

Longmuir Renewable Energy and Biodiversity Enhancement Project

Galileo Empower is pleased to present its plans for the proposed Longmuir Renewable Energy and Biodiversity Enhancement Project.

This is our first round of consultation events and gives you the chance to view our current plans for the site, meet the project team, and provide feedback for us to consider as we develop the project proposals. This feedback will be used to inform our plans so we would be very grateful if you could complete a feedback form after you have reviewed the information on the boards.

Please take as much time as you need to review the information presented. Members of the project team are on hand to provide you with answers to any questions or to discuss any comments on the Project.

Leave your Feedback

We would very much value your feedback as we seek to review and refine our plans, and would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to share your views and any comments on our proposals by completing a feedback form before you leave the exhibition.

Alternatively, you can return these to:



Longmuir Renewable Energy & Biodiversity Enhancement Project
Galileo Empower UK
7-9 North St David Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1AW



or provide us with comments via the form on the project website longmuirenergy.co.uk



Deadline for feedback
Friday 25 April 2025

Keeping in Touch

If you have any questions, want more information on our plans or would like to meet with us to discuss the Project in more detail, please get in touch at any time by



longmuirenergy@galileoempower.uk

All information displayed today will be uploaded to the project website for viewing.



Thank you for taking the time to visit today's event.

About Galileo Empower UK



Established in 2020, Galileo is a fast-growing renewable energy developer, owner and operator with a mission to play a significant role in the realisation of global emission reduction targets. We aim to do this by developing enough smart, efficient, high-quality and integrated green energy projects such that renewable energy becomes the primary source of electricity for all energy consumers in Europe.

Galileo currently has a project development portfolio across many European countries, including the UK, Sweden, Ireland, Germany, and Finland. Our senior management team is made up of leading energy and investment experts that bring decades of international experience across more than thirty markets, and our funders are long-term institutional investors with a global footprint, international mindset and collaborative mentality.

Our Edinburgh-based project team includes specialists with some of the longest track-records in the renewables industry – with a proven ability to deliver sustainable projects for the long term, which provide clean green energy, economic benefit and significant benefits for local communities.



Ireland

+600MW pipeline in progress
Technology: onshore wind and solar PV

UK

2.5GW+ in progress
Technologies: solar PV, wind on & offshore, batteries

Sweden

2GW+ in progress
Technology: onshore wind & batteries

Germany

+600MW in progress
Technology: solar PV, solar I&C rooftops, wind onshore, batteries



Infratil is an owner and operator of businesses in the energy (mainly renewables), transport, data centres and social infrastructure sectors. Infratil is listed on both the New Zealand and Australian Stock Exchanges (IFT.NZ, IFZ.AX) and currently owns assets in excess of NZ\$6.5 billion.



Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation looks after superfunds designed specifically for Australian Government and Defence Force employees. Over A\$44 billion invested in high-quality private and public assets including wind farms, waste management infrastructure projects, and renewable energy initiatives that add to the net new supply of facilities.



The New Zealand Super Fund is a NZ\$45 billion sovereign wealth fund established by the New Zealand Government to partially pre-fund the future cost of universal pension payments. A long-term, growth-oriented investor, the Fund has returned 9.7% p.a. since inception in 2003. The Fund is managed by the Guardians of New Zealand Superannuation, a Crown entity.



The Morrison & Co Growth Infrastructure Fund ('MGIF') MGIF was established in 2018 to provide institutional and sophisticated investors with access to attractive risk-adjusted returns through investments in unlisted infrastructure assets. The primary focus of MGIF will be on growth infrastructure and investments utilising a sustainability approach.



**More information about
Galileo Empower is available at**
galileoempower.com



Climate Change and Policy Context



Galileo Empower was established to support the once in a lifetime global transition to low carbon renewable energy.

Longmuir Renewable Energy and Biodiversity Enhancement Project is set against the backdrop of the climate emergency, and the need to transition to renewable energy sources, whilst reducing greenhouse gas emissions globally from polluting fossil fuels.

The Project would contribute to local and national aspirations to reduce emissions and grow the renewable energy sector:



UK Government

UK Government

The UK Government has set a target to deliver a Clean Power system by 2030, through its Clean Power Action Plan. Decarbonising the grid, it recognises that electricity generated by renewables will form the backbone of this.

The British Energy Security Strategy (2022) builds on this commitment to reduce the UK's dependence on volatile fossil fuel markets by improving domestic energy production and make the UK more self-sufficient when it comes to the energy it uses.

"Working people will benefit from a new era of clean electricity, as the government today unveils the most ambitious reforms to the country's energy system in a generation, to make Britain energy secure, protect households from energy price spikes, reindustrialise the country with thousands of skilled jobs, and tackle the climate crisis."¹

Ed Miliband MP, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero



Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Scottish Government

In 2019 the Scottish Government adopted the ambitious target of net zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045.²

Ministers recently announced that they recognised that Scotland can no longer meet its 2030 climate change targets, following a critical report by the Climate Change Committee, stating that they would develop a new set of five-yearly carbon budgets with annual reporting on progress. One of the Climate Change Committee's.

"...the race to net zero is one that we must all win and I want to begin by affirming this Government's unwavering commitment to ending our contribution to global emissions by 2045 at the latest, as agreed by Parliament on a cross-party basis."³

Màiri McAllan, Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy

¹ Government sets out plan for new era of clean electricity - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-plan-for-new-era-of-clean-electricity>

² <https://www.gov.scot/policies/climate-change/reducing-emissions/>

³ Climate Change Committee Scotland report - next steps: Net Zero Secretary statement - 18 April 2024, accessible at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/climate-change-committee-scotland-report-next-steps/>

The Project Proposals

Site Location

The site is located on land approximately 4.5km north of the village of Stow in the Scottish Borders.

We believe this location has strong potential for a project that contributes meaningfully to Scotland's renewable energy and climate change targets, enhances local biodiversity, and delivers significant benefits to the community.

The Proposals



Wind

- Our current proposals are for 10 turbines with a maximum tip height of 200 metres
- The proposed wind generation will have an installed capacity of up to 72 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy generation



Battery Energy Storage Systems

- We intend to develop proposals for an on-site battery energy storage system (BESS) to maximise and regulate the electricity supply from the proposed wind turbines / and solar to the grid
- The BESS will store the excess energy that is produced during high winds or sunny days and then export that stored energy back to the grid when generation is low and energy is needed
- The exact design, capacity and location of the BESS is still under consideration, but it is likely to be co-located with the substation necessary to operate the wind farm and be situated along the main site access track, once identified
- BESS provide a vital 'balancing role', helping to ensure that the grid remains stable at all times



**BESS figure can be found on board six.*

It is anticipated that total generating capacity will exceed 120MW:

- This is the equivalent of powering around 70,000 homes a year.
- Additionally, offsetting some 104,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions a year, equivalent of taking 40,000 cars off the road.



Solar

- We are currently exploring the possibility of co-locating solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on site, these would be Solar PV Panel mounted on a frame
- The Solar PV Panels would be set in rows maximising the opportunity to collect light and generate renewable energy from the sun throughout the year
- The indicative 'Solar Search Areas' are shown on the scoping layout. It is anticipated that the capacity will be around 50MW



Grid Connection

The connection from Longmuir Renewable Energy and Biodiversity Enhancement Project to the National Grid will form a separate planning application by Scottish Power Transmission. It is anticipated that the project will connect into the national grid at the new Gala North substation.



Site Access

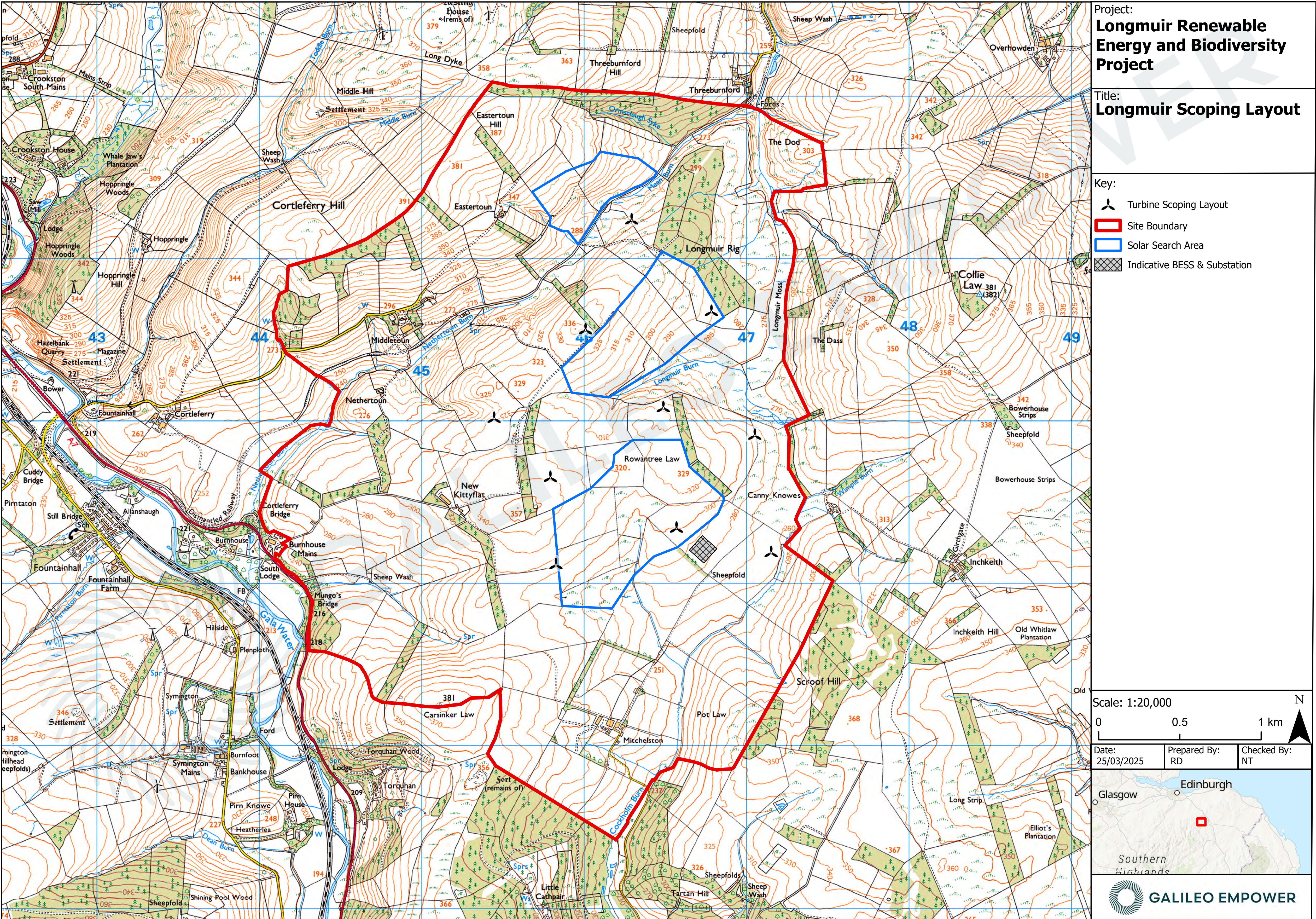
Access to the site will be included in the application. At this stage it is anticipated that the site will be accessed from the A7 south of Burnhouse.



Application for Consent

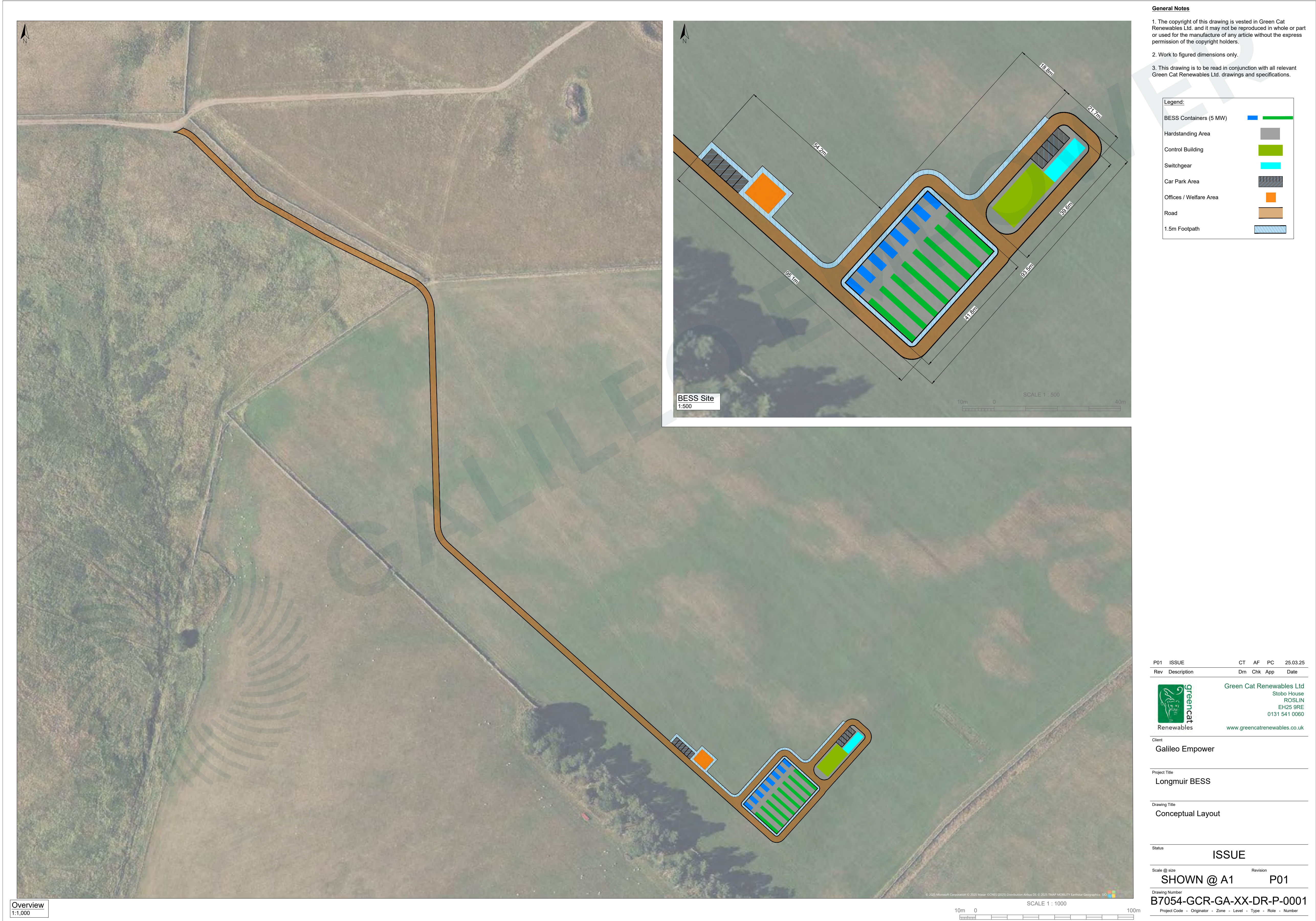
It is anticipated that the total generation capacity of the energy park will exceed 50 Megawatts (MW) and therefore an application for the Proposed Development will be made to the Scottish Ministers under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (the Applicant would also seek deemed planning permission under Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997). Scottish Borders Council would be consulted on the application, along with other statutory consultees, such as NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland.

Site Layout



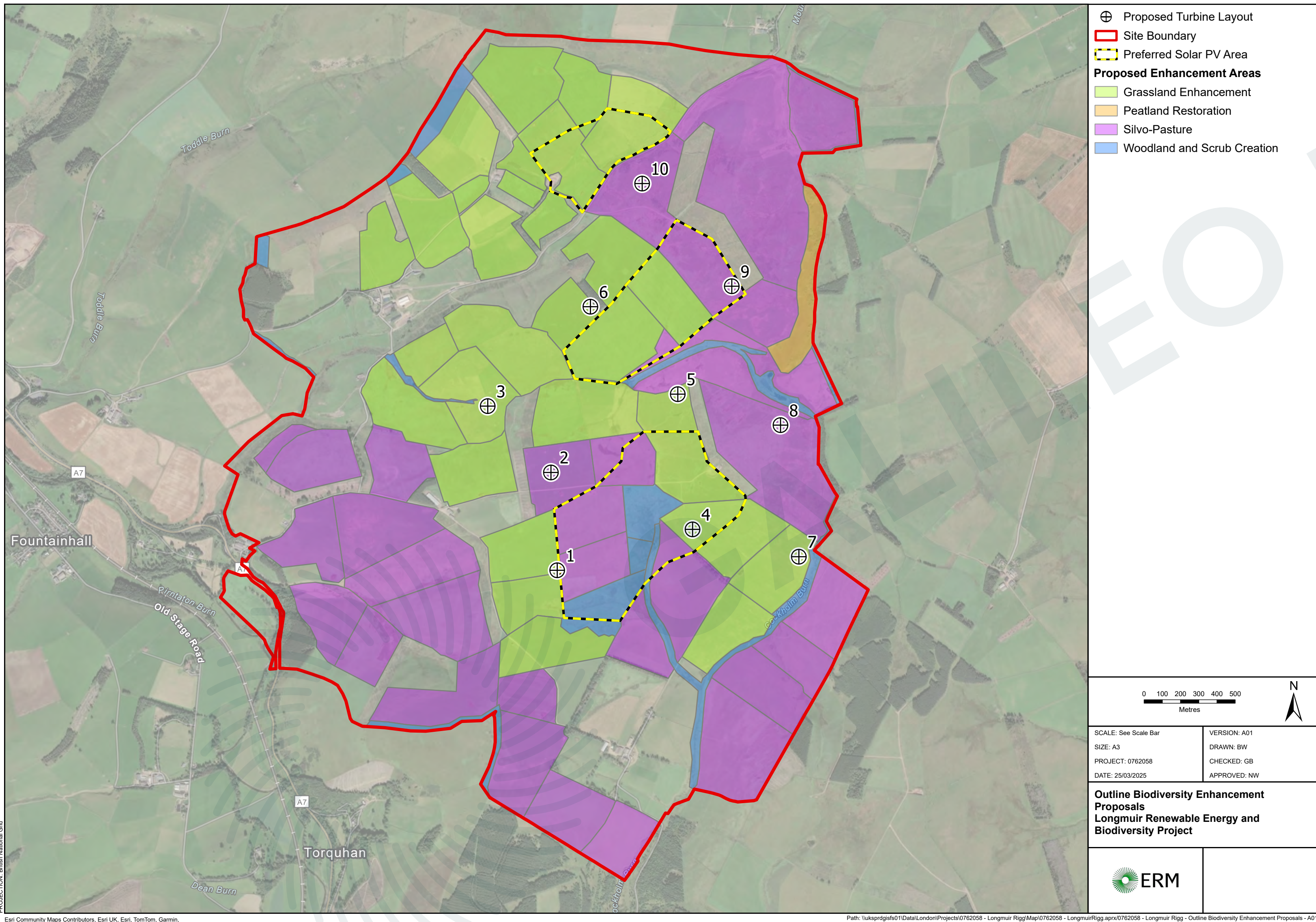
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Site Layout



Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

The project will include Biodiversity Enhancement Measures which will improve biodiversity across the project area while supporting sustainable land use. These proposals will be reviewed and refined as the project progresses and new environmental data is gathered.



Key Enhancement Measures:

Grassland Management and Enhancement

- Targeted areas within silage fields will be left uncut to allow plants to flower, boosting pollination.
- A more diverse mix of grasses will be sown to improve biodiversity.
- Grassland enhancement measures will help provide food and shelter for various species while enhancing soil health and structure.

Woodland and Scrub Creation

- **Field boundaries:** Planting a mix of native deciduous and conifer trees to enhance biodiversity and screen the development.
- **Rough grazing areas:** Introducing low-density tree and shrub planting to create diverse habitats.
- **Watercourse planting:** Planting native trees and shrubs along Longmuir Burn and Cockholm Burn to benefit wildlife (such as trout and otters) and reduce bank erosion, flooding and sedimentation.

Peatland Restoration

- Longmuir Moss, a degraded peat bog, will undergo restoration to improve biodiversity and carbon storage.
- Scrubs and trees will be removed to restore natural bog conditions.
- Hydrology improvements will help re-wet the area, enhancing its ecological value.

Silvopasture (Integrated Tree and Livestock Farming)

- Trees will be planted in grazing areas to support biodiversity while maintaining productive farmland.
- Tailored planting patterns (rows, clusters, field boundaries) will be used to maximise benefits.
- Fast-growing native species will be prioritised to provide shade, shelter, and additional habitat.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)



As part of our planning application, we will complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to assess the potential environmental effects of the project.

The preparation of the EIA Report is being led by Environmental Resources Management Ltd (ERM), with support from other specialist consultancies in the fields of planning, landscape and visual (see also the board to the right/left on landscape), geology and peat, noise, forestry, aviation and telecommunications.

The EIA process helps ensure that potential environmental effects are identified, assessed and responsibly managed before a development is consented and constructed. For renewable energy projects, understanding the impact on Scotland's natural environment, wildlife, cultural heritage and communities is crucial.

We are in the process of surveying and studying the site, which will help us refine our proposals to avoid, reduce and mitigate any potential environmental impacts.



What do we assess?



Natural Environment

Specialised habitat and species surveys are underway to determine the proposal's potential impact on the local wildlife and habitats, including bird surveys. These surveys will help identify opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, ensuring the project is compliant with the Scottish National Planning Framework (NPF4), which require biodiversity to be conserved, restored and enhanced to demonstrably better state than currently exists on the site.

Two years of ornithological studies are required as a part of the EIA process. The key species identified within the Site were greylag goose and pink-footed goose; breeding lapwing, curlew and snipe; as well as wintering golden plover and breeding barn owl. There have been no sightings of black grouse on the site. This data gathering will inform turbine collision risk modelling, as well as any impacts to their breeding and roosting as a part of solar arrays or ancillary infrastructure.

Potential impacts on nearby statutory sites designated for nature conservation are also considered in the survey, design and assessment process and include:

- River Tweed Special Area of Conservation: designated for otter, Atlantic salmon, river, brook and sea lamprey and freshwater habitats

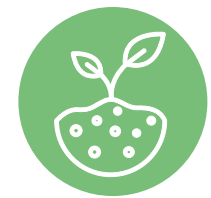


Heritage

Cultural heritage assessment considers the designated and non-designated historic assets on the site including the Category C Listed Mitchelston Farm (LB17395), a post-medieval farmstead including ancillary buildings and garden walls, and various non-designated assets mainly comprising medieval and post-medieval farmsteads and related agricultural and pastoral features. Within the wider surrounding area, the impact on the setting and intervisibility of listed buildings and scheduled monuments is also assessed and considered in the design process.



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)



Peat, Geology and Soils

Survey and assessment of surface water and groundwater systems helps prevent disruption to water flow and quality. As a result of these surveys, drainage management plans will be implemented where required to reduce flood risks and erosion. Identification and management of peatland will support minimising carbon release and habitat loss. Ground investigations will further assess soil conditions and stability.



Noise

Noise modelling studies from nearby receptors ensures compliance with legal requirements set by the UK Government for noise limits. Setback distances are already applied from the nearest residential properties in order to reduce potential noise disturbance for communities.



Transport and Access

Different route options for delivery of plant and equipment are being considered, as well as construction access to the site, with the aim to reduce disruption to nearby communities.



Aviation and Radar

Potential impacts on aviation and radar will be assessed and consultation will be carried out with the Ministry of Defence, NATS En Route plc (NERL) and nearby mast operators to ensure that we address any potential issues to signals and/or visuals.



Why is it important?

The EIA plays a crucial role in ensuring responsible development by:



Protection of Natural Resources: Scotland is home to a rich and diverse environment, including protected areas, rare species, and important habitats. An EIA helps to protect these resources while facilitating the transition to sustainable energy. It also supports consideration for enhancement opportunities of the natural environment.



Informed Decision-Making: By assessing the potential environmental and social impacts upfront, an EIA enables decision-makers, including regulators, local authorities and government bodies, to make well-informed choices about whether a renewable energy project should proceed, and under what conditions.



Improving Project Design: The desk-based and on-site study process identifies potential issues early, allowing adjustments to minimise environmental and social impacts helping safeguard local natural and cultural heritage through careful planning and mitigation.



Public Participation: The planning process ensures that communities, stakeholders, and the general public have opportunities to engage and provide feedback, allowing for consideration of local concerns.



Ensuring Legal Compliance: The EIA demonstrates how the proposal meets national and international environmental regulations, reducing the risk of legal or planning issues. It also supports commitments to sustainability and conscientious development.

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)

A landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) will be undertaken by WSP, allowing us to consider the potential effect of the proposal on key views from the surrounding area and on the character of the landscape.

Key landscapes will be considered including the Gala Water Valley . An important consideration will be the impact on visual amenity for residential property owners, as well as users of recreational areas, public footpaths and roads within the local area.

The LVIA will also assess how the project will look and fit in the surrounding landscape as well as illustrating this visually with the production of wirelines and photomontages.

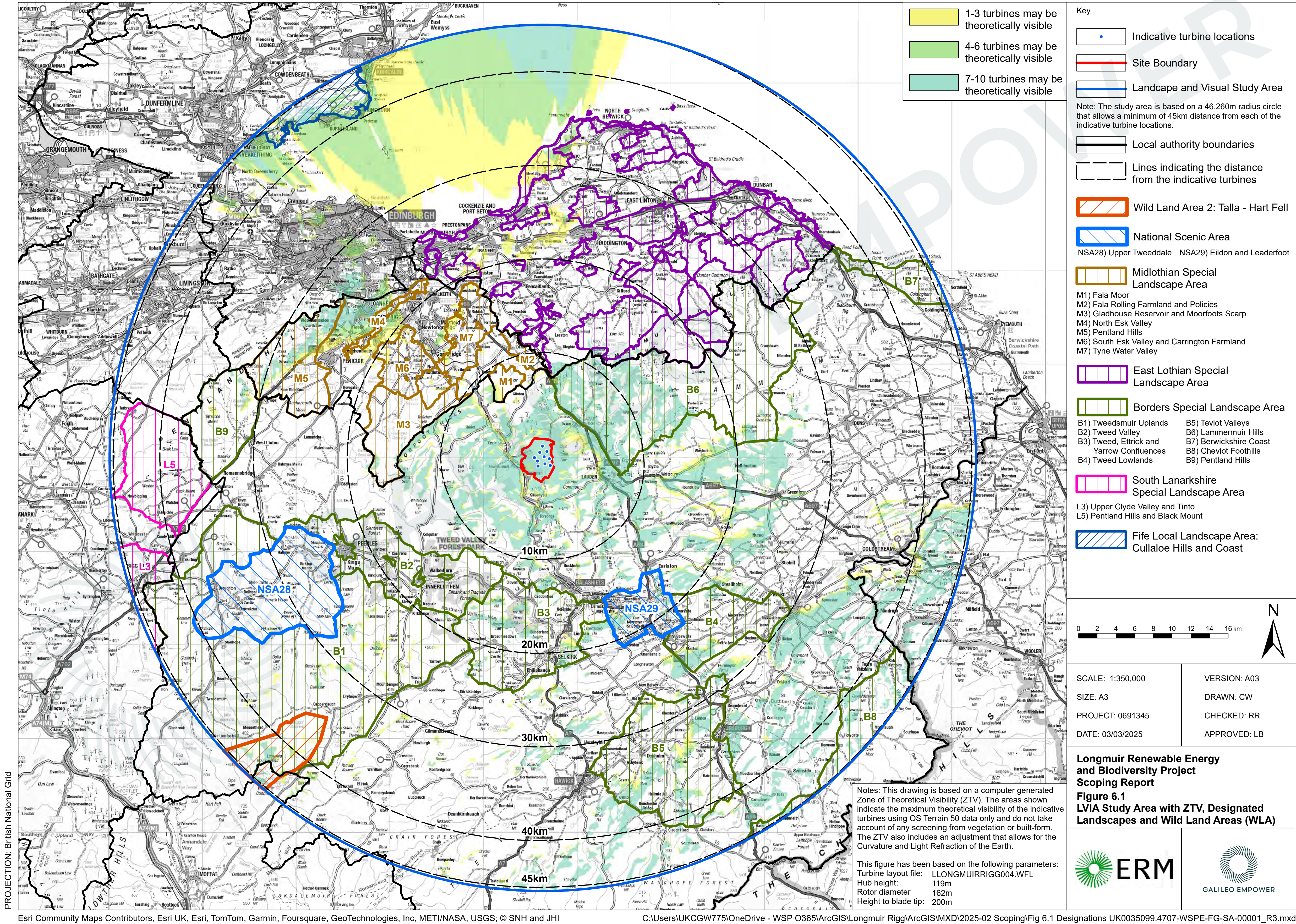
Proposed viewpoints that are currently being considered are shown on the Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) image. The ZTV does not take into account existing buildings, trees or anything else 'above' ground which would further restrict visibility of the proposed development.

For this exhibition, we have selected and prepared wirelines from surrounding settlements to illustrate how the project, based on the indicative layout, may appear within the landscape.



Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

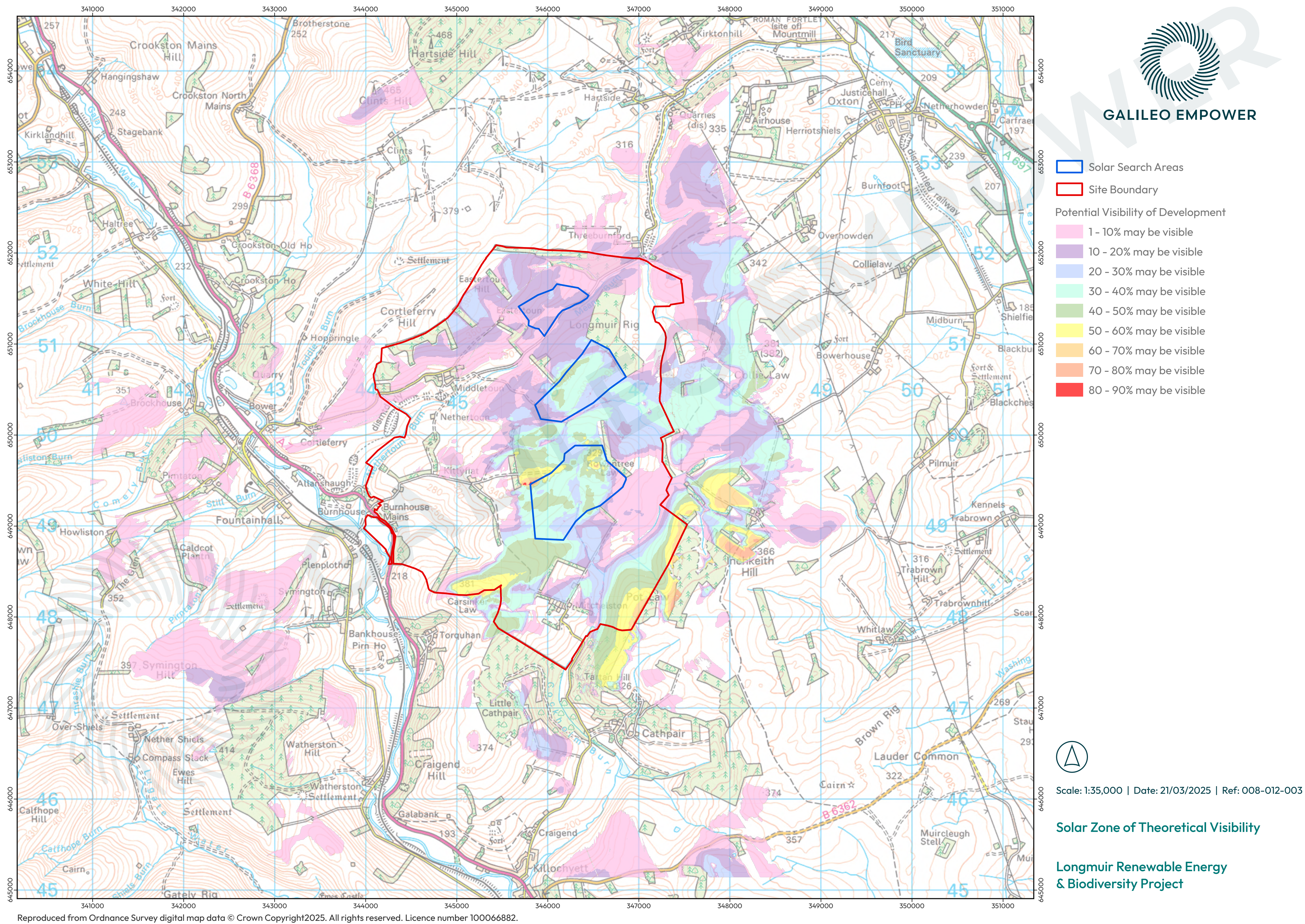
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Theoretical visibility of the solar search areas

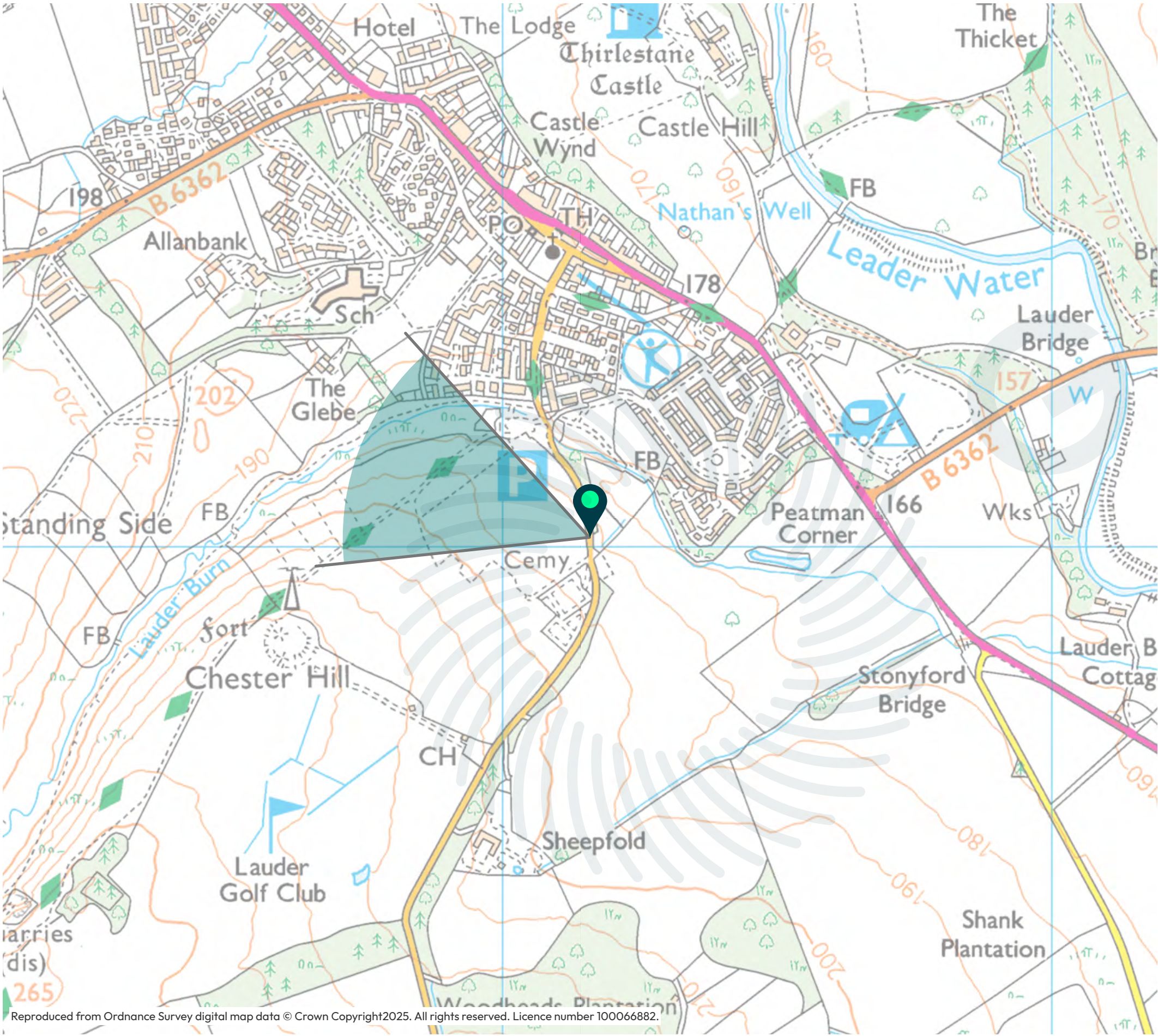


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Airbus,USGS,NGA,NASA,CGIAR,NCEAS,NLS,OS,NMA,Geodatastyrelsen,GSA,GSI and the GIS User Community, Source: Airbus,USGS,NGA,NASA,CGIAR,NLS,OS,NMA,Geodatastyrelsen,GSA,GSI and the GIS User Community



Viewpoint Location Plan



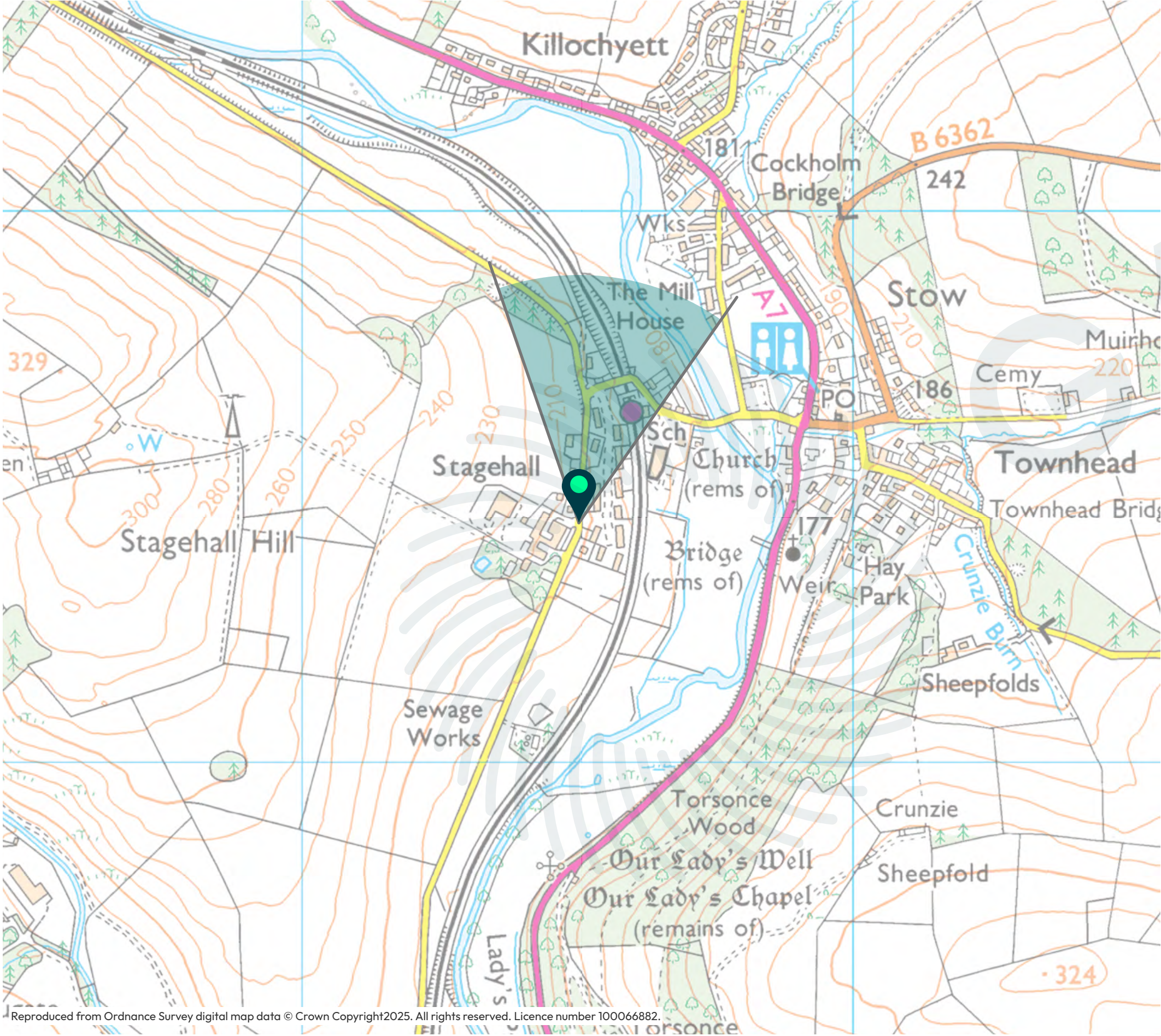
Google Streetview Extract from Viewpoint Location

Viewpoint Coordinates:	353161, 647017
Viewpoint Altitude:	189.2 m
Field of View:	53.5 degrees
Distance nearest Turbine:	6393 m
Direction to Wind Farm:	291 degrees



Lauder

Longmuir Renewable Energy & Biodiversity
Project



Viewpoint Location Plan



Google Streetview Extract from Viewpoint Location

Viewpoint Coordinates:	345504, 644435
Viewpoint Altitude:	204.7 m
Field of View:	53.5 degrees
Distance nearest Turbine:	4702 m
Direction to Wind Farm:	8 degrees

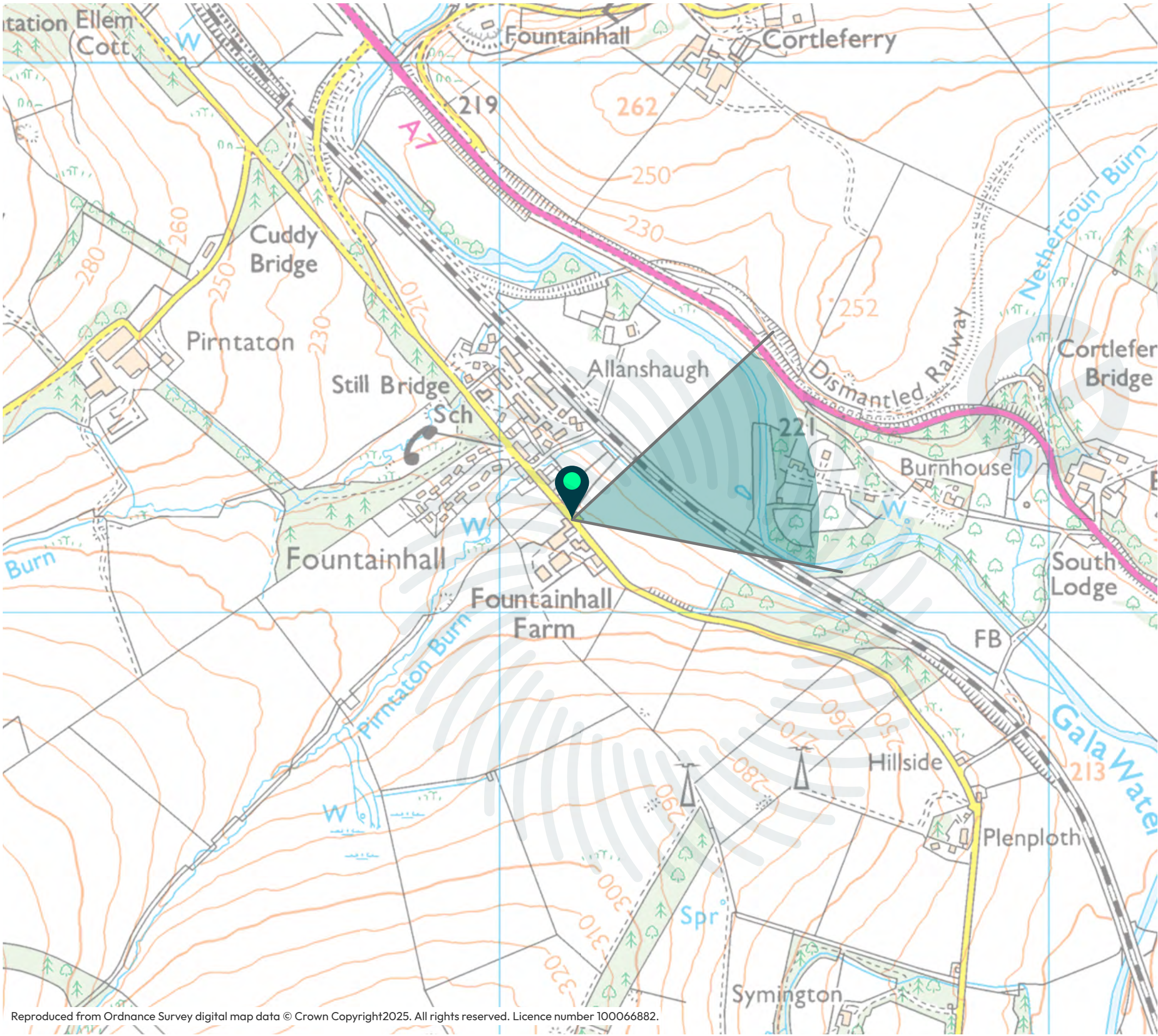


Stow

Longmuir Renewable Energy & Biodiversity Project



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Viewpoint Location Plan



Google Streetview Extract from Viewpoint Location

Viewpoint Coordinates:	343134, 649170
Viewpoint Altitude:	223.3 m
Field of View:	53.5 degrees
Distance nearest Turbine:	2466 m
Direction to Wind Farm:	74 degrees

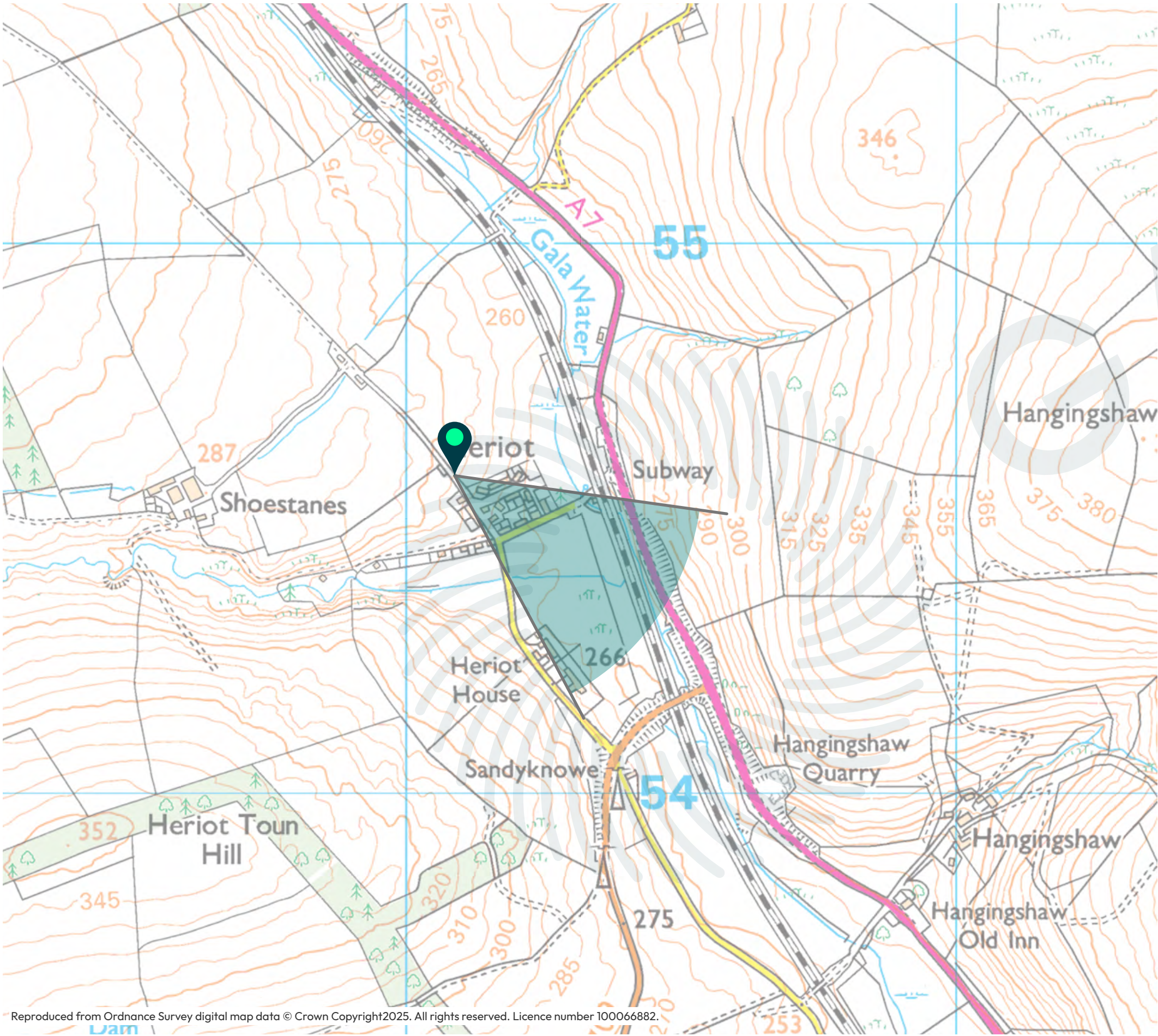


Fountainhall

Longmuir Renewable Energy & Biodiversity Project



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Viewpoint Location Plan



Google Streetview Extract from Viewpoint Location

Viewpoint Coordinates:	340089, 654578
Viewpoint Altitude:	270.7 m
Field of View:	53.5 degrees
Distance nearest Turbine:	7030 m
Direction to Wind Farm:	125 degrees



Heriot

Longmuir Renewable Energy & Biodiversity Project

Our Community Offering

Galileo Empower is committed to developing projects that deliver substantial and tangible benefits locally and foster strong community relations.

Our responsible approach towards project development will ensure that the Longmuir Renewable Energy and Biodiversity Enhancement Project is delivered in a way that's good for our neighbours, the surrounding environment, and the local community.



Community Wealth Fund

We adhere to best practice guidance in relation to community benefit and are committed to delivering substantial and tangible long-term benefits locally. If consented, the Project will provide a significant community wealth fund of £5,000 per MW, per year, for the lifetime of the project.

Based on the wind turbine capacity of 72MW, the community wealth fund will be in the region of £360,000 per year – more than £18 million over the 40-year lifespan of the project.

We would very much welcome your input on the area which the community wealth fund should cover and the types of projects you would like to see supported, which you can provide by completing a feedback form or through engagement with the team at the exhibition.



£5,000 per MW, per year,
for the lifetime of the project
(index link)



Shared Ownership

In addition to the Community Wealth Fund, the local community will have the opportunity to take up to a 10% ownership stake in the wind farm, which would generate further revenues to invest in the local area.

The Galileo Empower team has been directly involved in the successful delivery of community shared ownership schemes elsewhere in Scotland. We also have a long-term working relationship with Local Energy Scotland (www.localenergy.scot), the Scottish Government's adviser on shared ownership, who can assist in providing professional advice and support to the local community.



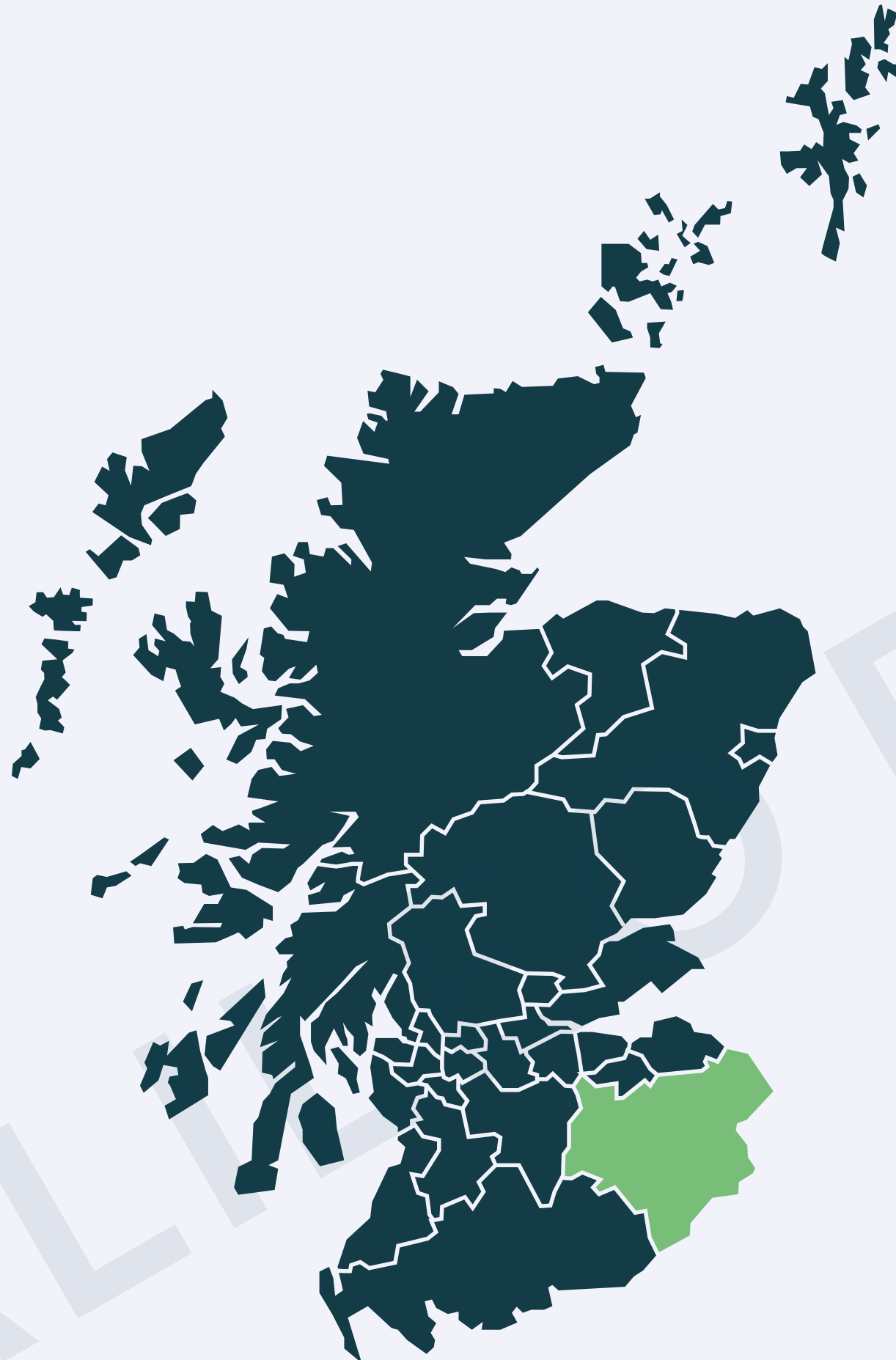
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Local Contractor Portal

At Galileo Empower, we recognise the vital role that local businesses play in the success of our projects. That’s why we have established our **Local Contractor Portal** – a dedicated platform designed to connect local suppliers with opportunities arising from our developments.

By registering your business with us, you will be included in our **supply chain database**, ensuring that you are considered for relevant contracts as the project progresses. This early engagement allows us to identify skilled local suppliers and service providers, helping to maximise economic benefits within the community.



Longmuir Renewable Energy and Biodiversity Enhancement Project

Economic Impact, March 2025

Local Authority Area: **Scottish Borders Council**

Potential capacity: **72MW Wind, 50MW Solar, 40MW Battery Storage**

Est. Capital Investment: **£171m**

Est. O&M: **£4m/year (£159m in 40 years)**

Development & Construction

Scottish Borders		Scotland	
	£13m GVA		£39m GVA
	150 job years		460 job years

Operations & Maintenance

Scottish Borders		Scotland	
	£1.1m annual GVA		£2.3m annual GVA
	7 job		13 job

 **£1.5m per year business rates**

Job years are the standard measure of construction employment impacts. One job year is the equivalent of one full-time equivalent job for one year.
GVA = Gross Value Added, a measure of economic output. GVA measures the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry or sector.
MW = megawatts

Renewable Electricity Discount Scheme (REDS)

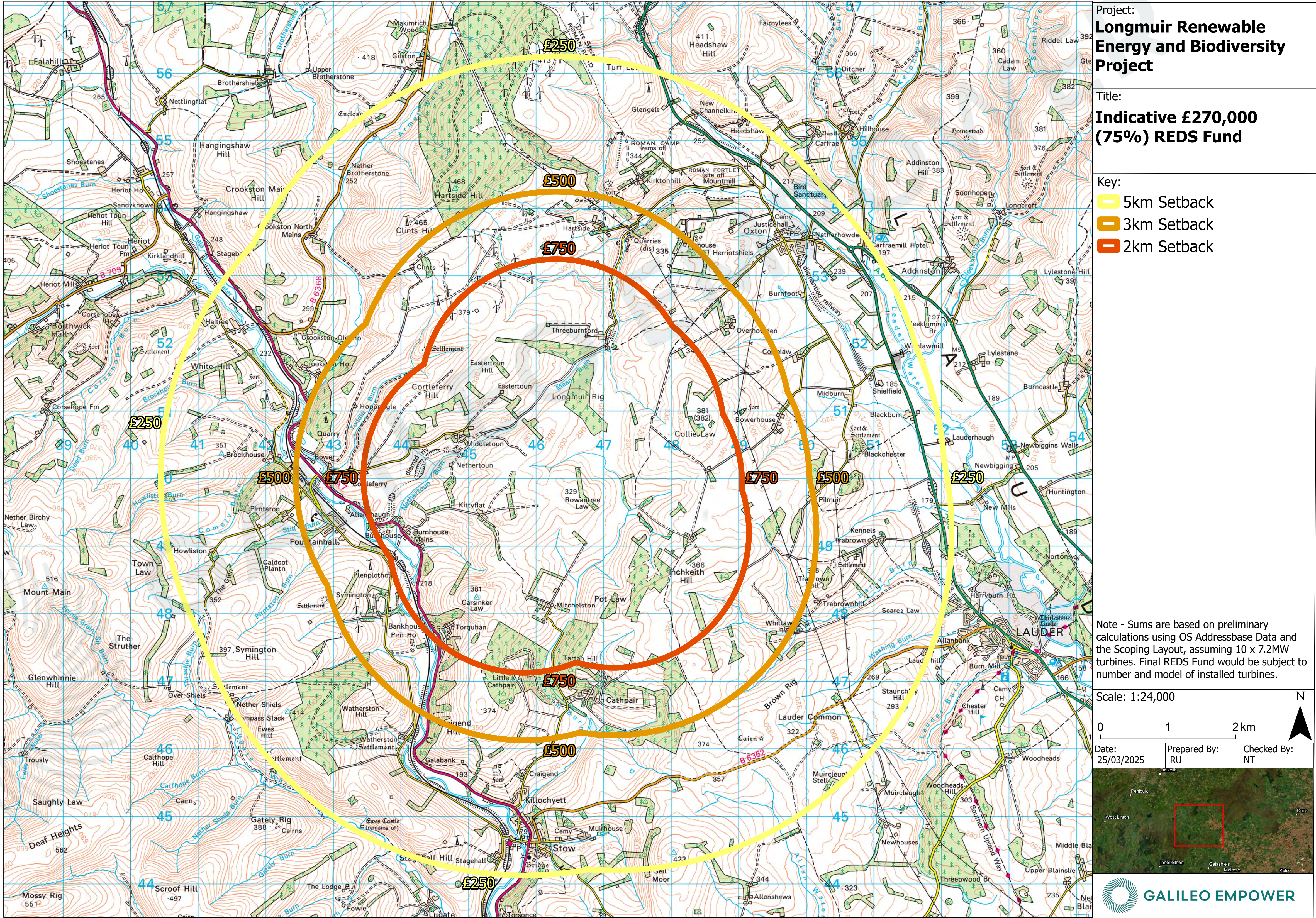


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Galileo Empower want to ensure that the local community share in the success of the project.

We are currently looking at a range of ways to deliver discounted electricity to every household within 5km of the project. See an example scenario if approximately 75% of the £360,000 wealth fund was used towards REDS. Properties within 2km, 3km and 5km of turbines could receive £750, £500 and £250 respectively, towards their electricity bills per annum.

It should be noted that this is subject to further community consultation and we encourage local feedback to shape the final approach.



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Development Process and Timeline

We are continuing a series of environmental surveys, and insights from these, along with feedback from this community consultation, will help refine the Project's layout and design.

We will host another round of community consultation and public exhibitions later this year in order to share an updated design, information on how the proposals have developed and why, and to seek further feedback from local residents and wider stakeholders.

This information will then feed into the development of our final design proposals and our application for consent, which we aim to submit to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit in late 2025.

April 2024 - ongoing
Environmental surveys.



April 2025

Public Consultation 1
& Scoping Request.

Summer 2025

Scoping Response,
review feedback, further
environmental assessment
and design refinement.



Autumn 2025

Public Consultation 2 and
finalisation of design.

December 2025

Submission of application for
consent to Energy Consents
Unit, Scottish Government.



Thank you

At Galileo Empower, we strongly believe in the need for ongoing dialogue regarding our projects. We will consult and listen carefully to views on these current proposals for the Longmuir Renewable Energy and Biodiversity Project, making changes where possible as we develop our proposals.

As part of this process, we believe in meaningful and effective consultation, aiming to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, that we can then consider when developing the design of the proposal.

Please note that comments made to Galileo (the applicant) are not representations to the Scottish Ministers and if the applicant submits an application there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the Scottish Ministers at an appropriate point.



Deadline for feedback
Friday 25 April 2025

Keeping in touch

We are committed to developing the Longmuir Renewable Energy and Biodiversity Project alongside the community as a project that delivers substantial and tangible benefits.

If you have any questions, want more information on the plans or if you would like to discuss the project with the development team, please get in touch at any time:



longmuirenergy.co.uk



longmuirenergy@galileoempower.uk



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Enhancement Project
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Edinburgh, EH2 1AW**