

Pre-Application Consultation Report

Herds Hill Wind Farm November 2023

Ref: 397-230512-3005



Pre-Application Consultation Report

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1.1 The Proposal

Introduction

The Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report has been prepared by Drumbuie Renewables (The Applicant) and Community Windpower (The Agent) to accompany the final planning submission for the Herds Hill Wind Farm, situated in Dumfries and Galloway, located approximately 5km west of Sanguhar and 3km south of Kirkconnel.

This report sets out the relevant national and local guidance on how to undertake community consultation and involvement as well as noting the approach that has been adopted to inform, advise and consult with the local residents in the communities surrounding the proposed wind farm development.

The report summarises the views of those consulted and outlines how Drumbuie Renewables and Community Windpower have responded to comments made and how this has influenced the final design and submitted proposal.

Project Description

The proposed development will comprise of 3 wind turbines with a tip height of 149m and a typical rotor diameter of 112m. The scheme will also involve ancillary infrastructure, whilst utilising already existing wind farm access tracks and a hardstanding area. The turbines will have the potential to generate up to 3.45 MW each, giving the scheme an overall generating capacity of 10.35 MW. The proposed turbines could power an important local business(es).

1.2 The Applicant

Drumbuie Renewables is a family run local business with long term experience and interest in both renewable energy projects and progressive agriculture. With experience in delivery of both Solar PV and Biomass heating systems, the business looks to progress to the next stage of development. Based in Sanquhar, Drumbuie Renewables will own and operate the Proposed Development with the electricity generated used to power a local business(es).

1.3 Planning Policy and Guidance

As the Herds Hill scheme has a total installed capacity less than 20 MW, an application for consent is submitted directly to the Local Planning Authority, which in this case is Dumfries and Galloway Council for their consideration and determination.

Part 2, 7 (1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 details the consultation required for a proposed application:

"The prospective applicant is to consult as respects a proposed application every community council any part of whose area is within or adjoins the land where the proposed development is situated and in doing so is to give a copy of the proposal of application notice to the community council."

Part 2, 7 (2) further states:

"The prospective applicant is to hold at least one public event where members of the public may make comments to the prospective applicant as regards the proposed development; and

publish in a local newspaper circulating in the locality in which the proposed development is situated a notice".

PAN 3/2010 Community Engagement details the National Standards for Community Engagement and provides the basic principles for effective community engagement, particularly within the planning system. It states:

- "Community Engagement must be meaningful and proportionate;
- Community Engagement must happen at an early stage to influence the shape of plans and proposals;
- It is essential for people or interest groups to get involved in the preparation of development plans as this is where decisions on the strategy, for growth or protection, are made."

1.4 Community Consultation

Drumbuie Renewables are committed to working with the local host communities in the area surrounding the Herds Hill Wind Farm to create a project which is mutually beneficial.

Drumbuie Renewables believe in an open and consultative approach with the local communities from the outset of a development and have engaged with the Local Authority, Community Councils, communities, consultees and key stakeholders in the surrounding area of the wind farm proposal.

Consultation with local communities commenced at the earliest viable opportunity when the project entered the public domain and was scoped with Dumfries and Galloway Council and the local community councils.

Community Consultation, which initially began in February 2023 for the Herds Hill proposal, has involved the following activities and forms of communication:

- Consultation and meetings with local Community Councils and residents.
- A dedicated project webpage which has been maintained to provide project updates and links to project documents.
- Posters displayed in local public areas to advertise upcoming Public Exhibitions. Posters were also issued to Community Councils.
- Newspaper adverts placed to aid with the advertising of the forthcoming Public Exhibitions.
 These were advertised in local newspapers including the Dumfries and Galloway Standard,
 Nithsdale Times and the KKS.
- Events were advertised on the company website.
- Public Exhibitions were held in the local area to provide an opportunity for residents from the local host communities to view and make comments on the wind farm proposal, ask questions etc. in order to inform the final design of the overall wind farm.
- Email communications with the Community Councils to provide updates.



1.5 Community Council Meetings

Methodology

The Herds Hill Wind Farm proposal is located within the Mid and Upper Nithsdale Ward in Dumfries and Galloway. The Community Councils that were consulted as part of this application are detailed below:

- Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Community Council
- Royal Burgh of Sanquhar and District Community Council.

Communication and consultation has taken place throughout the development process from when it commenced in February 2023, through to submission of the application in October 2023. Drumbuie Renewables are aware of the importance of inclusive consultation with local communities, therefore consultation with the two Council's will continue throughout the planning application process.

Meetings Attended

February 2023 - Community Council Meetings (Scoping)

Drumbuie Renewables attended the Sanquhar and District Community Council Meeting and the Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Community Council Meeting in February 2023. This was to provide both Council's with initial information about the proposal which was being submitted for Scoping. Information regarding the reasons for development, timescales and required surveys were provided. Council members were given the opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback or suggestions to be considered as part of the ongoing iterative design of the proposal.

The main points that were raised during these meetings were:

- Both Councils were pleased to see that the scheme would power local businesses.
- Positive feedback was received in relation to the proposal being for only 3 wind turbines.
- Questions about the size and output of the turbines.
- Queries about excess power, with suggestions on where it could be used.

The specific comments and concerns raised by the Community Councils have been very insightful, and all have been considered during the iterative and thorough design process.

1.6 Public Exhibitions

Two rounds of Public Exhibitions were held in 2023 (in April/May and in October) to provide local residents and local stakeholders with an opportunity to obtain further information about the proposed wind farm development and to see how it has evolved.

Details of the public exhibitions are outlined below in Table 1.

Table 1 - Public Exhibition Details (Two rounds of events)

Venue	Date and Time
Sanquhar Town Hall	Wednesday 26 th April, 14:45-18:45
	Thursday 5 th October, 10:00-14:00
The Cabin, Kirkconnel	Tuesday 9 th May, 15:00-19:00
Miners Memorial Hall, Kirkconnel	Wednesday 4 th October, 15:00-19:00

The exhibitions were held in convenient locations within the Community Council areas at suitable times, taking into consideration those constrained by working hours.

The Public Exhibitions were advertised in the Dumfries and Galloway Standard, Nithsdale Times and the KKS. A copy of the advertisements can be found in Appendix 1. Leaflets and posters detailing the events were also displayed in local shops and public buildings to advertise the public exhibitions.

The Public Exhibitions gave residents the opportunity to view the proposal, find out about Drumbuie Renewables, learn more about the surveys required, provide suggestions about community benefits and ask any questions they had about the scheme.

A series of display boards and posters presented details of the following aspects of the proposal, which differed between the two rounds of public exhibitions, as detailed in Table 2.

Table 2 – Information displayed at the two rounds of public exhibitions.

	Public Exhibitions - Round 1	Public Exhibitions Round 2
	Introduction to Drumbuie Renewables and	Introduction to Drumbuie Renewables and
	Community Windpower.	Community Windpower.
	Herds Hill Wind Farm proposal and project	Herds Hill Wind Farm final proposal, including
	details, including a site layout plan and	design changes and updates to the scheme,
ds	copy of the Scoping Report.	also displaying a new site layout plan.
Boards	Information of the need and reasons for	Information of the need and reasons for the
	the proposal, including information about	proposal, including information about Brown
Display	Brown Brothers.	Brothers.
isp	Benefits of the proposal and reasons for	Updated benefits of the proposal and reasons
	the local business transforming into a	for the local business transforming into a 100%
	100% green business.	green business. Also, indication of powering
		other local businesses.
	The next steps of the scheme. Start of the	The next steps of the scheme, including
	planning application and finalising the	information on planning submission targets
	design.	and an update on survey work undertaken.

Copies of the posters displayed at the exhibitions are included in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.

A leaflet summarising the proposal were available at the exhibitions for visitors to take away. A questionnaire was also provided, for visitors to complete anonymously, in order to help inform the final design and to grasp the overall opinion towards the scheme.

Members from Drumbuie Renewables and Community Windpower attended the exhibitions to assist with any queries from members of the public, in particular regarding:

- Who are Drumbuie Renewables.
- Required survey work.
- The proposed project timeline.
- The need for the wind farm, in particular questions regarding the local business.
- The proposed access route.

Furthermore, during the public exhibitions, visitors had the opportunity to suggest their preferred form of community benefit funding. This proved to be most useful in gaining information on certain aspects of the local area that may require funding and will meet the needs of the community as a

whole. Visitors were also provided with contact information, should they wish to suggest any additional community benefits or community projects following the exhibitions.

A Guest Book was provided for people to leave more detailed comments regarding the proposed scheme. Visitors were also encouraged to leave their contact details if they wished to be kept informed on the scheme's further progress.

1.7 Feedback from Public Exhibitions

The feedback received from the public exhibition events helped to inform the final design of the proposed development.

The majority of attendees expressed positive attitudes and comments towards the proposed development. Many visitors were impressed that the scheme could provide 100% of the electricity for an important local business, furthermore, positive attitudes were expressed towards the scheme having only 3 turbines. In an area that's history is characterised by the coal mines, it was enlightening to hear that so many people were in favour of renewable energy as an alternative to fossil fuels. Some concerns were raised about the visual impacts with regards to the 180m tip height of the turbines, and some visitors queried the need for aviation lighting.

There were several ideas put forward for what community benefits would be best for the local area, with the majority of ideas covering the same general thought which was for reduced energy bills. The following list sets out the ideas suggested at the public exhibitions:

- Retrofitting homes and businesses loft and cavity wall insultation, other ways to make houses warmer.
- Reduced energy bills.
- Education in local schools on how to save energy and the impact of renewable energy in relation to energy security.
- Green infrastructure and transportation.
- Developing the area for tourism by promoting cycling, hill walking and horse riding in the local area.

1.8 Community Benefits

Drumbuie Renewables will provide a community benefits package of up to £5,000 per MW of electricity during the operation of Herds Hill Wind Farm. Funding will go towards local community projects, which support the economic, environmental and social requirements of residents, community groups, schools and community-focused initiatives throughout the 40-year operational lifetime of the project.

The suggestions for where community benefit funding could improve the local area have been considered and further consultation will be held throughout the entire planning process with Community Councils and the local area, to inform the appropriate distribution of funding, if Herds Hill Wind Farm receives planning permission.

1.9 Conclusion

Drumbuie Renewables believes in an open and consultative approach with local communities during the development stage of the wind farm project and prior to the submission of a planning application which is being delivered by a local company.

Drumbuie Renewables has undertaken comprehensive community consultation regarding Herds Hill Wind Farm. The community consultation has involved actively engaging with the local community throughout the scoping, final site design and the planning process so far, to ensure constructive consultation which has actually resulted in tailoring the final design to meet the comments of the local people. For instance, as a result of the community consultation which was combined with the Scoping Opinion from Dumfries & Galloway Council, the tip heights of the turbines have been reduced from 180m down to 149m. In addition to this, by having the turbines less than 150m tall, the visible aviation lighting is no longer needed.

Where appropriate, the Drumbuie Renewables and CWL have responded to all comments or concerns raised and have considered these when shaping the final proposal, with certain matters addressed which will be noted within the final planning application.

In conclusion, the consultation process has resulted in a high-quality proposal, which would contribute towards Scotland's renewable energy targets and carbon reductions in a bid to reduce the effects of climate change, as well as delivering investment to Scotland and the local host communities during the construction phase and the operational life of the wind farm. If consented, it is the intention of Drumbuie Renewables to support Brown Brothers to be powered by 100% green energy. This is a unique application lodged by one local company looking to partner with another.





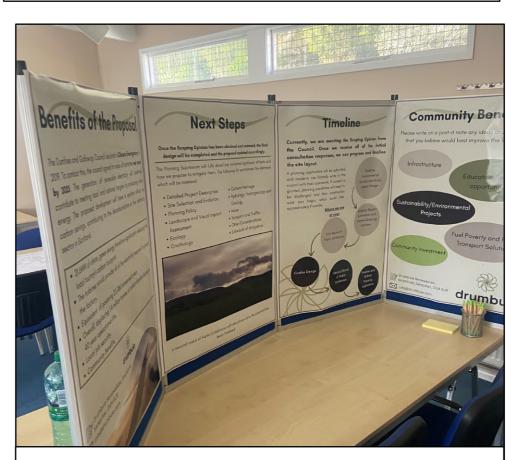
PAC Plate 1.1- Public Exhibition display boards at Sanquhar Town Hall, Wednesday 26th April 2023



PAC Plate 1.3- Public Exhibition questionnaires and leaflets at The Cabin, Kirkconnel, Tuesday 9th May 2023



PAC Plate 1.2- Public Exhibition display boards at Sanquhar Town Hall, Wednesday 26th April 2023



PAC Plate 1.4- Public Exhibition display boards at The Cabin, Kirkconnel, Tuesday 9th May 2023

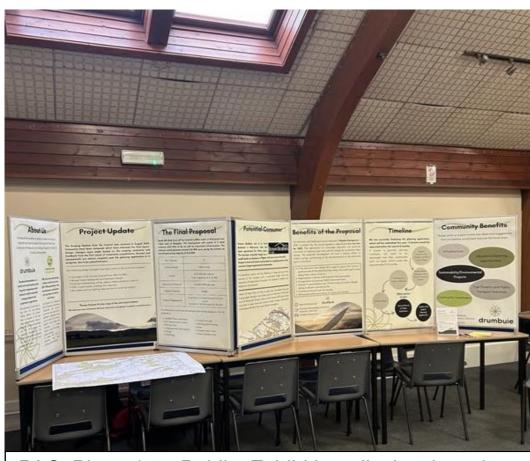
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Reviewed: DW Approve

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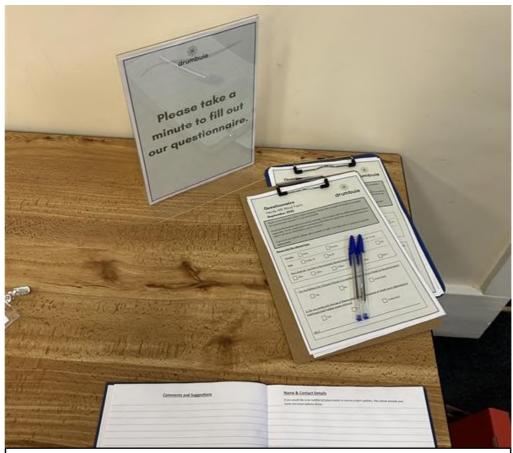
rumbuie Renewables Ltd Drumbuie Sanquhar DG4 6JX United Kingdom e: info@drumbuie.com



PAC Plate 1.5- Public Exhibition display boards at Kirkconnel Miners Hall, Wednesday 5th October 2023



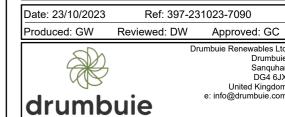
PAC Plate 1.7- Public Exhibition display boards at Sanquhar Town Hall, Thursday 6th October 2023



PAC Plate 1.6- Public Exhibition questionnaires and log book at Kirkconnel Miners Hall, Wednesday 5th October 2023



PAC Plate 1.8- Public Exhibition questionnaires at Sanquhar Town Hall, Thursday 6th October 2023



Appendices

Appendix 1: Newspaper Adverts for Public Exhibitions Round 1 and 2.



Drumbuie Renewables would like to welcome the community to attend public exhibitions associated with the proposed Herds Hill Wind Farm, ahead of the submission of a planning application. This will provide an excellent opportunity for local residents to seek more information, ask any questions and share feedback.

The proposed development will consist of 3 turbines, each at 180m to tip, producing up to 7.2MW each. The site will be situated 5km west of Sanquhar and 3km south of Kirkconnel. The electricity will be used to power a local business.

Wednesday 26th April 2023 14:45-18:45

Sanquhar Town Hall Church Road Sanquhar DG4 6DF Tuesday 9th May 2023 15:00-19:00

> The Cabin Main Street Kirkconnel DG4 6LU

All feedback at this stage will not be lodged as a representation. There will be an opportunity to make representations to Dumfries and Galloway Council on the proposed development in due course.

For more information on Herds Hill Wind Farm:

Please visit: www.drumbuie.com

Or email: info@drumbuie.com

Or write to: Drumbuie Renewables, Drumbuie, Sanguhar, DG4 6JX



2nd Round of Public Exhibitions

Drumbuie Renewables are hosting their 2nd round of public exhibitions for the proposed Herds Hill Wind Farm, ahead of the planning application submission. This is an excellent opportunity for local residents to view the design changes made after initial consultations with the Council and local residents.

The updated proposal will consist of 3 turbines, now at 149m to tip, with a generating capacity of 10.35MW. To find out more, please attend the next round of public exhibitions, or visit our website www.drumbuie.com, where the information displayed at these events will go live the same day.

Wednesday 4th October 15:00-19:00 Miners Memorial Hall

Needle St Kirkconnel DG4 6PH Thursday 5th October 10:00-14:00 Sanquhar Town Hall Church Road Sanquhar

DG4 6DF

For more information on Herds Hill Wind Farm, please visit: www.drumbuie.com

Or email: info@drumbuie.com

Or write to: Drumbuie Renewables, Drumbuie, Sanguhar, DG4 6JX

Appendix 2: Posters displayed at the first round of public exhibitions.

About Us

Drumbuie Renewables is seeking consent to construct, operate and decommission the Herds Hill Wind Farm.

Community Windpower are acting as Agents on behalf of Drumbuie Renewables.



Drumbuie Renewables is a family run local business with long term experience and interest in both renewable energy projects and progressive agriculture.

With experience in the delivery of both Solar PV and Biomass heating systems, the business looks to progress to the next stage of development. Based in Sanguhar, Drumbuie Renewables will own and operate the proposed development. The electricity generated can be used to power an important local commercial business.



CWL have been developing onshore wind farms since 2001. CWL specialises in the development, construction and operation of onshore wind farms.

The Company has a dedicated team of engineers, environmental professionals and technical analysts that have many years of experience in renewable energy and are proud to be making significant carbon savings and improvements in energy efficiency through wind energy projects in Scotland.

At present, CWL have 8

At present, CWL have operational wind farms producing a total of 305 MW.

Potential Consumer

Browns Brothers Ltd is a local business in Kirkconnel, that has been operational for thirty years. The business originally began as a



small family-run butchers in Biggar, and now is one of the UK's largest cooked and sliced meat producers, supplying some of the country's largest supermarkets nationwide.

Environmental impacts and the offsetting of these are key to the success of the Company, with a specialised Green Team that represents all departments throughout the business to research and implement improvements.

Herds Hill Wind Farm will help to meet their sustainable and clean energy goals, through a low-carbon source of electricity. The business and the Kirkconnel factory is keen to shift towards 100% green energy and help to meet local and national climate change commitments, which Herds Hill Wind Farm would deliver if successful.



The Proposal

Herds Hill Wind Farm will be situated 2.68km south of Kirkconnel and 5.6km west of Sanquhar. The Development will consist of 3 wind turbines, each 180m to tip, as well as associated infrastructure. The turbines could have potential to generate up to 7.2 MW each, giving the scheme an overall generating capacity of 21.6 MW.

No. Turbines	3
Turbine Height	180m to tip
Output	Up to 7.2 MW per turbine. Total capacity of 21.6 MW
Electricity Produced	82,782 MWH per year
Homes Powered	22,086
Carbon Displacement	35,761 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) per annum Equivalent to 1.4 million tonnes over 40 years

The proposed site layout can be found in an A1 print out below

- Scoping request was submitted to Dumfries & Galloway Council in February 2022.
- Environmental Assessment studies are underway.
- Currently awaiting Scoping Opinion from Dumfries & Galloway Council.
- Review Scoping responses and community comments.



Next Steps

Once the Scoping Opinion has been obtained and reviewed, the final design will be completed and the proposal updated accordingly.

The Planning Submission will fully detail any potential significant effects and how we propose to mitigate them. The following list summarises the elements which will be assessed:

- Detailed Project Description
- Site Selection and Evolution
- Planning Policy
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
- Ecology
- Ornithology

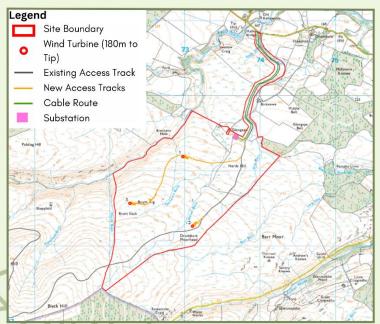
- Cultural Heritage
- Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology
- Noise
- Transport and Traffic
- Other Considerations
- Schedule of Mitigation



A second round of Public Exhibitions will take place once the proposal has been finalised.

Turbine Layout

The indicative turbine layout and ancillary infrastructure, as shown below, utilises the already existing Sanquhar Wind Farm access track. Therefore, construction works wll be minimal and over a short period of time.



Drumbuie Renewables will take on board suggestions/ideas from the public , at consultation events and meetings, to inform the final proposal.

If you have any suggestions, please write it on the 'post-it board' or contact us:

Email: info@drumbuie.com Write to: Drumbuie Renewables, Drumbuie, Sanguhar, DG4 6JX

Timeline Currently, we are awaiting the Scoping Opinion from the Council. Once we receive all of the initial consultation responses, we can progress and finalise the site layout. A planning application will be submitted Baseline and residents can formally write to the Environmental council with their comments. If consent is Studies, and Early granted, planning conditions will need to Layout Design be discharged and then construction work can begin, which could take approximately 9 months. Where we are at now: Scoping Report Submission and Receive Scoping Opinion First Round of **Public Exhibitions** Finalise Design Second Round of Public Finalise and Exhibitions Submit Planning **Application**

Benefits of the Proposal

The Dumfries and Galloway Council declared a **Climate Emergency** in 2019. To combat this, the council agreed to make all activities **net zero by 2025**. The generation of renewable electricity will positively contribute to meeting local and national targets by producing clean energy. The proposed development will have a positive effect on carbon savings, contributing to the decarbonisation of the electricity sector in Scotland.

- 21.6MW of clean, green energy therefore significantly reducing the local factory's carbon footprint.
- The turbines would provide all of the electricity required to power the factory.
- Equivalent of powering 22,086 homes each year.
- Overall, displacing 1.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide during its 40 year operational life.
- Local job security.
- Community Benefits.



Community Benefits

Please write on a post-it note any ideas and suggestions that you believe would best improve the local area.

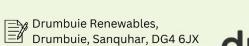
Infrastructure

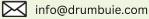
Education/learning opportunities

Sustainability/Environmental Projects

Fuel Poverty and Public Transport Solutions

Community Investment







Appendix 3: Posters displayed at the second round of public exhibitions.

About Us

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With experience in the delivery of both Solar PV and Biomass heating systems, the business looks to progress to the next stage of development. Based in Sanguhar, Drumbuie Renewables will own and operate the proposed development. The electricity generated can be used to power an important local commercial business.



CWL have been developing onshore wind farms since 2001. CWL specialises in the development, construction and operation of onshore wind farms.

The Company has a dedicated team of engineers, environmental professionals and technical analysts that have many years of experience in renewable energy and are proud to be making significant carbon savings and improvements in energy efficiency through wind energy projects in Scotland.

At present, CWL have 8 operational wind farms, producing a total of 305 MW.

Project Update

The Scoping Opinion from the Council was received in August 2023. Comments have been reviewed, which have informed the final layout. Design changes were made based on the scoping comments and feedback from the first round of community consultations. Surveys and assessments are almost complete and the planning application is in progress, due to be submitted soon.

The following design changes have been made to the wind farm proposal:

- Tip height of all turbines lowered from 180m to 149m.
- Access tracks redesigned and reduced in length.
- Existing hardstanding will be used to reduce potential impacts.
- Only 1 watercourse crossing now required.
- No visible aviation lighting required due to lower tip heights.

Please find an A1 size copy of the site layout below.

We welcome any comments that you may have, and please complete a questionnaire.



The Final Proposal

Herds Hill Wind Farm will be situated 2.68km south of Kirkconnel and 5.6km west of Sanquhar. The Development will consist of 3 wind turbines, each 149m to tip, as well as associated infrastructure. The turbines would generate around 3.45 MW each, giving the scheme an overall generating capacity of 10.35 MW.

No. Turbines	3
Turbine Height	149m to tip
Output	3.45 MW per turbine. Total capacity of 10.35 MW
Electricity Produced	40,800 MWh per year
Homes Powered	10,885
Carbon Displacement	17,625 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) per annum Equivalent to 705,018 tonnes over 40 years

The following list summarises the elements which will be assessed in the full application:

- Detailed Project Description
- Site Selection and Evolution
- Planning Policy
- Landscape and Visual Impacts
- Ecology
- Ornithology

- Cultural Heritage
- Hydrology and Geology
- Noise
- Transport and Traffic
- Other Considerations

Benefits of the Proposal

The Dumfries and Galloway Council declared a **Climate Emergency** in 2019. To combat this, the council agreed to make all activities **net zero by 2025**. The generation of renewable electricity will positively contribute to meeting local and national targets by producing clean energy. The proposed development will have a positive effect on carbon savings, contributing to the decarbonisation of the electricity sector in Scotland.

- If the electricity from Herds Hill is used to power the factory it would provide all the electricity they need, and would significantly reduce their carbon footprint.
- Surplus power could be used to power other businesses.
- It's equivalent to powering 10,885 homes each year.
- Overall, it would displace over 705,018 tonnes of carbon dioxide during its 40 year operational life.
- Contribute towards local job security.
- Will provide additional funding for Community Benefits.



Potential Consumer

Browns Brothers Ltd is a local business in Kirkconnel, that has been operational for thirty years. Brown Brother The business originally began as a



small family-run butchers in Biggar, and now is one of the UK's largest cooked and sliced meat producers, supplying some of the country's largest supermarkets nationwide.

Environmental impacts and the offsetting of these are key to the success of the Company, with a specialised Green Team that represents all departments throughout the business to research and implement improvements.

Herds Hill Wind Farm will help to meet their sustainable and clean energy goals, through a low-carbon source of electricity. The business and the Kirkconnel factory is keen to shift towards 100% green energy and help to meet local and national climate change commitments, which Herds Hill Wind Farm would deliver if successful.



