

Glenvernoch Wind Farm

Environmental Impact Assessment Report Chapter 14: Socio-Economic Statement

October 2024

CONTENTS

14 SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATEMENT	14-1
Executive Summary	14-1
Statement of Competence	14-2
Scope of the Assessment	14-2
Economic Policy	14-3
Socio-Economic Benefits	14-5
Local Benefits	14-9
Summary	14-13

TABLES

Table 14.1: Regional Economic Strategy – 2016 – 2020
Table 14.2: Construction expenditure breakdown
Table 14.3: Geographical distribution of total UK expenditure
Table 14.4: GVA and Employment Ratios (Construction)
Table 14.5: Economic Impact of the Development (Construction)
Table 14.6: Operational Costs
Table 14.7: GVA and Employment Ratios
Table 14.8: Economic Impact of the Development (Operation)

APPENDICES

Appendix 14.1: Tourism Impact Assessment
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14 SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATEMENT

Executive Summary

- 14.1 This Socio-Economic Statement sets out the economic case for the Proposed Development.
- 14.2 It is likely that Glenvernoch Wind Farm would be developed without any form of government support mechanisms, making it an important project to help minimise consumer's electricity bills.
- 14.3 The Proposed Development would provide an annual economic contribution to the local area for the life the wind farm through the community benefit fund. Ongoing community engagement will ensure this fund is distributed effectively, where it can most benefit local communities.
- 14.4 Energiekontor would invest more than £105 million in the project, plus an ongoing expenditure on operation and maintenance. This is a significant investment with a strong policy fit both regionally and nationally.
- 14.5 The total value of contracts that could be secured in Dumfries and Galloway has been estimated as £21.36 million and in Scotland as a whole businesses could secure contracts worth £43.63 million.
- 14.6 The development could support an additional 297 man years in Scotland including 144 man years in Dumfries and Galloway during the construction phase. In Gross Value Added (GVA) terms the construction phase has the potential to inject £8.35 million into the Dumfries and Galloway economy and £17.2 million to the Scottish economy as a whole.
- 14.7 In addition to the expenditure during the construction period and first operational year, it is anticipated that the Proposed Development would further contribute through business rates to the Dumfries and Galloway economy.
- 14.8 The operation and maintenance of Glenvernoch Wind Farm could support an additional 15 jobs in Scotland, of which seven could be in Dumfries and Galloway. In GVA terms the operational phase has the potential to inject £704,088 per annum into the Dumfries and Galloway economy and £1.5 million to the Scottish economy as a whole.
- 14.9 Local businesses would have the opportunity to benefit from the contracting requirement to be awarded by Energiekontor. These range from civil engineering and ground work contractors, haulage businesses through to suppliers of water, as well as local service based companies including hotels, restaurants and local shops.

- 14.10 The Proposed Development would provide up to 86MW of installed capacity, depending on the turbine model chosen. It is estimated by Energiekontor UK Ltd that this installed capacity could generate approximately 242 GWh of renewable electricity each year. This represents a site capacity factor of approximately 32.2%, which compares very favourably to the UK average onshore capacity factor of 26.34% over the period 2018-2022¹.
- 14.11 The renewable electricity generated by the Proposed Development could power over 74,700 homes on average each year². This could save up to 104,060 tonnes of CO₂ each year³ for the operational life of the wind farm.

Statement of Competence

- 14.12 This statement has been prepared by Energiekontor UK Ltd. The Author has extensive experience of financial modelling for onshore wind farms and has written numerous socio-economic chapters for large-scale commercial developments.

Scope of the Assessment

- 14.13 There are no published standards or technical guidelines that set out a preferred methodology for assessing the likely socio-economic effects of a physical development. However, there are a series of commonly used methodologies and recognised approaches to quantifying economic effects both during the construction of a development and following its completion, notably Renewables UK's own economic impact guidance⁴.
- 14.14 In terms of economic effects, this assessment has also employed appraisal techniques consistent with those outlined in the Scottish Enterprise Economic Impact Guidance⁵ for the appraisal of economic development and regeneration initiatives. The assessment is also consistent with the latest Scottish Government's Draft Advice Note on Economic Benefit and Planning⁶.
- 14.15 The assessment has looked at the various groups that are likely to be affected by the proposal, including:
- Work force (job opportunities)

¹ Based on Digest UK Energy Statistics (DUKES): renewable sources of energy (updated July 2023)

² Based on an average annual UK domestic electricity consumption figure of 3,239KWh as set out in the BEIS publication "Subnational Electricity and Gas Consumption Statistics" (2024)

³ Based on BEIS's standard carbon dioxide savings figure of 430g/kWh

⁴ RenewableUK, Onshore Wind: Direct and Wider Economic Benefits, 2012, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/48359/5229-onshore-wind-direct-wider-economic-impacts.pdf

⁵ Scottish Enterprise, Economic Impact Assessment Guidance Note, 2007

⁶ Scottish Government, Draft Advice Note on Economic Benefit and Planning, 2016, <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00498008.pdf>

- Employers (business opportunities)
- Local services (brought about by the above); and
- Local population (including the associated impacts)

14.16 The assessment has contextualised the project both in terms of Scottish and Local renewable policy and identified where the project both fits within policy as well as its contribution to renewable targets.

14.17 The assessment further describes the commitments made by Energiekontor to both minimise the impacts to locals who will be predominantly potentially directly impacted by the development as well as identifying the steps taken by the developer to bring added benefit to the local community.

Economic Policy

National Policy

14.18 The Scottish Government published **Scotland's Strategy for Economic Transformation**⁷ in 2022. The strategy sets out 'the priorities for Scotland's economy as well as the actions needed to maximise the opportunities of the next decade to achieve our vision of a wellbeing economy..'. The strategy is built on seven key themes, namely 'Our Future Economy', 'Entrepreneurial People and Culture', 'New Market Opportunities', 'Productive Businesses and Regions', 'Skilled Workforce', 'A Fairer and More Equal Society', and 'A Culture of Delivery'.

14.19 Within 'New Market Opportunities' it is recognised that *The transition to net zero is not just an environmental imperative but an economic opportunity - one where Scotland will become world leading and secure first-mover advantage. The aim of this part of the economic strategy is 'to strengthen Scotland's position in new markets and industries, generating new, well-paid jobs from a just transition to net zero.'*

As a significant development in the transition to net zero, and injecting over £105m into the Scottish economy, Glenvernoch Wind Farm supports all the themes of the strategy. It will provide contract and employment opportunities for a skilled workforce amongst Scottish based businesses at both construction and operational stages.

14.20 The Scottish Government published an updated **Onshore Wind Policy Statement**⁸ (OWPS) in 2022. It sets out a Scotland's ambition to deploy 20GW of onshore wind by 2030. The OWPS recognises the socio-economic benefits of the onshore wind sector in Scotland,

⁷ Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation, 2022, <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-national-strategy-economic-transformation/pages/3/>

⁸ Onshore Wind: Policy Statement, 2022, <https://www.gov.scot/publications/onshore-wind-policy-statement-2022/>

establishing that these benefits are widespread, from investment and innovation to skills development and jobs. The OWPS sets out expectations that all onshore wind developments in Scotland will support national and local supply chains and is determined to see significant increases in local content, to steadily increase a skilled workforce, to see greater diversity and for the energy sector to boost local economies.

Glenvernoch Wind Farm can directly contribute towards the Scottish Government's onshore wind target, where there is an ambition to deploy 20GW of onshore wind development by 2030, and in doing so would inject £8.35m into the Dumfries and Galloway local economy.

- 14.21 National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) was published in 2023. Policy 11 of NPF4 seeks to encourage, promote and facilitate all forms of renewable energy development. Policy 11 of NPF4 is a demonstration that Scottish Ministers are committed to supporting renewable energy developments where they maximise net economic impact, including local and community socio-economic benefits such as employment, associated business and supply chain opportunities.

This socio-economic statement has been commissioned in line with NPF4 Policy 11, as it is expected that the net economic benefit of Glenvernoch Wind Farm is likely to be a material consideration.

Regional Policy

- 14.22 **The South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy 2021-2031**⁹ provides a 10 year plan for the development of the regional economy. The shared vision is that by 2031, the South of Scotland will be 'Green, Fair and Flourishing':

'... We will be a region of opportunity and innovation- where natural capital drives green growth, ambition and quality of life rivals the best in the UK, communities are empowered and cultural identity is cherished enabling those already here to thrive and attracting a new generation to live, work, visit, learn and invest in South of Scotland'.

- 14.23 The development of the South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy 2021-2031 reflects the broad policy areas being promoted at EU, UK and Scottish government levels, including the promotion of a low carbon economy. The plan focuses on six themes, each with four priorities. Those of particular relevance to the Proposed Development are presented in Table 14.1 below.

Table 14.1: South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy 2021-2031

Aim	Relevance to Glenvernoch Wind Farm
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⁹ The South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy 2021-2031, 2021, <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/27235/South-of-Scotland-Regional-Economic-Strategy-2021-2031>

Theme 1: Skilled and ambitious people	Energiekontor's local procurement policy will support the strategy ambition of retaining and attracting more people of working age as well as the competitiveness of individual businesses.
Theme 2: Innovative and enterprising	By working with local stakeholders, Energiekontor would increase inward investment
Theme 3: Rewarding and fair work	As a significant investment and one of the largest wind farms in Scotland to progress to application since the withdrawal of government support, Glenvernoch Wind Farm would generate meaningful contract and employment benefits for local firms.
Theme 4: Cultural and creative excellence	Glenvernoch Wind Farm would deliver the strategic actions of maximising community benefits and enhance and protect built and natural heritage assets.
Theme 5: Green and sustainable economy	Glenvernoch Wind Farm will contribute to the just transition to a net zero economy. In GVA terms the operational phase has the potential to inject £704,088 per annum into the Dumfries and Galloway economy.
Theme 6: Thriving and distinct communities	Glenvernoch Wind Farm is a large-scale investment project, which will establish a community benefit fund.

Socio-Economic Benefits

- 14.24 This section sets out the economic effects of the Proposed Development, with a specific focus on:

- **Construction Benefits** - the financial value of contracts and resultant labour benefits of the construction stage, outlining the type and location of businesses deployed to complete the construction phase; and
- **Operational and Maintenance Benefits** - the financial value of contracts, and where these accrued, in maintaining and operating the wind farm;

Construction

- 14.25 The construction of the Proposed Development will require a considerable financial investment. The construction phase will include a series of sub-phases including preparing the site, manufacturing and installing the wind turbines, balance of plant and connecting to the grid.
- 14.26 The Proposed Development would provide up to 86MW of installed wind capacity depending on the turbine model chosen for the development. For the purposes of this assessment it has been assumed that 86MW of capacity would be installed.
- 14.27 Based on RenewableUK¹⁰ research, the average construction cost per MW is estimated to be around £1.23 million; however, this rate varies $\pm 15\%$ depending on the precise nature of each development. Based on the RenewableUK figure of £1.23 million per MW, the total construction value for the Proposed Development is in the region of £61.5million. This

¹⁰ RenewablesUK, *Onshore Wind: Direct and Wider Economic Benefits*, 2012, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/48359/5229-onshore-wind-direct--wider-economic-impacts.pdf

broadly corresponds with the experience of the Applicant for a project of this size, and will be used for the basis of the assessment.

- 14.28 Turbine procurement account for the majority of the value of the construction contracts, accounting for 65.1%. The balance of plant contracts account for 27.3% and the grid connections account for 7.6%. Table 14.2 shows a capital expenditure breakdown based on the RenewableUK research.

Table 14.2: Construction expenditure breakdown

Construction component	Capital expenditure	
	£, million	%
Purchase of wind turbines and installation	68.70	65.1
BoP works, inc. foundations	28.80	27.3
Grid connection	8.02	7.6
Total	105.5	100

- 14.29 The research also found that on average, 45% of the construction costs are spent in the UK including 7% in the local area and 29% at the Scottish level. Table 14.2 summarises expenditure across the main areas of construction.
- 14.30 Based on a 45 % UK share construction investment for the Proposed Development in the UK is in the order of £47.7million. Professional judgement and knowledge of the local and regional locations has been used in the assessment of geographical distribution and total UK investment. This represents a departure from the RenewableUK study paper methodology. A substantially greater proportion for both Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland has been assigned due to the Applicant's procurement pledge (see section 14.52) and the likelihood of local contractors being used for BoP and Grid works. As a consequence this assessment indicates a Dumfries and Galloway spend of ~20%, and a Scotland spend of ~42%. The construction stage breakdown and estimated geographical sourcing are provided in Table 14.3.

Table 14.3: Geographical distribution of total UK expenditure

Construction component	Geographical sourcing and expenditure			
	Dumfries and Galloway (%)	Rest of Scotland (%)	Rest of UK (%)	UK expenditure as % total expenditure
Purchase of wind turbines and installation	5	10	1	16
BoP works, inc. foundations	60	30	10	100
Grid connection	8	90	1	99

Construction component	Geographical sourcing and expenditure			
	Dumfries and Galloway (£)	Scotland (£)	UK (£)	Subtotal (£)
Purchase of wind turbines and installation	3,435,000	6,870,000	687,000	10,992,000
BoP works, inc. foundations	17,280,000	8,640,000	2,880,000	28,800,000
Grid connection	641,600	7,218,000	80,200	7,939,800
Total UK expenditure (£)	21,356,600	22,728,000	3,647,200	47,731,800

- 14.31 Applying the methodology detailed above based on a UK spend from the RenewableUK research the Proposed Development provides an approximate turnover during the construction stage in excess of £47.73 million. Of this, there is potential for approximately £21.36 million to benefit the regional economy and approximately £22.73 million to benefit the rest of the Scottish economy.

Construction Employment

- 14.32 The contract data from RenewableUK's case study research assessment has been combined with turnover per employee data and ratio of GVA to turnover for relevant industries (Table 14.4). This table also shows the breakdown of construction costs into each of the main components of work, based on the case study data.
- 14.33 The turbine contracts account for the majority of the value of the construction contracts, accounting for 65.1%. The balance of plant contracts account for 27.3% and the grid connections account for 7.6%. Therefore the weighted average for construction shows there is one employee per £148,290 in turnover and a GVA/Turnover rate of 0.391.

Table 14.4: GVA and Employment Ratios (Construction)

Indicator	Turnover per Employee (£)	GVA / Turnover	% of Spend
Balance of Plant	121,000	0.363	27.3%
Turbine	162,000	0.393	65.1%
Grid Connection	131,000	0.486	7.6%
Total	148,290	0.391	100.0%

- 14.34 Applying the assumptions set out in Table 14.4 provides an estimate on the level of employment at the Scottish level (including Dumfries and Galloway) for the Proposed Development as 297 jobs, contributing £ 17.2 million in GVA.
- 14.35 At the Dumfries and Galloway level the construction phase of the Proposed Development could sustain up to 144 jobs and contribute approximately £8.35 million in GVA.

Table 14.5: Economic Impact of the Development (Construction)

Spatial Area	Jobs	GVA (£)	Turnover (£)
Dumfries and Galloway	144	8,349,320	21,353,760
Rest of Scotland	153	8,871,152	22,688,370
Rest of UK	25	1,449,534	3,707,250
Total UK expenditure (£)			47,749,380

- 14.36 It should be noted that although construction impacts are one-off in nature they will last for the duration of the project (no less than 12 months), thereby ensuring meaningful benefit to the local economy.
- 14.37 The expected scale of employment and GVA impact during construction phase is substantial; injecting approximately £44 million into the Scottish Economy.

Operation

- 14.38 According to recent RenewableUK¹¹ research the annual cost of operations and maintenance per MW installed ranges from £12,000 to £110,000 per annum. The operations and maintenance costs are affected by the size of development, land contracts and whether the turbines were still under warranty. The weighted average cost was found to be around £52,659 per MW installed per annum, which suggest that the operation and maintenance costs on the Proposed Development will be around £4.53m in total per annum for the life of the development.
- 14.39 The vast majority, 90.4%, of the operation and maintenance spend is in the UK, including 29% spent in the local area and 65% which was spent regionally. Table 14.6 summarises the operation and maintenance costs across at each spatial level.

Table 14.6: Operational Costs

Spatial Area	% Spend	£ Equivalent
Dumfries and Galloway	28.8%	1,304,258
Rest of Scotland	36.2%	1,639,379
Rest of UK	25.4%	1,150,283
Total UK expenditure (£)	90.4%	4,093,920

- 14.40 The contract data from the case study assessment (i.e. turnover data) has been combined with turnover per employee data and ratio of GVA to turnover for relevant industries (Table 14.7). This table also shows the breakdown of operation and maintenance costs into each of the main components of work, based on the case study data.

¹¹ RenewableUK, Onshore Wind: Direct and Wider Economic Benefits, 2012, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/48359/5229-onshore-wind-direct-wider-economic-impacts.pdf

Table 14.7: GVA and Employment Ratios

Indicator	Turnover per Employee	GVA / Turnover	% of Spend
Maintenance	£173,000	0.364	43.4%
Operations	£217,000	0.618	56.6%
Total	£198,000	0.508	100.0%

- 14.41 Applying the data from the RenewableUK research to the Proposed Development provides an estimate of the turnover in the UK associated with the Proposed Development during the operations and maintenance stage, £4.09 million. Of this, £1.30 million could benefit the Dumfries and Galloway economy and £2.94 million could be injected into the Scottish economy.
- 14.42 Applying the assumptions set out in Table 14.7 gives the level of employment at the Scottish level (including Dumfries and Galloway) for the Proposed Development as 15, contributing approximately £1.51 million in GVA. Of this Scottish total, the operation and maintenance phase of the Proposed Development is expected to sustain up to seven jobs, contributing £704k in local GVA terms in Dumfries and Galloway.

Table 14.8: Economic Impact of the Development (Operation)

Spatial Area	Jobs	GVA	Turnover
Dumfries and Galloway	7	704,088	£1,386,000
Rest of Scotland	8	804,672	£1,584,000
Rest of UK	6	603,504	£1,188,000

- 14.43 The expected scale of employment and GVA impact during operational phase can be judged to have an important role for Scottish based firms, securing around 15 direct jobs.

Local Benefits

- 14.44 Local benefits will accrue in a few ways, and these will include (1) **local business benefits** (2) allocation of funding to local communities through a **Community Benefit Fund** (3) **environmental benefits** through carbon savings and habitat improvements.

Local Business Benefits

- 14.45 The construction and operational stages of the development present the greatest potential for economic and employment benefits. More jobs and GVA will be created at the construction stage, but the figures given for the operation of the development represent an annual income stream for the life of the development. In order to realise the potential for local economic development resulting from the construction stage of the wind farm development a local procurement strategy is to be adopted.
- 14.46 The approach will primarily take into consideration several key factors including value for money, financial standing of contractors and health and safety requirements. In addition,

there is scope to assess contractors on their approach to local supply chains and provision of employment whilst adhering to EU Procurement Law to ensure a fair and competitive tendering process.

- 14.47 There will be a range of contract opportunities for local and regionally based companies, including national contractors who employ people from the local/regional area. Energiekontor will host Meet the Buyer events early in the development process to ensure local, regional and national companies are aware of the contracts being let and the procurement process being adopted. Local industry sectors would have the opportunity to be involved in areas of work including:

- Civil Engineering Design;
- Geotechnical Ground Investigations;
- Civil Works;
- Onsite Electrical Network Design and 'Contestable' installations;
- Aggregate Supply;
- Haulage; and
- Plant Hire.

- 14.48 When assessing bids for supply of materials and services to construct the Proposed Development, Energiekontor will give significant weight to bids from suppliers who demonstrate they have an established local presence, employ local people and source materials within the respective local authority region. Regional suppliers who meet our procurement qualification standards will be given a 5% price advantage on local market prices over National suppliers through the bidding process.
- 14.49 Within 20 miles of the Proposed Development there are at least six construction companies, one civil engineering company, a building and surveying company, a builders merchants and a quarry operator. Furthermore, within 40 miles of the Proposed Development, there are six fencing contractors, four plant hire contractors, and three drainage contractors. There is therefore substantial potential for local businesses to capitalise upon the opportunities that are presented during the construction of the Proposed Development, and thereafter its maintenance once operational.
- 14.50 In addition to the direct spend by Energiekontor and subcontractors, the tourism sector and other services sector (petrol station and food outlets for example) locally benefits from the spend of contractors that come into the area to work.
- 14.51 There are a total of 28 accommodation providers, approximately 14 eateries and numerous local shops all located 7km south east of the Proposed Development in Newton Stewart, the majority of which will be set to indirectly economically benefit from the Proposed Development.

- 14.52 Throughout the 35-year operational phase of Glenvernoch Wind Farm, management of the turbines and the Site itself will be required. The Site will support a number of jobs in routine and unscheduled maintenance. As with construction, a procurement strategy will be used to allow for local companies to undertake any work that is to be contracted. This will ensure the economic potential for the area is maximised for the local area.

Community Benefit Fund

- 14.53 Energiekontor is committed to making an annual contribution to a 'Community Benefit Fund' which would be available for community projects.
- 14.54 The administration of the fund will in part depend on the outcome of separate discussions with other community stakeholders, and ultimately at the conclusion of ongoing engagement with the community on how the total fund should be allocated. Several priority investments could be 'front-loaded', such as key communication infrastructure and capital projects.
- 14.55 The inclusive nature of the fund would ensure a wide variety of projects could be supported locally over the lifetime of the fund. Some of the projects that the community fund could support may also qualify for 'match funding' which could enhance the size and impact of the fund.

Environmental Benefits

- 14.56 The Proposed Development would provide up to 86MW of installed capacity, depending on the turbine model chosen. It is estimated by Energiekontor UK Ltd that this installed capacity could generate approximately 242 GWh of renewable electricity each year. This represents a site capacity factor of approximately 32.2%, which compares very favourably to the UK average onshore capacity factor of 26.34% over the period 2018-2022¹².
- 14.57 The renewable electricity generated by the Proposed Development could power over 74,700 homes on average each year¹³. This could save up to 104,060 tonnes of CO₂ each year¹⁴ for the operational life of the wind farm.
- 14.58 An Outline Biodiversity and Restoration Enhancement Plan has been developed and can be found at Volume III Appendix 9.4. The overarching aims of the plan are:
- To restore condition and quality of peatland habitats within the Site;

¹² Based on Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES): renewable sources of energy (updated July 2023)

¹³ Based on an average annual UK domestic electricity consumption figure of 3,239KWh as set out in the BEIS publication "Energy Consumption in the UK" (2024)

¹⁴ Based on BEIS's standard carbon dioxide savings figure of 430g/kWh

- To increase native woodland coverage and enhance connectivity through creation of fenced natural regeneration along riparian corridors and low density non-broadleaf planting;
- Natural Flood Management measures by holding back the flow of watercourses, creating 'leaky dams', pools and areas of seasonally inundated marshy grassland; and
- To improve habitat for breeding wader populations including curlew, lapwing and snipe.

Impact on Tourism

- 14.59 BiGGAR Economics have prepared a Tourism Impact Assessment which can be found at Appendix 14.1 of this EIAR. The Tourism Impact Assessment considers the effects the Proposed Development could have on the local economy and local tourist attractions.
- 14.60 In 2021, BiGGAR Economics conducted research analysing the impact of 44 onshore wind farm developments in Scotland and trends in tourism employment in the local areas in which they are situated. This found no link between onshore wind farm development and tourism employment trends and showed that in some areas tourism employment had actually grown.
- 14.61 The Scottish Government's National Strategy for Economic Transformation highlights low productivity as an important challenge for the Scottish economy. The committed transition to a net zero economy represents a key opportunity for the country to boost productivity rates through the investment and creation of job opportunities in addition to creating new sustainable tourism opportunities. The development of Glenvernoch wind farm will contribute to achieving these aims.
- 14.62 The Galloway Forest Park and associated mountain bike activity connected to the 7Stanes mountain bike centres are central to the tourism proposition of the local area. The park lies within a few km of the Proposed Development.
- 14.63 Motivations for visiting the park were considered as part of the Tourism Impact Assessment. The conclusion reached was that overall, there is no reason to expect that the Proposed Development would substantially alter visitor behaviour. While it is possible a small number of visitors with a particular aversion to wind farms may choose to avoid routes or accommodation with significant visibility of the Site, any such effects are expected to be isolated and minor and there are sufficient alternatives within the local area to ensure this would not affect the tourism economy as a whole.
- 14.64 Furthermore, the most common attribute highlighted by accommodation providers in Newton Stewart was their town centre location, proximity to local facilities and ease of access to the surrounding area. These attributes will not be affected by the Proposed Development, implying that any potential effects on visitor behaviour would be restricted to the local area around Newton Stewart rather than the town itself.

Summary

14.65 An assessment has been made of the economic impact associated with the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development. The principal conclusions drawn from this assessment include:

- The proposal has a **strong policy fit**; it will support local economic strategies which have a focus on generating **sustainable economic growth**. The net economic impact of the proposal has been maximised in line NPF4 Policy 11.
- Utilising Renewables UK assumptions Energiekontor will invest more than **£105 million** in the project. This is a significant investment with a strong policy fit both regionally and nationally.
- The **total value of contracts** that could be secured in Dumfries and Galloway has been estimated as **£21.36 million** and in Scotland as a whole businesses could secure contracts worth **£44 million**.
- The development could support an additional **297 man years in Scotland** including **144 man years in the Dumfries and Galloway** during the **construction phase**. In GVA terms the construction phase has the potential to inject £8.35 million into the Dumfries and Galloway economy and £17.2 million to the Scottish economy as a whole.
- In addition to the expenditure during the construction period and first operational year, it is anticipated that the Proposed Development would further contribute through business rates to Dumfries and Galloway's economy.
- The operation and maintenance of Glenvernoch Wind Farm could support an additional 15 jobs in Scotland, of which seven could be in Dumfries and Galloway. In GVA terms the **operational phase** has the potential to inject **£704k per annum into the Dumfries and Galloway economy** and **£1.5 million to the Scottish economy as a whole**.
- **Local businesses** would have the opportunity to benefit from the contracting requirement to be awarded by Energiekontor. These range from civil engineering and ground work contractors, haulage businesses through to suppliers of water, as well as local service based companies including hotels, restaurants and local shops.
- A **Community Benefit Fund** to distribute funding to local communities will be established to allocate funding to community projects.
- Once completed Glenvernoch Wind Farm **would produce electricity equivalent to the needs of 74,714 homes and save up to 104,060 tonnes of CO₂ each year**.
- The Proposed Development is not expected to have any significant adverse effects on the behaviour of visitors to the local area or on the local economy.