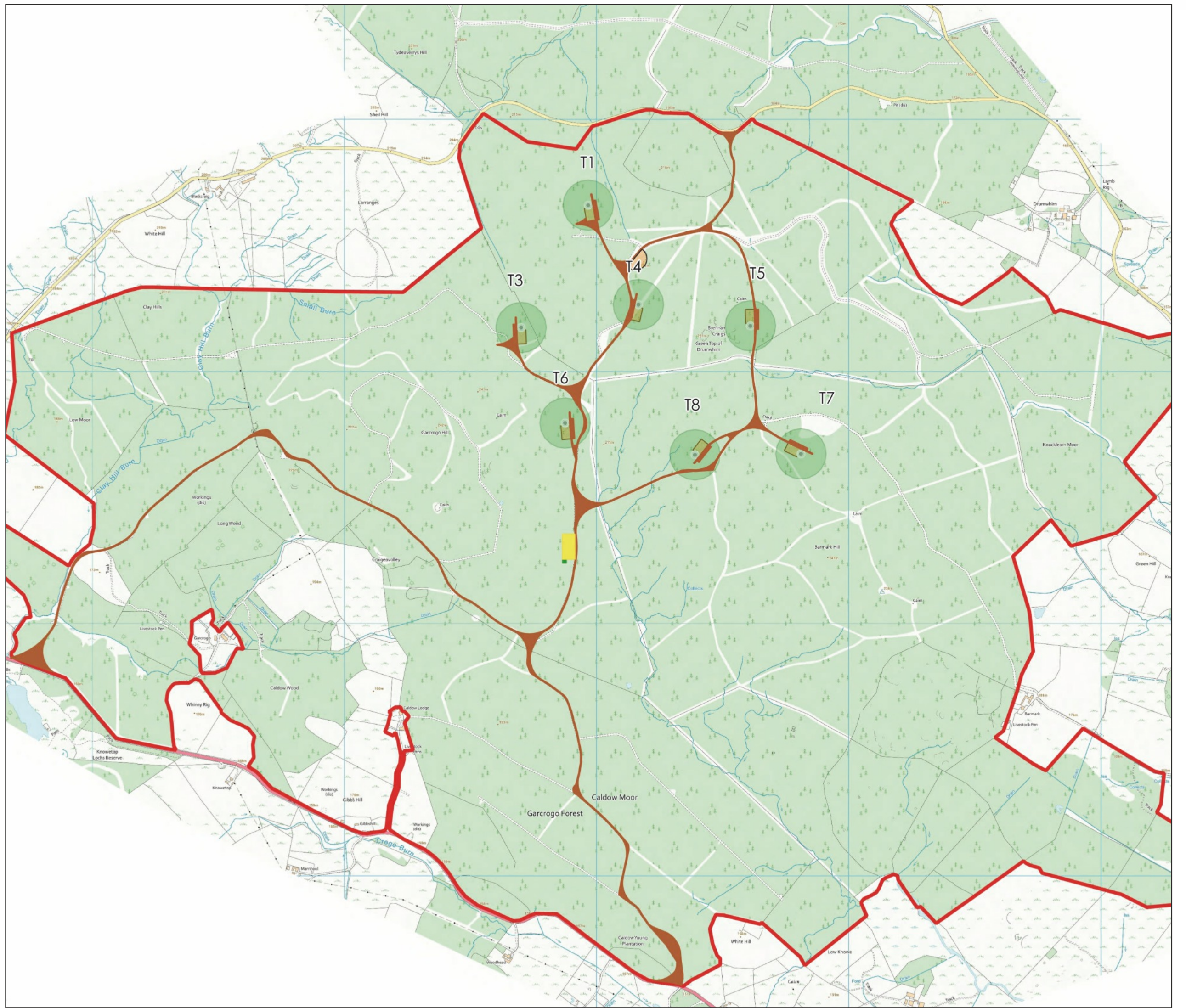


>>> The Proposed Development

Garcrogo Wind Farm

- The proposal is for the development of x7 wind turbines and associated infrastructure.
- The maximum tip height of each turbine would be up to 180m.
- The wind farm would also include associated infrastructure including turbine foundations, crane pads, transformer kiosks, access tracks, a substation and control building, a temporary construction compound, on-site underground cables, and upgraded access points from the public highway.
- An energy storage facility would also be included within the construction compound area. The capacity of this facility is yet to be determined but could be up to 20MW.
- The Proposed Development would be operational for a 35 year period, after which the turbine components would be removed and the site restored.
- A decommissioning bond would be held by the local authority to decommission the project and restore the site.



Site Location

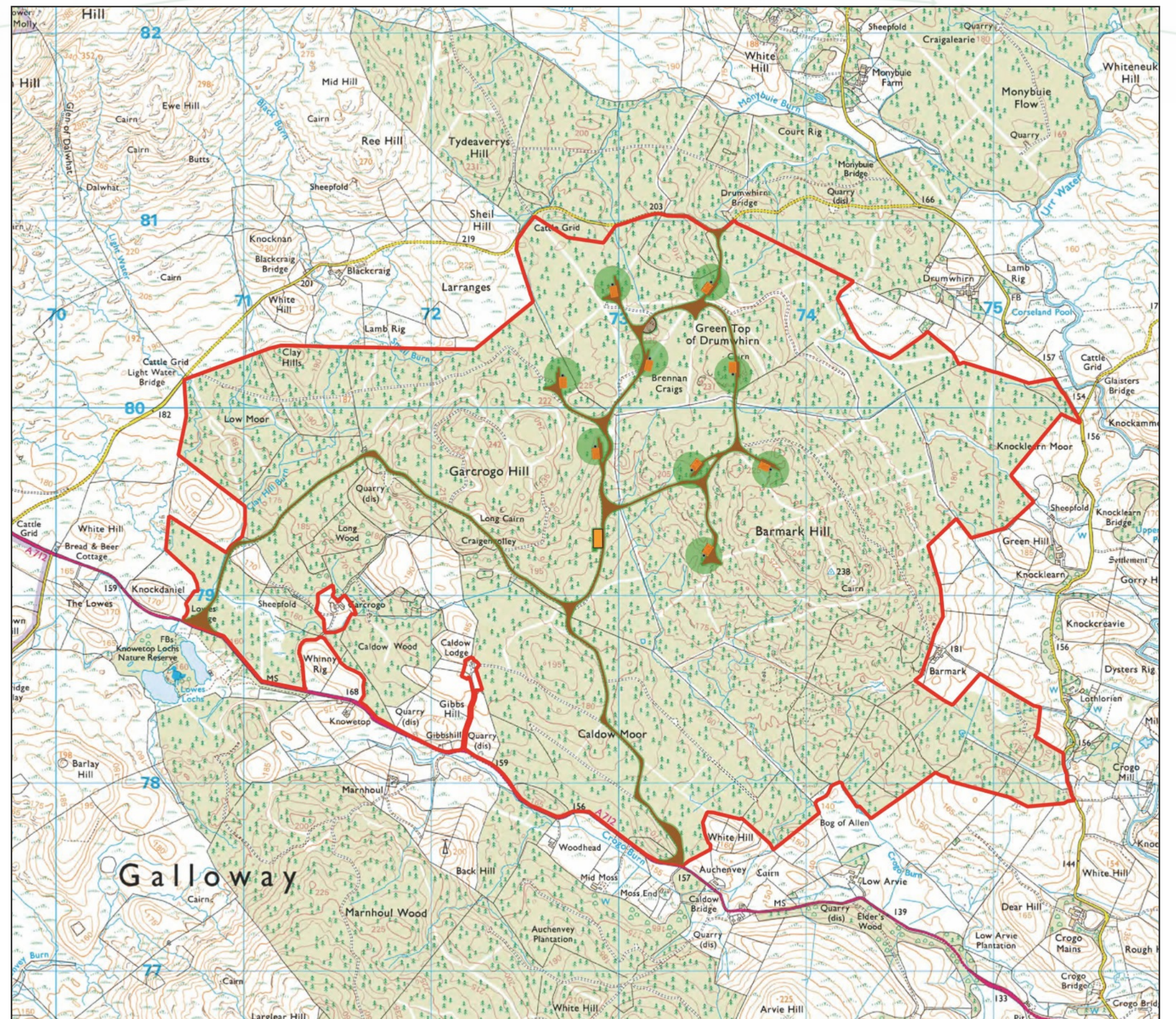
- The Garcrogo site is approximately 4km north west of Corsock, 7.5km east of Balmacellan and 11km south of Moniaive.
- The nearest main highway is the A712 which runs adjacent to the southern boundary of the site.
- The proposed wind farm is located within an area of commercial woodland set upon a series of undulating hill sides. Land rises up to the central areas of the site to a series of local hillside peaks, including Barmark Hill, Garcrogo Hill and Green Top of Drumwhirn.
- There are a number of wind farms, either operational or approved within the surrounding area. Most notably these include the operational Blackcraig Wind Farm and the approved Fell Wind Farm.



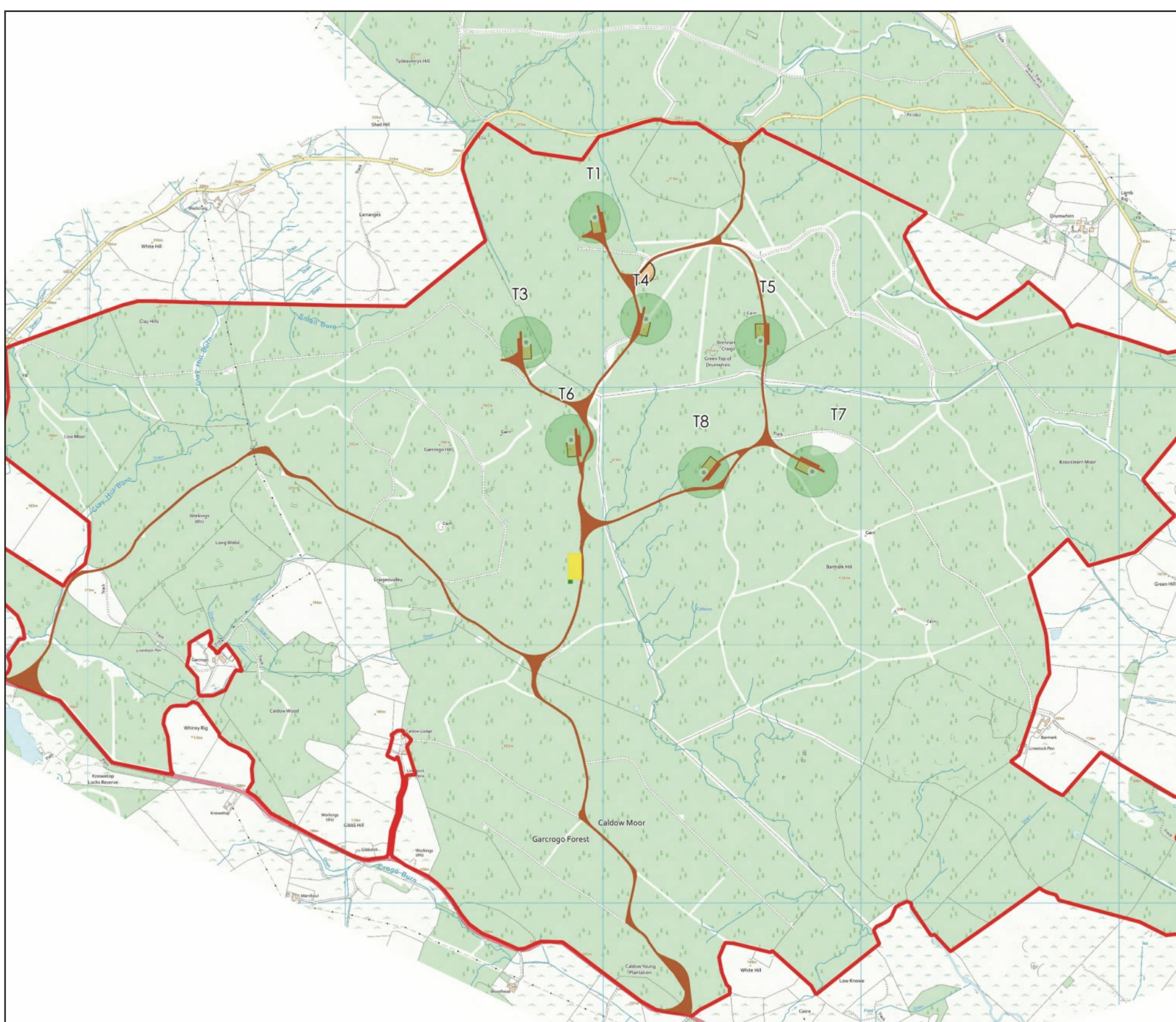
>> Planning History

2021 Planning Application

- An application for 9x turbines on the site, each up to 200m, was submitted by Energiekontor UK Ltd in February 2021.
- The application was refused on appeal in August 2022.
- The application was dismissed on landscape and visual grounds, principally due to the perceived height of the proposed turbines which the Reporter considered to be out of scale with their surroundings when viewed from a number of locations close to the site.
- All other issues, including impacts on peat and ecology, were considered acceptable by the Reporter.



2022 Planning Application



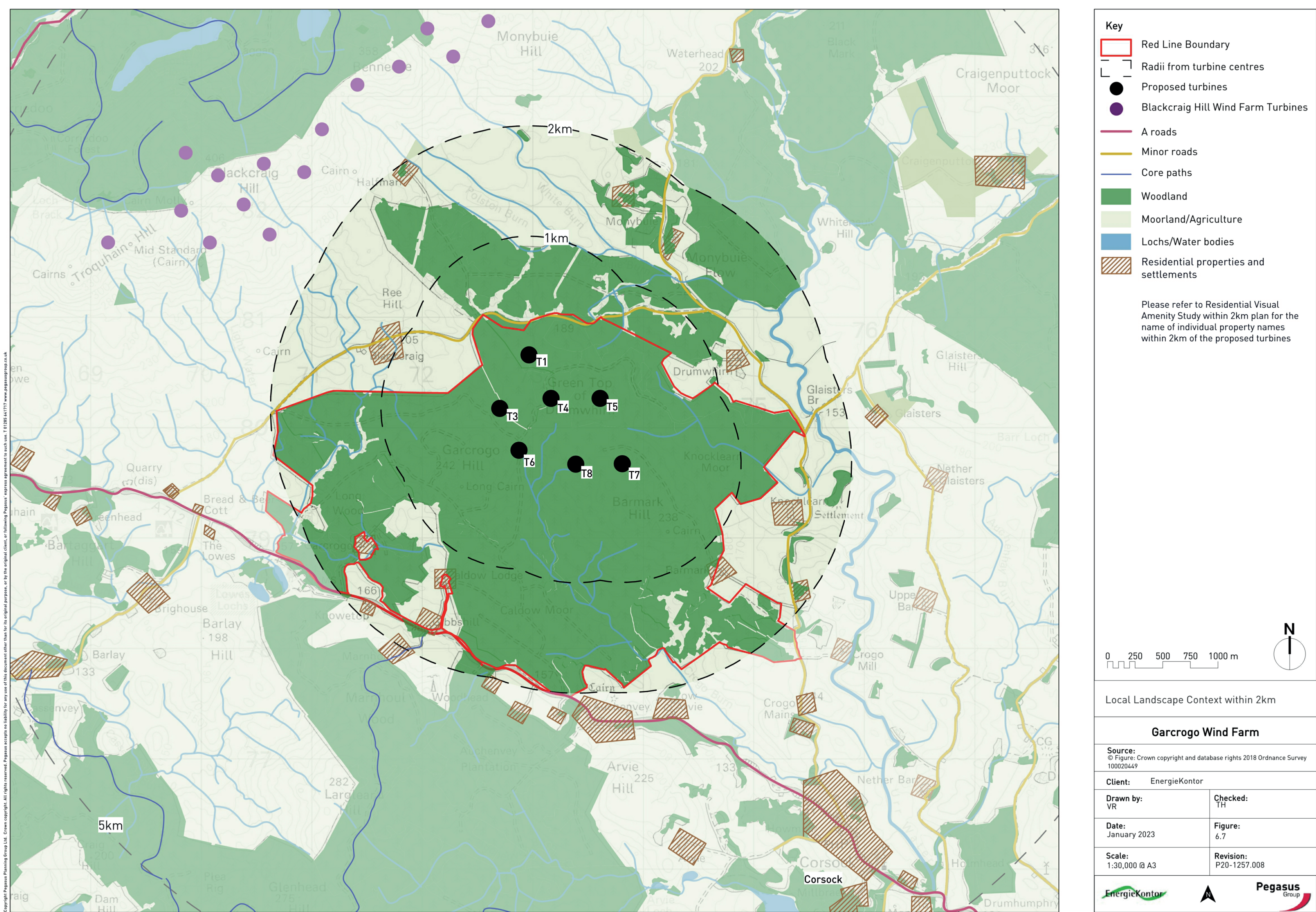
- In September 2022 Energiekontor UK Ltd submitted a further application for 9x turbines, with tip heights reduced from 200m to 180m in an attempt to overcome the previous reasons for refusal.
- In February 2023 we removed 2x turbines from the proposed layout, reducing the number of turbines from 9x to 7x.
- This application was refused on appeal in March 2024. The reason for refusal was due to a lack of information in relation to two new requirements from recently updated national planning policy (the National Planning Framework 4, published by the Scottish Government in February 2023). These related to peat disturbance and biodiversity enhancement.
- The Reporter found that the application was acceptable in all other respects, including landscape and visual effects.

Addressing Previous Issues

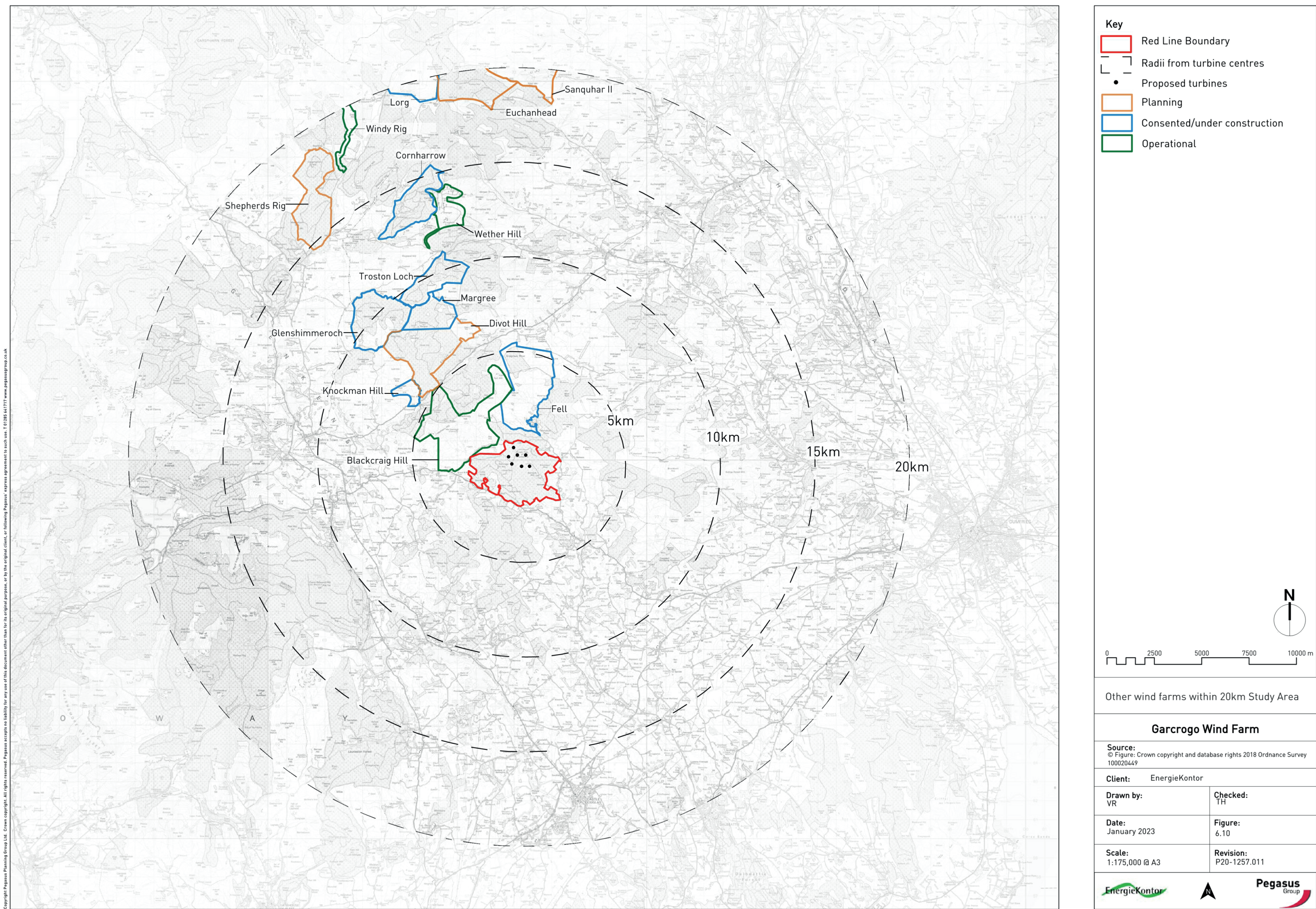
- The previous applications on the site suggest that a scheme for 7x wind turbines is generally acceptable in terms of its landscape and visual effects.
- Where the 2022 planning application failed was in relation to discrete points relating to insufficient detail for biodiversity enhancement and peat disturbance. We consider that these issues can be addressed through the submission of a new application containing detailed proposals for biodiversity enhancement, and an assessment of carbon emissions associated with peat disturbance during construction.

>>> Landscape

Local Landscape



Other Wind Farms



>>Habitat Management and Enhancement

One of the key reasons for the refusal of the 2022 Garcrogo planning application was insufficient detail relating to biodiversity enhancement. We consider that this issue can be addressed in the new planning application. Below is an indication as to the types of habitat management, enhancement and monitoring measures that we could put in place at Garcrogo:

Management Opportunities

A key habitat management measure we would put in place on site would be tree and shrub planting.

This would be done after construction has been completed, around turbine 'keyhole areas' where felling has taken place.

Fruit and nut bearing trees and shrub species would be planted and encroachment of natural scrub/shrub vegetation would be allowed to a managed height.

This would reduce bare ground coverage and help to maintain habitat connectivity. It would also benefit bird species by providing foraging and nesting opportunities and would provide foraging opportunities for mammal species.

The water table would be raised in suitable keyholed areas to create further wetland habitats.



Restoration and Enhancement Opportunities

Birds: Owl boxes, Kestrel nest boxes and nest boxes for smaller passerines would be installed. These would be monitored for occupancy after each breeding season.

Bats: Bat boxes would be installed to provide additional roosting opportunities. These would be regularly monitored by a licenced ecologist.

Pine Marten: Area-specific Pine Marten surveys would be conducted prior to felling. Den boxes would be installed in stands of woodland and restocked woodland and would be regularly monitored.

Deer / Herbivore Management & Vegetation Recolonisation: Deer density would be maintained to prevent habitat degradation. Bare ground and restoration areas would be fenced off to allow newly recolonising vegetation to recover.

Badger: Area-specific Badger surveys would be undertaken and artificial setts would be created within areas of woodland away from regular disturbance e.g. turbine locations.

Fish: Fish habitat and fish fauna population surveys would be conducted and a construction and post-construction water quality monitoring programme would be undertaken. Pollution mitigation measures would be incorporated into the development to avoid damage to watercourses and fish populations.

