are working hard to deliver this at South Kyle, a 50-turbine wind farm now being constructed north of Carpshairn.
- We believe if Vattenfall does not take forward this development, someone else will. We want to present the best case to the community that we are responsible partners committed to bringing a range of real, positive benefits to the region and should therefore be the area's 'developer of choice'.

# Local residents

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## Will local water supplies be impacted?

- Protecting water sources has been of upmost importance to us when reviewing the design and layout of the wind farm, and a number of turbines have been repositioned or removed to protect water supplies – both the public supply to the village and private water supplies to individual properties
- Excavations close to public and private water supplies are strictly regulated. We will liaise with the water authorities and regulators through the planning process of the wind farm and, should consent be granted, throughout the construction and operational phases.



# Ecology and natural habitats

# Ecology and natural habitats

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## How will Quantans Hill Wind Farm protect and enhance the local environment and natural habitats?

- Vattenfall is committed to protecting the natural environment around our wind farms. As part of our assessment of Quantans Hill, we have spent several years surveying the site across the seasons to understand what birds, bats, protected mammals, fish, and plants live here.
- Like any form of development, wind farms can affect the wildlife around them. There are a number of ways we address potential adverse environmental impacts:
  - Through site design, for example the size, number, and location of turbines
  - Through mitigation during operations, for example managing habitats onsite to encourage wildlife to visit parts of the site where there are no, or fewer, turbines
  - Through compensation, for example creating new habitats to replicate or improve habitats affected by the location of infrastructure
- In addition, through their habitat management plans, wind farms are one of the driving forces in British uplands for habitat improvement. For example, our Pen y Cymoedd wind farm in Wales is a key part of one of the country's largest peatland restoration projects benefitting a wide range of rare species such as nightjar.
- For Quantans Hill Wind Farm a Habitat Management Plan will be developed. We will also minimise felling to small areas around the turbines and access tracks, and commit to replanting either onsite or elsewhere in the region. Wherever possible, this will be with a mix of suitable native broadleaf tree species.
- We have also optimised the design of the turbine layouts to protect areas of deeper peat.

# Wind in the energy mix

# Wind in the energy mix

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## Aren't wind farms unreliable?

- There is nearly 14GW of onshore wind operational in the UK today. There is around 8GW of offshore wind. Onshore wind is the dominant form of renewable generation in the UK system and generated 29TWh of electricity in 2017. That's equivalent to the annual demand of over 7.5 million British homes.
- There are times when wind output is low and that is why a balanced energy mix is important. However, it is a misconception that wind is frequently unavailable during times of high demand. The windiest time of year (winter) coincides with points of highest electricity demand. For example, during the 2018 'Beast from the East', wind power was Britain's dominant energy source and on 2 March 2018, wind provided 36% of Britain's power, compared to gas (20%), nuclear (18%), and coal (13%).

## Aren't you doing this to secure public subsidy or constraint payments?

- Though in the past onshore wind was subsidised by the Government, subsidies were ended in 2016. Consistent financial support for onshore wind has been a huge policy success, so much so that onshore wind is now the cheapest way to generate power, bar none.
- Any future 'contract for difference' auctions (Government low-carbon power support mechanism) available for onshore wind is very likely to see the billpayer 'paid back' by the onshore wind sector in exchange for revenue certainty – a 'win-win' for industry and the public. It has been estimated that additional onshore wind operating under the 'contract for difference' scheme in the 2020s will actually lower household bills by replacing older, more expensive polluting power plants.
- Constraint payments are available to all power producers when the electricity grid has insufficient capacity to transport generation. Any income received as 'constraint payments' are a very small part of a wind farm's revenue. Constraint payments are forecast to decline significantly following the commissioning of a major new subsea power cable from Scotland to England (the 'Western Link')

# Traffic and transport

# Traffic and transport

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## How will traffic access the site?

- Should our proposals proceed and achieve consent, it will be some years before Quantans Hill Wind Farm would be built. We anticipate that this would commence no earlier than 2025. Prior to that, on site activity will be very limited to environmental studies with light passenger vehicles.
- When building a wind farm, Vattenfall is committed to working with local communities, authorities and contractors to both minimise disruption and maximise opportunities. Turbine delivery routes are being explored. However, the most likely route will be from Glasgow south along the M77 towards Kilmarnock, the A77 towards Ayr, and then the A713 towards the site.
- The impact on local road users will be explored as part of the wind farm's planning application and conditions will be agreed with the relevant authorities regarding traffic movements should we be granted consent, such as limiting the number and timings of site deliveries.
- Whilst some disruption is inevitable, Vattenfall will try to keep this to a minimum. Some road users may also note an improvement in road condition and quality after the development, including improved surfacing, road widening, and more passing places, especially on roads close to the site.



# Socio-economic issues

# Socio economic issues

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## Will the wind farm create jobs and opportunities?

- More than 70% of Vattenfall's onshore wind expenditure in the UK is with British businesses. There are a range of opportunities from very local small businesses to multi-national companies. Typical opportunities for British businesses cover everything from civil and electrical engineering, environmental studies, plant and equipment hire through to communications, security, and cleaning. In the longer term, the wind farm will require technicians to operate and maintain the facility on a daily basis over its lifetime.
- From our wind farm at South Kyle (now under construction) to our proposed developments at Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk, Vattenfall is committed to maximising opportunities for local communities.

## Will local heritage be protected?

- Yes. Protecting heritage assets is an important factor in our development of proposals for Quantans Hill Wind Farm. The scheme design will be adapted to accommodate archaeological and heritage assets on site and in the wider vicinity.
- Where impacts are unavoidable, it is of course an opportunity to responsibly excavate and learn more about the lives of our ancestors.
- During our investigations, we have identified within the wind farm boundary the crash site of a WW2 plane with an important history. Though a significant distance from the nearest proposed turbine, our plans it to survey and catalogue the site, and develop a footpath access track.

# Socio economic issues

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## How will the wind farm impact tourism?

- The importance of tourism to the local economy cannot be underestimated, and Vattenfall appreciates that some people may be concerned about the potential impact of Quantans Hill Wind Farm.
- Whilst individual opinions vary, there have been a number of studies which show no relationship between wind farms and tourism. For example, a 2017 study by BiGGAR Economics showed that between 2009 and 2015, onshore wind increased by 121% in Scotland whilst over the same period the number of people employed in tourism rose by 15%. This includes areas with higher proportions of onshore wind than other parts of Scotland.
- Studies for the Scottish Government have also found that 64% of tourists polled either had positive or no feelings towards wind farm development. In addition, a 2012 Visit Scotland survey of tourist attitudes found that 80% of UK respondents said their decision on where to go would not be affected by a wind farm.
- 
- We do, however, appreciate concerns about tourism and are committed to exploring how the proposed wind farm can support the area's tourism aspirations and actively supporting local accommodation providers should construction go ahead.
- This includes the development of a path network to enable recreational access to the hillside, with a direct link to the village.

# Community investment

# Community investment

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## How will community benefits be delivered?

- If approved, Quantans Hill Wind Farm could bring many benefits to local communities, including community investment worth equivalent of £13million over 30 years.
- The local communities will have the final say over how this investment is used. This could be as a traditional Community Benefit Fund supporting annual grants to local projects. Or, the investment could be used to tackle specific challenges facing local communities.

## Will shared ownership be offered?

- Yes. Vattenfall will offer local communities the opportunity to acquire an interest in Quantans Hill Wind Farm, subject to their being sufficient interest. We would be pleased to discuss this option further with interested groups and individuals.

# Contact us



# Contact us

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## How can I get in touch with the team?

- Please email Matt and Carol at [QuantansHill.Windfarm@Vattenfall.com](mailto:QuantansHill.Windfarm@Vattenfall.com)
- or call us on 01563 595 044.
- To find out more please visit [www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshill](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshill)

## How are you engaging with the local community?

- Vattenfall is engaging with local communities by post, email, phone and through digital means.
- Vattenfall takes Covid precautions extremely seriously. Safety and wellbeing are paramount both for our own teams and for local communities, and for that reason traditional face-to-face engagement events and meetings are currently on hold. This remains under regular review and we hope to resume face-to-face engagement as soon as possible. In the meantime, we will be engaging digitally or over the phone.

# Appendix II: Media

**Some examples of media coverage for the proposed development**

Quantans Hill Wind Farm PACC Report

# Media Coverage

Examples of media coverage of Quantans Hill Wind Farm

June 2020 to December 2021



VATTENFALL

# Daily Business

14/7/2020

<https://dailybusinessgroup.co.uk/2020/07/vattenfall-unveils-more-wind-farms-in-green-energy-hub/>

Turbine plan

## Vattenfall unveils more wind farms in 'green energy hub'

Terry Murden, Editor | July 14, 2020



More turbines planned for southwest Scotland

Vattenfall is exploring two new wind farm projects in south west Scotland that could power 300,000 homes.

The 56 wind turbines are now subject to environmental impact assessments and consultation with communities around Moniaive and Carsphairn. There will be battery energy storage facility at each location.

The company will construct turbines at nearby South Kyle Wind Farm as it consolidates its activities in what is becoming a 'green energy hub'.

Whiteneuk Wind Farm project is around 5km south of Moniaive and it will consist of up to 35 wind turbines. Quantans Hill Wind Farm project, which is around 2km to the north-east of Carsphairn village, will consist of up to 21 wind turbines. Each turbine could have a blade tip height of up to 250m.

Frank Elsworth, Vattenfall's UK development director for onshore wind, said: "South West Scotland has the potential to become a green energy hub. South Kyle, Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk can play a major part in helping to power Scotland towards net zero and provide green shoots of recovery from the economic damage of Covid-19.

"Vattenfall wants to work with local communities, suppliers and partners to not only co-ordinate how our investments might benefit specific localities, but also to explore and create significant opportunities for South West Scotland."

Carol Kane, Vattenfall's local liaison officer, South West Scotland, said: "Although these proposals are at an early stage, we are keen to hear from local communities at the earliest opportunity.

"Over the coming months, we will be liaising with community groups and representatives to discuss the proposals and take comments, questions and suggestions.

"We have also created online feedback surveys, and we welcome views from as many local people as possible."

© Vattenfall

## Two new wind farms explored

AN ENERGY company is in the early stages of developing two new windfarms, which will power 300,000 homes.

Vattenfall plans further major investment in south west Scotland, with sites at Quantans Hill, Carsephairn, and Whiteneuk, near Moniaive, which could contain battery energy storage facilities.

The announcement comes after Vattenfall awarded a multi-million-pound contract for the construction of South Kyle Wind Farm, near Dalmellington.

Whiteneuk Wind Farm project could consist of up to 35 wind turbines and Quantans Hill Wind Farm project, which is around 2km to the north-east of Carsephairn village, could consist of up to 21 wind turbines.

Each turbine could have a blade tip height of up to 250m.

UK development director for Onshore Wind [Frank Elsworth](#) said: "South West Scotland has the potential to become a green energy hub.

"South Kyle, Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk can play a major part in helping to power Scotland towards net zero and provide green shoots of recovery from the economic damage of Covid-19.

"Vattenfall wants to work with local communities, suppliers and partners to not only co-ordinate how our investments might benefit specific localities, but also to explore and create significant opportunities for South West Scotland."

The firm has said that they will be liaising with community groups and representatives in the coming months.

# The Herald

27/7/2020 - reference within wider feature

- <https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18610718.offshore-wind-power-so-cheap-lead-cuts-consumer-fuel-bills/>

But there are other major projects in the pipeline.

Swedish energy giant Vattenfall have unveiled plans to build two more wind farms in Scotland - as part of a renewables revolution.

The proposed developments in Dumfries and Galloway could together produce enough electricity to annually power around 300,000 homes.

Vattenfall, which was awarded a multi-million-pound contract for the construction of South Kyle Wind Farm, said it submitted a scoping report to the Scottish Government this month. The project is expected to complete by 2023 and will be able to power around 170,000 homes, saving nearly 300,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually.

The Whiteneuk Wind Farm project would be built around three miles south of Moniaive and consist of up to 35 wind turbines with a blade tip height of up to 250m.

The Quantans Hill Wind Farm project, north-east of Carsphairn village, would have up to 21 wind turbines.



- <https://news.stv.tv/scotland/renewable-energy-giant-unveils-plans-for-two-more-wind-farms>

## Renewable energy giant unveils plans for two new wind farms

Vattenfall says the proposed developments could together produce enough electricity to power around 300,000 homes.

A renewable energy giant has unveiled plans to build two more wind farms in Scotland.

Swedish company Vattenfall says the proposed developments in Dumfries and Galloway could together produce enough electricity to annually power around 300,000 homes.

If the developments go ahead, each will be built alongside an energy storage battery plant.

Vattenfall, which was awarded a multi-million-pound contract for the construction of South Kyle Wind Farm, said it submitted a scoping report to the Scottish Government this month.

The Whiteneuk Wind Farm project would be built around three miles south of Moniaive and consist of up to 35 wind turbines with a blade tip height of up to 250m.

The Quantans Hill Wind Farm project, north-east of Carsphairn village, would have up to 21 wind turbines.

Frank Elsworth, Vattenfall's UK development director for onshore wind, said: "South West Scotland has the potential to become a green energy hub.

"South Kyle, Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk can play a major part in helping to power Scotland towards net-zero and provide green shoots of recovery from the economic damage of Covid-19.

"Vattenfall wants to work with local communities, suppliers and partners to not only coordinate how our investments might benefit specific localities, but also to explore and create significant opportunities for South West Scotland."

The company said it is keen to consult with the local communities.

Carol Kane, Vattenfall's local liaison officer, South West Scotland, added: "Although these proposals are at an early stage, we are keen to hear from local communities at the earliest opportunity.

"Over the coming months, we will be liaising with community groups and representatives to discuss the proposals and take comments, questions and suggestions.

"We have also created online feedback surveys, and we welcome views from as many local people as possible."

For more information, click [here](#).

# Galloway Gazette

19/7/21

- <https://www.gallowaygazette.co.uk/business/vattenfall-refines-wind-farm-plans-3313944?fbclid=IwAR392v8hB2Yu4SUOv8SaY0gQWgvoZPyb4p4ftlaLafTSGM2u2vXcwDPciPY>

## Vattenfall refines wind farm plans

Local feedback and extensive environmental assessments have helped Vattenfall to further develop its plans for Quantans Hill Wind Farm in Dumfries and Galloway.



Vattenfall has redesigned its planned wind farm following local feedback.

An updated layout for the wind farm proposal, has now been published. The number of proposed turbines has been reduced from 21 to 14, with the maximum tip height reduced from 250m to 200m.

Additionally, turbines have been repositioned to protect watercourses, deep peat and archaeology on site.

Furthermore the plans will now include enhanced recreational access with new pathways linking the hillside to the village of Carsphairn.

# App. III: Social Media

**Some examples of social media coverage for the proposed development**

Quantans Hill Wind Farm PACC Report

# Social Media

Examples of organic and 3rd party social media coverage for Quantans Hill Wind Farm

June 2020 to December 2021



VATTENFALL

- Facebook post supporting launch of pre-application community consultation
- Similar content was shared on Twitter



- 
- Facebook post by Dumfries and Galloway What's Going On (DGWGO) publicising proposed development and encouraging local feedback



### Dumfries and Galloway! Whats Going on ?

August 19, 2020 · 🌐

...

#### Vattenfall Welcomes Input From Dumfries & Galloway Residents

Dumfries and Galloway residents are being invited to give their input to Vattenfall's proposals for two onshore wind developments and provide feedback on how community investment can support local priorities.

Last month, energy company Vattenfall announced it is exploring the potential for two wind farms in south west Scotland as part of their drive to enable fossil free living within a generation. The proposed ... [See more](#)



- Facebook post promoting online exhibition
- Similar content was posted to Twitter and retweeted by various accounts including Galloway Glens, SCDI, and local business Eco Projects



Our virtual public exhibitions for Whiteneuk and Quantans Hill wind farm proposals are live today. More information including 3D videos and imagery can be found on our website: <https://bit.ly/3hJfFA>.





- Facebook post from DGWGO publicising online exhibition



Dumries and Galloway: vvnats Going on ?

December 5, 2020 · 🌐



Feedback Welcomed As 'Virtual Village Hall' Exhibitions Go Live

Public exhibitions for two proposed wind farms go live online this month with the creation of two 'virtual village halls'.

Energy company [Vattenfall](#) are launching the online tool to enable local people learn more about their proposals for Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk Wind Farms, and to create more opportunities to provide feedback before the wind farm designs are finalised and submitted to planning later next ye... [See more](#)



- Facebook post from DGWGO publicising online discussion events



**Dumfries and Galloway! Whats Going on ?**

February 4, 2021 · 🌐

...

Local Communities Invited To Discuss Wind Farm Proposals At Quantans Hill And Whiteneuk

Local communities will have the opportunity to put their questions about Vattenfall's Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk Wind Farm proposals to the project teams later this month. Full details on the link below

<https://www.dgwgo.com/.../local-communities-invited-to.../>



- Facebook post from DGWGO sharing video on updates to site design



Dumfries and Galloway! Whats Going on ?

July 5, 2021 · 🌐



YOUTUBE.COM

**Vattenfall's Quantans Hill Wind Farm Proposal site design animation**

A short video animation showing the evolution of Quantans Hill Wind Farm project site design...

- Facebook post promoting short video created to explain updates to the proposed wind farm layout
- Similar content shared on Twitter



Find out more about how we've refined Quantans Hill Wind Farm proposal through environmental research and local feedback. Watch this animated film:  
[https://youtu.be/0M\\_KCOXxOoo](https://youtu.be/0M_KCOXxOoo).

[Dumfries and Galloway! Whats Going on ? Dumfries and Galloway Council](#)



- Local newspaper publishing details of design update



- 
- Facebook post from Dumfries and Galloway Chamber promoting online public event



August 18, 2021 · 🌐

ON-LINE EVENT - Thu, 26 August 2021 - 11:30-12:30

Your views wanted - Join us.

Vattenfall has recently refined its plans for Quantans Hill Wind Farm in Dumfries and Galloway. After gathering extensive environmental data and local feedback, the revised proposal is for a wind farm reduced in scale, more sensitive to visual impact, heritage assets and natural habitats, and with enhanced recreation access.

In this online event, the development team will discuss how the site design has evolved and why, and outline the next stages as the proposals for Quantans Hill Wind Farm proceed towards submission to planning.

We will also discuss the community benefits which would be generated by the wind farm - worth an estimated £13million over 30 years, and ask how local communities would like to see this used.

<http://ow.ly/vLMH50FTs5k>



- 
- Facebook post from Dalry Community Council sharing community benefits survey

**St. John's Town of Dalry Community Council**

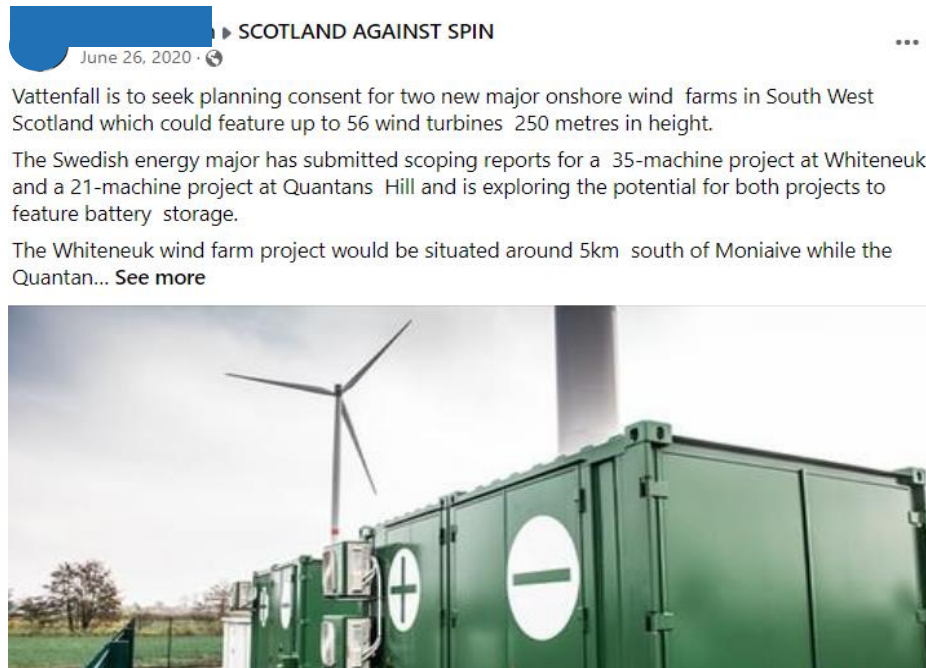
October 5, 2021 · 🌐

sharing this again as it's really important that as many people as possible fill it out - ifall survey on community benefits from Quantan's Hill windfarm. Deadline October 8th : let the strange graphic put you off, it's a genuine link.)  
[/www.netigate.se/ra/s.aspx?s=1010852X300433398X99884](https://www.netigate.se/ra/s.aspx?s=1010852X300433398X99884)





- Post by member of the public within 'Scotland Against Spin' Facebook group at scoping.
- This was followed by further posts and discussions within the group over the period.
- Further posts were also shared to the 'Save our Hill Dumfries and Galloway' Facebook Group.
- Similar activity was present on Twitter



# App. IV: Presentations

**Slide decks for various presentations made to stakeholders and members of the public throughout the period**

Quantans Hill Wind Farm PACC Report

# **Presentations**

- 1. Public online event Dec 2020 (slides 2-20)**
- 2. Presentation to Dalry Community Council Jan 2021 (slides 21-32)**
- 3. Public online event Feb 2021 (slides 33-51)**
- 4. Presentation to Carsphairn Community Council March 2021 (slides 52-63)**
- 5. Community update online event on D2 Aug 2021 (slides 64-97)**



# An introduction to Quantans Hill wind farm

Public webinar – 16 December 2020

*Matthew Bacon, Senior Project Manager*

*Carol Kane, Regional Liaison Officer – SW Scotland*

# About Vattenfall

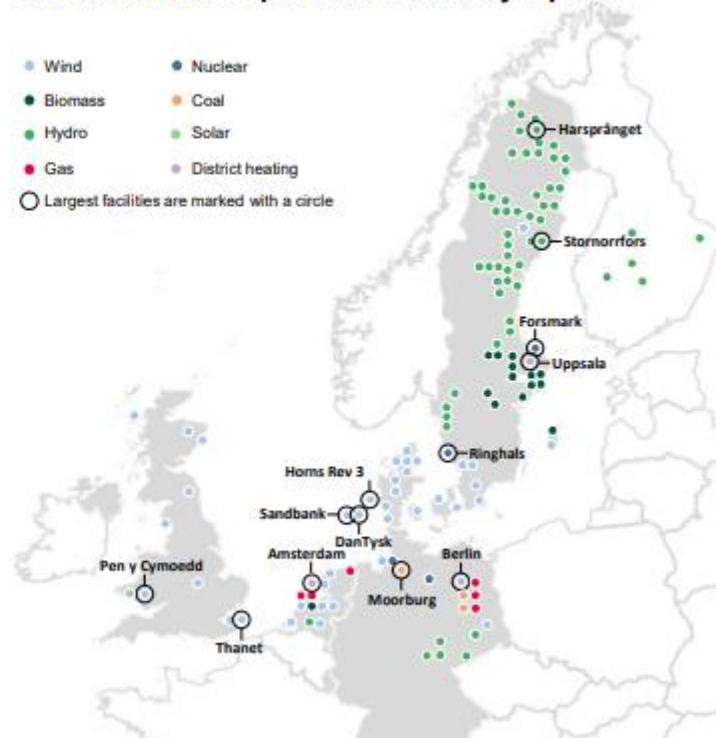
## Basic facts

- One of Europe's largest producers of electricity and heat
- 100% owned by the Swedish state
- Main products: electricity, heat, gas and energy services
- Main markets: Sweden, Germany, Netherlands, Denmark and the UK
- Almost 20,000 employees

## Key data

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## Location of our operations and major plants



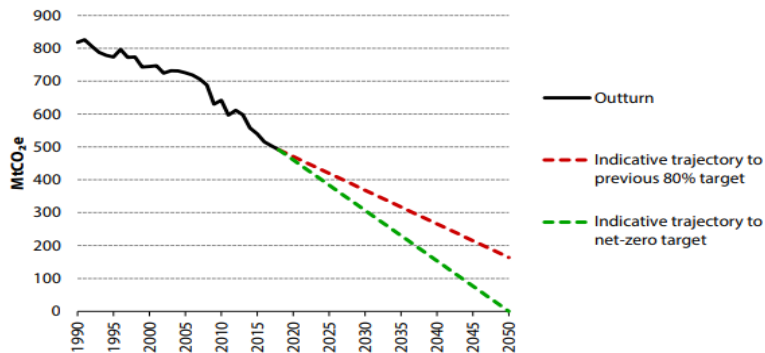


# Vattenfall in the UK

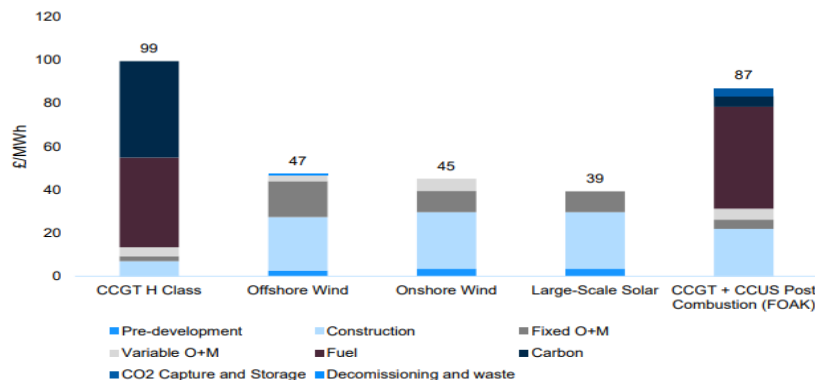


- Entered UK market in 2008.
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  - South Kyle, Dumfries and Galloway
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# Why onshore wind?

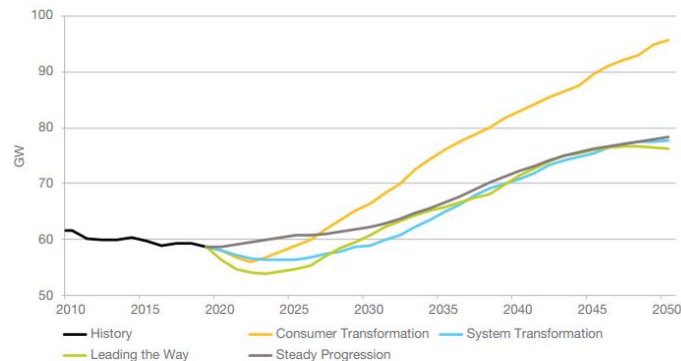


Indicative rates of UK decarbonisation <sup>1</sup>



Comparative energy costs per technology commissioning in 2030, (2018 prices)<sup>2</sup>

- UK still has a long way to go to meet carbon targets
- Electricity demand is expected to rise significantly as we switch from fossil fuel transport and heating
- Old coal, nuclear, and gas plants need to decommission
- New wind is now one of the cheapest ways to generate electricity

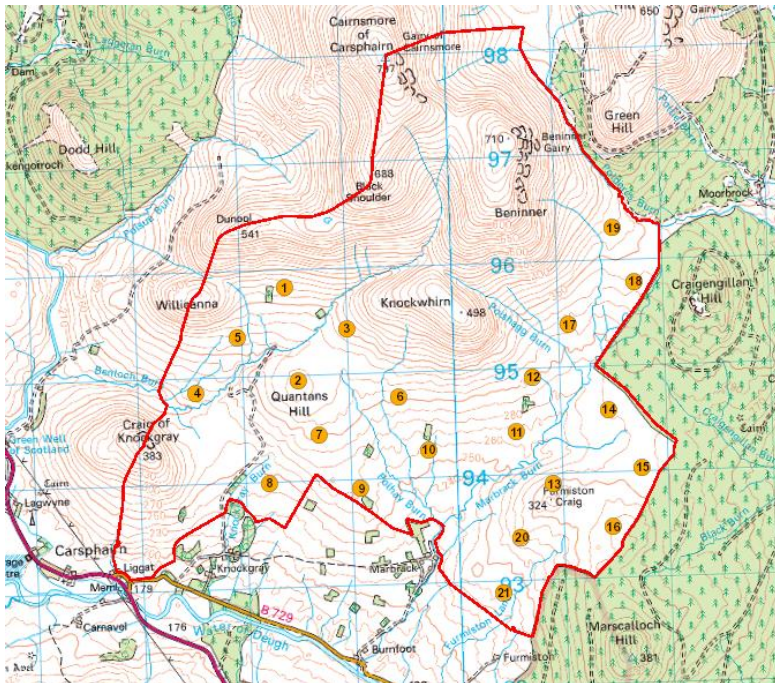


GB peak electricity peak demand, 2010-2050 <sup>3</sup>

Sources: 1, Committee on Climate Change, Reducing UK Emissions, Progress Report to Parliament (2019); 2, BEIS, *Electricity Generation Costs* (2020); 3, National Grid ESO, *Future Energy Scenarios* (2020)

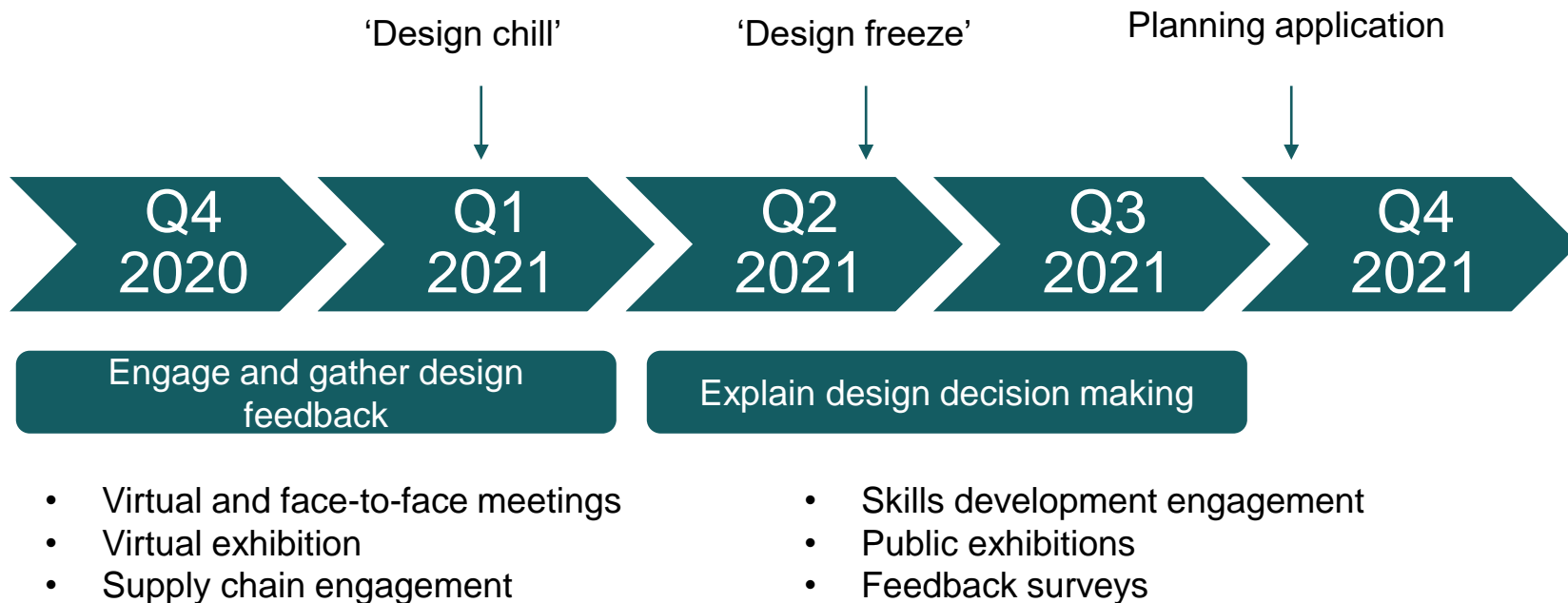


## Site layout – as at scoping

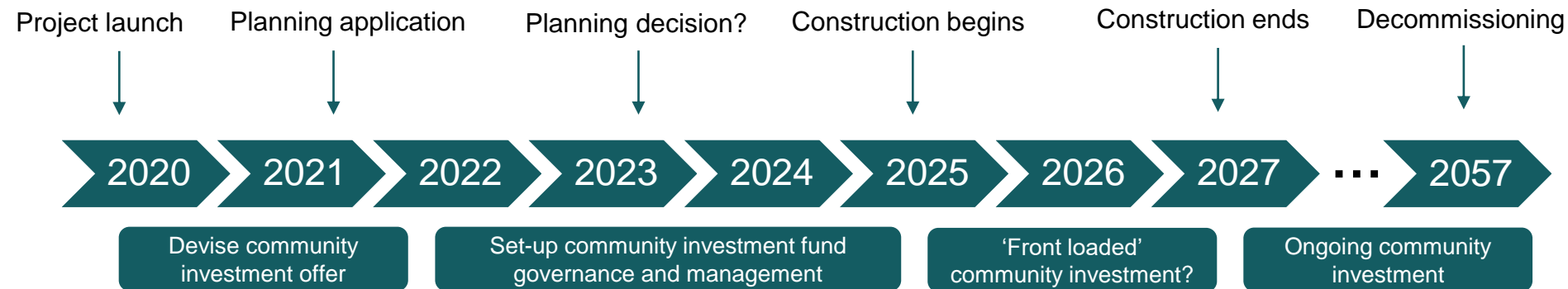


- Up to 126MW
- Up to 21 turbines
- Up to 250m to tip height
- This represents the scheme at its greatest possible extent before gathering environmental information and local views.
- Likely the scheme will be smaller than this and will be shaped by local people's views.
- Why is Vattenfall interested in developing Quantans Hill:
  - Excellent wind resource
  - Good infrastructure (Glasgow/Ayr docks)
  - Existing presence in the region (South Kyle)

# Next steps for 2020/21



# Timeline until commissioning





# Engaging with the community

# Community engagement

## Why?


To inform  
To gather feedback

*Feedback – especially from people who live or work in, and know the area best – will help us design the best wind farm we can.*

To prepare – local supply chain and jobs, skills pipeline, community benefits.












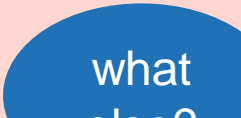
## Who?

Community councils and elected representatives  
Neighbouring properties  
Local people  
Interest groups, organisations and services



who  
else?

# How...during a pandemic

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# Examples



Perry Cymrodd Wind Farm

## Community consultations go live

New virtual exhibitions and digital events planned for wind farm proposals.

Two new virtual exhibitions will go live this month as part of Vattenfall's community consultations for Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms.

Announced earlier this year, Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk are renewable energy projects being proposed by Vattenfall in Dumfries and Galloway. Both are at an early stage, with opportunities for local people to influence the designs before submission to planning.

We believe it is essential that local communities have the opportunity to influence the project designs. Feedback - especially from the people who live and work locally - will help us design the best projects we can, ones that balance the need to efficiently generate renewable electricity, protect the natural environment and deliver tangible benefits for local communities.

So this community update provides some information on the proposals, their progress, and how and where

you can find out more - including the creation of virtual village halls, online events and opportunities to discuss the plans direct with the team.

### Two projects, one newsletter

The proposed developments at Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk are distinct, individual projects, and each brings its own opportunities, challenges and community consultation.

Whilst the developments would be located around 22m apart, we appreciate that some local people, organisations and businesses may have an interest in following the progress of both, and in providing feedback accordingly.

### Whiteneuk Wind Farm

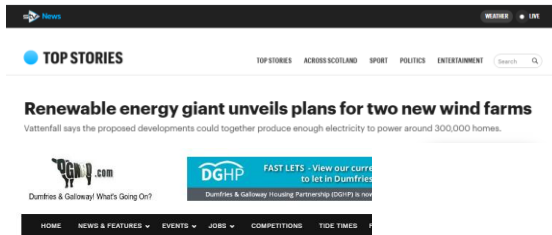


To view a larger map please go to:  
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### Quantans Hill Wind Farm



To view a larger map please go to:  
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Home > Business > Leading Energy Company Vattenfall Plans Further Major Investment In South West Scotland

## Leading Energy Company Vattenfall Plans Further Major Investment In South West Scotland

July 24, 2020



Facebook Likes

Leading energy company Vattenfall plans further major investment in South West Scotland

- The investment will provide significant opportunities for South West Scotland
- Vattenfall is at the early stages of exploring two wind farms at Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk
- Together, the projects could produce enough electricity to annually power around 300,000 homes\*.

Following the recent announcement that Vattenfall has awarded a multi-million-pound contract for the construction of South Kyle Wind Farm, the company is today unveiling proposals for further investment in South West Scotland.



Firm eyes two windfarm sites



# What's next?

**Winter 2020/21 Campaign** > design chill/freeze


Newsletter

- Virtual exhibition
- Today's event
- Video
- Press and social
- Further sessions in New Year – open or bespoke
- Our feedback

**Community Benefits Discussion**

**Supply Chain Discussion**

**Colleges and Schools**

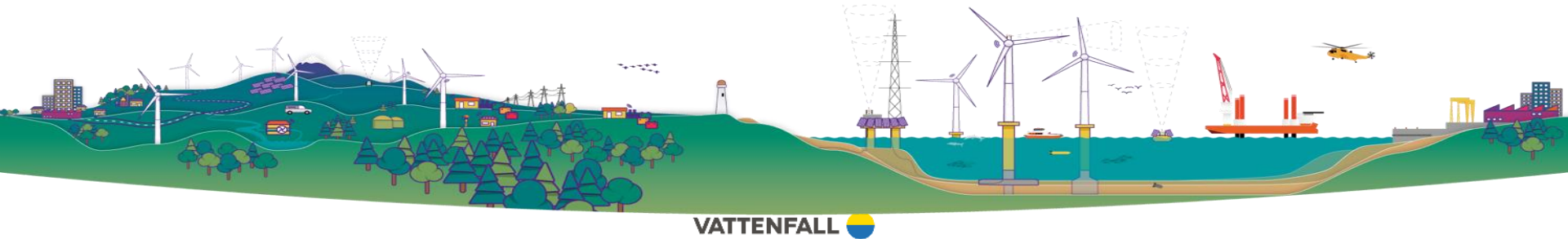


What  
else?

# Quantans Hill Wind Farm Public Webinars

## EIA Process

Natural Power Consultants Limited



# What is Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** provides decision-makers and the public with essential information to plan for environmentally sustainable economic development.
- It is a systematic analysis of a proposed development to **establish its potential environmental impacts**, the significance of such effects and where required to propose measures to mitigate the adverse effects.
- Vattenfall has appointed **local consultants Natural Power Consultants Limited** as EIA Co-ordinators for the proposed Quantans Hill Wind Farm



This is to certify that

**Natural Power Consultants**

is a member of the

**EIA Quality Mark**

for the registration period covering

April 2020 – April 2021\*

\*Subject to meeting the requirements of registration

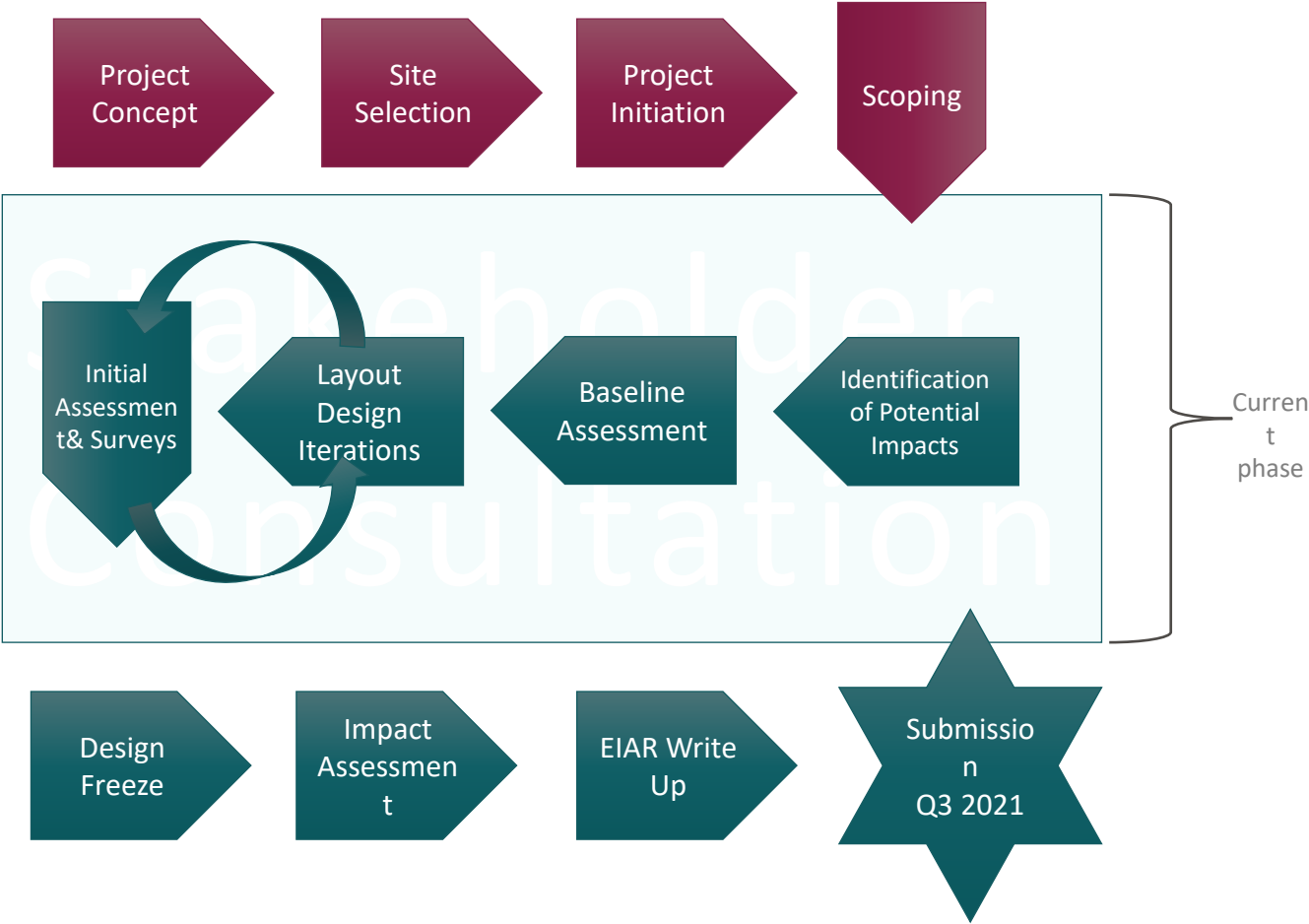


# Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- The EIA, stakeholder consultation and wind farm design processes all interlink and feed into one another optimising the project with the aim to:
- **minimise potential adverse environmental effects** and;
- **maximise the generation of low carbon electricity and other benefits**



# EIA – an iterative Process



# Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

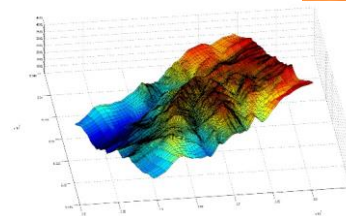
- On behalf of Vattenfall, Natural Power will co-ordinate inputs from technical and environmental experts covering a variety of topics to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Quantans Hill Wind Farm



# EIA Topics

→ The Environmental Impact Assessment will include the following topics which will feed into the layout design:

- Landscape and Visual Impact
- Ecology
- Ornithology
- Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology
- Forestry
- Cultural Heritage
- Traffic and Transport
- Noise, Shadow Flicker, Residential Amenity
- Socio-economics
- Infrastructure and Aviation





Thank you for listening

→ Any Questions?

A young boy with brown hair, wearing a green jacket over a blue shirt, dark trousers, and green rubber boots, stands in a field of tall, dry grass. He is looking off to the right. In the background, there are rolling hills and large, rocky mountains under a clear blue sky.

# An introduction to Quantans Hill wind farm

**Dalry Community Council – 18 January 2021**

***Matthew Bacon, Senior Project Manager***

***Carol Kane, Regional Liaison Officer – SW Scotland***

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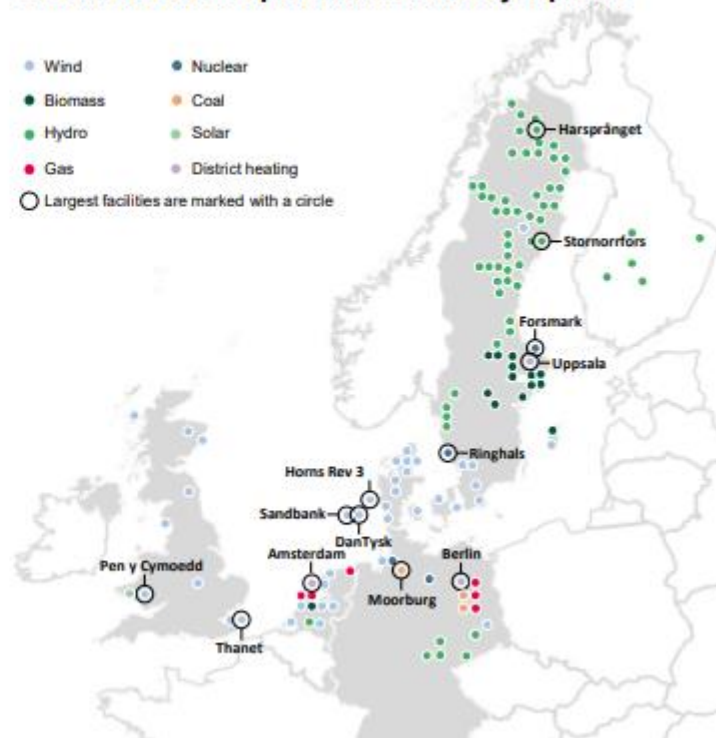
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## Location of our operations and major plants

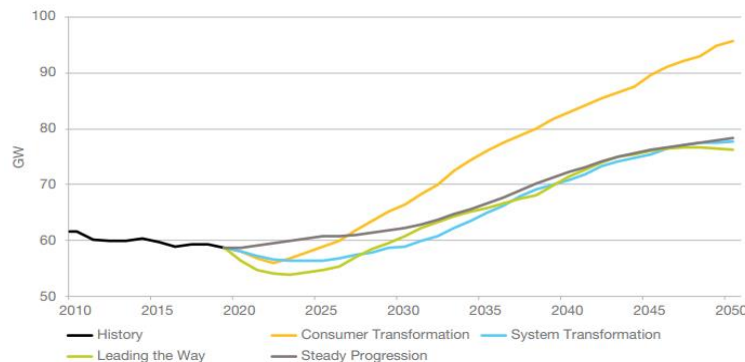
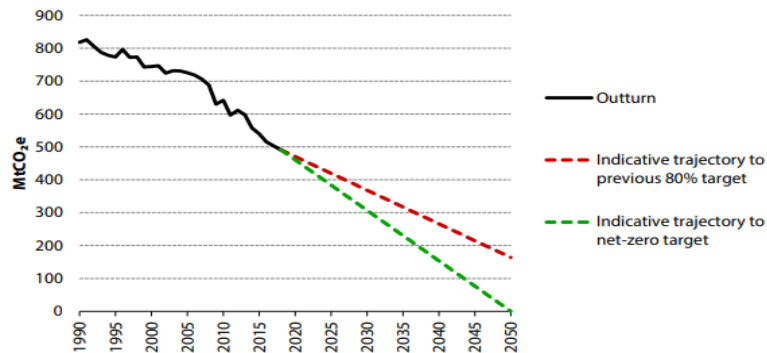


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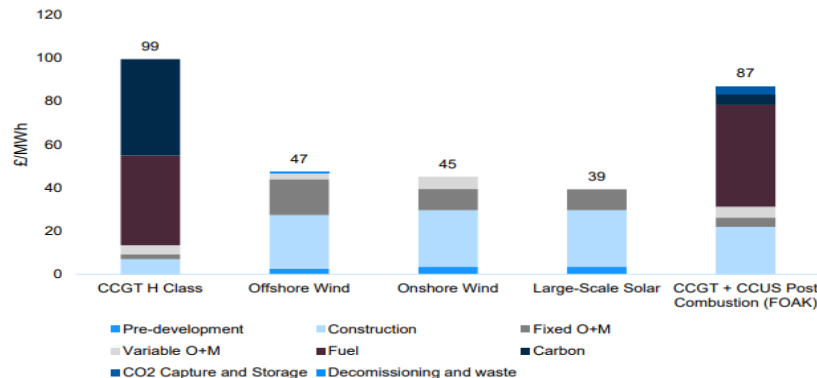


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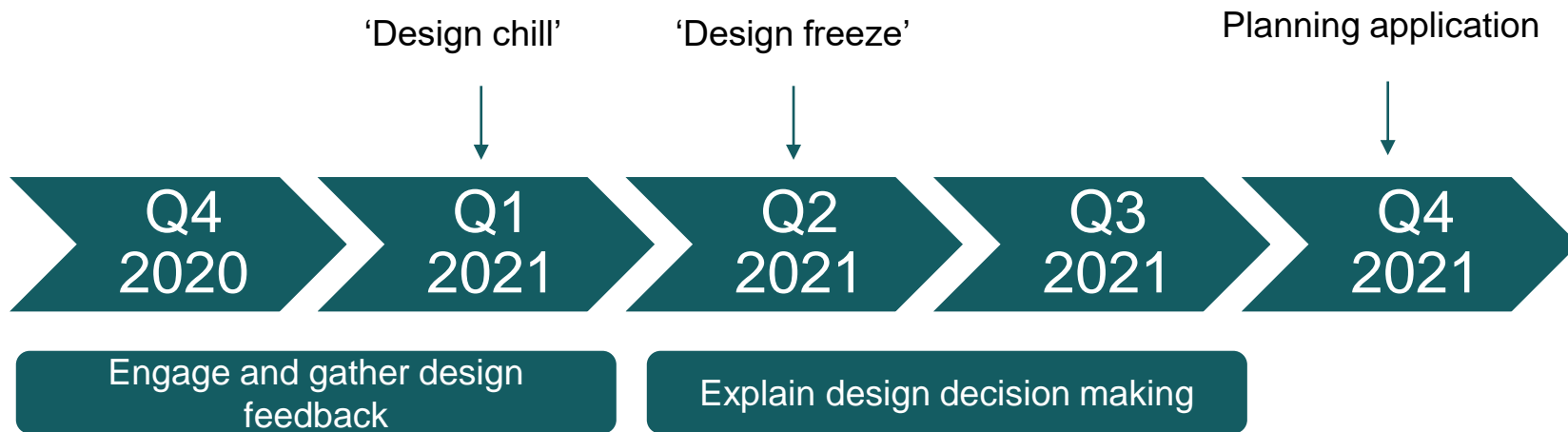


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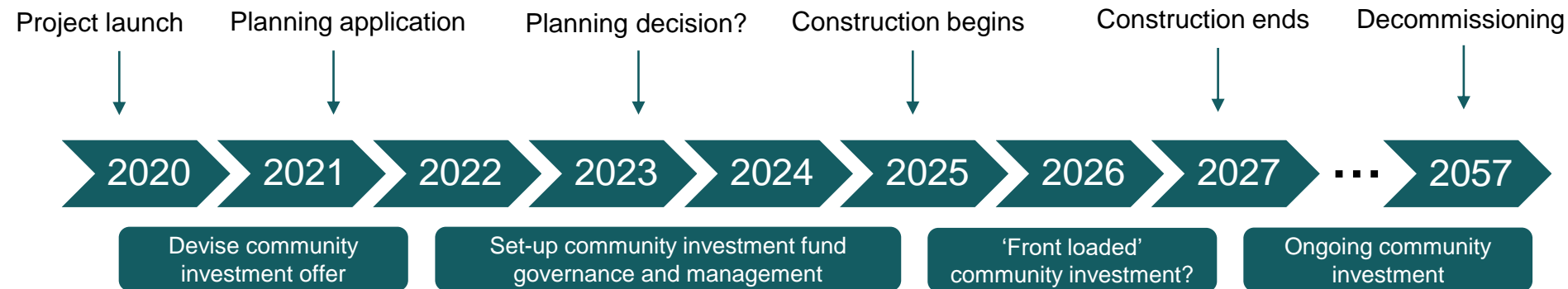
- VATTENFALL** 

# Next steps for 2020/21





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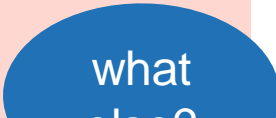
Local people

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who  
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### Whiteneuk Wind Farm



To view a larger map please go to:  
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### Quantans Hill Wind Farm



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1



Home > Business > Leading Energy Company Vattenfall Plans Further Major Investment in South West Scotland

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July 24, 2020

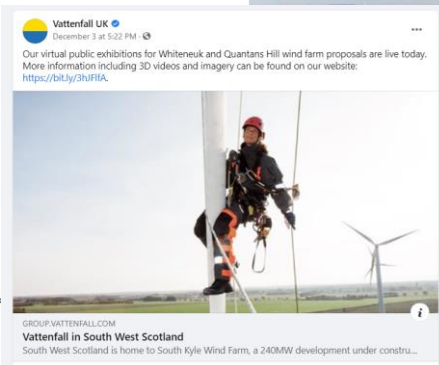


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Firm eyes two windfarm sites

# What's next?

## Winter 2020/21 Campaign > design chill/freeze


- Webinars – videos and Feb re-run
- Assess feedback to date
- One to one visualisations
- Update FAQs

## Spring > Summer 2021

- Design review – results
- Comms campaign
- Webinars/online discussions events
- Post-covid events???

## Developing conversations and opportunities

- Community Benefits
- Supply Chain. Jobs and Economy
- Education
- Natural habitat



What  
else?



A young boy with a backpack is standing in a grassy field, looking towards the right. In the background, there are large, rocky mountains under a clear blue sky. The text 'An introduction to Quantans Hill wind farm' is overlaid in large white letters.

# An introduction to Quantans Hill wind farm

Public webinar – 15 February 2021

*Matthew Bacon, Senior Project Manager*

*Carol Kane, Regional Liaison Officer – SW Scotland*



# About Vattenfall

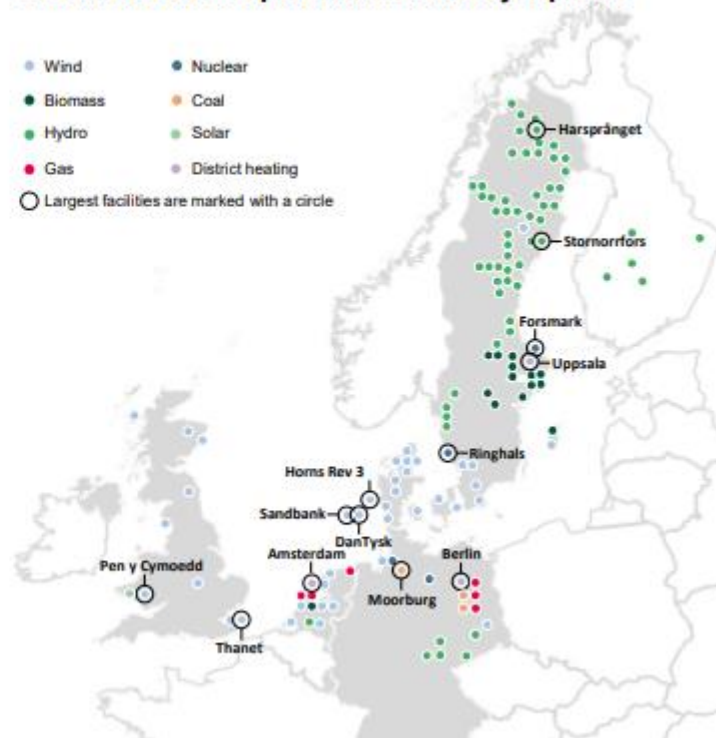
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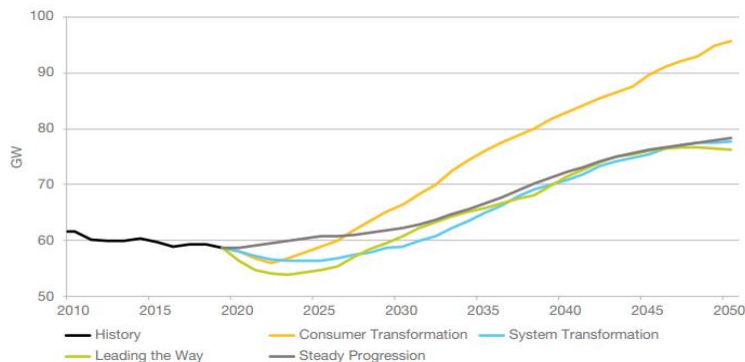
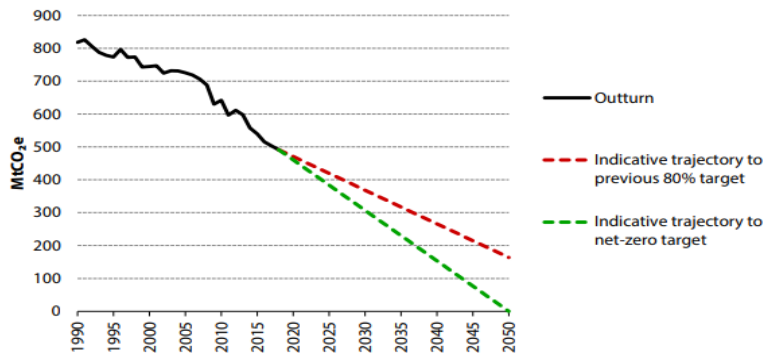


# Vattenfall in the UK

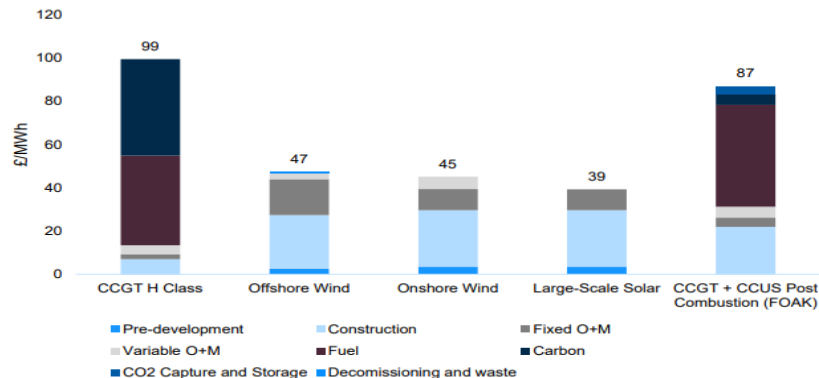


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  - Edinbane, Skye
  - Clashindarroch I & II, Aberdeenshire
  - Aultmore, Moray
  - Ourack, Moray
  - District heating: Shawfair, Midlothian

# Why onshore wind?

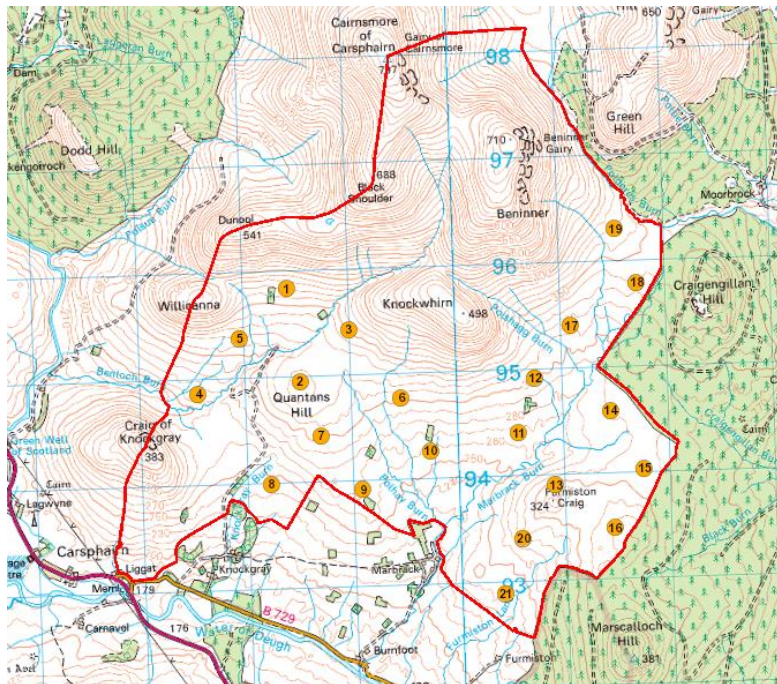


- UK still has a long way to go to meet carbon targets
- Electricity demand is expected to rise significantly as we switch from fossil fuel transport and heating
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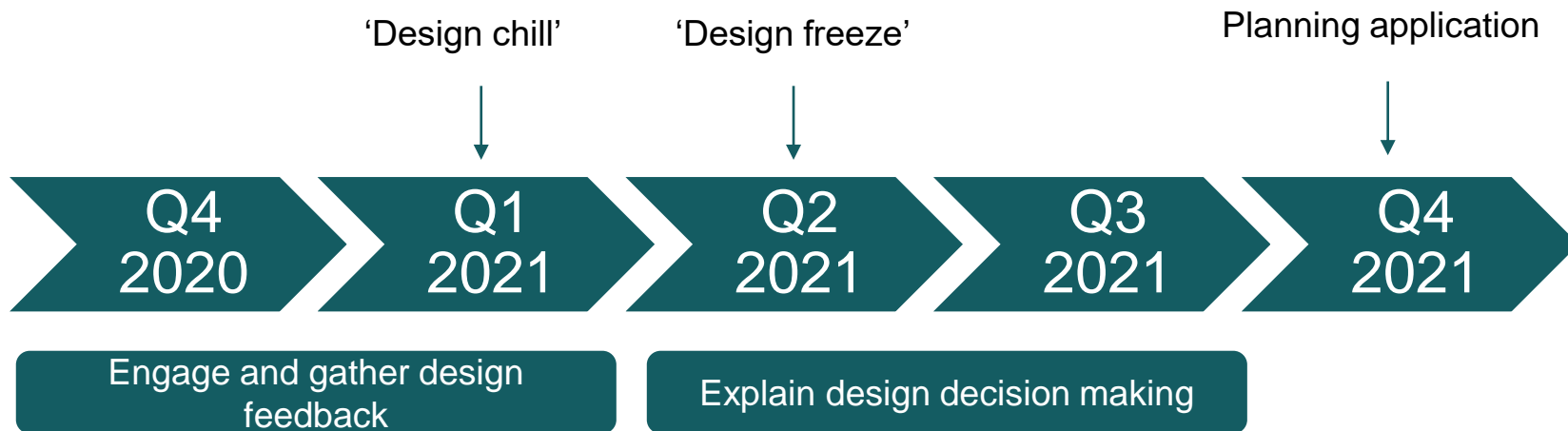
Sources: 1. Committee on Climate Change, Reducing UK Emissions, Progress Report to Parliament (2019); 2. BEIS, Electricity Generation Costs (2020); 3. National Grid ESO, Future Energy Scenarios (2020)

# Site layout – as at scoping

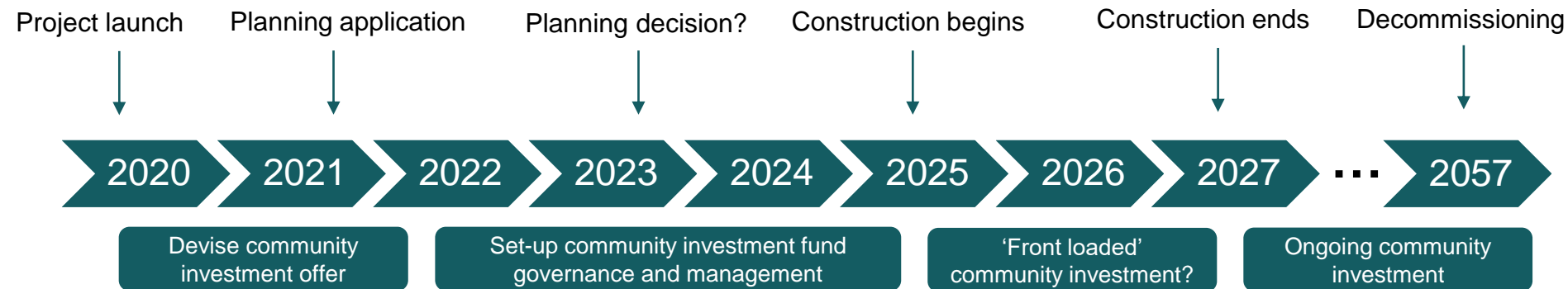


- Up to 126MW
- Up to 21 turbines
- Up to 250m to tip height
- This represents the scheme at its greatest possible extent before gathering environmental information and local views.
- Likely the scheme will be smaller than this and will be shaped by local people's views.
- Why is Vattenfall interested in developing Quantans Hill:
  - Excellent wind resource
  - Good infrastructure (Glasgow/Ayr docks)
  - Existing presence in the region (South Kyle)

# Next steps for 2020/21



# Timeline until commissioning







# Engaging with the community



# Community engagement

## Why?

To inform

To gather feedback

*Feedback – especially from people who live or work in, and know the area best – will help us design the best wind farm we can.*

To prepare – local supply chain and jobs, skills pipeline, community benefits.

## Who?

Community councils and elected representatives












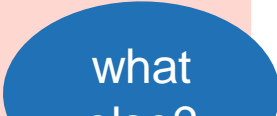
Neighbouring properties

Local people

Interest groups, organisations and services

who  
else?

# How...during a pandemic

Are doing	Doing differently - online	Hope to do, covid permitting
<div></div> <p>newsletter and mail</p> <div></div> <p>email and surveys</p> <div></div> <p>phone</p> <div></div> <p>press</p> <div></div> <p>social</p> <div></div> <p>digital</p>	<div></div> <p>exhibitions</p> <div></div> <p>meetings</p> <div></div> <p>public events</p>	<div></div> <p>door to door</p> <div></div> <p>local events</p> <div></div>

# Examples



Perry Cymrodd Wind Farm

## Community consultations go live

New virtual exhibitions and digital events planned for wind farm proposals.

Two new virtual exhibitions will go live this month as part of Vattenfall's community consultations for Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms.

Announced earlier this year, Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk are renewable energy projects being proposed by Vattenfall in Dumfries and Galloway. Both are at an early stage, with opportunities for local people to influence the designs before submission to planning. We believe it is essential that local communities have the opportunity to influence the project designs. Feedback - especially from the people who live and work locally - will help us design the best projects we can, ones that balance the need to efficiently generate renewable electricity, protect the natural environment and deliver tangible benefits for local communities. So this community update provides some information on the proposals, their progress, and how and where

### Two projects, one newsletter

The proposed developments at Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk are distinct, individual projects, and each brings its own opportunities, challenges and community consultation.

Whilst the developments would be located around 22km apart, we appreciate that some local people, organisations and businesses may have an interest in following the progress of both, and in providing feedback accordingly.

### Whiteneuk Wind Farm



To view a larger map please go to:  
[www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneukwindfarm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneukwindfarm)

### Quantans Hill Wind Farm



To view a larger map please go to:  
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1



Home > Business > Leading Energy Company Vattenfall Plans Further Major Investment in South West Scotland

## Leading Energy Company Vattenfall Plans Further Major Investment in South West Scotland

July 24, 2020

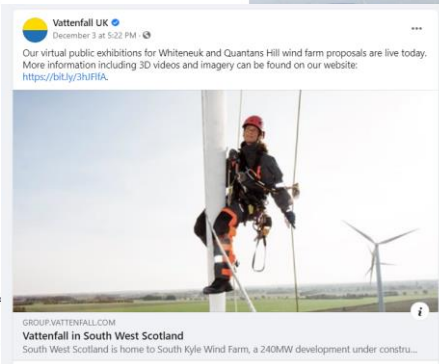


Facebook Likes

Leading energy company Vattenfall plans further major investment in South West Scotland

- The investment will provide significant opportunities for South West Scotland
- Vattenfall is at the early stages of exploring two wind farms at Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk
- Together, the projects could produce enough electricity to annually power around 300,000 homes\*.

Following the recent announcement that Vattenfall has awarded a multi-million-pound contract for the construction of South Kyle Wind Farm, the company is today unveiling proposals for further investment in South West Scotland.



Firm eyes two windfarm sites



# What's next?

**Winter 2020/21 Campaign** > design chill/freeze


Newsletter

- Virtual exhibition
- Today's event
- Video
- Press and social
- Further sessions in New Year – open or bespoke
- Our feedback

**Community Benefits Discussion**

**Supply Chain Discussion**

**Colleges and Schools**

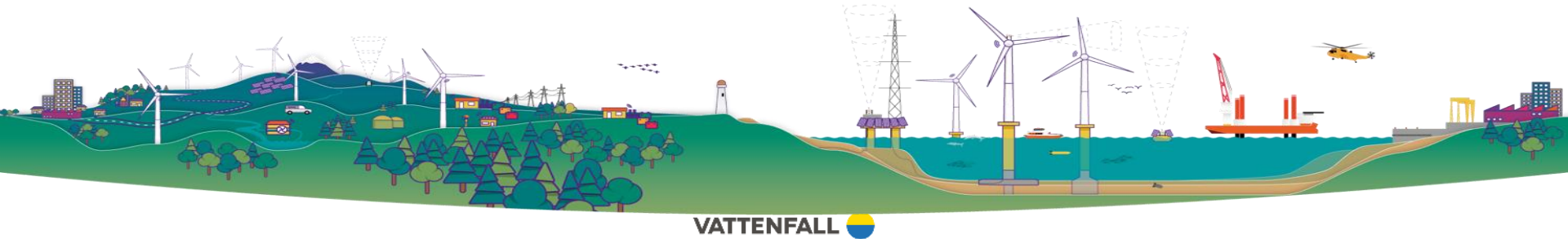


What  
else?

# Quantans Hill Wind Farm Public Webinars

## EIA Process

Natural Power Consultants Limited



# What is Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** provides decision-makers and the public with essential information to plan for environmentally sustainable economic development.
- It is a systematic analysis of a proposed development to **establish its potential environmental impacts**, the significance of such effects and where required to propose measures to mitigate the adverse effects.
- Vattenfall has appointed **local consultants Natural Power Consultants Limited** as EIA Co-ordinators for the proposed Quantans Hill Wind Farm



This is to certify that

**Natural Power Consultants**

is a member of the

**EIA Quality Mark**

for the registration period covering

April 2020 – April 2021\*

\*Subject to meeting the requirements of registration



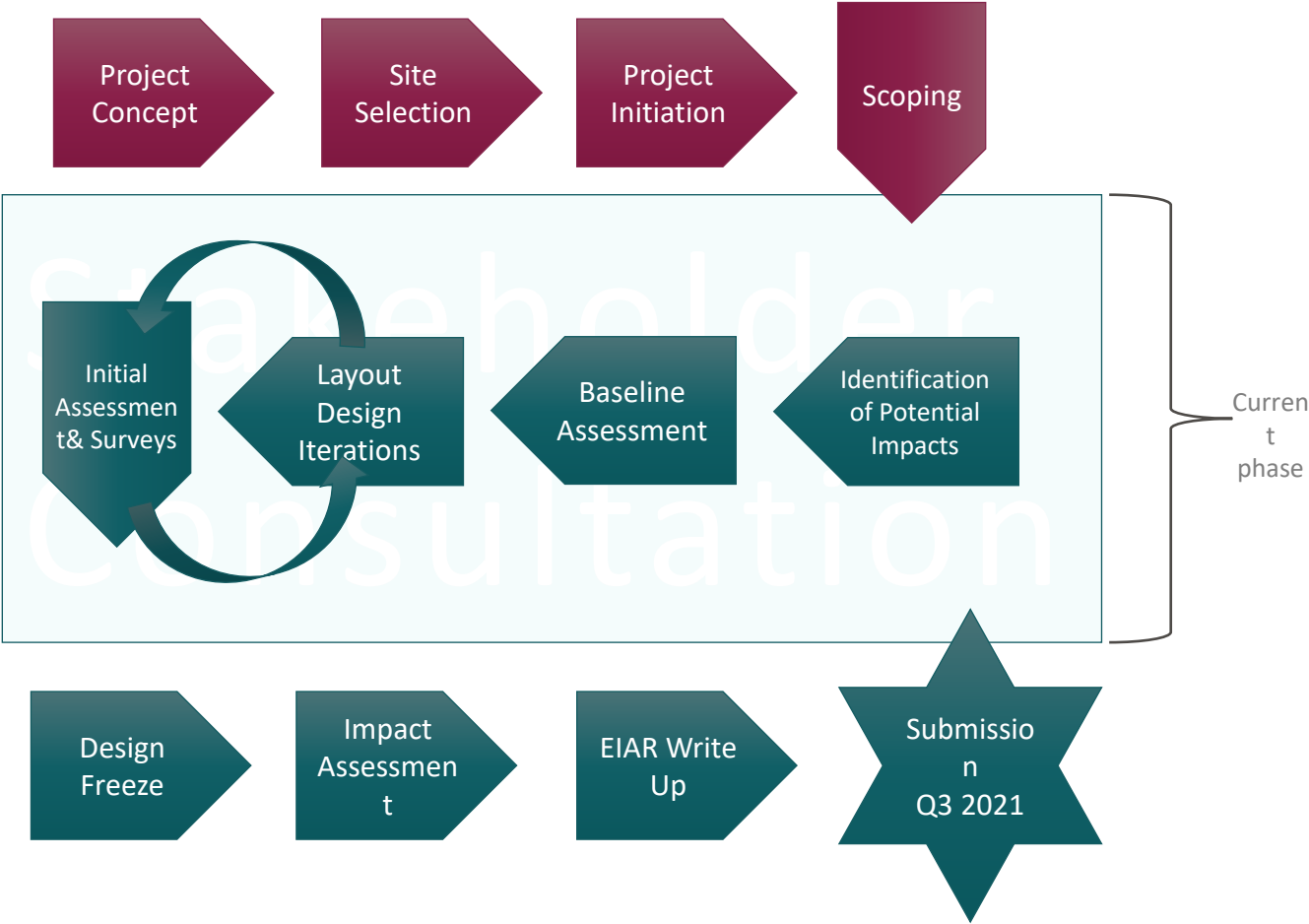
# Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- The EIA, stakeholder consultation and wind farm design processes all interlink and feed into one another optimising the project with the aim to:
- **minimise potential adverse environmental effects** and;
- **maximise the generation of low carbon electricity and other benefits**





# EIA – an iterative Process



# Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

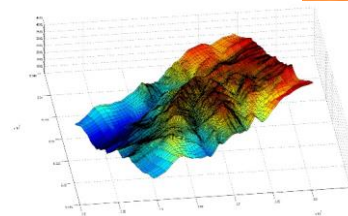
- On behalf of Vattenfall, Natural Power will co-ordinate inputs from technical and environmental experts covering a variety of topics to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Quantans Hill Wind Farm



# EIA Topics

→ The Environmental Impact Assessment will include the following topics which will feed into the layout design:

- Landscape and Visual Impact
- Ecology
- Ornithology
- Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology
- Forestry
- Cultural Heritage
- Traffic and Transport
- Noise, Shadow Flicker, Residential Amenity
- Socio-economics
- Infrastructure and Aviation



Thank you for listening

→ Any Questions?

# An introduction to Quantans Hill wind farm

Carsphairn Community Council – 18 March 2021

*Matthew Bacon, Senior Project Manager*

*Carol Kane, Regional Liaison Officer – SW Scotland*

# About Vattenfall

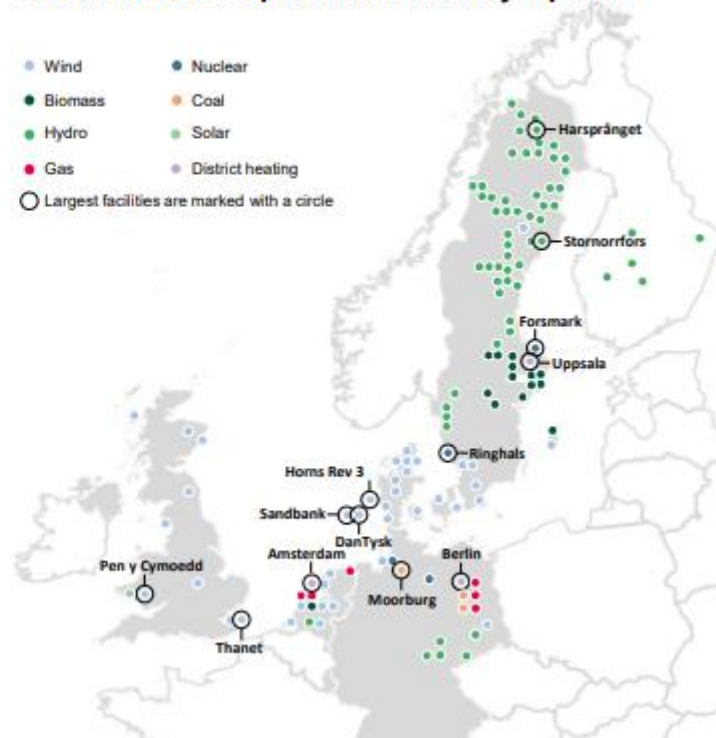
## Basic facts

- One of Europe's largest producers of electricity and heat
- 100% owned by the Swedish state
- Main products: electricity, heat, gas and energy services
- Main markets: Sweden, Germany, Netherlands, Denmark and the UK
- Almost 20,000 employees

## Key data

SEK bn	FY 2019	FY 2018
Net sales	166.4	152.1
Underlying operating profit <sup>1</sup>	25.1	19.9
Operating profit (EBIT)	22.1	17.6
Profit for the period	14.9	12.0
Return on capital employed, %	8.5	7.0
Return on capital employed excl. items affecting comp., %	9.6	7.9
Funds from operations/adjusted net debt, %	26.5	20.7
TWh	FY 2019	FY 2018
Electricity generation	130.3	130.3
Customer sales, electricity	119.0	119.2
Customer sales, heat	17.1	18.3
Customer sales, gas	59.2	60.7 <sup>2</sup>

## Location of our operations and major plants



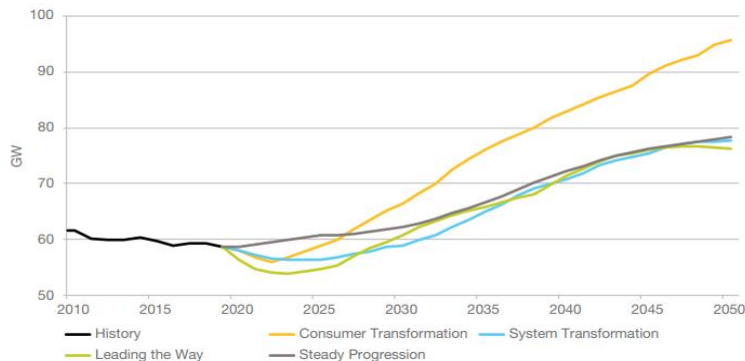
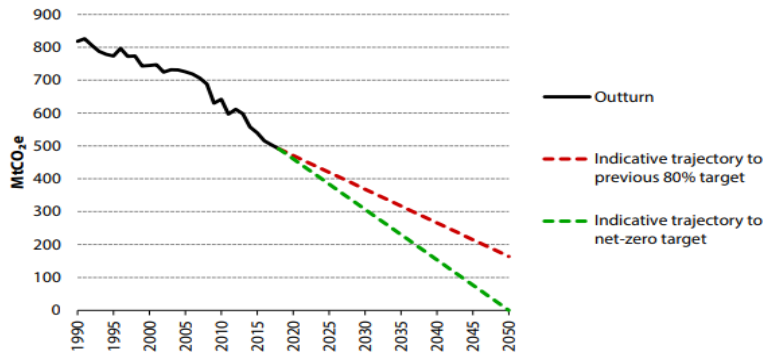
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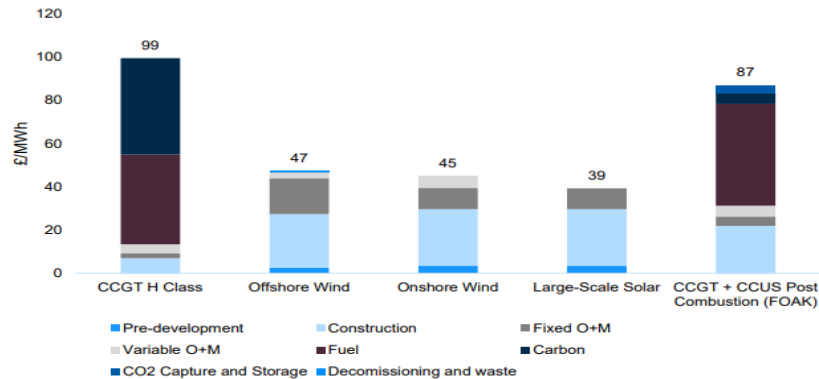
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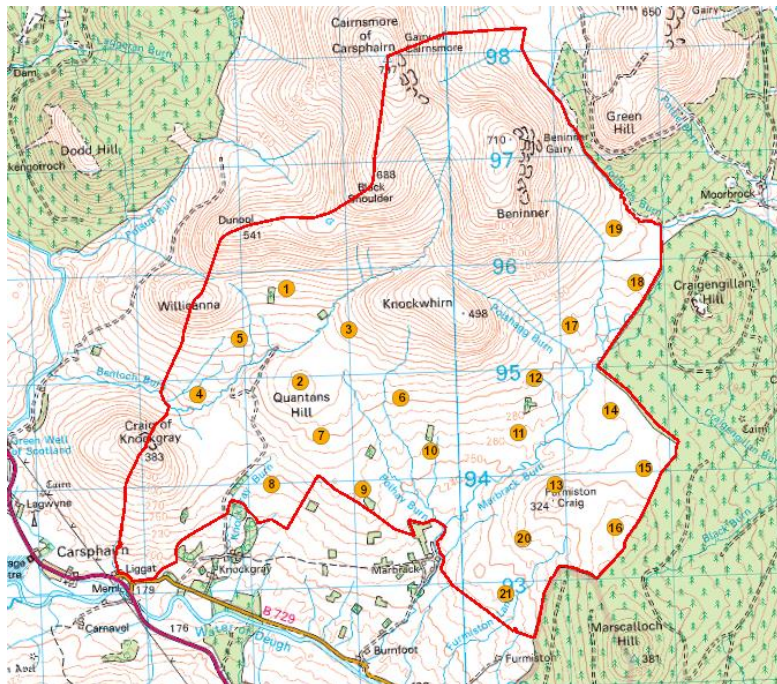


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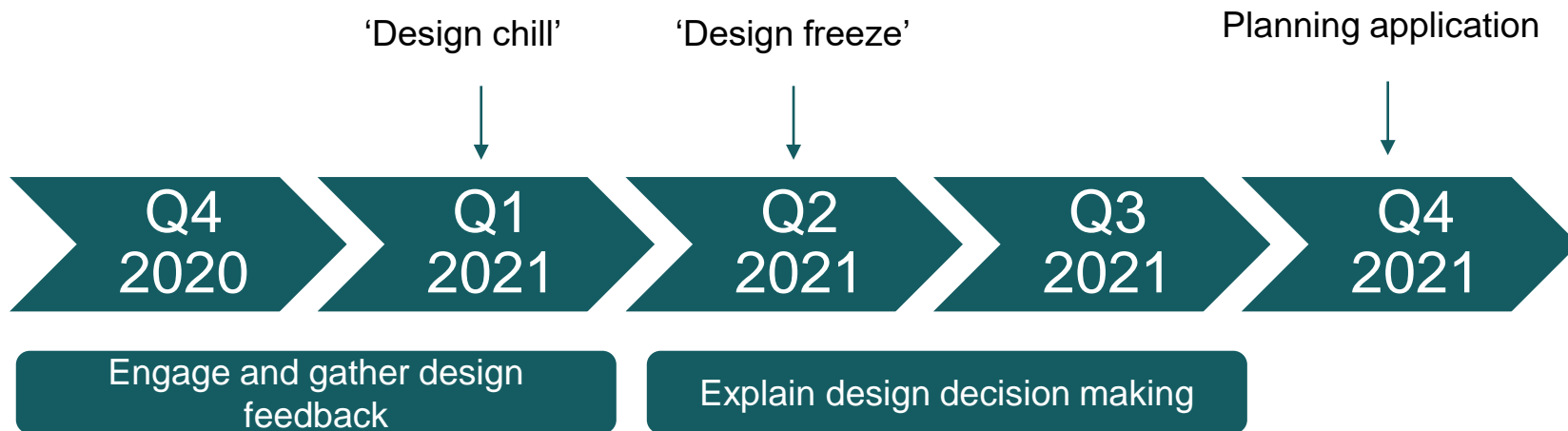
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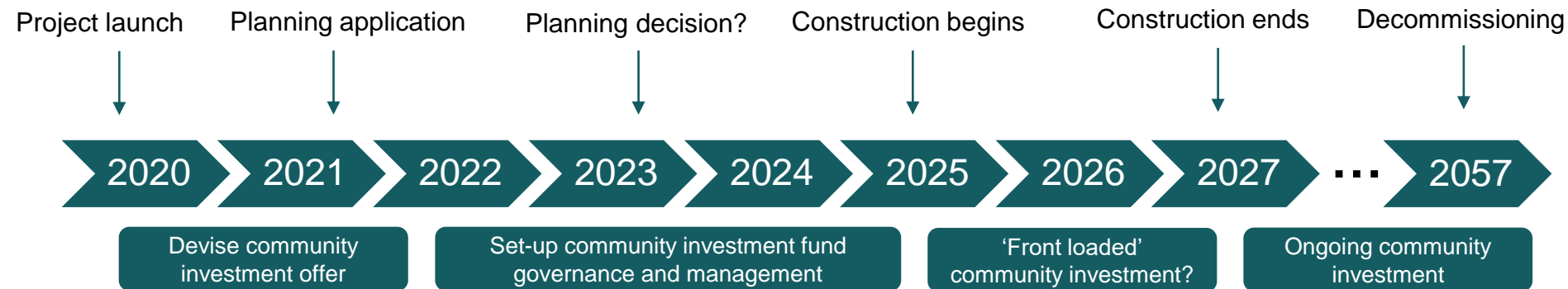


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Perry Cymondd Wind Farm

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So this community update provides some information on the proposals, their progress, and how and where

you can find out more - including the creation of virtual village halls, online events and opportunities to discuss the plans direct with the team.

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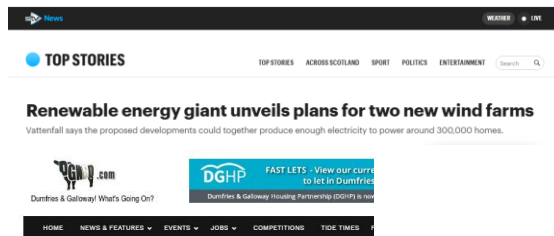
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1



Home > Business > Leading Energy Company Vattenfall Plans Further Major Investment in South West Scotland

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July 24, 2020

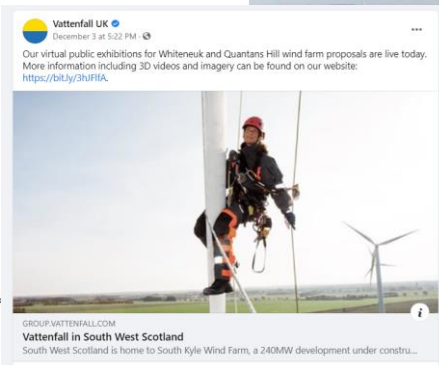


Facebook Likes

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Firm eyes two windfarm sites

# What's next?

## **Winter 2020/21 Campaign > design chill/freeze**

- Webinars – videos and Feb re-run
- Assess feedback to date
- One to one visualisations
- Update FAQs

## **Spring > Summer 2021**

- Design review – results
- Comms campaign
- Webinars/online discussions events
- Post-covid events???

## **Developing conversations and opportunities**

- Community Benefits
- Supply Chain. Jobs and Economy
- Education
- Natural habitat

# Quantans Hill Wind Farm

Community update – Design 2

26/08/2021

# Introduction

- Welcome to our second online public webinar about development of Quantans Hill wind farm.
- Today we would like to cover with you:
  - The latest iteration of the design of Quantans Hill Wind Farm
  - Where we are in the design process and what to expect next
  - The main factors which have influenced our design
  - Early thoughts on community benefits
  - Questions and answers
- When we last met, we introduced our first 'scoping' layout for Quantans based on publicly available data and some early surveys.

# Who is with us today?



- Site developer
- Matthew Bacon and Carol Kane
- Hexham/  
Kilmarnock

- Environmental consultants
- Emily Galloway
- Castle Douglas

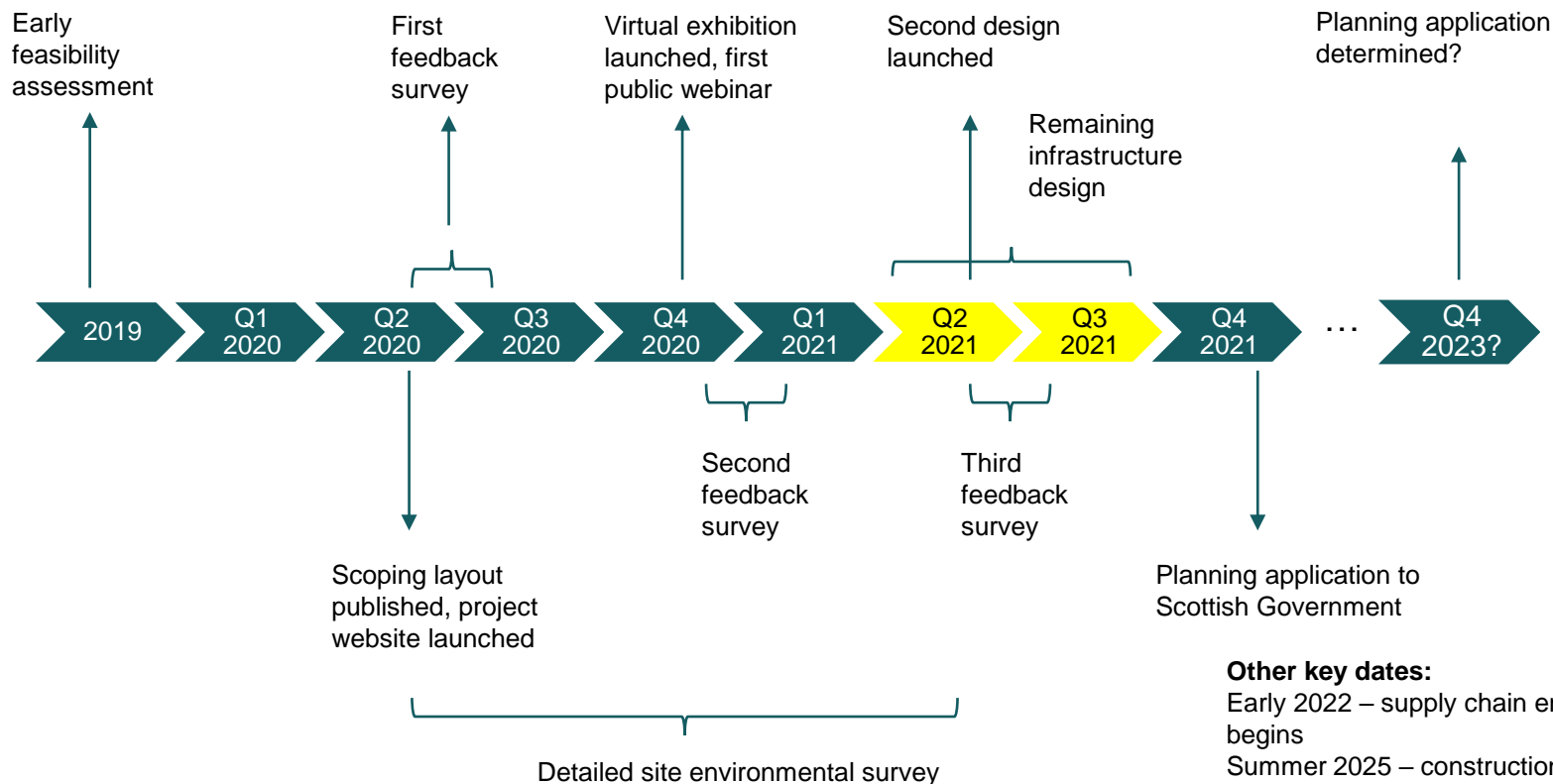
- Community benefits specialists
- James Welsh
- Glasgow

- Ecologists
- Paul Bradshaw
- Edinburgh



- Hosts/facilitators
- Ellie Missen (and others)
- Annan

# Where are we in the process?



## Other key dates:

Early 2022 – supply chain engagement begins

Summer 2025 – construction starts

Summer 2027 – site commissioned

# Vattenfall's approach to community benefits



- Onshore wind projects offer a unique opportunity for communities to receive benefits over the lifetime of a project. These are voluntary arrangements and are crucial investments in a community, shaped to their needs.
- Vattenfall takes a measured, paced and timely approach to explore the views of the community and aim to take on board feedback and reflect this back to the community to shape the development and maximise its benefits.
- Community Benefits can be transformative sums, and in the current climate crisis, we can help communities to talk about this topic. We can encourage communities to look to the future and see how these sums can help them adapt and address climate change opportunities within their communities.
- Some communities might be interested in the possibility of exploring changing the balance of their funding so that more



# Introducing the second layout of Quantans Hill

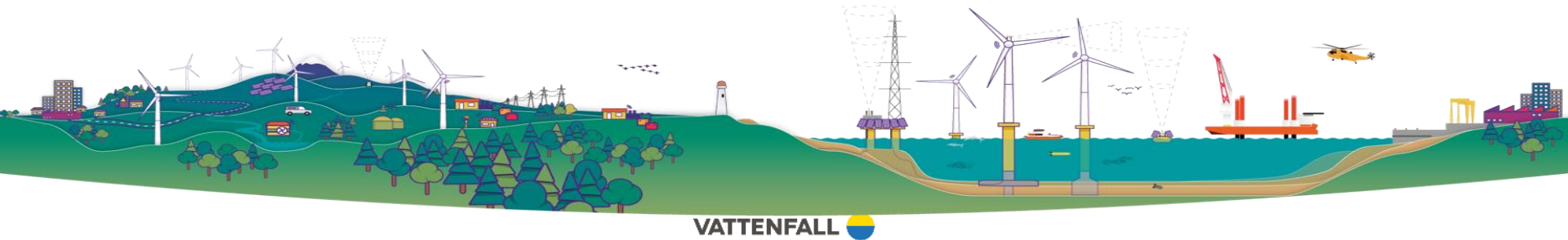


# Quantans Wind Farm Public Webinars

## Design Evolution – Minimising Environmental Effect

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Natural Power Consultants Ltd



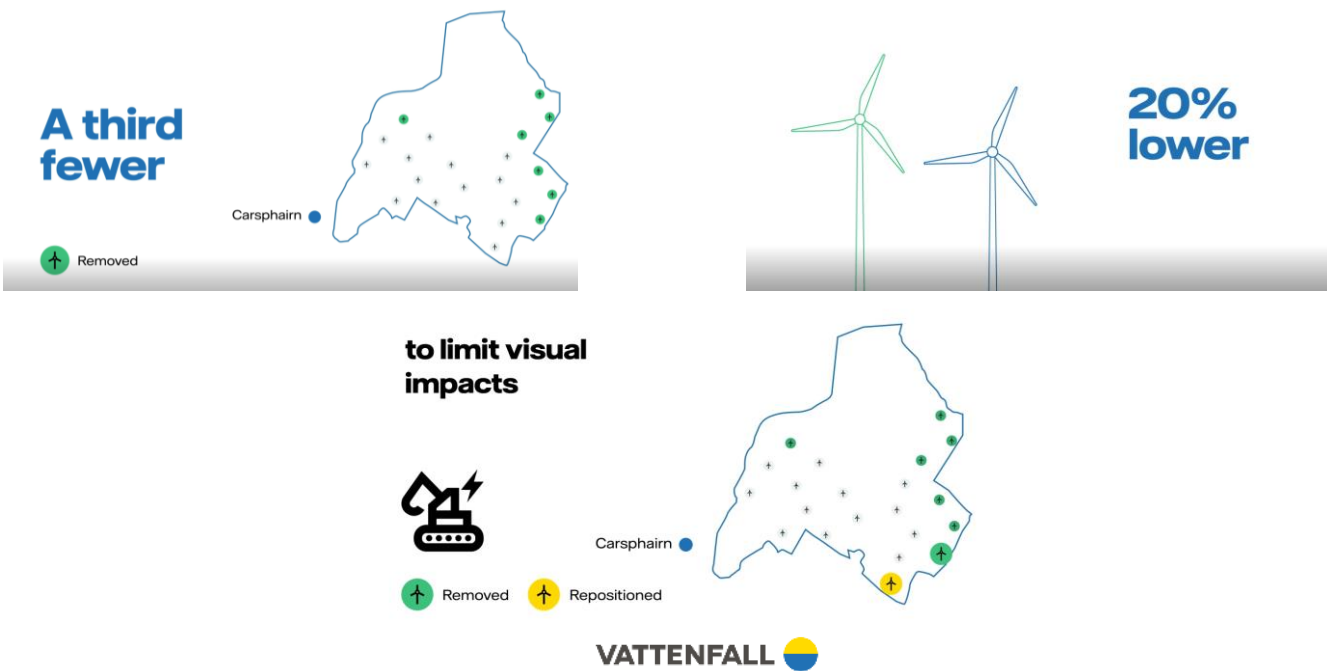
- Vattenfall's aim throughout the design evolution has been to balance the need to decarbonise homes, businesses and transport with the aspirations of local communities, and to protect wildlife and natural habitats
- Local Feedback and detailed environmental studies throughout the EIA process have input into the design evolution and helped refine the project design

- The key environmental factors that have influenced the project design include:
- Residential amenity (visual, noise, shadow flicker)
  - Landscape and visual impact, including cumulative
  - Water courses
  - Flora and fauna
  - Cultural Heritage
  - Carbon Rich Soils/Deep Peat

# Design Evolution

## → Reducing visual impact:

- Reducing the scale of the project:
  - Turbine numbers have reduced from 21 to 14
  - The blade tip height of the turbines has been reduced from 250m to up to 200m
- Repositioning removing turbines to create



## → Reducing impacts on the nearest residents

- Reducing the scale of the project (as set out in the previous slide)
- Designing out significant noise impacts (removing turbines) and shadow flicker (keeping out with 10 rotor diameters separation distance to properties)
- Removing and relocating turbines away from water supplies, including the critically important Scottish Water supply to Carsphairn

**to bring the wind farm  
within cumulative  
noise limits**

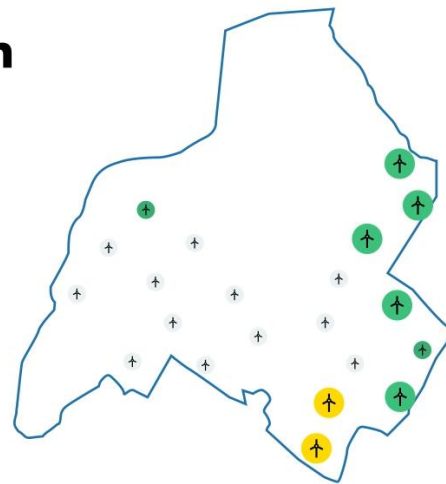


Removed



Repositioned

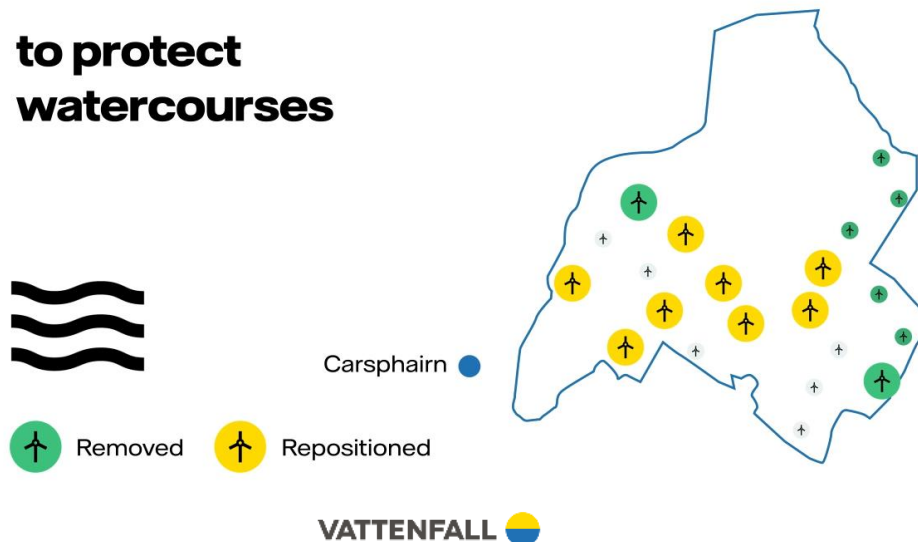
Carsphairn



# Design Evolution

- Protecting watercourses, their habitats and their species
- Detailed hydrology surveys resulted in the following design iterations:
  - Removing turbines where the construction of the turbine foundation or the infrastructure required to reach the turbine locations could result in greater risk of pollution to the water course
  - Repositioning remaining turbines to further maximise buffer distances to water c

## to protect watercourses





# Design Evolution

- Reducing effects on sensitive flora and fauna
- Following detailed ecological surveys the layout was altered to avoid impacts on sensitive habitats, such as wetland bog, and minimise potential collision risk or disturbance to sensitive species such as raptors

**to reduce effects  
on sensitive flora  
and fauna**

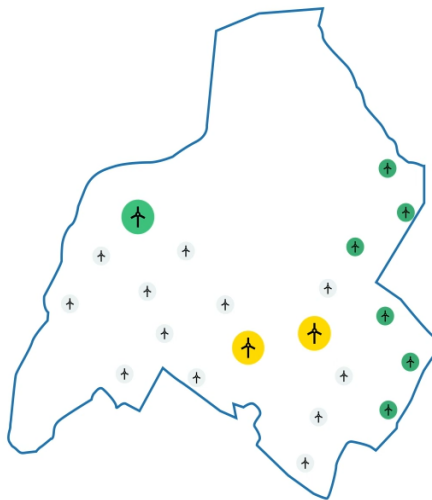


Removed



Repositioned

Carsphairn ●



- Repositioning turbines and associated infrastructure to remove any direct impacts on cultural heritage and archaeological assets

**to protect heritage  
and archaeology**

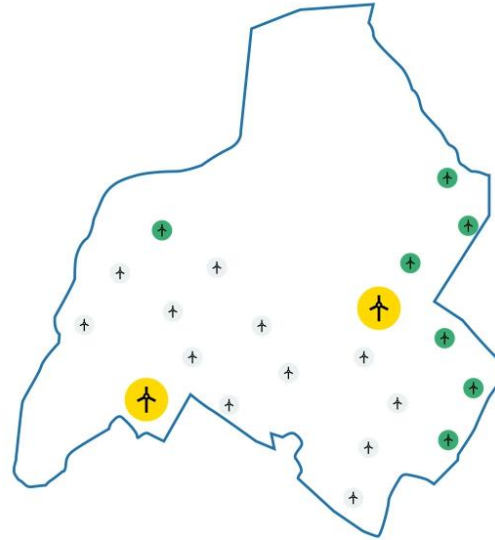


Removed



Repositioned

Carsphairn ●



# Design Evolution

- Repositioning and removing turbines and their associated infrastructure to reduce impacts on carbon rich soils and deep peat to lower the environmental impacts of construction

**to protect peat**



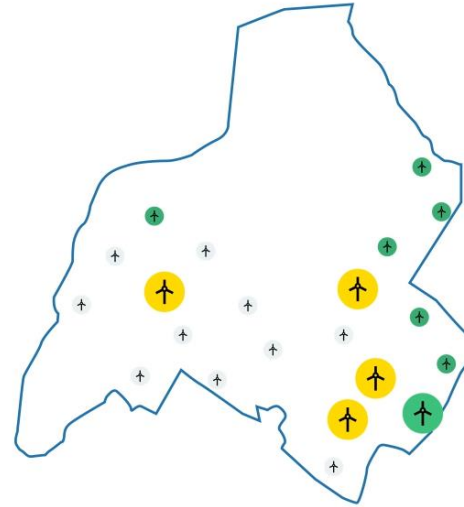
Carsphairn ●



Removed



Repositioned





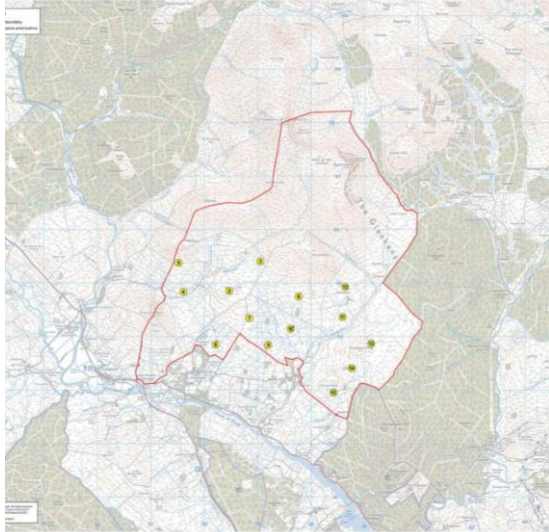
VATTENFALL 

Quantans Hill Windfarm

Community  
Development Strategy



# Background



Stantec is working with Vattenfall to help prepare a Community Development Strategy.

If approved, Quantans Hill will generate significant community benefits for local communities.

A programme of community engagement is being undertaken to understand local issues and priorities that might be aligned to community benefit funding.

# Key Issues

Discussions with Carsphairn Community Council, Glenkens District Trust, the Energy Agency and South of Scotland Community Housing.

Some of the Key Issues identified across the local area include:

- Lack of suitable housing
- Restricted economic opportunities and attracting and retaining families
- Inadequate public transport and paths/cycle networks
- Restricted community capacity to develop projects



# Areas of Benefit



Vattenfall seeks to work closely with local people to ensure that projects bring about lasting, sustainable benefits.

Carsphairn is the most community and there is a strong case it should be the recipient of the majority of benefit.

With community support, there is also opportunity to pool benefits and take a broader, strategic approach to create lasting outcomes from any benefits package



# Areas of Benefit

Some examples of community benefits might include:

Maximising opportunities for local jobs, upskilling and businesses/supply chains.

Working with local schools and colleges to support careers development.

Addressing key issues such as quality and choice of housing, energy efficiency and tourism asset development.





## Next Steps

A survey is being conducted with people living within the local area to provide feedback.

Publish the first iteration of the Community Development Strategy and include within any future planning application.



**Thank you for your time**

**James Welsh**  
**Associate Planner**

**[james.welsh@stantec.com](mailto:james.welsh@stantec.com)**



An aerial photograph of a dense forest. The trees are mostly evergreens, appearing in shades of green and yellow. A narrow, light-colored path or road winds through the forest, starting from the top left and curving towards the bottom right. The lighting suggests a sunny day, with some areas of the forest floor being brightly lit while others are in shadow.

# Questions and answers



An aerial photograph of a dense forest. A winding path or road is visible in the upper left. A large, clear, grassy clearing is in the lower right. The trees are mostly green, with some yellowing, suggesting autumn. The text "Additional figures" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# Additional figures

# A pipeline of post-pandemic jobs and community investment to help meet net zero



Onsite construction at South Kyle, January 2021.

- Total **inward investment** of Nordic capital of potentially around **£500 million in 2020s**.
  - £320 million already committed at SK with investment decision and Covid-safe construction during the heart of the pandemic.
  - 300 workers currently on site.
  - C.70% of Vattenfall onshore wind TOTEX spent in UK.
  - C.90% of highly localised OPEX spent in UK.
- Predictable **business rates bill of potentially c.£5 million/year** for 30 years for essential local services.\*
- Combined **community investment** package of nearly **£80 million**.\*\*

\* Approximate estimate based on current business rates valuation formula.

\*\* If Quantans and Whiteneuk wind farms constructed to full extent.

# Vattenfall doing supply chain differently

- Maximising Scottish and regional local content, including:
  - RJ McLeod, civils (Glasgow/Dingwall)
  - RTS Forestry, felling (Perth)
  - AMD, plant hire (Dumfries)
  - Natural Power, environmental services (Castle Douglas)
  - Luce Bay Group, civils (Stranraer)
  - ECO Group, comms (Annan)
- Advertising local work through DWP's Find-a-job portal, and joined Renewable Jobs Group with local employability team, DWP, colleges, contractors and competitors
- Working group with East Ayrshire Council to identify and maximise opportunities
- Partnering with Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway Colleges and the Energy Skills Partnership regarding future O&M opportunities.
- Quantans and Whiteneuk the next step, drawing on South Kyle.



20 July • 🌐

## JOB VACANCIES VATTENFALL WINDFARM

... See more

EE 4G 11:29

Back 12 / 82

RJ McLeod, our principal contractor at South Kyle is now recruiting for the following vacancies on site:

General Foreman  
Site Administrator/Costing Clerk  
Site Engineers  
General Operatives

The jobs will be advertised via the [Find a Job](#) website early next week but I have attached details now in case you would like to circulate them to your networks in advance.

Any interested candidates should send a CV/employment history and a covering letter to [southkylewindfarm@rjmcLeod.co.uk](mailto:southkylewindfarm@rjmcLeod.co.uk)

Regards  
Sarah

Sarah Stone  
Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd  
BA Wind

Site Administrator (003).docx

### SITE ADMINISTRATOR/COSTING CLERK

We are looking for a Site Administrator/Costing Clerk to be based in the South Kyle project office near Dalmellington, East Ayrshire. The position is being offered with a short term (2 year) contract.

You will provide general administrative support to the Site project team and will be responsible for monitoring all the costs associated with the project.

#### PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Responsible for the smooth running of the South Kyle site office.
- Maintain accurate and up to date records and produce costing, determination and financial reports.
- Provide general administrative/financial support to the project manager and site team.

#### Duties will include:

- Document control of all incoming information and electronically file all site generated documents.

Back SITE ENGINEER.docx

### SITE ENGINEER

We are currently recruiting for Site Engineers to work on our South Kyle Windfarm near Dalmellington, East Ayrshire.

You will be working full time hours, Monday - Friday and occasional week ends, ideally qualified to Civil Engineering Degree or HND level and have experience in setting out for roadworks, re-enforced concrete structures and drainage typically found on heavy civil engineering projects.

We are looking for candidates with a strong civil engineering, technical knowledge who can work within a team to deliver civil engineering projects in a collaborative manner.

- Review, preparation and delivery of engineering design/documentation for allocated renewable energy projects with focus on: Earthworks, Pavements and Drainage, Foundations and Structures
- Ensure all work meets the relevant specifications and design

Back GENERAL OPERATIVES.docx

### GENERAL OPERATIVES

We are currently recruiting for Civil Engineering General Operatives to work on our South Kyle Windfarm near Dalmellington, East Ayrshire.

We are looking for experienced and confident individuals with sound knowledge of working on civil engineering projects to assist and work on the erection and installation activities of wind turbine components in accordance with the relevant operational requirements as directed by the site supervisor.

This role can be demanding and will involve working in all weather conditions. It requires a strong work ethic and a positive, open and friendly attitude.

As an experienced general operative you will be responsible for carrying out general labouring duties, unloading both mechanical and by hand, moving/loading out of materials, working on excavations and installation of elements, concrete work, steel work and general civil engineering operational activities as required, and to ensure good housekeeping on site.



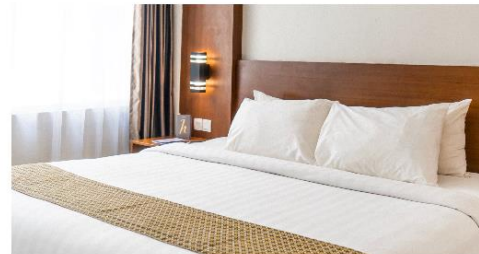
Hi Sarah, [redacted] will phone you, he is a driver, works machines etc and has all the safety certs etc. He has a lot of experience. Thanks Sarah. [redacted]

Thanks for getting back to me. Love the job, great brunch of guys made to feel so welcome xx

04 SEP, 07:10

Hi Sarah, How are you? W 8ell as of Monday I am 37.5 hours and I also got my BF in she starts today. Not with RJM but still in. I am now enjoying it more as it's all inside xx

REGISTER FOR OUR ACCOMMODATION SUPPLIERS LIST



Once COVID restrictions are raised and it is safe to do so we will begin construction of our South Kyle Wind Farm.

We are looking for accommodation for our workers in the Dalmellington/New Cumnock/Carsphair area. We would like to use as many local B&Bs, hotels and guest houses as possible. We are also able to rent houses and flats on a long and short term basis.

If you have accommodation to offer and would like to be added to our Accommodation Suppliers List please complete the following form.

Please note your information will be made available to our site staff and suppliers so that they can make contact and book with you directly.

Hi Sarah, I hope you don't mind me messaging you? [redacted] passed on your regards yesterday and that was so nice. Well can't believe that is nearly my first week over. Really enjoyed it so far, different from cleaning in the hospital but good. So thanks again for your and [redacted] help it's much appreciated. Yours sincerely [redacted]

Hi my name is [redacted] I got your number from [redacted] I'm wondering if you will be looking for ground workers on the wind farm job in dalmellington I have previous experience on turbine jobs such as road building and culverts and mitigation . I can be reached by phone on [redacted]

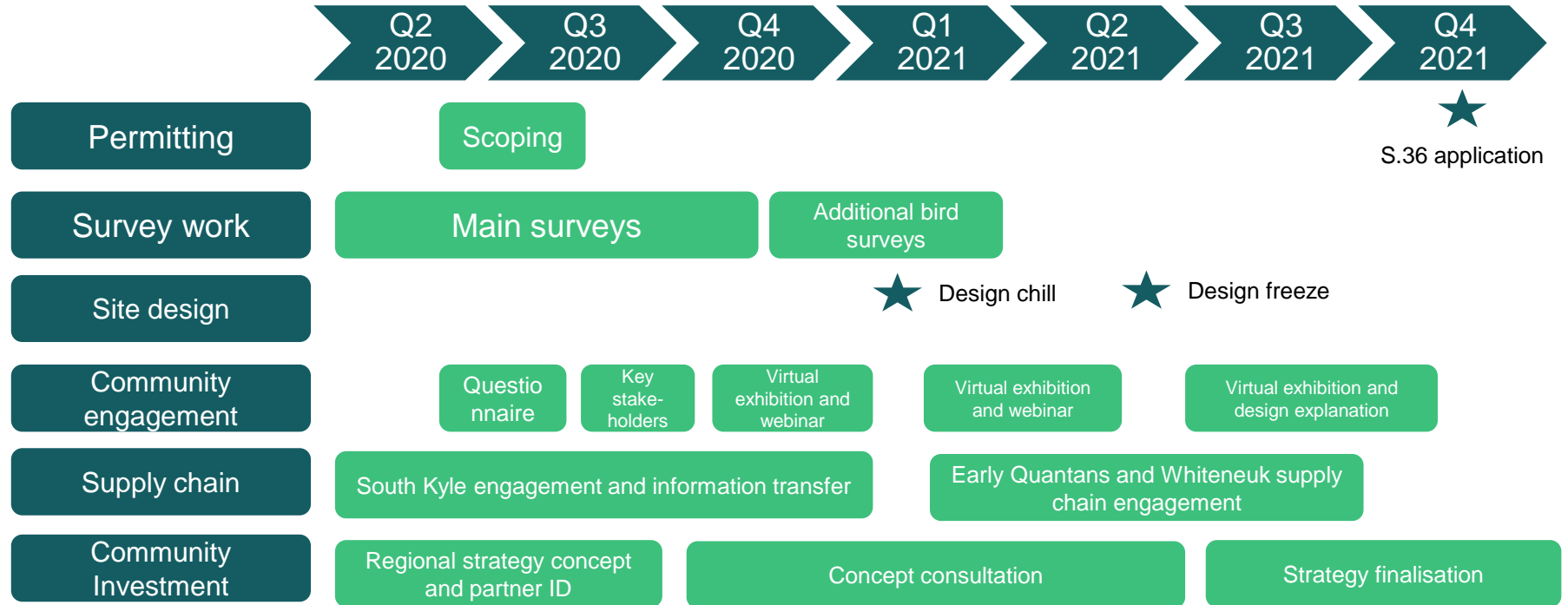
18

33 comments 83 shares

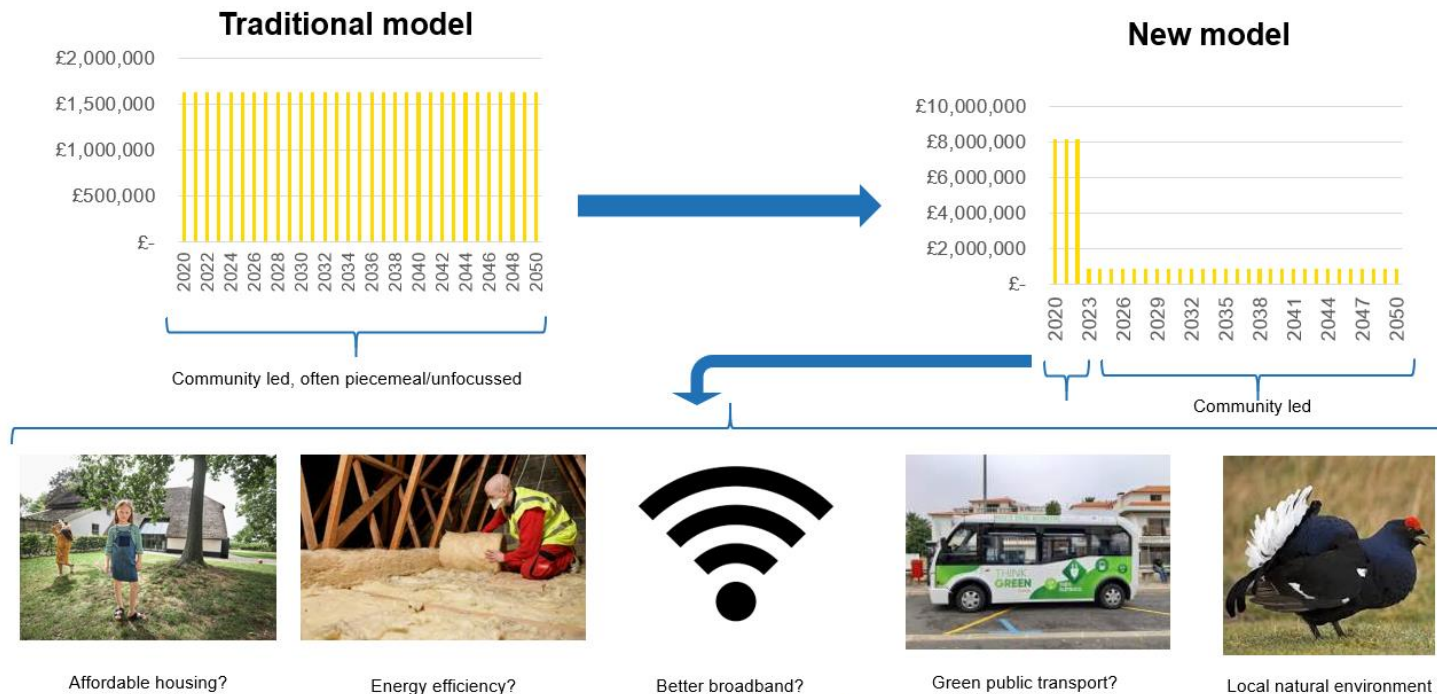
VATTENFALL



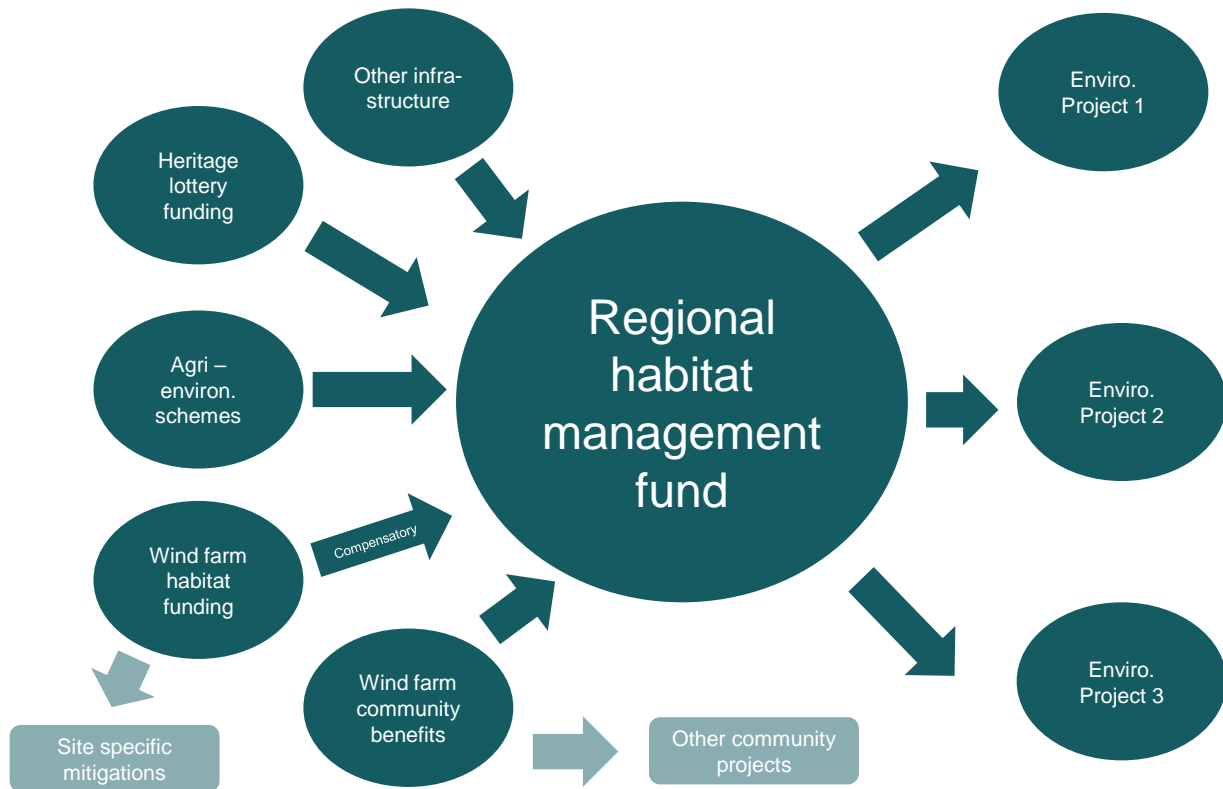
# Project programmes



# Vattenfall doing community investment differently

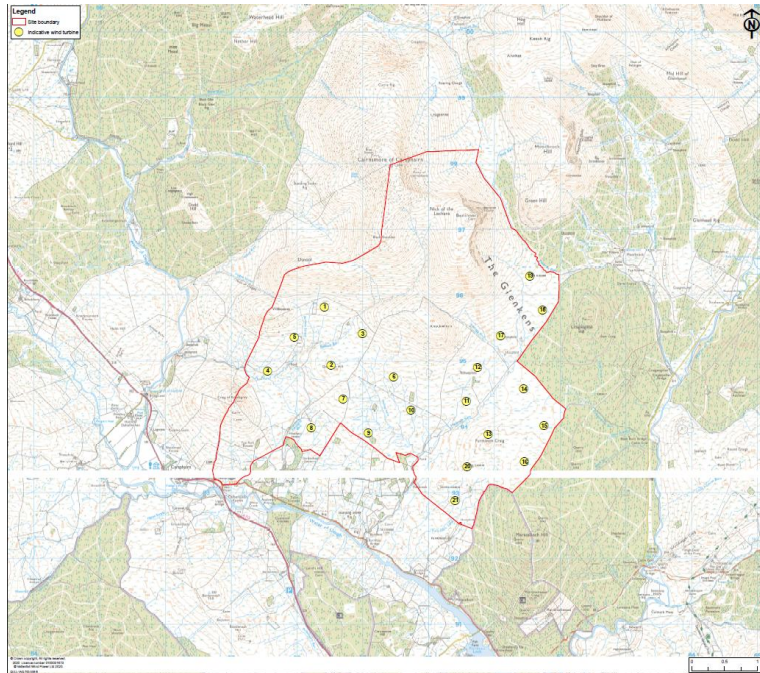


# Vattenfall doing natural environment differently



- Scaling up existing habitat management plans into a strategic fund for the region.
- Initial funding could be 'seeded' by wind farm habitat management at point of construction.
- With community's agreement, some of the wind farm community investment could also support.
- Additional infrastructure funding sources on a voluntary basis could also be secured to scale up impact.
- Govt. (post-Brexit) agri-environment schemes may also decide to contribute.
- Lottery and private donations may also feature.

# Quantans Hill scoping layout





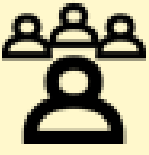

- Up to 21 turbines
- Up to 250m tip height
- Up to 126MW
- Integrated battery storage



A young man and woman are running barefoot on a sandy beach towards the ocean. The man is on the right, wearing a grey t-shirt and dark shorts, holding a large green cloth that is billowing in the wind. The woman is on the left, wearing a white t-shirt and light blue shorts. The ocean waves are visible in the background under a clear sky.

# Engaging with the community

# How...during a pandemic

Are doing	Doing differently - online	Hope to do, covid permitting
<div></div> <p>newsletter and mail</p> <div></div> <p>email and surveys</p> <div></div> <p>phone</p> <div></div> <p>press</p> <div></div> <p>social</p> <div></div> <p>digital</p>	<div></div> <p>exhibitions</p> <div></div> <p>meetings</p> <div></div> <p>public events</p>	<div></div> <p>door to door</p> <div></div> <p>local events</p> <div></div>



# Examples



From a Community Update

## Community consultations go live

New virtual exhibitions and digital events planned for wind farm proposals

Two new virtual exhibitions will go live this month as part of Vattenfall's community consultations for Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms.

Whiteneuk and Quantans Hill wind farms are the subject of a series of community consultations. The first stage of the consultation process is a virtual exhibition. This will allow the public to view the proposed wind farms and learn more about the project. The exhibition will be available on the Vattenfall website and will include information about the project, the proposed wind farms, and the consultation process.

Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms are the subject of a series of community consultations. The first stage of the consultation process is a virtual exhibition. This will allow the public to view the proposed wind farms and learn more about the project. The exhibition will be available on the Vattenfall website and will include information about the project, the proposed wind farms, and the consultation process.



Quantans Hill area map



Whiteneuk area map

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10:10

## Leading Energy Company Vattenfall Plans Further Major Investment in South West Scotland



10:10

Leading energy company Vattenfall unveils plans for two new wind farms in South West Scotland

- The company will provide significant opportunities for local jobs and investment.
- Vattenfall is at the early stages of exploring the wind farms at Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk.
- Together, the proposed wind farms will generate 100MW of clean electricity.

Vattenfall is a leading international energy company. The company is committed to providing clean energy and creating jobs. The company is also committed to protecting the environment.



Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms

Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms

Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms

Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms

Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms

Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms

Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms

Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms

Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms

Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms

Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms

Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms

Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms

Firm eyes two windfarm sites

VATTENFALL



# **Quantans Hill Wind Farm Pre-Application Community Consultation Report**

## **APPENDICES V-XII**

APPENDIX	CONTENT
V	Exhibition boards
VI	Newsletter and postal survey
VII	Local advertising
VIII	Letter to neighbouring properties
IX	Media releases
X	Survey analyses
XI	Contact log – Carsphairn Community Council
XII	Links to webpage, animation video and Community Development Strategy report

Confidentiality class: C1 – Public



**VATTENFALL**

# **APPENDIX V: ONLINE EXHIBITION**

**Board content from  
Quantans Hill Wind Farm online exhibition  
(3<sup>rd</sup> iteration – updated Nov 2021)**

Confidentiality class: C1 – Public



**VATTENFALL**



Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm

## Vattenfall's proposals for Quantans Hill Wind Farm

Thank you for joining us today.

After gathering extensive environmental data and feedback from local people and stakeholders, we have refreshed and refined our proposals for Quantans Hill Wind Farm.

Please explore the exhibition at your leisure and please get in touch with any questions via [quantanshill.windfarm@vattenfall.com](mailto:quantanshill.windfarm@vattenfall.com).

The plans have now been finalised for submission to the planning authorities.

### About Vattenfall

Vattenfall is a leading European energy company focused on one goal: to enable fossil-free living within one generation.

We are one of Europe's largest producers and retailers of electricity and heat for our home markets in Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, and the UK. Vattenfall is 100% owned by the Swedish state and has 20,000 employees.

Vattenfall came to the UK in 2008 and since then we have invested over £3.5 billion in onshore and offshore wind from the Kentish coast to the Isle of Skye, enough to power almost a million British homes.

We believe strongly in being good neighbours in the places where we develop, build, and operate wind farms. Our promise to you is that we will listen to your feedback and engage honestly and genuinely with your perspective. We may not be able to always do exactly what you want, but we promise to listen and take your views seriously.

If you share our mission for a life free from fossil fuels, then join us in exploring the potential of Quantans Hill Wind Farm.



## Introducing Quantans Hill Wind Farm

Vattenfall is exploring the potential for Quantans Hill Wind Farm, a renewables energy project which could generate enough electricity to power around 80,000 homes every year.

Located on upland grazing around 2km east of Carsphairn, the site has long been identified as highly suitable for wind power and has been subject to previous proposals by other developers. Vattenfall believes there is now potential to significantly improve on these earlier designs.

### Designing the best wind farm we can

We want our wind farms to be as effective and efficient as they can be, ensuring optimal generation of vital fossil-free electricity whilst maximising benefits for community investment, delivering positive environmental and socio-economic impacts, and minimising adverse effects.

In June 2020, we published our initial proposals for Quantans Hill Wind Farm. Since then, Vattenfall has undertaken detailed environmental impact assessments and extensive local consultation.

The feedback and data gathered has been fed into a Design Review, and this has resulted in the updated, refreshed scheme design (outlined in the next board).

### A Regional Approach Focussed on Communities, Opportunities and a Fossil-Free Future

When Vattenfall builds a wind farm, we focus on bringing investment and opportunity for local communities – and we are demonstrating this right now at South Kyle, a new wind farm being constructed north of Carsphairn.

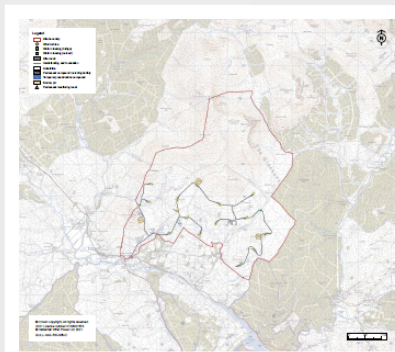
Our proposals for Quantans Hill, along with similar proposals for a site at Whiteneuk 5km south of Moniaive, open up the potential for a regional perspective, building on our work at South Kyle to deliver impactful and sustainable long-term opportunities for communities, suppliers and businesses across South West Scotland.

Correct at time of publication November 2021.



## The Proposed Layout

A wind farm reduced in scale and sensitive to visual impact, heritage assets and natural habitats.



You are looking at a refined iteration of the design for the Quantans Hill Wind Farm.

In June 2020, Vattenfall first published our initial plans – a scheme of up to 21 turbines, each no more than 250m tip height. Since then, extensive environmental data and local feedback has been gathered, and fed into a rigorous design review process.

This has resulted in this final iteration of our proposals for Quantans Hill Wind Farm. Our revised layout now features 14 turbines with a maximum tip height of 200m and a proposal for a 50MW battery energy storage scheme.

Key changes to our initial proposals include:

- Fewer turbines, down from 21 to 14;
- Turbine height reduced from up to 250m to no more than 200m;
- Turbines with most significant visual and noise impact removed;
- Cumulative impact mitigated by removing turbines closest to nearby developments;
- Water courses and private and public water suppliers protected by relocating turbines or proposing to put in place enhanced pollution control;
- Turbines relocated to protect peat, natural habitats and archaeological assets.

By reducing the scale of Quantans Hill Wind Farm, we believe the development will have a significantly reduced impact on the landscape and visual setting, whilst still offering

- an effective and efficient location to help Scotland and the UK proceed towards a fossil fuel free future;
- millions of pounds in community investment for the local area over the project's lifetime;
- significant socio-economic benefits through Vattenfall's investment in Scotland's supply chain;
- an opportunity to protect and enhance archaeological assets and natural habitats in and around the site;
- reduced impact for those living closest to the wind farm;
- incorporated key lighting features to meet aviation safety requirements whilst mitigating the impact on the night sky.

Correct at time of publication November 2021.



## Your Community Benefits

If approved, Quantans Hill Wind Farm will generate significant benefits for local communities.

Vattenfall is a strong believer that communities hosting our wind farms should see real benefits and share in the rewards of natural wind resource. Our values and ethos emphasise working closely with local people to ensure we are developing projects that can bring lasting sustainable benefits for the communities which host them.

We are committed to the Scottish Government's prevailing guidance on community benefits. This links the value of community benefits directly to the installed energy capacity of a wind farm.

### £13million over 30years

Quantans Hill Wind Farm will deliver significant benefits for the local community – based on the current designs capacity, this is estimated at £13million over a 30 year lifetime of the project.\*

### Big Ideas – an opportunity to unlock potential

Vattenfall offers communities an approach to community benefits that allows them to explore big ideas – for communities themselves to determine how transformational sums might be maximised for the local community.

At Quantans Hill, we are especially keen to explore the possibility of strategic community investment and organise it to support big ideas that need big upfront investment.

From our research we can already see:

- the creation of affordable housing,
- delivering widespread energy efficiency programmes,
- developing new green-tourism assets or investing in key service provision such as transport, connectivity or social care.

These are just some of the ideas, and we welcome suggestions and thoughts from local people.

### Shared Ownership

In addition to community investment, local communities could also benefit from Quantans Hill Wind Farm through Shared Ownership. Vattenfall will offer local communities a right to acquire an interest in Quantans Hill Wind Farm. We would be pleased to discuss this option further with interested groups and individuals.

\*Based on Scottish Government guidance which currently is "to continue at national level to promote community benefits of the value equivalent to £5000 per installed megawatt per annum, index linked for the operational lifetime of the project."





A wide variety of businesses from across South West Scotland are helping us build South Kyle Wind Farm



## Opportunities for Businesses and Jobs

As part of our strategic approach in South West Scotland, Vattenfall is committed to maximising local opportunities for jobs and businesses.

Historically, over 70% of Vattenfall's onshore wind investments are spent here in Britain on things like environmental surveys, civil and electrical engineering, and operations and maintenance. There are opportunities for companies from large multi-nationals to local small businesses.

Right now, Vattenfall is building South Kyle Wind Farm, a major development north of Carsphair. Here we are implementing a series of proactive measures to maximise local content in our supply chain, create jobs for local people, and support the development of skills.

Our proposals for Quantans Hill Wind Farm are an opportunity for us to build on this both now, during the consultation phase and, should the proposal be consented, during construction.

No matter what your business is, if you're local and believe you can supply our developments, please get in touch - we'd love to hear from you. Please email us at [quantanshillwindfarm@vattenfall.com](mailto:quantanshillwindfarm@vattenfall.com)

### Future Skills

Vattenfall's focus is on enabling fossil-free living in a generation. We are therefore

committed to supporting the development of the skills our future, greener economy will require.

Across the country, we work closely with schools, colleges and universities to support and deliver a wide variety of programmes. Here in South West Scotland, we are working with key education providers and, together with colleagues and contractors, we are creating and delivering learning opportunities and experiences for young people.



Clathindarroch Wind Farm



## Our Place in the Landscape

How the wind farm will look and fit into the landscape has been a key consideration in our design of Quantans Hill Wind Farm.

The design review has considered not only how the wind farm will look, and where it may be viewed from, but also its potential impact, both as an individual project and cumulatively with other existing and proposed wind farms in the region.

It is important to recognise that perceptions of landscape impact can differ greatly from person to person. What some might find an eyesore may not bother others or may even be seen as a positive addition to the landscape. Finding the balance and ensuring everyone's opinions are heard is a key objective.

Please take a look at the virtual 3D model and computer-generated Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping. These have been

developed to help determine the likely extent of the visibility from numerous points throughout the area.

### **Turbines - fewer and lower**

We have heard from local people that the scale of the original proposal, both number of turbines and their size, was a key concern. In response to that, we are now proposing turbines of up to 200m to blade tip - around 20% lower in height than originally suggested. The overall number of turbines has also been reduced by 20%.

This is captured in our visualisations. Although still taller than turbines already installed elsewhere in the region, this scale

reflects advances in technology. There is also growing evidence that taller turbines offer greater protection for birds.

### **Protecting and Restoring the Natural Landscape**

Our proposals include provision for the restoration of the land once the lifespan of the wind farm is complete. Before that, Vattenfall will commit to supporting natural habitats.

Correct at time of publication November 2021.



## Ecology and Forestry

Vattenfall is committed to protecting the natural environment around our wind farms.

### Wildlife

Like any form of development, wind farms can affect the wildlife around them. As part of our assessments for Quantans Hill we have spent several years surveying the site – day and night, and across the seasons – to understand what birds, bats, protected mammals, fish, and plants live here.

These studies have greatly enriched our understanding of the site and helped us design a better wind farm. Turbines have been removed and repositioned, and we have identified locations within and near the scheme where natural habitats can be enhanced or created. This is detailed in our Habitat Management Plan (see next board).

### Forestry

Vattenfall's approach to forestry is one of protect and enhance.

The Quantans Hill site is predominantly semi-improved pasture and various types of moorland vegetation, including wet heath and blanket bog habitats. However, there are small, scattered woodland copses, mostly of non-native conifers, across the site.

Additionally, on part of the site, a commercial conifer plantation has recently been established and further planting is proposed elsewhere on site. Both plantations are predominantly non-native conifers, such as Sitka spruce, with some native broad-leaved trees around the fringes.

Although valuable for the timber and paper industry and their ability to soak up carbon, commercial forestry plantations generally

have relatively poor wildlife value and, if poorly designed, can cause carbon to be released into the atmosphere by disrupting peat hydrology. In almost all cases, well-designed wind farms will prevent far more carbon entering the atmosphere than trees on the equivalent area can absorb.

Vattenfall will minimise felling at Quantans Hill to small areas around the turbines and access tracks to facilitate construction. We commit to replanting all trees felled either onsite or elsewhere in the region. Wherever possible, this will be with a mix of suitable native broadleaf tree species.

### Peat

We have also optimised the design of the moved turbine layouts to protect areas of deeper peat. In many cases, these shifts in location are relatively small on paper, but will have a big influence on our ability to minimise peat disruption during the construction of Quantans Hill wind farm.



Red kite



Moorland waders



Correct at time of publication November 2021.



Habitat Management

Vattenfall proposes a 'habitat management plan' for Quantans Hill which, with the agreement of Dumfries and Galloway Council, will form a planning condition of the development.

Habitat management plans cover improvements onsite which aim to mitigate and compensate for any adverse ecological effects. Alongside Government environmental schemes and conservation activity, onshore wind farms are one of the driving forces for environmental restoration in the Scottish uplands.

As part of our planning application, we have put forward

a habitat management plan for approval by the consenting authorities which we believe will lead to net biodiversity gain in the long-term compared to baseline land management practices.

If implemented, our plan would see the enhancement or restoration of 156Ha of peatland, 57Ha of heath, and 29Ha of native broadleaf planting along some of the larger burns. This

will provide a mosaic of habitats for native species and, we hope, the charismatic, and threatened, black grouse in particular.

Peatland will be enhanced and restored through management of grazing and the blocking of artificial ditches to encourage the retention of water on the hill and to create the conditions for peat-forming sphagnum mosses.

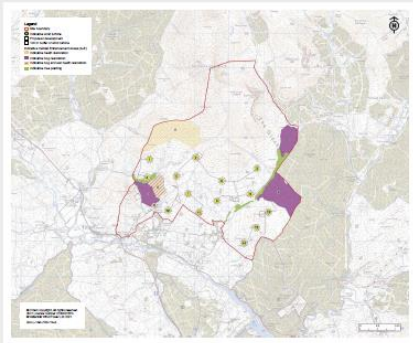
Heathland restoration will be undertaken by grazing

management and encouraging heather and blaeberry recovery, plants which provide food and cover for a range of species including black grouse.

Our proposed plan more than offsets the anticipated impacts of Quantans Hill of 65Ha of lost habitat, much of it lower in ecological value than the priority areas mentioned above.



Nightjars and their chicks have been monitored at Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm



Correct at time of publication November 2021.





## Protecting Heritage and Archaeology

Protecting heritage assets is an important factor in our development of proposals for Quantans Hill Wind Farm.

**Conserving heritage assets and their settings have been important considerations in the development of our proposals and archaeologists have been integrated into the design team.**

Indeed, building the wind farm will be an opportunity to learn more about the areas past, and help fund the restoration of key cultural assets.

Vattenfall has conducted extensive research to identify heritage assets on the proposed site, including a detailed archaeological survey. As with so much of Dumfries and Galloway, the area around Quantans Hill has

a rich and intriguing history and we have adapted the design of the scheme to avoid direct impacts on archaeological features.

### WW2 crash site

During our investigations, we have identified the site of a WW2 plane crash at the foot of Boninner with an intriguing and important wartime history. Though a significant distance from the nearest proposed turbine, if the development goes ahead we intend to survey and catalogue the crash site.

We also propose to place a footpath to the site which, linked to the wind farm's access

tracks, will allow visitors to explore the area, pay their respects to those who lost their lives, and learn more about the vital piece of prototype equipment which was salvaged from the crashed aircraft and the crucial role it would go on to play in the war.

### Other features of interest

The wind farm's access tracks will also pass within appreciable distance of a number of interesting features which we intend to provide more information about on the ground, including the burial of a Waterloo veteran and a potential prehistoric hut circle.

Correct at time of publication November 2021.



Swinford Wind Farm



## Transport and Traffic

The transportation of people, equipment and components to site will be carefully planned with safety paramount.

Should Quantans Hill Wind Farm be consented, a two to three year construction period is to be expected. During this time, the project will bring additional traffic to the area, and a delivery route for turbines will be agreed.

To minimise disruption to local residents, a traffic and transport assessment has been undertaken to help Vattenfall identify the best way for construction traffic to access

the site safely, and for turbine components to be delivered.

Safety will be paramount, and we will work with local communities to minimise disruption.

The project would also be an opportunity for road improvements. This is the case at South Kyle Wind Farm, where the project is undertaking and funding vital improvements to the A713 north of Dalmellington. Whilst

such improvements are essential to the safe transport of components to site, they also bring wider lasting benefits.

It is anticipated that the preferred delivery route for turbines components would be from the north via the A77 and A713.

Correct at time of publication November 2021.



Claishindarroch Wind Farm



## Noise, Shadow Flicker and Local Residents

Key concerns such as noise and shadow flicker have been mitigated and 'designed out' of the scheme by removing and repositioning turbines.

### Noise

One of the most common questions received from local residents living close to proposed wind farms is related to turbine noise during the operational period.

Part of wind farm design and planning consent is strict adherence to environmental health limits on the amount of noise wind farms can generate as heard at nearby properties. These limits are cumulative and include other wind farms in the area.

How audible the wind farm's operation will be under these limits on any given day depends on a range of factors such as wind speed and direction, masking features like hills and woods, and how loud competing background noise is (e.g. streams, the wind in the trees, cattle, or passing traffic).

### Shadow flicker

Shadow flicker can occur at properties in close proximity to a wind farm where shadows cast by moving wind turbine blades land on properties and can cause distraction. Shadow flicker generally occurs when properties, turbines and the sun are in a certain alignment during particular conditions.

As with noise, the possibility of significant shadow flicker at nearby properties has been 'designed out' of the wind farm.

Correct at time of publication November 2021.





## Recreation, tourism and access

The importance of recreation and tourism to the local economy cannot be underestimated, and Vattenfall is keen to support this vital economic driver.

### Public Access – linking the village to the hillside

Members of the community have told us through our consultation exercises that opportunities for recreation and access at Quantans Hill Wind Farm would be very welcome. We are delighted to say that, with the support of our onsite landowners, Vattenfall is exploring with planning authorities how members of the public can safely and responsibly use the wind farm tracks for light recreation.

It is also our intention to create a section of public footpath within the wind farm's boundary to link Carsphairn with the wind

farm's main access, thus enabling the community to get onsite without having to walk along the B729 as they currently do. If consented, we also intend to put in a longer section of footpath from the north-eastern most turbine to enable walkers to access the site of a WW2 plane crash at the foot of Beninner.

We will place interpretive boards around the site to explain how the wind farm works and explore some of the fascinating heritage features, from prehistoric standing stones to a Napoleonic war hero and top-secret WW2 military technology, there is a fascinating historical story for people to explore on the wind farm.

### Wind Farms and Tourism

Individual experiences will, of course, differ, but public opinion polling across the country has shown that whilst some people may view wind farms negatively, the majority are either neutral or feel positively about their presence and their contribution to achieving carbon neutrality.

All of these opinions are, of course, valid, and Vattenfall recognises the emotive nature of such debate. That's why our development programme for Quantans Hill Wind Farm will include a commitment to exploring how this investment might support and enhance the tourism aspirations of the local area.

Correct at time of publication November 2021.



## Aviation and Airspace

### Radar and airspace users

Wind farms can impact on airspace users in a number of ways. For civil and defence airports with older radar systems, turbines can interfere with radar function masking the movement of planes or providing false readings. The latest generation of radar systems can accommodate the presence of wind farms as a normal feature of international airspace.

Where impacts on radar are anticipated, this is routinely resolved by the wind farm developer supporting civil and military radar operators to provide radar coverage over the wind farm site.

Apart from radar, wind farms encroach into airspace for users such as low-flying military jets and light aircraft. The Quantans Hill site is not close to any light aircraft airfields and the Ministry of Defence has been fully consulted about the potential impacts on low-flying aircraft.

### Aviation lighting

The impact of aviation lighting on the night sky will be a particular focus of our environmental impact assessment. It is our intention to pursue with the Civil Aviation Authority a 'reduced lighting' scheme for Quantans Hill requiring aviation lights on only 5 turbines of the 14. We also propose coupling a reduction in the number of lit turbines with ground-breaking 'transponder activated' technology. This would mean aviation lights would only be activated remotely by passing low-flying civilian aircraft.

We anticipate the number of small aircraft passing at low altitude at night to be relatively small at Quantans Hill so activation of the aviation lights should be an irregular event.

Correct at time of publication November 2021.



Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm



## Battery Storage

Battery storage is a relatively new feature of the energy system but is becoming increasingly important in a fossil-free world as we complete the switch from polluting to cleaner forms of power.

So far, batteries have served an increasingly important role in managing the frequency of the electricity grid which is critically important to keeping the grid stable and all our lights on throughout the country. However, the case for using batteries to store excess renewable energy for discharge into the grid at times of high demand is also becoming more important which will bring security of supply benefits.

Battery storage systems are usually lithium ion cells housed in shipping containers and can often be new or repurposed electric vehicle batteries.

Vattenfall sees great potential to co-locate battery storage at its new and existing wind farms and was the first company to integrate a battery storage system with a UK wind farm at our Pen y Cymoedd wind farm in South Wales. There a 22MW battery system was installed alongside the 228MW wind farm.

At Quantans Hill, the storage system, if built, would be around 50MW in size and would be located alongside the substation and welfare facilities.

Correct at time of publication November 2021.



Clashindarroch Wind Farm



Thank you for coming today.

Thanks to feedback from local stakeholders and extensive review, Vattenfall has now finalised the revised plans for Quantans Hill Wind Farm. The proposal will now be submitted to Planning Authorities and thereafter enter the formal consultation period.

If you have any questions, please email [quantanshill.windfarm@vattenfall.com](mailto:quantanshill.windfarm@vattenfall.com)



Whilst there are many factors which could affect the progress of the proposal, the above is an indication of what the timeline might be. Throughout this, local engagement will continue with opportunities for individuals and communities to submit questions, views and suggestions both to ourselves and the relevant authorities prior to any planning decision being taken. Should the proposal proceed, we will continue to engage with local communities and work closely with stakeholders.

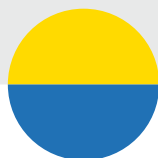
Correct at time of publication November 2021.

**Quantans Hill Wind Farm  
Pre-Application Community  
Consultation Report**

**APPENDIX VI:  
NEWSLETTER AND POSTAL  
SURVEY**

**6pp community update newsletter and abbreviated survey for  
non-digital use issued to local residents (joint initiative with  
Whiteneuk Wind Farm)**

Confidentiality class: C1 – Public



**VATTENFALL**





Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm

## Community consultations go live

New 'virtual' exhibitions and digital events planned for wind farm proposals.

Two new 'virtual' exhibitions will go live this month as part of Vattenfall's community consultations for Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms.

Announced earlier this year, Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk are renewable energy projects being proposed by Vattenfall in Dumfries and Galloway. Both are at an early stage, with opportunities for local people to influence the designs before submission to planning.

We believe it is essential that local communities have the opportunity to influence the project designs. Feedback – especially from the people who live and work locally – will help us design the best projects we can, ones that balance the need to efficiently generate renewable electricity, protect the natural environment and deliver tangible benefits for local communities.

So this community update provides some information on the proposals, their progress, and how and where

you can find out more – including the creation of 'virtual village halls', online events and opportunities to discuss the plans direct with the team.

### Two projects, one newsletter

The proposed developments at Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk are distinct, individual projects, and each brings its own opportunities, challenges and community consultation.

Whilst the developments would be located around 22m apart, we appreciate that some local people, organisations and businesses may have an interest in following the progress of both, and in providing feedback accordingly.

### Whiteneuk Wind Farm



To view a larger map please go to:  
[www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneukwindfarm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneukwindfarm)

### Quantans Hill Wind Farm



To view a larger map please go to:  
[www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm)





## About Vattenfall

**For more than 100 years, Vattenfall has powered industry and supplied electricity to peoples' homes, and we now employ more than 20,000 people across Europe.**

Today, our goal is to make fossil fuel-free living possible within a generation, and so, from Sweden to Scotland, we are investing in renewable energy and innovation.

Vattenfall is a Swedish company and we've had an extensive presence in the UK for over a decade. From the Isle of Skye to the Welsh valleys, the Irish Sea to the Kent coast, you can find Vattenfall generating fossil-free electricity and bringing opportunity and investment to neighbouring communities.

This year saw construction work begin on our biggest onshore UK project to date – South Kyle Wind Farm north of Carsphairn. We are proud to be developing this

significant investment and contributing to Scotland's energy and carbon emissions targets.

Our key contractors at South Kyle include Scottish company RJ McLeod and Dumfries and Galloway's Natural Power, and we are working closely with all of our contractors to maximise opportunities for local businesses and local jobs whilst the wind farm is being constructed.

We see an opportunity to build on this, and further support the 'greening' of the economy in South West Scotland with Whiteneuk Wind Farm and Quantans Hill Wind Farm.

## Whiteneuk and Quantans Hill Wind Farms: two new green energy proposals

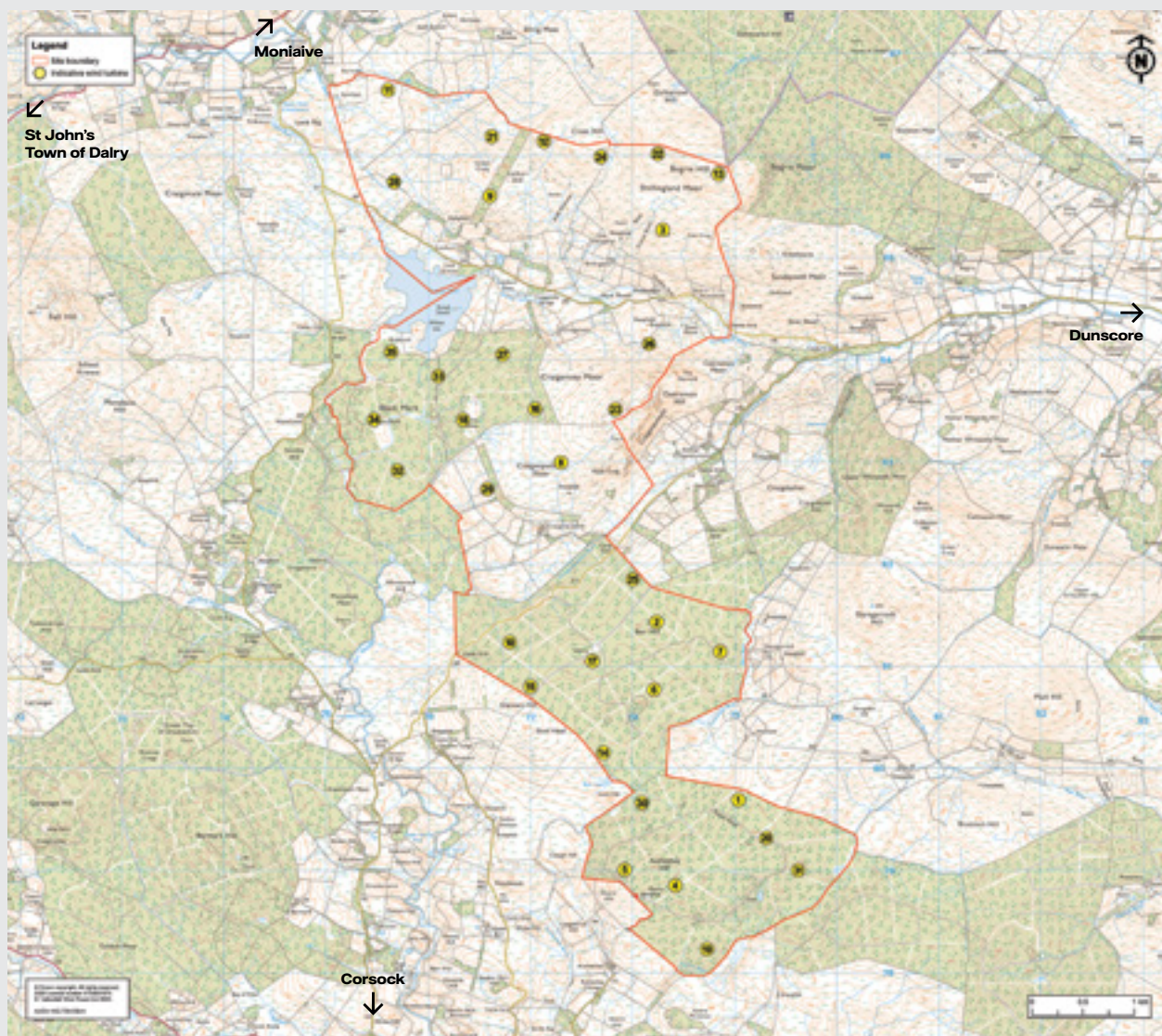
In June 2020, Vattenfall submitted to the Scottish Government 'scoping reports' for two potential new onshore wind developments in Dumfries and Galloway. These reports outlined our initial proposals, and how we planned to assess their environmental impact before finalising the schemes and submitting them to planning.

The details included here represent the wind farms at their greatest extent. As we take into account feedback, both proposals are likely to evolve prior to submission to planning.

### Why Wind Power

Scotland has set its goal to reach net zero by 2045, and renewable energy projects such as Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk will help achieve this. Onshore wind is now the cheapest way to generate electricity of any kind and it has become a cornerstone of the UK's energy mix.

# Whiteneuk Wind Farm: the initial proposals



Located around 5km south of Moniaive, Whiteneuk Wind Farm has the potential to generate 200MW, enough to power 190,000 homes annually\*. Named after one of the hills on which the wind farm would sit, parts of the Whiteneuk site have been of interest to other wind farm developers for many years. Vattenfall believes that advances in turbine technology mean that Whiteneuk Wind Farm has the potential to make a significant contribution to the country's transition to green energy whilst providing tangible, positive opportunities for local people and wildlife.

## The Initial Proposal

**Where:** around 5km south of Moniaive, on a mix of commercial forestry and upland grazing.

**What:** 35 turbines, associated infrastructure plus 40-50MW of battery storage.

**How tall:** turbines would be 200-250m to tip, reflecting advances in turbine technology.

**Why here:** the site offers an excellent location and windspeeds, plus good connectivity to the national grid.

**Who:** the proposals are being developed by Vattenfall's UK team, with the environmental impact assessment led by Ramboll. Should the plans proceed to construction, Vattenfall is committed to maximising local supply chain content wherever feasible.

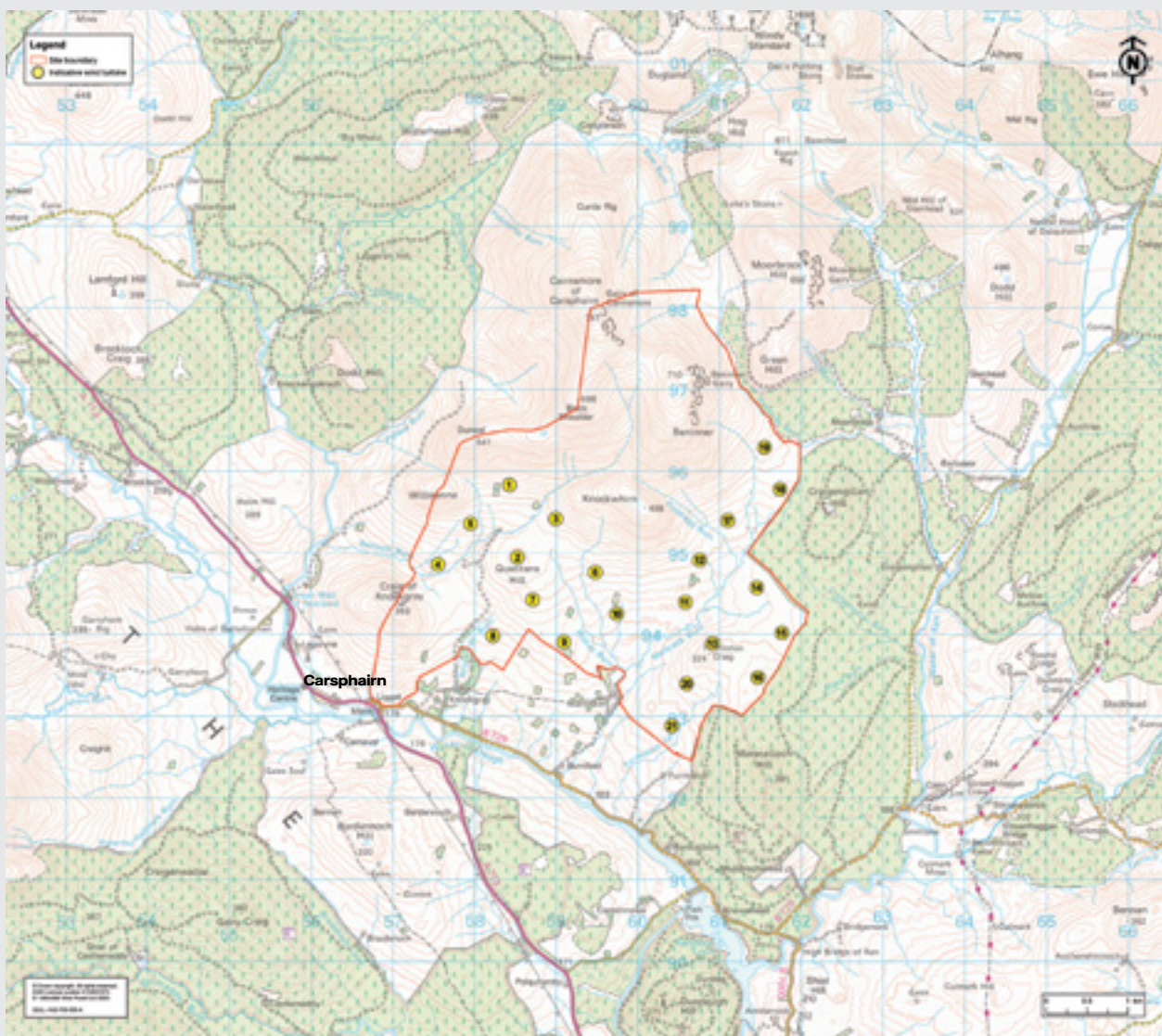
**When:** following the submission of our scoping report, the proposals are entering the Community Consultation phase before determining the final layout by summer 2021, and submitting to Planning the following winter. Should the proposals proceed, construction would commence no earlier than 2025.

To find out more about Vattenfall's proposals for Whiteneuk Wind Farm, please visit the project webpage.

\* [www.renewableuk.com/page/UKWEExplained](http://www.renewableuk.com/page/UKWEExplained).



# Quantans Hill Wind Farm: the initial proposals



Further north, Vattenfall is also interested in developing a renewable energy project at Quantans Hill, around 2km east of Carsphairn. Like Whiteneuk, this portion of land has also been subject to previous wind farm proposals, but with our commitment to protecting and enhancing natural habitats, delivering meaningful community benefits, and supporting local supply chains, Vattenfall believes it can significantly improve on those earlier plans.

In its current initial iteration, Quantans Hill has the potential to generate up to 126MW, enough to power 115,000 homes annually\*

## The Initial Proposal

**Where:** around 2km east of the village of Carsphairn on upland grazing.

**What:** 21 turbines, associated infrastructure plus 40-50MW of battery storage.

**How tall:** turbines would be 200-250m to tip, reflecting advances in turbine technology.

**Why here:** the site offers an excellent location and windspeeds, plus good connectivity to the national grid.

**Who:** the proposals are being developed by Vattenfall's UK team, with the environmental impact assessment

led by local company Natural Power. Should the plans proceed to construction, Vattenfall is committed to maximising local supply chain content wherever feasible.

**When:** following the submission of our scoping report, the proposals are entering the Community Consultation phase before determining the final layout by summer 2021, and submitting to Planning the following winter. Should the proposals proceed, construction would commence no earlier than 2025.

To find out more about Vattenfall's proposals for Quantans Hill Wind Farm, please visit the project webpage.

\* [www.renewableuk.com/page/UKWEDEexplained](http://www.renewableuk.com/page/UKWEDEexplained).



Clashindarroch Wind Farm

## From landscapes to local jobs: how local factors will refine our plans

Detailed environmental impact assessments of our proposals for Whiteneuk and Quantans Hill wind farms are now underway, and we will use the findings from these to inform the next stage of the project design.

Besides factors such as visual impact, noise levels and water supplies (all of which are strictly regulated by planning authorities), Vattenfall is also working with various partners to develop ways to support local communities, jobs, wildlife, habitats and heritage.

Habitat management is particularly important to us. At Vattenfall, we have our own internal bioscience research and development team and their work helps us improve how we protect and enhance the natural environment when we build

and operate wind farms. Indeed, we will be producing detailed habitat management plans for both proposals, demonstrating how we will aim to mitigate for any adverse ecological impacts through site design and by, for example, planting native woodland, rewetting, or habitat creation and enhancement.

We'll also be mapping local heritage assets, and this will include new archaeological surveys of the proposed sites. Potential transport routes, geology, ornithology, aviation, ecology and forestry are also being carefully studied and assessed.

You can read more about our Environmental Impact Assessments on the project webpages.

The wind farm designs will also be informed by feedback from local people. Earlier this year, we undertook an initial feedback survey and these results are already feeding into the design process. Links to the results of these initial surveys are available on the project webpages.

All of this, plus the feedback from the community consultation programme outlined on the back page, will be fed into the design review and acted upon where appropriate.

### Progress Update

Since we announced our plans for Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk, our environmental teams at both sites have been undertaking a broad range of surveys including:

- Protected mammal and bat surveys
- Noise surveys
- Landscape surveys
- Archaeological surveys

Bird survey work and assessment, which has been ongoing for 2 years at both sites, also continues.

Meanwhile, we have been engaging with local and regional stakeholders; updating and informing those living closest to the proposed sites, and developing a suite of materials and digital

tools for the broader community engagement commencing this winter.



Leisler's bat





# Investing in Your Community

Vattenfall is a strong believer that communities hosting our wind farms should see real benefits and share in the rewards of natural wind resource and, if approved, Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk Wind Farms will generate significant community investment for their local areas.

Based on current Scottish Government guidance, and on the wind farm designs as currently proposed, the two projects combined could generate community benefits worth close to £50million over thirty years – over £18million from Quantans Hill and around £30million from Whiteneuk.

These voluntary contributions could come in many different forms, and we'll work with local communities to develop plans which will reflect local needs and aspirations.

At Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk, we are especially interested in considering new ways of delivering community investment and their potential to support significant, strategic projects for the local areas.

## Community consultations: how to get involved

If you live, work or have an interest in the land, communities and local economies around Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk, please get involved and send in your feedback to us.

For everyone's health and wellbeing, we have had to postpone holding local events and meetings. Whilst we remain hopeful that 2021 may bring some easing of restrictions, the Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farm project teams remain committed to providing opportunities for local people to ask questions, discuss the plans and have the opportunity to influence the project designs.

Much will be available online, utilising new technology to offer features such as 'virtual village halls'.

However, we also appreciate that digital is not possible for everyone, so print materials will also be available, and we are always happy to talk on the phone.

These are just some of our plans for the coming weeks and months. If you can, please take a look and get in touch.

### Virtual Village Halls

Vattenfall has commissioned the creation of 'virtual village halls' to host online exhibitions for our Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farm proposals.

Following the format of a traditional village hall exhibition, this virtual tool will provide information on the plans and discuss some of the key issues with a digital feedback function. There will also be virtual 'drive throughs' demonstrating how the wind farms may look from key driving routes.

These online exhibitions go live this month and you can find the links on the project webpages.

### Online Discussions

We will be hosting a series of online sessions where you can hear from and speak with the project teams. Like traditional public meetings, these will be an opportunity to learn about the plans, ask questions and raise any issues of concern. Check the project webpages for dates and details.

### Webpage

Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms have dedicated webpages on [Vattenfall.com](http://Vattenfall.com) where you will find updates and information. You can also sign up for email updates, and ensure you are kept up to date with the latest on the projects and the community consultations.

[www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneukwindfarm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneukwindfarm)  
[www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm)

### Book a call

If you are unable to connect with us digitally, please do not hesitate to give us a call. You can reach our South West Scotland team on 01563 595044.

### Print and Post

If you would like to receive further details on our proposals and are unable to view them online, please call or write to us at the address below.

You can also complete the enclosed feedback form and return it to the address provided.

### Email and Social Media

You can email the project teams at:

→ [quantanshill.windfarm@vattenfall.com](mailto:quantanshill.windfarm@vattenfall.com)

→ [whiteneuk.windfarm@vattenfall.com](mailto:whiteneuk.windfarm@vattenfall.com)

Follow Vattenfall on:

→  Vattenfall UK  @VattenfallUK

# Whiteneuk and Quantans Hill Wind Farms

## Initial Feedback Form

Thank you for your interest in Vattenfall's proposals for Whiteneuk and Quantans Hill Wind Farms. We welcome feedback from local people, and you can find more information and detailed feedback forms online at our project web pages:

[www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneukwindfarm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneukwindfarm)

[www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm)

If you are unable to connect with us digitally, please use this form and return it to the address below.

If you require more space please use the reverse or attach further pages.

### 1. Which project do you wish to provide feedback on?

- ☐ Quantans Hill wind farm
- ☐ Whiteneuk wind farm
- ☐ Both

### 2. Have you visited the projects' online exhibitions and/or webpages?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

### 3. Your questions - please use the space below to note any questions or suggestions you have for us about the developments, and/or to request further information. NB If you would like us to respond to you directly, please ensure you have included your contact details below and ticked the permission box.

### 4. Based on what you know about the scheme(s) so far, do you support or oppose the development?

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Support
- ☐ Neither support nor oppose
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose
- ☐ Need more information

### 5. Please use this space to tell us the reasons for your answer to Q4 above. (Please continue overleaf if required)

### 6. Your details

If you would like to provide contact details, please do so here. This information will be used and stored in line with Vattenfall's data and privacy policies.

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email address:

Please tick this box to confirm we have your permission to contact you in response to your feedback.

☐

Please return by post to: Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk Wind Farms Team,  
Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd, St Andrew's House, Haugh Lane, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3QQ.

Scanned copies can also be emailed to [quantanshill.windfarm@vattenfall.com](mailto:quantanshill.windfarm@vattenfall.com) or  
[whiteneuk.windfarm@vattenfall.com](mailto:whiteneuk.windfarm@vattenfall.com)

Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd.  
St Andrew's House  
Haugh Lane  
Hexham  
Northumberland  
NE46 3QQ  
[www.vattenfall.co.uk](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk)

**VATTENFALL** 



# **APPENDIX VII: ADVERTISING**

## **Advertisements placed in local community title the Glenkens Gazette**

February 2021

June 2021

October 2021

(all full page A4)

Confidentiality class: C1 – Public



**VATTENFALL**



Ray Wind Farm, Northumberland

# Building a fossil free future

Vattenfall is exploring the potential of developing wind farms at Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk in Dumfries and Galloway.

Both proposals are at an early stage, with opportunities for local people to influence the scheme designs before they are submitted to planning.

We are keen to hear the views of local people on the size, scale and location of the wind farms, and also on how they could be catalysts for jobs, business and education; how they can protect and enhance natural habitats, and how harnessing the natural wind resource of these areas could unlock socio-economic opportunities through millions of pounds of community investment.

## Find out more

For everyone's health and wellbeing, we have postponed hosting local events until it is safe to meet. In the meantime, to help you find out more about the proposals we have created online exhibitions, visualisations, FAQs and a community update.

These can be found at  
[www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm)  
[www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneukwindfarm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneukwindfarm)

## Online discussions

In February, we will be hosting live online Q&A sessions for each project. Please visit the webpages for dates and details of how to join.

## Not online?

If you are not able to view the information online, please get in touch either by post or phone and we will discuss the best way forward to engage with you.

## Provide Feedback

Feedback from local people will help us design the best wind farms we can. You can email the project teams at:

→ [quantanshillwindfarm@vattenfall.com](mailto:quantanshillwindfarm@vattenfall.com)  
 → [whiteneukwindfarm@vattenfall.com](mailto:whiteneukwindfarm@vattenfall.com)

Or write to us at:  
 Whiteneuk and Quantans Hill Wind Farm Team  
 Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd.  
 St Andrew's House, Haugh Lane,  
 Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3QG  
 Tel: 01563 505044



Proposed location of Quantans Hill Wind Farm



Proposed location of Whiteneuk Wind Farm



Vattenfall's Ray Wind Farm in Northumberland

After gathering extensive environmental data and local feedback, we're refreshing our proposals for **Quantans Hill Wind Farm** and **Whiteneuk Wind Farm** in Dumfries and Galloway.

Local feedback has helped us identify ways we can better strike a balance between the need to generate more renewable electricity and the aspirations of local communities, whilst protecting wildlife, habitats, heritage and the environment.

Details of our refined proposals will be published soon, with updated online exhibitions and webinars plus - we hope - opportunities to meet safely.

**At both Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk, the proposed wind farms will be reduced in scale, with layouts sensitive to landscape, habitats and heritage.**

The refreshed proposals will also reflect Vattenfall's determination to maximise opportunities for local communities, jobs, businesses and skills. This will build on our work at South Kyle Wind Farm north of Carsphairn, where a wide range of local and regional businesses are supplying the construction project - a glimpse of the potential post-pandemic recovery opportunities for Dumfries and Galloway should Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk Wind Farms proceed.

Keep up to date with the latest details and register for updates at:

[www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm)  
[www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneukwindfarm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneukwindfarm)

There, you can also find out more about the substantial community benefits which would be generated by the wind farms.

Alternatively please write to:  
 Whiteneuk and Quantans Hill Wind Farm Team, Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd,  
 St Andrew's House, Haugh Lane,  
 Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3QQ  
 T 01563 595044



Vattenfall's Ray Wind Farm, Northumberland

## Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk Wind Farms: proposals updated

As we build South Kyle Wind Farm north of Carsphairn, Vattenfall is working hard to create opportunities for local people, communities and businesses.

We want to build on this with two further renewable energy investments in Dumfries and Galloway - Quantans Hill Wind Farm and Whiteneuk Wind Farm, projects which could create a pipeline of further opportunities for local jobs, skills development, businesses and enterprise, community benefits and natural habitats across South West Scotland.

This winter, our proposals for Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk will be finalised and submitted to Planning.

Ahead of that, each scheme has been updated as part of our comprehensive design review, a process shaped by local feedback and environmental data.

Both proposed developments have been reduced in scale, with fewer and lower turbines; layouts sensitive to local landscape, heritage, wildlife and habitats, whilst offering substantial community benefits for the local areas.

**Please find out more about the proposals and their opportunities by visiting our online exhibitions at**  
[www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshill](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshill)  
[www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneuk](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneuk)

Alternatively, contact us at:  
[quantanshillwindfarm@vattenfall.com](mailto:quantanshillwindfarm@vattenfall.com)  
[whiteneukwindfarm@vattenfall.com](mailto:whiteneukwindfarm@vattenfall.com)  
Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd.  
St Andrew's House, Haugh Lane,  
Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3QX  
Tel: 01563 595044



Proposed location of Quantans Hill Wind Farm



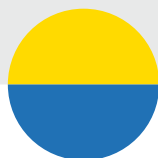
Proposed location of Whiteneuk Wind Farm

**Quantans Hill Wind Farm  
Pre-Application Community  
Consultation Report**

**APPENDIX VIII:  
LETTER**

**Letter issued to neighbouring properties at scoping**

Confidentiality class: C1 – Public



**VATTENFALL**

Quantans Hill Wind Farm  
Vattenfall  
St Andrew's House  
Haugh Lane  
Hexham  
Northumberland  
NE46 3RB

Date:  
14/01/2022

Contact: Matthew Bacon and Carol Kane  
E-mail: [Whiteneuk.windfarm@vattenfall.com](mailto:Whiteneuk.windfarm@vattenfall.com)

Phone: 01563 595044  
Phone: 07817 018 310

### **Proposed wind farm development: Quantans Hill wind farm**

Dear Owner/Occupier,

On Friday 26 June, Vattenfall started the planning process for a proposed wind farm development at Quantans Hill, approximately 2km north-east of Carsphairn.

Proposals are at an early stage, and we intend to engage with the broader community later this summer. However, as your home is located within 2km of the edge of the suggested site boundary, we wanted to inform you at the earliest opportunity and hear your thoughts as our closest neighbours.

Further details are now published at <https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/south-west-scotland/quantans-hill-wind-farm> where you may also access the Scoping Report and provide initial feedback through a short questionnaire. If you are unable to access online materials, please do get in touch with us by post or phone – we would be happy to send printed copies to you.

I also enclose overleaf some basic details of our current proposals and of Vattenfall as a company.

Over the coming months, we will be undertaking environmental impact assessments and community conversations to further develop our proposals. If the meantime you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at [Quantanshill.windfarm@vattenfall.com](mailto:Quantanshill.windfarm@vattenfall.com) or by telephone through the numbers below.

Yours faithfully,

**Carol Kane**  
Regional Liaison Officer – South-west Scotland  
01563 595 044

**Matthew Bacon**  
Senior Project Manager  
07817 018 310



## About Vattenfall

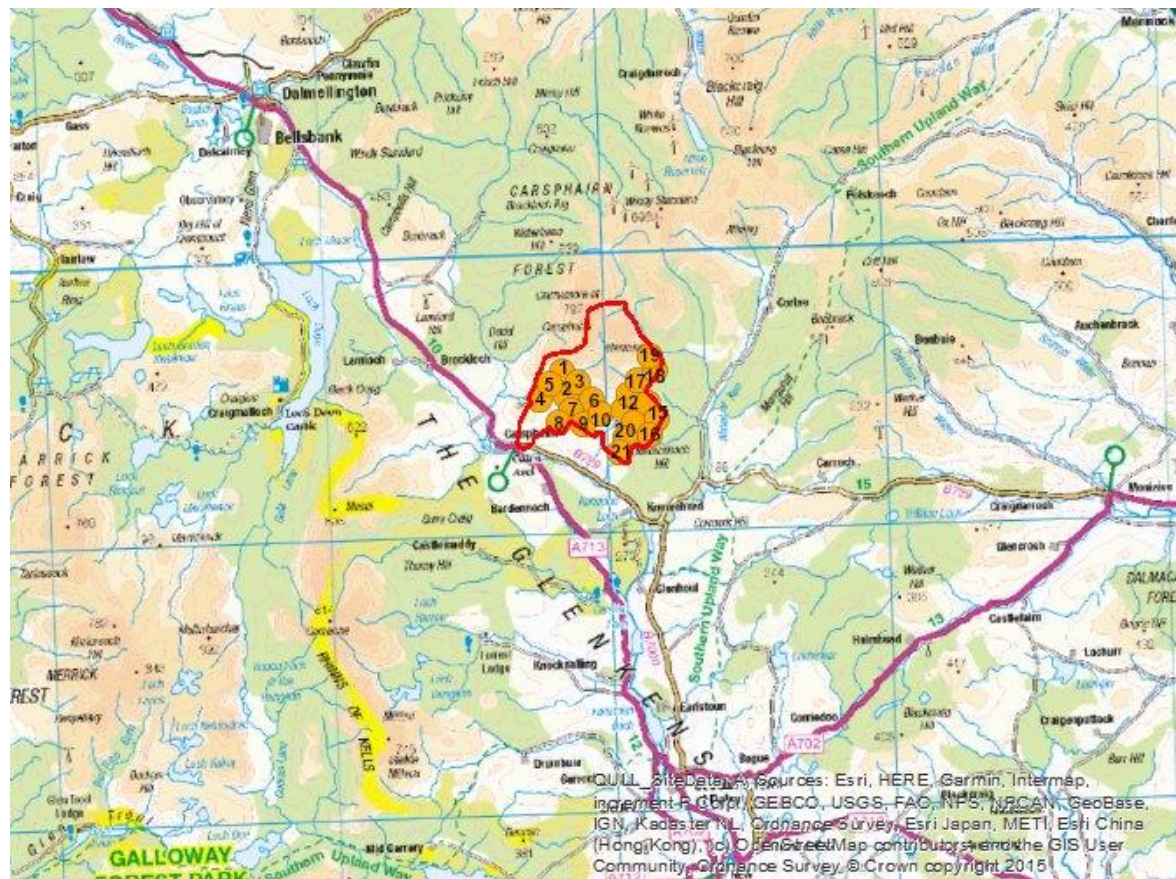
Vattenfall is a leading European energy company with approximately 20,000 employees, owned by the Swedish state. For more than 100 years we have powered industries, supplied energy to people's homes and modernised the way our customers live through innovation and cooperation.

We want to make fossil-free living possible within a generation so we are now leading the transition to a more sustainable energy system through growth in renewables and climate-smart energy solutions for our customers.

We have over 50 wind farms, onshore and offshore, across five countries and we pioneered co-locating wind with solar and batteries. We have been in the UK since 2008, investing over £3.5 billion in enough wind to power over 700,000 British homes.

## About Whiteneuk wind farm

	Quantans Hill
Megawatt Installed Capacity	Up to 126MW
Equivalent homes powered a year	Around 115,000
Number of turbines	Up to 21 turbines
Tip height (metres)	200-250
Operational life	Around 30 years
Target planning permission application date	Q3 2021
Target construction start date	2024/25



# **APPENDIX IX: MEDIA RELEASES**

Confidentiality class: C1 – Public



**VATTENFALL**

Media release: initial launch – June 2020

JUNE 26, 2020 9:22 GMT1 MIN

### **Vattenfall plans further major investment in South West Scotland**

Following the recent announcement that Vattenfall has awarded a multi-million-pound contract for the construction of South Kyle Wind Farm, the company is today unveiling proposals for further investment in South West Scotland.

Vattenfall has studied previously identified projects, and following careful consideration is exploring the potential for two new wind farms in the region along with a battery energy storage facility at each location.

Whiteneuk Wind Farm project is around 5km south of Moniaive and it will consist of up to 35 wind turbines. Quantans Hill Wind Farm project, which is around 2km to the north-east of Carsphairn village, will consist of up to 21 wind turbines. Each turbine could have a blade tip height of up to 250m.

New onshore wind is the cheapest way to generate electricity, and Vattenfall's new proposals for South West Scotland could also make a significant contribution to Scotland's net zero ambitions.

Vattenfall has submitted a scoping report to the Scottish Government this month. The scoping report launches the early stages of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The company is also keen to start researching and prioritising views from the local community to help shape their proposals.

Frank Elsworth, Vattenfall's UK Development Director for Onshore Wind, said:

"South West Scotland has the potential to become a green energy hub. South Kyle, Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk can play a major part in helping to power Scotland towards net zero and provide green shoots of recovery from the economic damage of Covid-19.

"Vattenfall wants to work with local communities, suppliers and partners to not only co-ordinate how our investments might benefit specific localities, but also to explore and create significant opportunities for South West Scotland."

Carol Kane, Vattenfall's Local Liaison Officer, South West Scotland, said:

"Although these proposals are at an early stage, we are keen to hear from local communities at the earliest opportunity. Over the coming months, we will be liaising with community groups and representatives to discuss the proposals and take comments, questions and suggestions. We have also created online feedback surveys, and we welcome views from as many local people as possible."

Further information on how the local community can become involved can be found [here](#).

### **Vattenfall Welcomes Input from Dumfries and Galloway Residents**

Dumfries and Galloway residents are being invited to give their input to Vattenfall's proposals for two onshore wind developments and provide feedback on how community investment can support local priorities.

Last month, energy company Vattenfall announced it is exploring the potential for two wind farms in south west Scotland as part of their drive to enable fossil free living within a generation. The proposed projects – a 35 turbine wind farm at Whiteneuk approximately 5km south of Moniaive, and a 21 turbine wind farm at Quantans Hill 2km north east of Carsphairn – are at early stages, with detailed environmental impact assessments now underway and opportunities for locals to input to the design, raising any issues they feel the development should take into consideration. Vattenfall are also keen to hear views on how the developments could support local investment priorities such as skills development, housing, transport or environmental projects.

Carol Kane, Vattenfall's Regional Liaison Officer for South West Scotland, explains: "Both projects are at an early stage, and over the coming months we be will exploring their potential, not only for energy generation, but also for how these investments could benefit local communities. Rather than waiting for covid-19 restrictions to lift, we wanted to start providing opportunities for local feedback as early as possible and so have created two online surveys – one for each proposal. They explore views on climate change and renewables, and more specifically on what issues local people feel Vattenfall should address as we develop our proposals.

"The surveys also ask about views on community investment, and if community benefits from the wind farms could be prioritised, for example, to develop skills, address housing or transport issues, or support environmental initiatives."

The Whiteneuk and Quantans Hill projects are part of a regional strategy by Vattenfall in south west Scotland, and follow the company's multi-million-pound investment in South Kyle Wind Farm, a 50 turbine development where preparatory work is now underway. There, Vattenfall is working to maximise opportunities for local jobs, businesses and skills as the wind farm is built.

Frank Elsworth, Vattenfall's UK Development Director for Onshore Wind, said: "South West Scotland has the potential to become a green energy hub. South Kyle, Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk can play a major part in helping to power Scotland towards net zero and provide green shoots of recovery from the economic damage of Covid-19.

“Vattenfall wants to work with local communities, suppliers and partners to not only co-ordinate how our investments might benefit specific localities, but also to explore and create significant opportunities for South West Scotland.”

To find out more about proposals for Whiteneuk Wind Farm and complete its online survey please visit <https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/south-west-scotland/whiteneuk-wind-farm>

To find out more about proposals for Quantans Hill Wind Farm and complete its online survey please visit <https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/south-west-scotland/quantans-hill-wind-farm>

## **Feedback Welcomed as ‘Virtual Village Hall’ Exhibitions Go Live**

Public exhibitions for two proposed wind farms go live online this month with the creation of two ‘virtual village halls’.

Energy company Vattenfall are launching the online tool to enable local people learn more about their proposals for Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk Wind Farms, and to create more opportunities to provide feedback before the wind farm designs are finalised and submitted to planning later next year.

Taking the traditional village hall exhibition format as their inspiration, the virtual village hall exhibitions will include information boards and feedback forms as well as virtual drive-throughs and other interactive features. There will be details of the wind farm design, plus information on Vattenfall’s approach to protecting and enhancing natural habitats; creating work, skills and business opportunities for local people, and delivering community benefits packages which maximise impact and reflect local needs and aspirations.

The exhibitions will be live throughout the winter and will be complemented by live online sessions where the local community can meet the team behind the plans, ask questions and make suggestions.

Announced earlier this year, Quantans Hill Wind Farm and Whiteneuk Wind Farm proposals are located in Dumfries and Galloway. Quantans Hill is located around 2km east of Carsphairn, with Whiteneuk around 5km south of Moniaive. Vattenfall’s plans for each are at an early stage, and detailed environmental impact assessments are now underway for both, with feedback welcomed from the local community.

### **Vattenfall’s Project Manager, Matthew Bacon, explained:**

“We believe it is essential that local communities have the opportunity to influence the project designs, and we are at the stage now where this feedback can have the most influence, so we would urge anyone who is local to either proposal to take a look and get involved.

“Feedback, especially from people who live and work in these areas, will help us design the best projects we can, ones that balance the need to efficiently generate renewable electricity, protect the natural environment and deliver tangible benefits for local communities.”

### **Carol Kane, Vattenfall’s Regional Liaison Officer for South West Scotland added:**

“Throughout the pandemic, Vattenfall has taken a safety-first approach, prioritising the wellbeing of local communities as well as our colleagues. Whilst we remain optimistic that it might be possible for face-to-face community events to resume next year, we want to ensure local people are kept informed in the meantime and have opportunities to speak with us and ask questions. The virtual exhibitions and online sessions are additional ways for those who can to connect with us digitally from the comfort of their own homes and, in the case of the exhibitions, at a time and date that suits. Plus, for those who are unable to get online, we are available by phone and will be happy to post out materials where appropriate.”

The first online discussion meetings are scheduled for Wed December 16<sup>th</sup> (Quantans Hill) and Thurs December 17<sup>th</sup> (Whiteneuk), with further opportunities to follow in the near year.

Links to the virtual exhibitions and details of the online discussions are available at [www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm) and [www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneukwindfarm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/whiteneukwindfarm)

[ends ] **Date of issue: 4/12/20**



## **Vattenfall Refines Plans for Quantans Hill Wind Farm**

Local feedback and extensive environmental assessments have helped Vattenfall to further develop its plans for Quantans Hill Wind Farm in Dumfries and Galloway.

An updated layout for the wind farm proposal, has now been published. The number of proposed turbines has been reduced from 21 to 14, with the maximum tip height also reduced from 250m to 200m. Additionally, turbines have been repositioned to protect watercourses, deep peat and archaeology on site. Furthermore the plans will now include enhanced recreational access with new pathways linking the hillside to the village of Carsphairn.

The proposals reaffirm Vattenfall's commitment both to maximising local opportunities during construction and to delivering community benefits for the lifetime of the wind farm.

Matthew Bacon, Senior Project Manager, commented: "Quantans Hill has been identified as suitable for wind energy development for many years, and whilst there have been previous proposals put forward, Vattenfall believes we can improve on them and build a wind farm that balances the aspirations of local communities with the opportunity to contribute to Scotland's drive towards net zero and the decarbonisation of more homes, businesses and transport.

"Our goal is to build the best wind farm we can. Over the past year Vattenfall has gathered extensive environmental data and local feedback on our initial proposals for Quantans Hill. This has greatly enriched our knowledge and understanding of the site and enabled our team to review and refine our design. We are now finalising these plans and hope to submit them to the planning stage later this year, after which a formal consultation period will commence.

"Environmental assessments are at the heart of our design review process, with local feedback also providing essential context as we refine our proposals. Thank you to everyone who engaged with us and sent in feedback."

Details of the new plans can be found at [www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshill](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshill) where an updated online exhibition is now live, and the local community can continue to provide feedback and comment.

*Vattenfall is also updating plans for Whiteneuk Wind Farm development, north of Corsock, with details of the updated layout due to be published in the coming weeks.*

[ends]

Date of issue: 8/7/21

# **APPENDIX X: SURVEY ANALYSES**

## **Analyses of 2 x feedback survey responses**

Confidentiality class: C1 – Public



**VATTENFALL**



# **Quantans Hill Wind Farm – initial feedback survey**

Consultation analysis and response  
September 2020

Confidentiality class: C1 – Public

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## Preface

The views of local communities, businesses, and stakeholders are critically important in the design of Vattenfall's wind farms. When Quantans Hill wind farm was launched into the public domain on 26 June 2020 we also opened an initial online feedback survey at the earliest point possible. This survey was designed to gather the views of 'non-statutory' consultees – such as members of the public, local businesses, and other interested community groups and charities.

The survey ran from the 26 June until the 31 August using an independent surveying company called Netigate. The survey was promoted through a variety of channels, including Vattenfall's project webpage; Vattenfall's Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn accounts; through a paid advertisement in the Dumfries and Galloway What's Going On website (DGWGO.com); and by emails to community representatives and other local interested stakeholders.

This document summarises the feedback we have received to date and identifies a number of themes and issues which we will explore in further detail throughout the site design process and in our subsequent communications.

Vattenfall will continue to explain our proposals for Quantans Hill wind farm to local stakeholders and seek feedback over the course of the next year. A more detailed project virtual exhibition will be launched, including the option for webinars and virtual meetings, we will produce project newsletters, and more online consultation will take place. When safe to do so, and in line with Government guidance, we will also hold more traditional face-to-face engagement, such as public exhibitions.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to fill out the survey. Your opinions and suggestions are extremely valuable to us.

We look forward to continuing the discussion with you over the coming months and years.

# 1. About the respondents

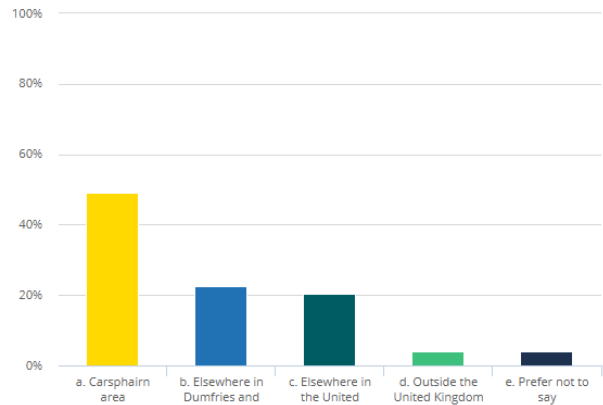
## 1.1. Introduction

We received 60 individual responses to the questionnaire, with technical steps taken to prevent multiple answers being submitted by the same respondent. Of the 60 people responding, 49 went on to complete every question.

We are pleased with this level of feedback for an initial questionnaire, which provides a good start to understand public attitudes. However, it is clearly a small sample size, although the number of people directly affected by development of the wind farm is itself relatively small, however in the future we hope to get more responses from a broader cross-section of society, including a more balanced age demographic, more local residents, but also more local businesses and people further afield such as potential visitors to the region.

We wanted to understand our respondents: what age they were; whether they lived locally; and in what capacity they were responding. We asked these questions to try and understand how our survey was being picked up and whether certain types of respondent were over- or under-represented and what that might mean for how we approach future surveys.

## 1.2. Where did respondents live?

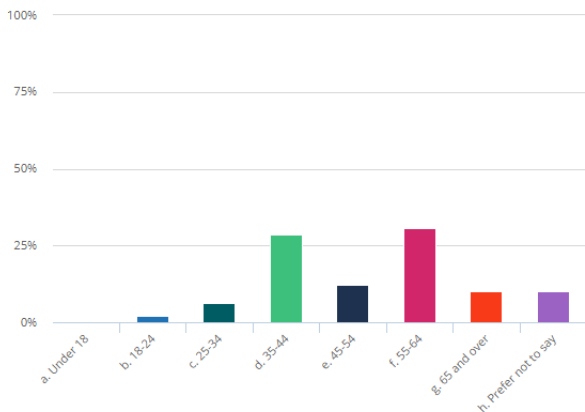


71% of respondents told us they lived in Dumfries and Galloway. This includes just under half (49%) of total respondents who lived in the immediate vicinity of the wind farm in the village of Carsphairn. 20% of respondents were from elsewhere in the UK, 4% preferred not to say, and 4% were from abroad.

We are pleased the survey reached people locally and in the broader region. We want to continue to receive even more views from people living near to the proposed wind farm but would also like to increase participation from those elsewhere in the country, for example people who might visit as tourists, have an interest in the area's culture and heritage, or business representatives who might provide services for the wind farm.



### 1.3. Age demographics



The majority of respondents to our survey were older, with 53% telling us they were over the age of 45. The largest responding part of the spectrum was 55-64 (31%) and 10% were over 65. We are encouraged to see this as we had received concerns from local residents that virtual engagement, which will be particularly important in an age of Covid-19 related social distancing, may shut out older residents who might be less comfortable with online activities.

At first glance this does not appear to be the case, but we want to continue to make sure older people are aware of the scheme and providing their views as well as finding ways to reach out to those who may feel less comfortable with virtual engagement.

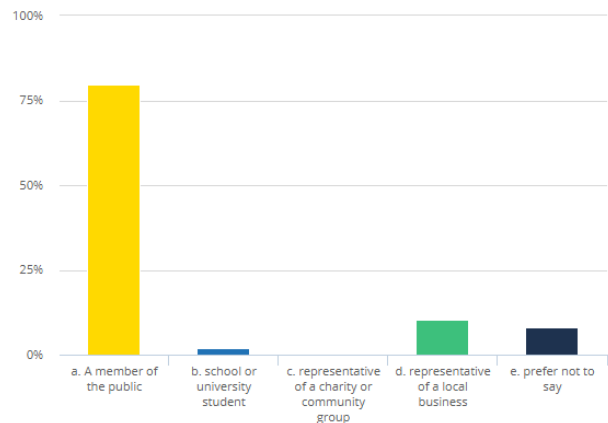
We are disappointed that younger age groups did not engage with our survey. Particularly concerning was the fact that very few respondents under the age of 24 (2%) took part in the survey and there were no responses from children under the age of 18.

We will endeavour to do more in the future to engage with younger members of the community and have a programme for engaging with schools underway, as well as an alternative platform for digital engagement which is designed to reach younger individuals who may engage less with more traditional forms of social media. This is particularly important given it is younger generations who will be most exposed to the positive and negative aspects

<sup>1</sup> Vattenfall has engaged directly with Carsphairn Community Council on Quantans Hill, as well as other nearby affected community councils.

of a wind farm development and the long-term impacts of climate change, so have an important voice in the debate which needs to be heard.

### 1.4. Type of respondent



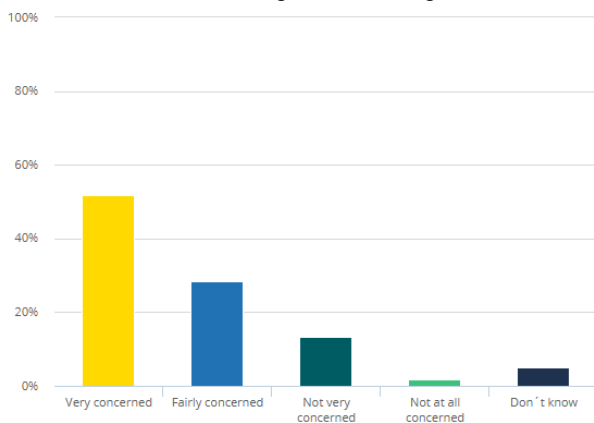
Most respondents to our survey (80%) identified as members of the public. Whilst this is welcomed, as the area is rural with most immediate neighbours to the scheme being private individuals, we need to find other ways to engage with groups, especially charities and community groups,<sup>1</sup> and, as mentioned before, schools and younger people. 10% of respondents represented local businesses, which is encouraging and something we are keen to build on given the considerable potential for Quantans Hill to support the local economy.

## 2. Views on energy and climate change

Before we asked questions about wind farms in the region, we wanted to understand general attitudes to climate change and energy to see if there was a difference between general positions as opposed to more localised issues.

### 2.1. Concern about climate change

*We asked: how concerned are you about climate change, sometimes referred to as 'global warming'?*

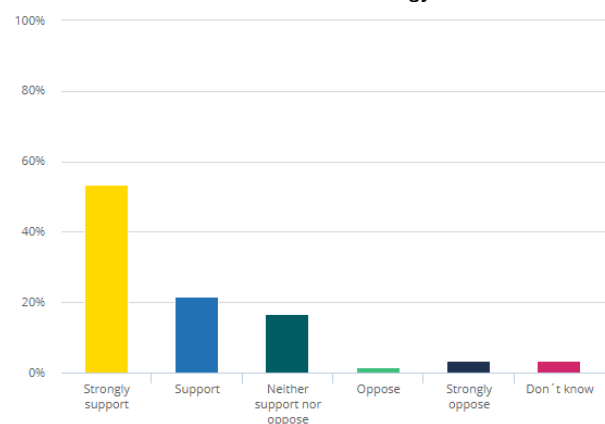


Our respondents were generally concerned about climate change – 80% of people felt they were 'very' or 'fairly concerned'. This is very much in line with other studies with larger datasets. For example, the UK Government's Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy regular Public Attitudes Tracker reported in its most recent survey that 81% of their survey sample were concerned (either 'very' or 'fairly') by climate change.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> BEIS, Public Attitudes Tracker (June 2020, Wave 34, UK)

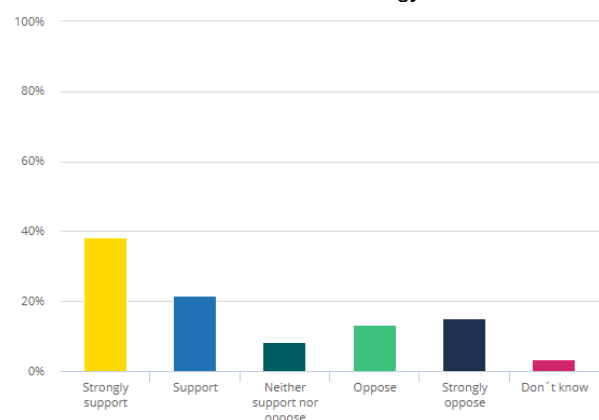
### 2.2. Attitudes towards renewables

*We asked: leaving aside the Quantans Hill wind farm project for a moment, generally do you support or oppose the transition towards renewable energy?*



Specifically leaving aside Quantans Hill, 75% of respondents were either supportive or unconcerned about the use of renewable energy in general, with the largest cohort being strongly supportive (53%). Respondents to our survey were generally in line with Government polling on this topic (80% in favour), although slightly less supportive.<sup>3</sup>

*We also asked: leaving aside the Quantans Hill wind farm project for a moment, generally do you support or oppose the transition towards renewable energy?*



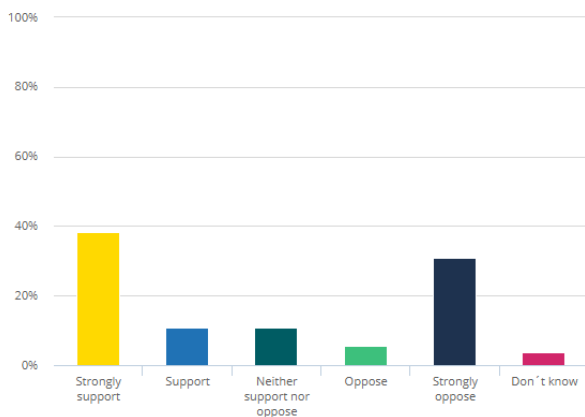
We are aware that onshore wind can be a divisive issue and people can often have 'favourite' renewable

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

technologies (e.g. onshore wind, offshore wind, solar, and hydro). Whilst this does appear to be the case for our respondents, we note that there are high levels of support for onshore wind generally with 68% either supporting onshore wind or stating indifference, with the largest single cohort being those who ‘strongly support’ its development (38%). There is an interesting discrepancy here between our survey and other public attitudes questionnaires, with the Government survey reporting 93% support for onshore wind.<sup>4</sup>

Although we did not ask whether respondents supported the Quantans Hill wind farm specifically, as we felt there was not yet enough information in the public domain on which people could base an informed opinion, we did want to understand whether there was general support or opposition to more wind farms in the region.

*We asked: do you support or oppose the development of wind farms in the region?*



It is clear that as some people move from thinking about general global or country-wide trends to more specific local issues, some support falls away. That said, 60% of respondents either supported more wind farm development in the region or were neutral on the subject with the largest single cohort strongly supporting more development (38%). The second largest cohort, however, were strongly opposed (31%).

We note that this is a little different from the only other local polling on onshore wind of which we are aware which has been carried out recently. In 2019, the Conservative Environment Network found that 71% of people living in the Dumfries and Galloway Westminster Parliamentary constituency supported onshore wind.<sup>5</sup> This particular survey is not representative of the area as it targeted

voting age people who reported as having voted for the Conservative party in the 2017 general election. Nevertheless, we believe it is an interesting point of departure for discussing regional views as the Conservative party has traditionally been more sceptical of onshore wind than, for instance, the SNP or Labour party.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Conservative Environment Network, *Support for Electricity Sources by Constituency* (Published June 2019).

## 2.3. Why do people support wind farms in the region?

*We asked: if you support the development of wind farms in the region, please tell us why.*

The word cloud below summarises the 27 individual responses we had to this question which, we hope with our analysis and a number of anonymous responses presented in full below, will help readers to understand typical views expressed.



Although there was a wide range of reasons presented, common themes were that:

- Wind farms are needed to combat climate change;
- They bring benefits, with respondents generally pointing to the economic and jobs benefits;
- Wind power was preferable to alternative forms of power generation (e.g. nuclear) or that wind power is better for energy security; and
- The area has good natural wind resource and a small population compared to other parts of the country.

“The development of wind farms in the area has introduced both high and low skilled jobs in an area of low socio economic potential. I have seen wind farms provide employment to numerous men who were previously employed in the mining industry in the area, and wind farms have attracted young professionals and graduates such as engineers, ecologists, and environmental specialist to the area. Without wind farms both the high and lower earners whole not have had the potential for work in the area and would have had to travel out with the area. Wind farms provide the potential for these people to be able to work at home.” – Anon. Submitted 30 July 2020 09:59:41

“It’s great the region can contribute to fighting climate change.” – Anon. Submitted 26 June 2020 23:31:43

“Good wind. Low population. Economic benefits to the community..” – Anon. Submitted 26 June 2020 23:31:43

"We have been tolerant and have been undateded [sic] with wind farms in this area. Enough is enough. We are being systematically raped of our rights to a peaceful life and the aspirations we had when we moved to the area." – Anon.  
Submitted 3 July 2020 16:09:12

## 2.5. Specific design issues for Quantans Hill wind farm

*We asked: thinking specifically about Quantans Hill, are there any issues you would like us to take into account in its design?*

We wanted to know from people if there were any early concerns we could take into account in our design of the wind farm. The word cloud below and analysis aims to provide an overview of feedback.



Very few responses focussed on specific things we could take into consideration and many respondents used this section to reiterate points made in the two preceding sections. Where specific design issues were mentioned they were about:

“Causing problems to local home owners caused by proximity to homes and the noise or strobe effects that they can create, exaggerated through the proposed extreme height of 250m. Visual effects on the landscape will also be unacceptable particularly to the landscape of cairnsmore of carsphairn, as was proved by the last application becoming unviable after turbines were deemed not acceptable in this area..” – Anon. Submitted 22 August 2020 20:17:26

“Yes move it somewhere not as visible for all the village and people specifically the tourists we are trying to encourage to the area.” – Anon. Submitted 24 August 2020 16:18:52

“Much smaller turbines and no home should have noise levels elevated. The windfarm should provide material benefit to the neighbouring community. Community benefit does not get anywhere near those who are blighted..” – Anon. Submitted 3 July 2020 00:08:26

- Proximity to homes to the development;
- Concerns around the grid connection route for the wind farm;
- The proposed tip height of the development at 250m; and
- Visibility from nearby upland viewpoints, with the Cairnsmore of Carsphairn being mentioned specifically

There are a range of legitimate concerns and questions about the wind farm development raised here and in other places which are answered in a ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ document available on the project website.



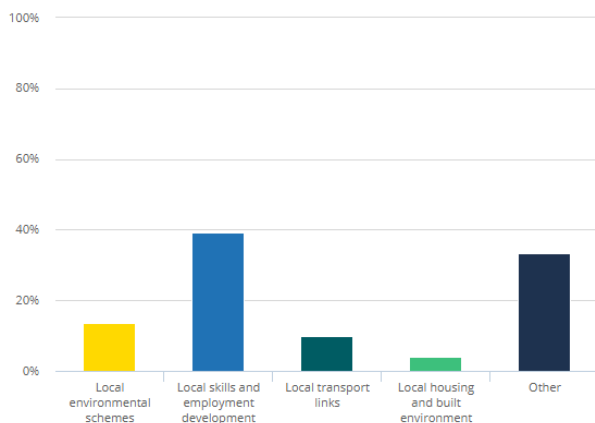
## 3. Community investment and shared ownership

### 3.1. Focussing community investment

*We asked: if Quantans Hill wind farm is to go ahead, please tell us what you think is the greatest priority for community investment.*

As part of Quantans Hill wind farm, Vattenfall will commit to offering substantial levels of community investment in line with Government guidance. If the wind farm is built to its maximum extent, as outlined in the project's scoping report, this community investment fund could be worth up to £18.9 million over the life of the wind farm.

Vattenfall is exploring ways in which Quantans Hill, and its sister scheme in Dumfries and Galloway called Whiteneuk, could focus community investment. Our questionnaire presented some options based on our understanding of local needs expressed in publicly available documents and in discussion with local stakeholders.



Of the options presented, local schemes to help skills and employment and improvements to the local environment were clear favourites.

Although there were a large number of suggestions logged under 'other', these were generally comments aimed at the efficacy of community investment schemes, generally that they didn't tend to provide

tangible benefits to local people, that there was already 'enough' community investment going into Carsphairn from other wind farm schemes, or a restatement of opinions previously offered in other sections. Some ideas which were presented included:

- Improving attractions for tourists, such as pathways and cycle routes;
- Improving mobile phone signal or digital connectivity;
- Better transport within the region, especially for younger people without cars.

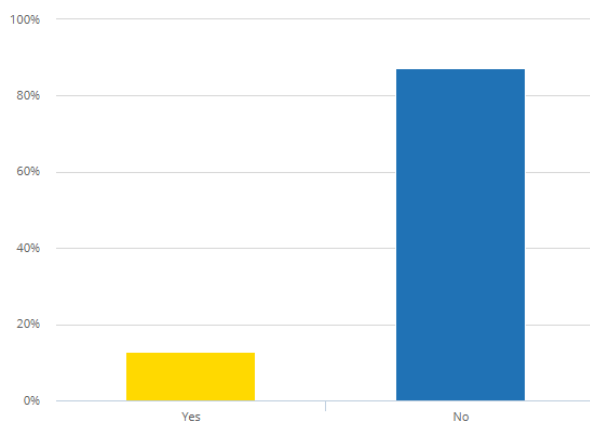
We will continue to consider the options for community investment in more detail and will consult specifically on a community investment package over the course of the next year.

## 3.2. Shared ownership

*We asked: would you or the local community group you represent be interested in investing in shared ownership of the wind farm?*

Vattenfall is prepared to offer some form of shared ownership in the development of Quantans Hill wind farm. This could involve capital-at-risk investment by local individuals, organisations, or businesses in the wind farm's construction as well as sharing the risks and rewards of the wind farm's performance.

Although there is some appetite for shared ownership at this early stage, we note that this is limited and only 13% of respondents expressed interest.



We will continue to discuss this with the community and keep in mind whether there is sufficient appetite for Vattenfall to take this forward into more detailed design and discussion.

## 4. Conclusions and next steps

We found this survey exercise to be extremely useful and informative. Although we are only at an early stage in the scheme's design, we have been encouraged to continue development of Quantans Hill due to the level of concern about climate change and support for renewables, onshore wind, and further onshore wind development in the region.

We acknowledge that the sample size was small and not demographically representative. We will work hard to increase stakeholder participation in consultation and responses to develop a fully rounded picture.

We also recognise that there are those who feel strongly against the development. In some cases, we will not be able to win people round as views can be entrenched and strongly held, particularly on the subject of landscape impact. These views, whilst entirely legitimate, are often subjective and contrasting, with people expressing both approval of what wind farms stand for and look like in the landscape whilst others find them distasteful.

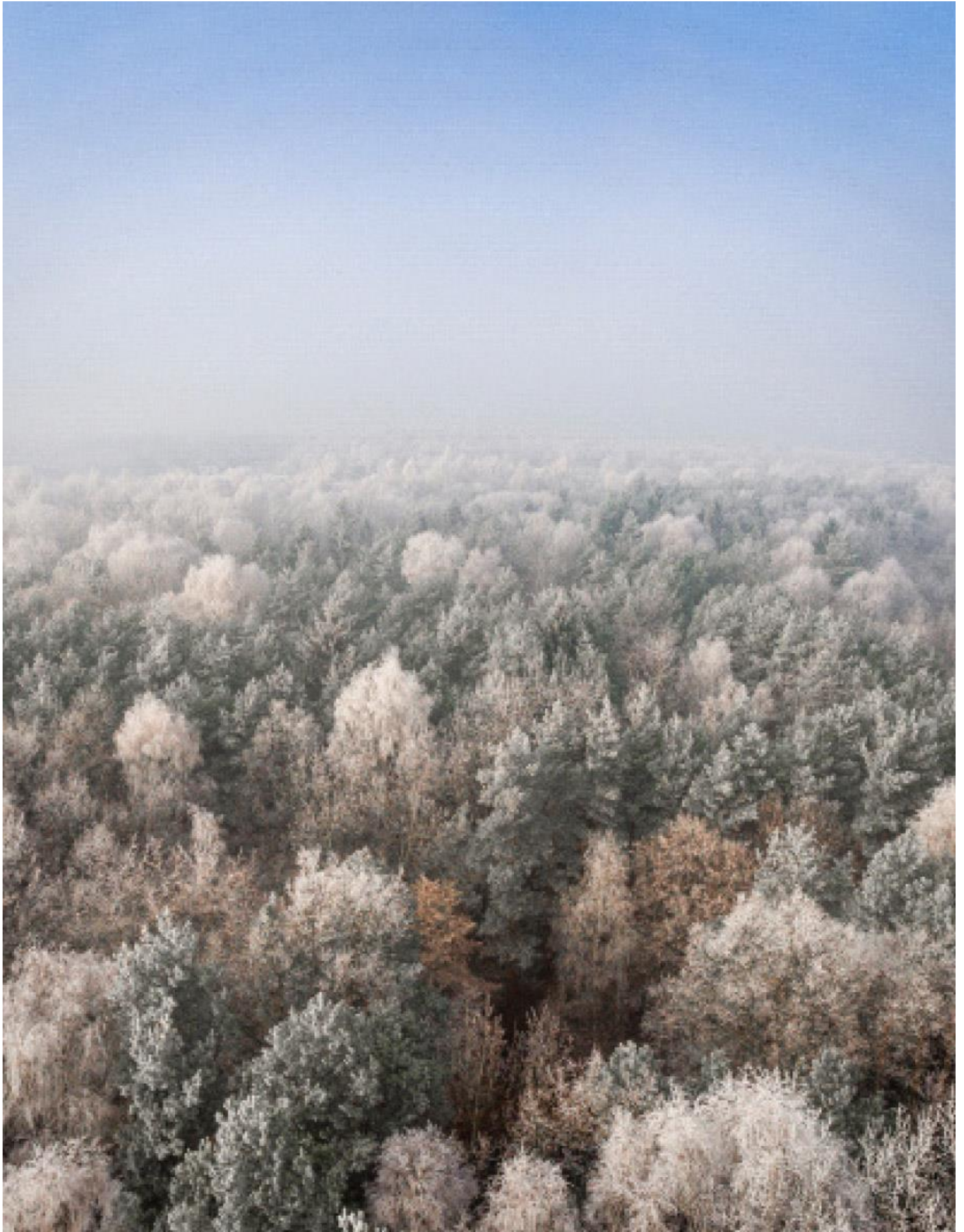
There are a range of valid and legitimate concerns around, for instance, local wildlife, noise, and construction impacts. We believe most of these can be acceptably mitigated through the considered and sensitive site design in which we take pride. We will, of course, take all concerns raised into account in the wind farm's design and will report back and try to provide comfort where we can in both a Frequently Asked Questions document and in the detailed Environmental Impact Assessment Report which will accompany our application to Scottish Ministers to construction the wind farm.

We will continue to work with the communities concerned and other interested stakeholders over the course of the next year until we submit our planning application, which we anticipate will be in the last quarter of 2021.

There will be a raft of public engagement coming this autumn and winter, including:

- a. A virtual public exhibition space;
- b. Webinars with the team;
- c. Meetings with community councils and other groups;
- d. Project newsletters;
- e. Further surveys and questionnaires; and
- f. Subject to Covid restrictions, face-to-face engagement and at least one public exhibition.

In the meantime, Matthew Bacon (Senior Project Manager) and Carol Kane (Regional Liaison Officer) welcome the opportunity to speak to you. They can be reached at [QuantansHill.Windfarm@vattenfall.com](mailto:QuantansHill.Windfarm@vattenfall.com).



# **Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk Wind Farms – second feedback survey**

Consultation analysis and response

Confidentiality class: C1 – Public



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# 1. Preface

The views of local communities, businesses and stakeholders are critically important in the design of Vattenfall's wind farms. When the proposals for Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms were launched into the public domain on 26 June 2020 we also opened an initial online feedback survey for approximately 6 weeks over the summer to gather views at the earliest point possible. The results of these surveys can be found on our website here.

Later in 2020 Vattenfall launched 'virtual exhibitions' for each project which contained a wealth of information, including 3D visualisations of the wind farm proposals in their respective landscapes and information boards on a range of issues such as key environmental topics, community benefits, and socio-economic issues. We also held online Q&A sessions on 16 and 17 December 2020 which gave members of the public an opportunity to meet the team and ask questions. Finally, we also sent a paper newsletter to over 1,000 local residents living close to both proposals.

In light of the raft of information communicated to the public over the second half of 2020 we felt it would be beneficial for both schemes' development for Vattenfall to ask for further feedback to supplement that received over the summer. This was conducted through two online surveys which ran from 20 December 2020 until 21 January 2021. For those who were unable to respond online, we also included a paper questionnaire with our newsletter.

Our online materials and surveys were promoted through a variety of channels, including Vattenfall's project webpage; Vattenfall's Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn accounts; through the newsletters posted to a thousand local residents; through a paid advertisement in the Dumfries and Galloway What's Going On website (DGWGO.com); and by emails to community representatives and other local interested stakeholders.

This document summarises the feedback we received and identifies a number of themes and issues which we will explore in further detail throughout the site design process and in our subsequent communications.

Vattenfall will continue to explain our proposals for the Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk wind farms to local stakeholders and seek feedback over the course of the next year. When safe to do so, and in line with Government guidance, we will also hold more traditional face-to-face engagement, such as public exhibitions.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to fill out the survey. Your opinions and suggestions are extremely valuable to us.

We look forward to continuing the discussion with you over the coming months and years.

**Matt Bacon and Carol Kane**

## 2. About the respondents to our online survey

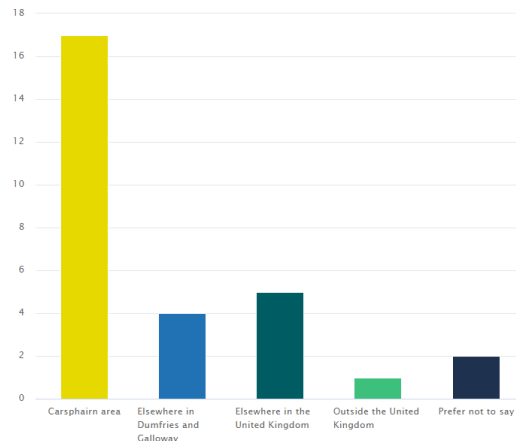
### 2.1. Introduction

We received 29 individual responses to our Quantans Hill survey and 18 individual responses to our Whiteneuk survey, with technical steps taken to prevent multiple answers being submitted by the same respondent. Of the 69 people responding, 56 went on to complete every question.

We are pleased with this level of feedback for an initial questionnaire, which further builds on our understanding of public attitudes gleaned in the summer of 2020. However, as before, it is clearly a small sample size so in the future we hope to get more responses from a broader cross-section of society, including a more balanced age demographic, more local residents, but also more local businesses and people further afield, such as potential visitors to the region.

We wanted to understand our respondents: what age they were; whether they lived locally; and in what capacity they were responding. We asked these questions to try and understand how our survey was being picked up and whether certain types of respondent were over- or under-represented and what that might mean for how we approach future surveys.

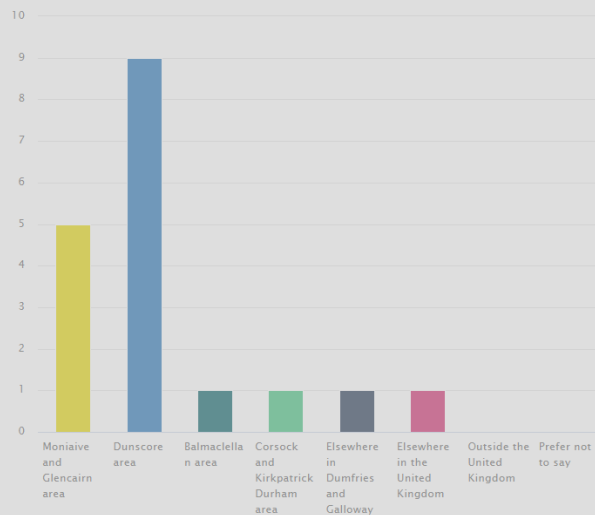
### 2.2. Quantans Hill - where did respondents live?



73% of respondents told us they lived in Dumfries and Galloway. This includes 59% of total respondents who lived in the Carsphairn area. 17% of respondents were from elsewhere in the UK, 7% preferred not to say, and 3% were from abroad.

We are pleased the survey reached people locally, noting a particularly good response rate for Carsphairn given its population of around 115, and in the broader region. We want to continue to receive even more views from people living near to the proposed wind farm but would also like to increase participation from those elsewhere in the country, for example people who might visit as tourists, have an interest in the area's culture and heritage, or business representatives who might provide services for the wind farm.

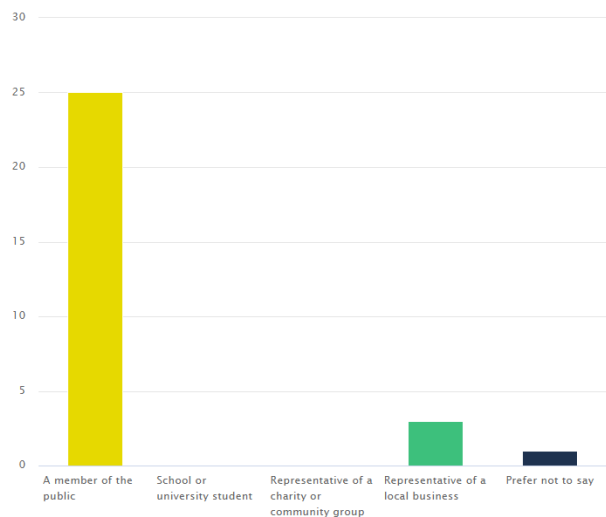
### 2.3. Whiteneuk – where did respondents live?



94% of the respondents told us they lived in Dumfries and Galloway and most of these lived in the communities closest to the proposed development, particularly Dunscore. There was only 1 respondent from outside Dumfries and Galloway.

We are very pleased the online survey was picked up locally, albeit in small numbers, but, as above, we would like to engage even more with those from outside the area who might choose to travel here for work or leisure.

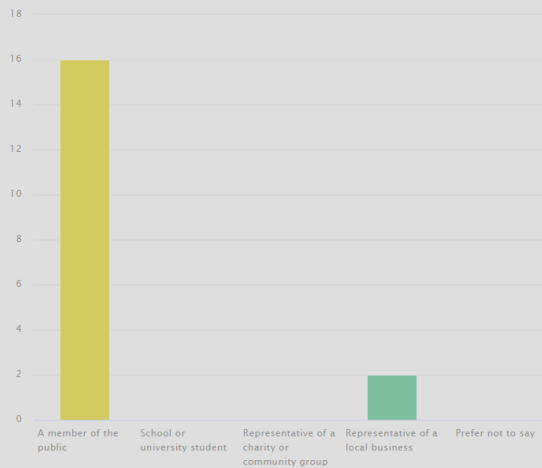
### 2.4. Quantans Hill – in what capacity are you responding to this questionnaire?



86% of respondents identified as members of the public and 10% said they worked in a local business. The business community is a key demographic for us given the economic opportunities available so we are pleased to see them engaging with the survey.

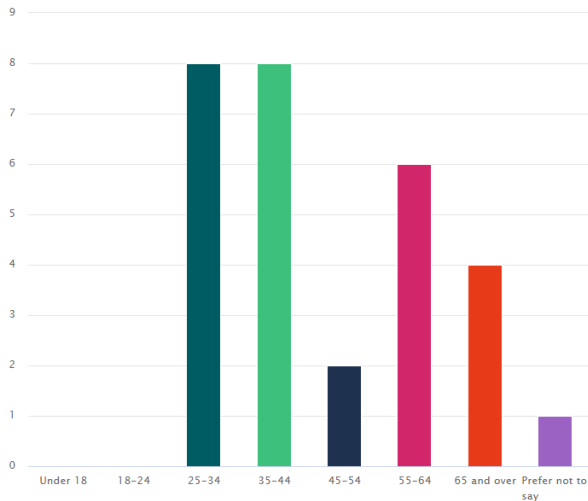
It was disappointing that no students or local interest groups responded to the survey. Our attempts to engage with local schools and colleges were frustrated by the Covid-19 pandemic, which meant that many students had an unusual and disrupted year learning remotely and without the structure of a school routine. We will also try other avenues to engage with community groups in our next round of consultation.

## 2.5. Whiteneuk – in what capacity are you responding to this questionnaire?



The Whiteneuk survey followed a similar pattern to Quantans Hill, with 89% saying they were members of the public and 11% saying they represented a local business.

## 2.6. Quantans Hill - age demographics

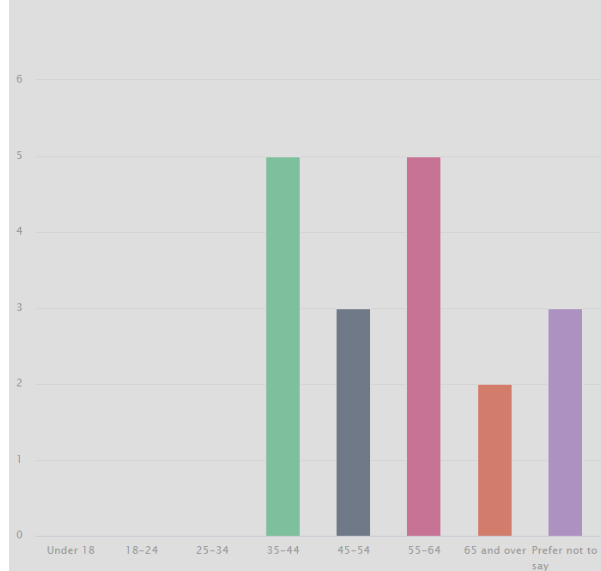


Similar to previous engagement, respondents tended to be older although this time round we had greater engagement from those aged 25-44.

We remain disappointed that the views of younger people are not coming through in our survey, although this may be symptomatic of demographics in the area as well as the disrupted school year.

We will endeavour to do more to engage with younger members of the community and hope the return of post-pandemic schooling will assist with this. As we said last time, this is particularly important as it is the younger generations who will be most exposed to the positive and negative aspects of a wind farm development and the long-term impacts of climate change, so have an important voice in the debate which needs to be heard.

## 2.7. Whiteneuk - age demographics

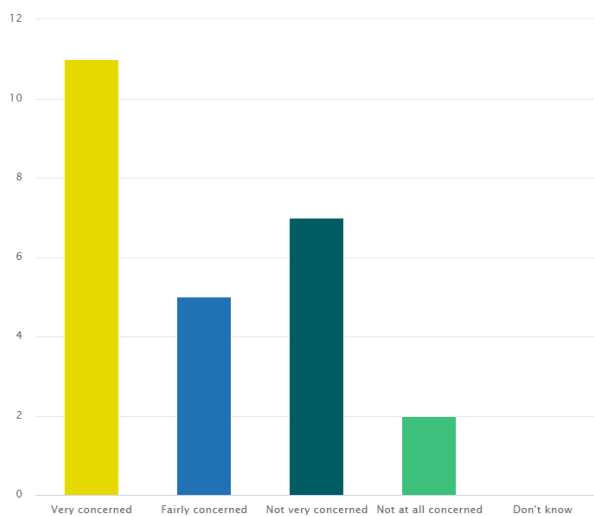


As with Quantans Hill, the respondents were generally older individuals, but without the positive response rate from the 25-34 age bracket.

### 3. Views on energy and climate change

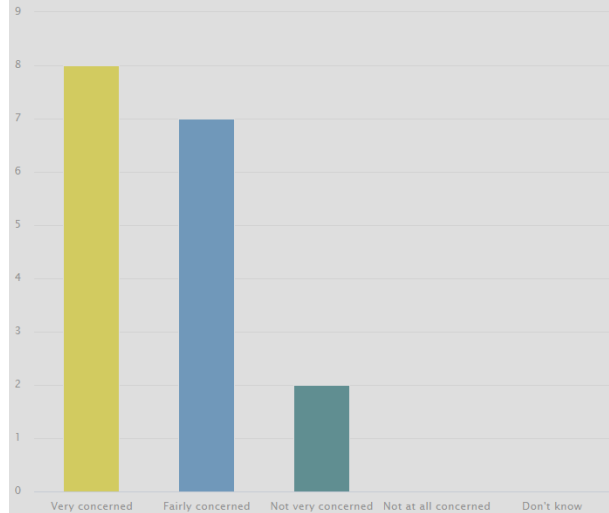
Before we asked questions about wind farms in the region, we wanted to understand general attitudes to climate change and energy to see if there was a difference between general positions as opposed to more localised issues.

#### 3.1. Quantans Hill – concern about climate change



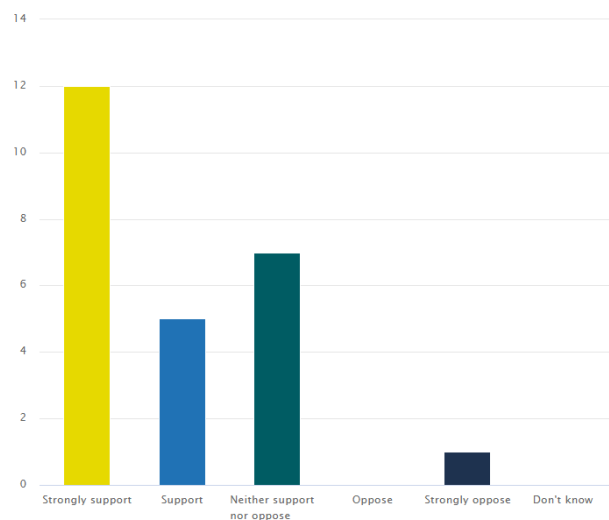
64% of respondents stated that they were not concerned about climate change. Interestingly, this is fewer than the 80% who stated their concern in the previous survey and lower than polling on similar questions tends to find.

#### 3.2. Whiteneuk - concern about climate change



As with our summer survey, it is clear respondents are worried about climate change (88%) and with no responses stating lack of concern at all. This is an even higher proportion than national polling tends to find.

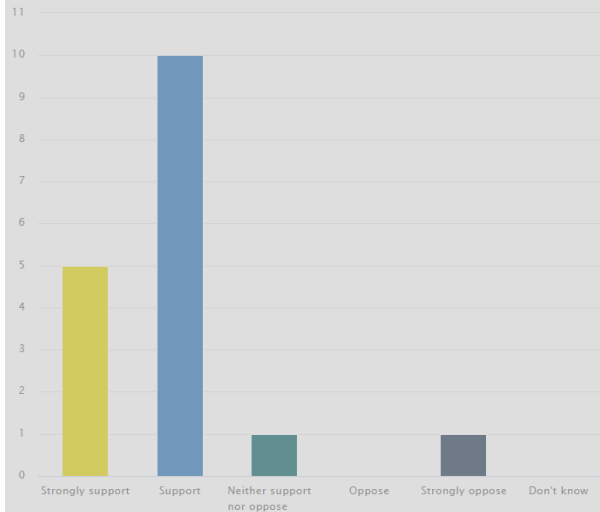
#### 3.3. Quantans Hill - attitudes towards renewables



68% of respondents this time were in support of renewables, which is slightly less than the 75% reporting last time.

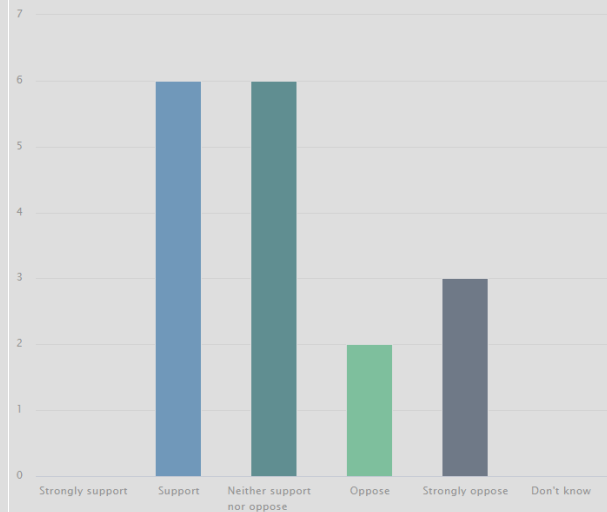


### 3.4. Whiteneuk – attitudes towards renewables



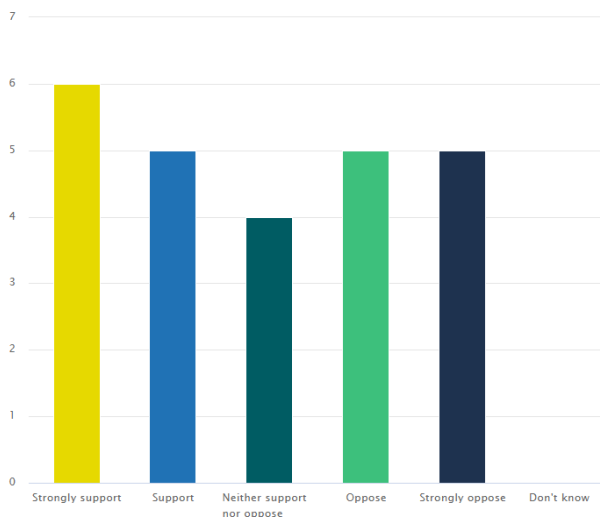
With Whiteneuk, respondents' views on renewables were very similar to the previous survey, with 88% supporting the transition to renewable energy.

### 3.6. Whiteneuk – attitudes towards onshore wind



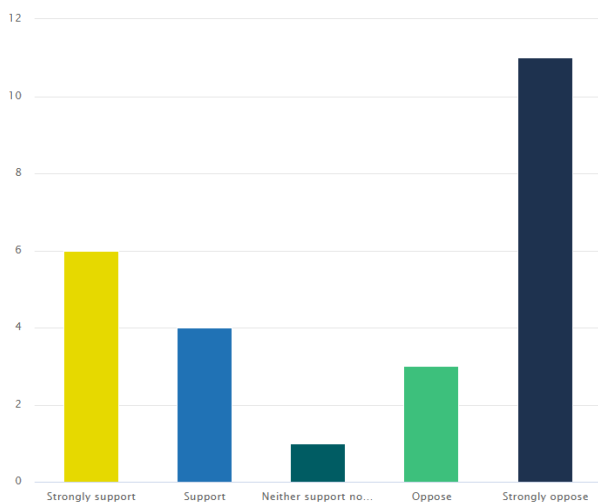
Interestingly, Whiteneuk was less supportive of onshore wind than respondents to the Quantans survey, with no responses strongly supporting compared to 18% strongly opposing. Those in support or indifferent, however, made up 70% of responses.

### 3.5. Quantans Hill – attitudes towards onshore wind



Responses to a question on onshore wind in general, leaving aside Quantans Hill, were very mixed with strong feelings each side. There was a small majority (44%) in favour of onshore wind with 16% neither supporting nor opposing.

### 3.7. Quantans Hill – support for the proposed development



A small majority of respondents (56%) were opposed to the development of Quantans Hill wind farm and, as the graph shows, there were strong feelings against. A large minority (40%) were supportive of the development.

We invited respondents to tell us why they had responded as they had to this question and received 20 helpful answers. A number of themes emerged from those supporting the development:

- Concern about climate change and a desire to support efforts to avert this;
- Positive economic benefits to the local area associated with the wind farm's construction and operation; and
- Wind farms represent an opportunity for farmers to diversify their businesses whilst continuing to carry out traditional activities (with a particular focus on the changing nature of the rural economy).

A selection of typical supportive comments follows:

"Global warming is an issue for future generations and an issue with have to act on now. The land is less favourable area in terms of farming, only really suitable to hill sheep, an industry with an uncertain future due to Brexit and eating habits of the nation, and therefore to secure future for next generation diversification needs to be considered." – Anon.

"Given the climate emergency I think we need to be moving towards renewable energy [sic] sources. I also feel that projects such as this provide jobs for the wider economy and businesses close to the projects." – Anon.

Where respondents expressed opposition to the development of Quantans Hill, the typical themes included:

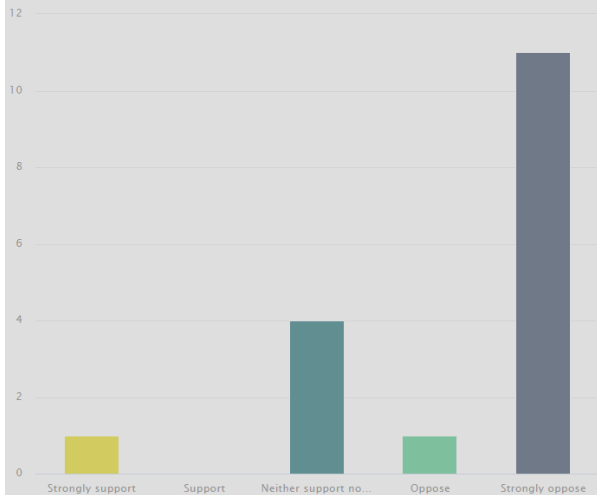
- A perception that there were too many wind farms already in Dumfries and Galloway;
- Concern about the proximity to the village of Carsphairn (with some elaborating and mentioning concerns around noise, disruption to views, property prices, and construction-related disruption to local residents); and
- The sense that the development was too big for the area, either in terms of the number of turbines or their height (or both).

A selection of typical comments expressing opposition follows:

"There are already too many windfarms approved in the area and any more will be detrimental to all aspects of the community." – Anon.

"This will disrupt the views we have in our village and we have had our human rights for a peaceful existence massively compromised by windfarms already and enough is enough. Put them on your doorstep and leave our village alone!" – Anon.

### 3.8. Whiteneuk – support for the proposed development



“There are enough on shore [sic] wind farms now in Scotland on suitable sites. The future is offshore wind and other technologies. Attempts are now being made by Vattenfall and others to pursue and profit from sites that are too sensitive, such as this one. A balance needs to be struck between renewable energy and the decimation of high quality landscapes.” – Anon.

71% of respondents said they opposed the development of Whiteneuk wind farm, the majority strongly so.

The main themes from those responding included:

- Concerns about the visual impact particularly a perception that there were already ‘enough’ or ‘too many’ wind farms in the area as well as some specific comments raising the grid infrastructure required to export the energy;
- Concerns around noise;
- Concerns around the ‘carbon balance’ of the project and impacts on local flora and fauna.

A selection of typical comments follows:

“There are far too many wind farm applications for this area. It feels like every hill is up for grabs. The size of the turbines being proposed is ludicrous and the capacity of the battery storage is laughable. It’s about your greed cloaked in the very fashionable guise of ‘green’.” – Anon.

### 3.9. Quantans Hill – use of taller turbines

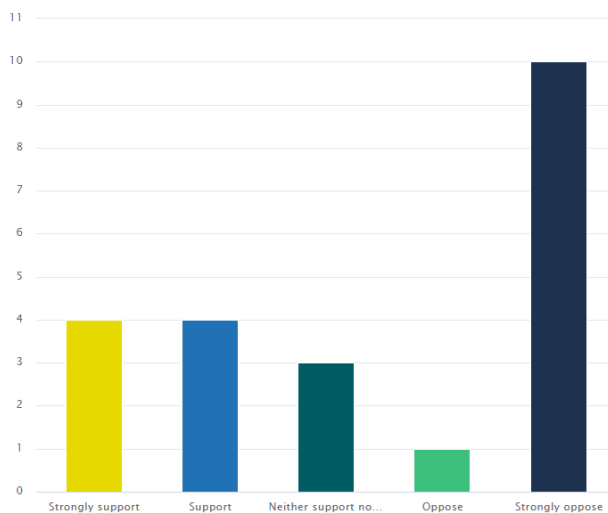
Technological development in the onshore wind sector has brought forward larger turbine blades and taller towers. There can be benefits to this, such as decreasing the number of turbines needed to produce renewable electricity, decreasing the cost of energy, and lowering some environmental impacts. However, in other areas, taller turbines can increase environmental impacts, such as landscape and visual impacts.

36% of those responding were in support, 14% undecided, and 50% in opposition.

A sample of responses is included below:

"The outputs of the turbines should be based in [sic] the need. If they require to be taller to better capture the renewable source then so be it." – Anon.

"The sight of these turbines makes me weep. We did not move to the country to have windmills bigger than skyscrapers looming over us!!! This is absolutely wrong!!!" – Anon.

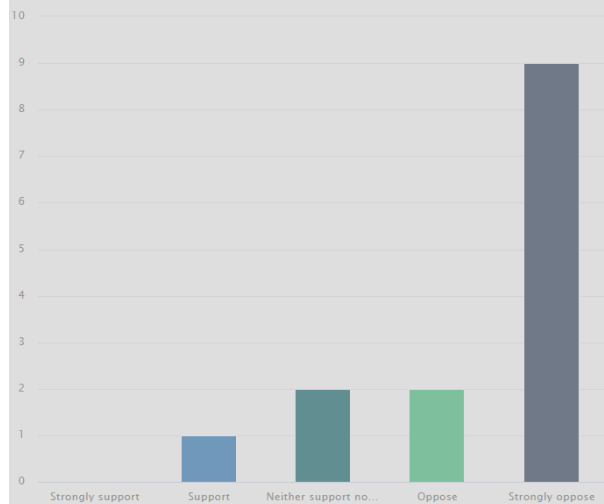


Of those responding, some went on to provide feedback. Commons themes included:

- Taller turbines are more efficient and this should be supported;
- No turbines, regardless of size, should be erected at Quantans Hill;
- If turbines are to be installed they should be small and directly linked to local residents;
- A perception that an increase in height would lead to a proportionate increase in any disbenefits.
- Comparisons of the proposed turbine size to famous landmarks or buildings.

### 3.10. Whiteneuk – use of taller turbines

The same question at the Whiteneuk development showed much less support for taller turbine technology.



78% of respondents were opposed to taller technology, 7% in support and 14% were undecided.

Two example comments in response to this question are included below:

"As described above, if taller machines are more efficient then less machines are needed so less ground disturbance, less wildlife disturbed.." – Anon.

"Detrimental to the local landscape visually and a danger to birds." – Anon.

## 4. Environmental impact assessment and site design

For both projects we asked a series of questions about key topics assessed in the environmental impact assessment. Alongside environmental surveys, stakeholder views are very important in our site design considerations. We asked questions about:

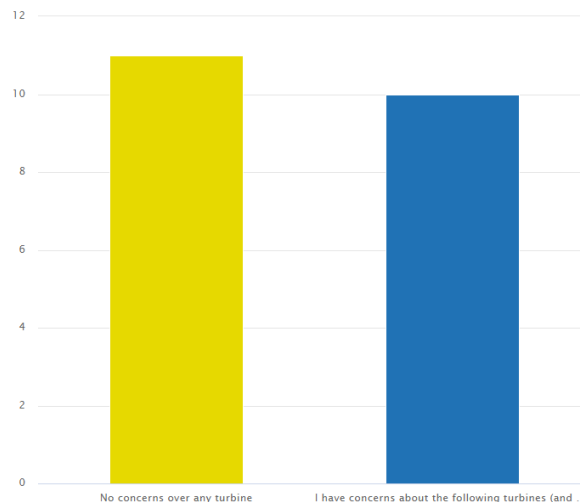
- Turbine location
- Landscape and visual impact
- Ecology and wildlife
- Archaeological and heritage
- Transport
- Noise and shadow flicker
- Tourism

### 4.1. Concerns around particular turbines

We asked stakeholders whether the locations of specific turbines were causing concern. We were particularly keen to seek feedback on turbine positions as, in our experience, feedback both positive and negative can focus on the scheme overall and this can risk leaving out 'actionable' feedback which might improve our site design.

#### 4.1.1. Quantans Hill

At Quantans Hill, just over half of respondents did not have any particular concerns over individual turbine locations.



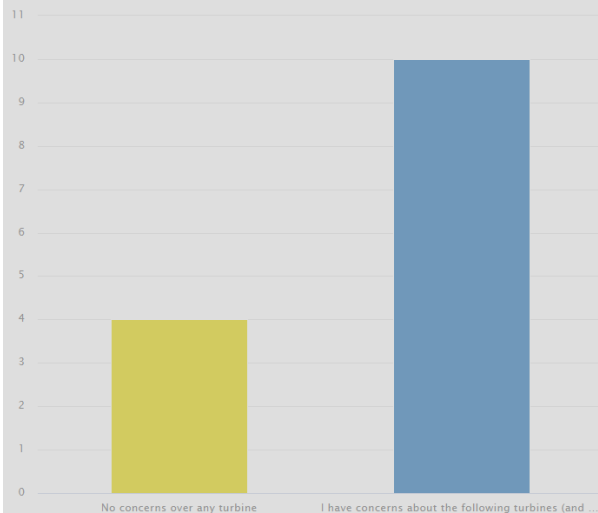
Where feedback was provided, most respondents reiterated their opposition to any turbines at all. A small amount of specific comment on locations included concerns around the turbines in the south of the proposed scheme, citing increasing proximity to dwellings, whilst one respondent highlighted concerns over turbines at the foot of the Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and another highlighted turbines in front of the higher ground of Benniner. Whilst not explicit, we assume both locations were focussed on for landscape reasons.

We will reflect on this feedback in our next iteration of site design for Quantans Hill and explain how we have, or have not, been able to incorporate it.



#### 4.1.2. Whiteneuk

At Whiteneuk, 29% of respondents had no concerns over particular turbines whilst 71% reported that they had concerns over specific turbines.



As with Quantans Hill, some feedback here was specific to the scheme overall rather than individual turbines. A particular cluster did stand out for a number of respondents, which included turbines 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 21, 22, 24, and 28. There were a number of reasons given which could be summarised as:

- Proximity to dwellings along the A702;
- Views from Moniaive; and
- Density of turbines around Loch Urr.

We will reflect on this feedback in our next iteration of site design for Quantans Hill and explain how we have, or have not, been able to incorporate it.

## 4.2. Wildlife and ecological issues and habitat restoration

We asked respondents if they had any particular ecological concerns or topics they would like to understand further as well as any priorities for the wind farm to improve on the existing environmental baseline.

#### 4.2.1. Quantans Hill

Some specific areas for us to address included:

- A desire to see the wind farm support more native tree planting as a counter-balance to other proposals for non-native forestry;
- Concerns around hydrology, particularly water pollution or increased risk of flooding;
- A desire to limit the impact on peat, particularly deep peat areas;
- Concerns around the impact of sensitive species, with waders and raptors mentioned.

Wind farm planning applications usually contain a proposed 'habitat management plan' for the site. These plans aim to offset any residual impacts on the local environment associated with the wind farm's construction or operation. They are also an opportunity to potentially increase biodiversity on the site compared to the baseline should the wind farm not happen. We sought views on what habitat measures local people might value and were told:

- Native tree planting (particularly Scots pine and birch); and
- Improving the ecological condition of rivers, wetlands, and grasslands.

#### 4.2.2. Whiteneuk

The response rate to this question for Whiteneuk was minimal. Particularly topics which were mentioned included:

- An assessment of the carbon impact of the development;
- Opportunities for native tree planting;
- Hydrological impacts, particularly flood risk; and
- Impacts on peat, particularly preventing peat slides.

No constructive input was provided with regards to habitat creation suggestions for the Whiteneuk project.

For both projects we will ensure that these, and other, ecological issues are taken into account when designing the wind farm. We will also ensure the Environmental Impact Assessment Report which will form the main part of our planning application will describe how our effects on local flora and fauna have been minimised and how the development may contribute to biodiversity through an associated habitat management plan.

## 4.3. Archaeology and cultural heritage features

We asked respondents if they were aware of any particular archaeological or heritage features we should be aware of in our site design.

### 4.3.1. Quantans Hill

A limited number of answers came back highlighting:

- Medieval rig and furrows;
- The curling pond in Carsphairn village (not within the redline boundary of the wind farm); and
- The Green Well of Scotland (not within the redline boundary of the wind farm).

A number of local heritage organisations were recommended to us for further consultation, including Carsphairn Heritage Group and the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership.

Lastly, we asked whether there was anything we could do through the wind farm's development to further enhancement understanding and enjoyment of the area's rich historical and cultural inheritance. The only substantive response provided noted that any measures to improve public access to the site would be welcomed.

### 4.3.2. Whiteneuk

No respondents answered this question and no local heritage groups were suggested to us. Furthermore, no suggestions were made as to how the wind farm could further enhance public knowledge or enjoyment of the area's heritage.

Our environmental impact assessment report will include an assessment of both direct and indirect effects on heritage assets onsite and in the broader region. We will seek to engage with relevant local interest groups highlighted to us.

## 4.4. Traffic and transport

We asked for views about the impact of wind farm construction traffic may have on the local road network.

### 4.4.1. Quantans Hill

The main issues that correspondents flagged to us were:

- Impacts on local roads, some of which are narrow;
- Concerns around mud or debris on roads coming from construction traffic;
- HGVs moving through the village of Carsphairn, which is narrow and largely faces onto the road on either side.

### 4.4.2. Whiteneuk

The main issues raised by those responding to the Whiteneuk questionnaire were:

- The narrow/winding nature of some local roads and concerns that wind farm traffic would have a detrimental impact on these roads (with some noting that the existing road condition was already poor).

## 4.5. Noise and shadow flicker

Wind farm noise and shadow flicker can largely be 'designed out' of wind farm schemes with some limited residual effects deemed to be insignificant in environmental terms. Nevertheless, we wanted to understand and seek feedback from local people about their concerns about these topics.

### 4.5.1. Quantans Hill

Respondents generally expressed concerns on these topics and a desire to see these issues robustly assessed.

### 4.5.2. Whiteneuk

As with Quantans Hill, there was a level of concern over the effect of noise and shadow flicker on local people. One respondent mentioned the audible noise already experienced at their property coming from the operational Blackcraig wind farm.

Shadow flicker and noise impacts will be assessed on individual properties in the area which are likely to experience effects and we will include the findings within the environmental impact assessment report.

## 4.6. Tourism and recreation

We were interested to know if local people had any ideas about how the wind farm developments could directly or indirectly contribute to improved recreation or tourism experiences locally.

### 4.6.1. Quantans Hill

Some respondents suggested that the development may deter visitors. Other common themes include increasing access for hiking, both onsite and in the broader region.

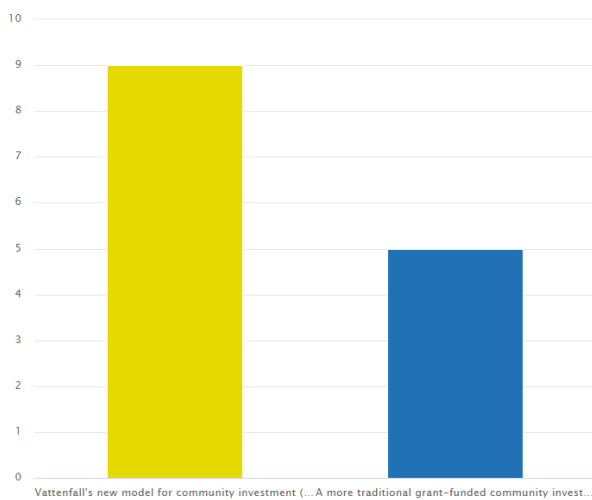
### 4.6.2. Whiteneuk

Responses here rejected independent analyses that found no statistical link between the presence of wind farms and tourist numbers. No suggestions were provided about what the development could do to improve recreation or tourism.

## 5. Community investment

Vattenfall has been exploring with local communities whether there is any interest in restructuring the community investment scheme which will accompany both wind farms so that a proportion of the funding may be reserved for 'strategic projects' selected by the community. If there is not community appetite for this alternative, Vattenfall would bring forward the 'traditional' grant-funded model of community benefits. This will be consulted on separately in more detail in due course.

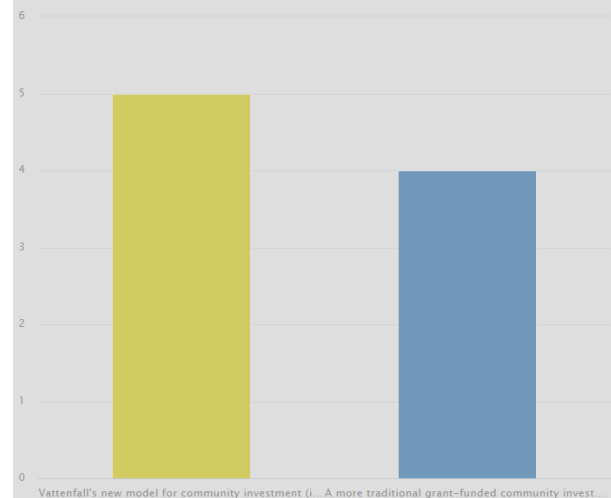
### 5.1.1. Quantans



At Quantans Hill, 64% of respondents preferred Vattenfall's new proposed model, whilst 36% preferred a more traditional approach.

Where specific justification was offered in the comments box, it was generally to note that seeing benefits accrue sooner to local residents was felt to be beneficial. Others noted that traditional models tend to benefit the same sorts of groups, so a more strategic investment may benefit individuals not currently accessing existing benefit funds.

### 5.1.2. Whiteneuk



At Whiteneuk, 56% of respondents preferred the new proposed model whilst 44% preferred to retain the existing 'industry standard' approach.

Where comment was offered people noted their interest in energy efficiency, nature preservation, broadband, and affordable/social housing. One respondent noted that a traditional grant-funded approach would support a larger number of projects over a much longer period and that this may produce better results for the community.

## 6. Supply chain and local businesses

Local businesses, often SMEs, are already a key part of a wind farm development's 'ecosystem'. Vattenfall wants to ensure that we maximise the use of local supply chains at both projects so we asked respondents to note relevant local businesses and how we should best engage with the supply chain.

### 6.1.1. Quantans

Respondents mentioned the Carsphairn Tea Room, which could supply catering services to the development, as well as the village hall, which could host meetings and events.

### 6.1.2. Whiteneuk

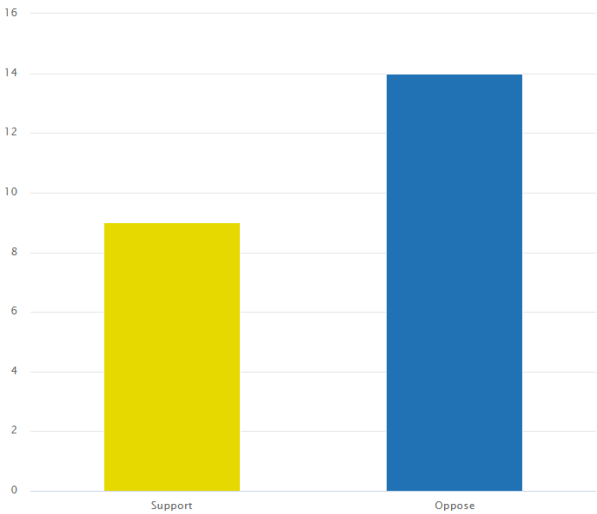
One local supplier identified themselves through this feedback form and, as a result, was able to provide a service to Vattenfall's under-construction South Kyle wind farm.

With regards to engaging with local suppliers, respondents mentioned the Glenkens Gazette, Dumfries and Galloway What's Going On website, the local Chambers of Commerce, and local social media. Vattenfall has, and continues to use, all of these channels to engage locally.

# 7. Battery storage

Both developments are likely to include integrated battery storage in their planning applications, with typical uses including providing ‘frequency response’ services to the electricity grid or to store excess renewable energy for delivery at times of higher demand.

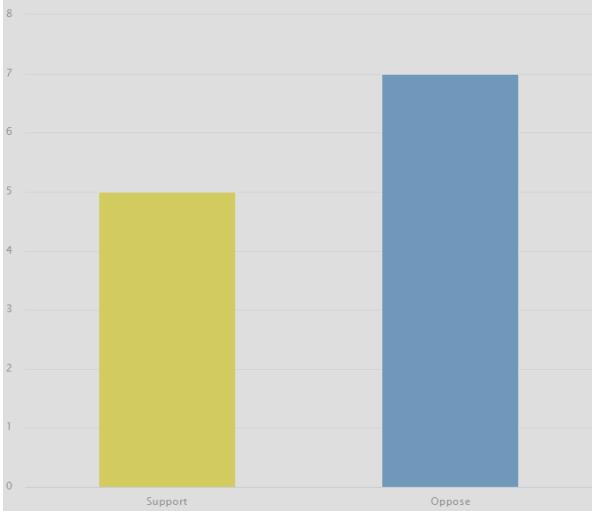
## 7.1.1. Quantans Hill



For Quantans Hill, 39% supported the development of battery storage and 61% opposed it,

Where comments were offered, those in support generally deemed it to be ‘sensible’. Those opposing cited concerns over the visual impact of associated infrastructure and one response raised concerns over the environmental sustainability of batteries.

## 7.1.2. Whiteneuk



At Whiteneuk, 42% supported the development of a co-located battery storage scheme and 58% opposed it.

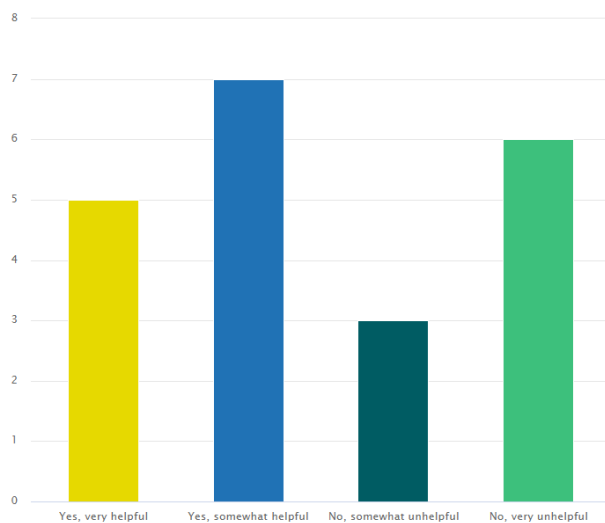
Where responses were offered here, there was some scepticism expressed about the efficacy of battery storage in the context of the overall power system.



## 8. Communications and engagement

Vattenfall wants to ensure that our approach to engaging the community is the best it can possibly be, particularly within the context of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. We asked whether the information provided in our 'virtual public exhibition' was useful and what other ways we could engage with the community to ensure they are effectively consulted.

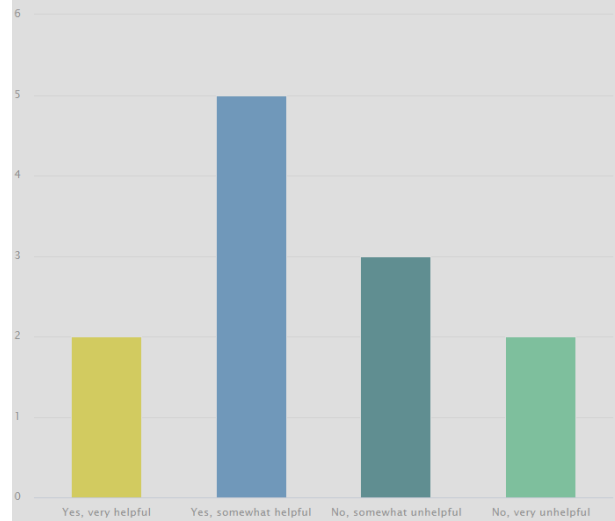
### 8.1.1. Quantans Hill



57% of respondents found our virtual public exhibition either 'very' or 'somewhat helpful' with 43% finding it 'somewhat' or 'very unhelpful'.

A few respondents noted technical difficulties in using the virtual exhibition, potentially linked to particular types of browser, and concern was raised that some residents in Carsphairn may not be comfortable with using online resources.

### 8.1.2. Whiteneuk



At Whiteneuk, 59% of respondents found the virtual exhibition 'very' or 'somewhat helpful' and 42% found it 'somewhat' or 'very unhelpful'.

"You are lacking in any understanding of the environment you are destroying and the local community's needs. This proposal isn't driven by any 'green' idea, its driven by total greed. please respond'." – Anon.

Feedback requests included inclusion of the infrastructure required to export the electricity to the grid. This will be a topic for consideration in a separate planning application in due course by Scottish Power Energy Networks and we do not currently have design specifications for the pylon route to show.

## 9. Postal questionnaire

Vattenfall is aware that broadband availability in the area can be problematic and some users are not comfortable using the internet. For this reason we also sent a postal newsletter to more than 1,000 properties close to both Whiteneuk and Quantans Hill wind farms (i.e. within approximately 5km of the proposed development). Contained within that newsletter was a short paper questionnaire in December 2020.

Of the 1,000 questionnaires sent out, we had received 24 return copies by April 2021. Interestingly, 17 respondents had also visited one or other of the project's online virtual public exhibitions (71%).

Of these, 19 responses provided feedback aimed at both developments (79%) and five were responding explicitly to Whiteneuk (21%). No responses were specifically about the Quantans Hill development.

21 respondents said they were 'strongly opposed' to either developments of Whiteneuk specifically (88%) whilst 3 respondents noted 'strong support' for the development (12%), two for Whiteneuk and one for both projects.

We asked for general feedback, questions, or suggestions on both developments. A common theme included concerns over the cumulative effects of wind farm development in the area and a concern over landscape impacts. A selection of illustrative comments is included below:

"You may consult the people of Dumfries and Galloway as you are duty-bound to do so but will you listen. These proposed turbines tower over the landscape. Yes we need green energy but 250m tall no more please..." – Anon.

"I suggest that you stay in Sweden. If you want to wreck landscapes, wreck it there.." – Anon.

We also asked separately if respondents could explain why they either 'opposed' or 'supported' the developments. Similar themes were repeated in this comment box, commonly:

- Concerns around impact on local wildlife;
- Concern around the landscape impact;

- Concern about the cumulative effects of Whiteneuk alongside other operational or proposed wind farms (including landscape, tourism, or land use management); and
- Support for renewable energy in general, any associated jobs, community benefits, and use of local businesses.

Some representative comments are included below:

"I am extremely concerned with the proximity of wind turbines to the village. Also the damage to the ecosystem and landscape. Lastly, we are surrounded by wind farms and area is being made industrial!" – Anon.

"Green energy, jobs, money for our village.." – Anon.

## 10. Conclusions and next steps

We would like to thank all of those who took the time to respond online or by post and we very much appreciate the feedback. As with the survey we conducted online in the summer of 2020, we acknowledge that the sample size was small and not demographically representative and respondents to these kinds of surveys tend to hold the strongest views which may not represent broader public opinion. We will continue to work hard to increase stakeholder participation in consultation and responses to develop a fully rounded and balanced picture.

Nonetheless, the views expressed on both schemes fed into a concurrent redesign of both schemes which took place in the spring of 2021. In particular, we acknowledge the feedback around the scale of Quantans Hill and Whiteneuk, both in terms of turbine number and size. We will announce another iteration of the design in the summer of 2021 and will explain how stakeholder views and environmental information have shaped our approach.

There are a range of valid and legitimate concerns around, for instance, local wildlife, noise, and construction impacts. We believe most of these have been acceptably mitigated through sensitive scheme design. The detailed Environmental Impact Assessment Report and accompanying Non-Technical Summary which will be submitted to Scottish Ministers will explain how any residual environmental effects

We will continue to work with the communities concerned and other interested stakeholders over the course of the next year until we submit our planning application, which we anticipate will be in the last quarter of 2021.

There will be a raft of public engagement coming this autumn and winter, including:

- g. A virtual public exhibition space;
- h. Webinars with the team;
- i. Meetings with community councils and other groups;
- j. Project newsletters;
- k. Further surveys and questionnaires; and
- l. Subject to Covid restrictions, face-to-face engagement and at least one public exhibition.

In the meantime, Matthew Bacon (Senior Project Manager) and Carol Kane (Regional Liaison Officer) welcome the opportunity to speak to you. They can be reached at:

Email: [Whiteneuk.windfarm@vattenfall.com](mailto:Whiteneuk.windfarm@vattenfall.com) or [QuantansHill.windfarm@vattenfall.com](mailto:QuantansHill.windfarm@vattenfall.com)

Matt : 07817 018 310

Carol : 01563 595044



# **APPENDIX X: CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **Summary of contact**

Confidentiality class: C1 – Public



**VATTENFALL**



DATE (from)	EMAILS CORRESPONDENCE AND INTERACTION WITH CARSPHAIRN CC AND MEMBERS
10/02/2020	introductory email
26/06/2020	scoping announcement
03/12/2020	launch of online exhibition, inviting participation in feedback survey, updating re print newsletters and inviting questions
11/12/2020	updates on activity at South Kyle
09/03/2021	request for online meeting (following CC members attendance at online meeting for South Kyle.) and following ups confirmng arrangements
18/03/2021	online meeting discussing proposals for Quantans Hill
19/03/2021	follow up meeting with slides, links etc
19/03/2021	follow up question from CC member re grid connection and iniital response
07/04/2021	further response to question from CC member re grid connection
14/05/2021	introducing supplier stories campaign and video
15/05/2021	Confirmation from CC they have shared it wth their contact list
05/07/2021	informing CC of update to proposals, signposting to updated exhibition, explananatory video anination, requesting online meeting and feedback, and offering printable/emailable copies of updated exhibition materials
12/08/2021	informing CC of forthcoming public online event, including links to book and request to share receipt of email from CC confirming details of Community Update online event had been shared to their contact list
20/08/2021	list
26/08/2021	reminder email re online event with joining instructions
27/09/2021	update re community benefits consultation, sharing of Community Development Strategy interim report and feedback survey, asking to participate and share
25/11/2021	update emailed to community council confirming design finalised and that expect to submit to planning in winter and offer of zoom call. CCC secretary replied confirming she would share update with the CCC mailing list
08/12/2021	email received from Chair suggesting late Jan for meeting to on Quantans Hill
16/12/2021	update forwarded to community council member on request



# APPENDIX X: LINKS

**Project webpage**

[www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshill](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshill)

**Design update video**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0M\\_KCOXxOoo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0M_KCOXxOoo)

**Community development strategy report**

<https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/contentassets/fbd8493cb0fd46a29e7235576c445b2a/quantans-hill-cds-final-draft-for-issue-16.11.21.pdf>

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The Greenhouse  
Forrest Estate, Dalry  
Castle Douglas  
DG7 3XS  
Scotland

[www.naturalpower.com](http://www.naturalpower.com)

