BiGGAR Economics

Bodinglee Wind Farm
Maximising Socio-economic Benefits

A report to OnPath Energy Limited
May 2025

BiGGAR Economics

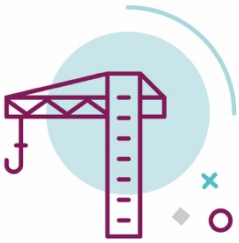
Contents

Executive Summary

Bodinglee Wind Farm will maximise the socio-economic benefits it will have on the local community and South Lanarkshire through the actions and commitments made by the developer, OnPath Energy.

Bodinglee Wind Farm is a proposed renewable energy development in South Lanarkshire that will consist of up to 35 turbines, with a combined installed capacity of approximately 245 MW, and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (the 'revised proposed Development). The project will be part of the wider pipeline of onshore wind projects that OnPath Energy have in South Lanarkshire, including the nearby operational Middle Muir Wind Farm.

The National Planning Framework 4 states that energy projects will only be supported if they can demonstrate that they will maximise the net economic impact. The assessment of whether Bodinglee Wind Farm will maximise these benefits is based on the commitments and actions that the developer has taken on **supply chain development**, **skills development**, **the empowerment of communities** and balancing the development with **environmental protection and enhancement**. This considered both what OnPath has direct control over, and how it can enable others to have a positive impact across these areas.



Supply Chain

OnPath Energy has committed to supply chain development actions which **are routed in the needs and context of the South Lanarkshire economy** and will build the capacity of the local supply chain for the cluster of energy developments that will be constructed in South Lanarkshire in the next ten years.

These commitments include establishing a working group of local developers and economic development stakeholders to **collaborate on the benefits of cluster development**, making **local economic benefits a material** factor in tender evaluations, lowering the barriers to entry for new entrants through preferential treatment for local suppliers and a **commitment to evaluating** the economic impact of the project against a **targeted spend of £1 million per MW within 60km of the site boundary** over the lifetime of the wind farm.

Skills Development

OnPath Energy is taking a proactive approach to local skills development, mindful that this is a crucial requirement of its supply chain requirements. It is actively **engaging with South Lanarkshire College on career events and curriculum support** because further education is the education route most applicable to the skills needed for onshore wind. It has also implemented **progressive recruitment and employment practices**, particularly targeted to support **a local hiring approach**, and has included similar requirements as part of its contracting process.

Bodinglee Wind Farm will also take **an innovative approach to skills development** through the energy efficiency and retrofitting project that will be supported by the Community Benefit Funding. By using the Community Benefit Funding to build skills that can be used to address local needs and support long-term local employment, **Bodinglee Wind Farm will leave a skills legacy** that will have a catalytic effect.

Community Empowerment

OnPath Energy has **invested resources to understand the local needs and aspirations** that can be supported through the Community Benefit Funding (CBF) and other benefits of the projects. This has included running workshops to identify the opportunities perceived by the community and then commissioning further work to develop the practicalities of supporting these projects through CBF.

The Community has also been offered the chance to **own up to 10% of Bodinglee, including a 1% equity gift**. OnPath Energy is also mindful of the **need for capacity building and collaboration** around the increase in community benefit funding that will be available in the area and this will form part of the working group.

Environmental Protection and Enhancement

Taking a nature-positive approach to the design of Bodinglee Wind Farm and increasing the opportunity for people to enjoy the natural heritage on the site were key themes identified during the initial community engagement exercise.

The work that OnPath Energy has committed to in the design will **protect and enhance biodiversity** through planting, habitat and peatland restoration. The Developer has also developed a wider masterplan for the area which will **improve community access to green and blue space** by enhancing the path network. It will also collaborate with other projects in the area aimed at linking up neighbouring paths and connect the villages of the Douglas Valley with non-motorised routes.

The approach outlined above will maximise the net socio-economic benefits to both Scotland and South Lanarkshire.

It was estimated that during the development and construction phase, which is expected to cost approximately £540 million, the Bodinglee Wind Farm could generate:

- £27 million Gross Value Added (GVA) and a peak of 150 jobs in South Lanarkshire;
- £131 million GVA and a peak of 780 jobs in Scotland; and
- £219 million GVA and a peak of 1,110 jobs in the UK.

During development and construction, the main opportunities for local suppliers would be related to the balance of plant contracts, including plant hire, civil engineering and construction, fencing, forestry and other skilled trades activities.

On average in each year of its 40-year operational life, the Bodinglee Wind Farm is expected to generate:

- £5 million GVA and 40 jobs in South Lanarkshire;
- £10 million GVA and 80 jobs in Scotland; and
- £15 million GVA and 130 jobs in the UK.

In total, over the development, construction and operation phases of Bodinglee Wind Farm, it was estimated that it could contribute:

- £218 million GVA in South Lanarkshire;
- £522 million GVA in Scotland; and
- £808 million GVA in the UK.

This economic activity, and the commitments outlined above, will contribute to the **human, economic, social, and natural capital** of South Lanarkshire. This will increase the resilience of these communities and support their long-term economic development.

The assessment of Bodinglee Wind Farm has found that the approach taken is:

- **place-based** and rooted in the context of South Lanarkshire;
- **innovative** in its approach to maximising benefits;
- **collaborative** with other developers, communities and public bodies;
- **transparent**, including a commitment to impact evaluation;
- **flexible** enough to meet the evolving needs of the community; and
- **deliverable** and an environment will be created to allow communities to deliver those benefits which are enabled by the wind farm.

Based on this above assessment, we have concluded that Bodinglee Wind Farm will maximise the net economic benefits of the project, in line with Policy 11c of NPF4.

1. Introduction and Policy Context

This report presents an assessment of OnPath Energy's commitments against Scottish Renewable's new guidance on Maximising net Socio-economic Benefit of Renewable Energy.

Background

Bodinglee Wind Farm (the Bodinglee Wind Farm) is a proposed onshore wind farm located in South Lanarkshire. The Bodinglee Wind Farm will be comprised of 35 turbines, each with a generating capacity around 7 MW, resulting in a total installed capacity of approximately 245 MW. In addition, it will include a 424 MWh battery with an output of up to 212 MW.

Since the submission of the 2023 Proposed Development, design requests for design modifications have been received through statutory consultation requests. In response to this feedback, OnPath Energy has undertaken a number of changes to the design of the 2023 Proposed Development. Design Changes include the removal of two turbines, and reductions in the maximum height to blade tip of nine turbines. Within this context, this Report sets out the updated case for the Revised Proposed Development (as submitted through the Further Environmental Information process)

BiGGAR Economics was also commissioned by Banks Renewables (now OnPath Energy) to estimate the economic impact associated with spending on the operational Kype Muir Wind Farm and Middle Muir Wind Farm, both of which are located in South Lanarkshire. This allowed developer-specific data to be used in estimating the expected impact of the Bodinglee Wind Farm.

Policy Context: Maximising Net Economic Impact

In the last couple of years, there has been a clear policy intent to ensure that the potential economic benefits of onshore wind to Scotland and to local communities are realised. This is driven by the Scottish Government's ambition to achieve Net Zero by 2045 and, in that process, to maximise benefits to Scotland. These policy ambitions are most clearly highlighted in the following two policies:

- National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4); and
- Scottish Onshore Wind Sector Deal.

1.1.1 National Planning Framework 4

NPF4[1] is Scotland's national spatial strategy, setting out the principles to be applied to planning decisions, regional priorities and national developments.

As part of Policy 11a of NPF4, "development proposals for all forms of renewable technologies will be supported". This is subject to the test outlined in Policy 11c, that:

> **"Development proposals will only be supported where they maximise net economic impact, including local and community socio economic benefits such as employment, associated business and supply chain opportunities."**

Whilst NPF4 does not provide details on how developments should be assessed against this test, what is meant by the Scottish Government when it states that it wishes to "maximise net economic impact" can be seen in other policy documents, including the Onshore Wind Sector Deal.

1.1.2 Green Industrial Strategy

The Green Industrial Strategy[2], published by the Scottish Government in September 2024, aims to help Scotland realise the economic benefits of the global transition to Net Zero. The strategy highlights Scotland's strengths and opportunities during the transition and outlines six key enabling factors that the Scottish Government and partners will do to foster a positive environment for investment and growth. These include:

- supporting investment, ensuring an investment-friendly ecosystem;
- investing in strong research and development foundations;
- supporting the development of a skilled workforce;
- helping supply chain businesses to seize opportunities;
- delivering an agile planning and consenting system; and
- delivering required housing and enabling infrastructure.

In addition to the enabling factors, there are five opportunity areas identified for the Scottish economy. The first of these is the wind energy sector and the strategy highlights the role of collaboration and circularity in achieving the ambition of maximising the economic benefits of the onshore wind sector.

[1] Scottish Government (2023), National Planning Framework 4.
[2] Scottish Government (2024), Green Industrial Strategy.

The strategy provides a clear direction and focus, highlighting the importance of prioritising resources and investment. The strategy also emphasises the need for coordinated policies to create the right environment and working collaboratively with partners to maximise economic benefit from the opportunities created by the transition to Net Zero.

1.1.3 Onshore Wind Sector Deal

The Onshore Wind Sector Deal[3], published in September 2023, establishes a series of commitments between the Scottish Government and the onshore wind industry to achieve Net Zero targets through a collaborative approach. This partnership aims to deliver 20GW of onshore wind capacity by 2030, whilst maximising the economic benefits for Scotland and prioritising community involvement and benefit.

The Onshore Wind Sector Deal highlights what the sector can do collectively and in partnership with the Scottish Government.

Under supply chain, skills and circular economy commitments, the onshore wind sector commits to addressing skills gaps by committing to apprentice

ships, training opportunities, and skilled job creation across related industries for the duration of the sector deal. Onshore wind pipeline data will be used to identify geographic clusters for operations and maintenance, encouraging co-investment in facilities and infrastructure in Scotland to deliver local economic benefits.

The sector commitments also include publishing data on local content in supply chains and in operations and strategic action to promote supply chain opportunities and enhance local content.

The sector commits to early engagement with communities, ensuring agreements on benefits align with local priorities and are established before key financial decisions. Transparency in community benefit fund management and reporting is prioritised and efforts to encourage and simplify shared ownership models are also a key focus.

OnPath Energy is collaborating with the sector and Scottish Renewables to advance the shared objectives set out in the Deal. This Deal identifies measures to maximise economic and community impacts, offering further clarity and actions on the concept of maximising net economic benefit. This report highlights the actions undertaken by OnPath Energy in the context of the Bodinglee Wind Farm.

This collective approach underscores a commitment to a just transition, where communities actively participate in and benefit from Scotland's renewable energy

[3] Scottish Government (2023) Onshore Wind Sector Deal

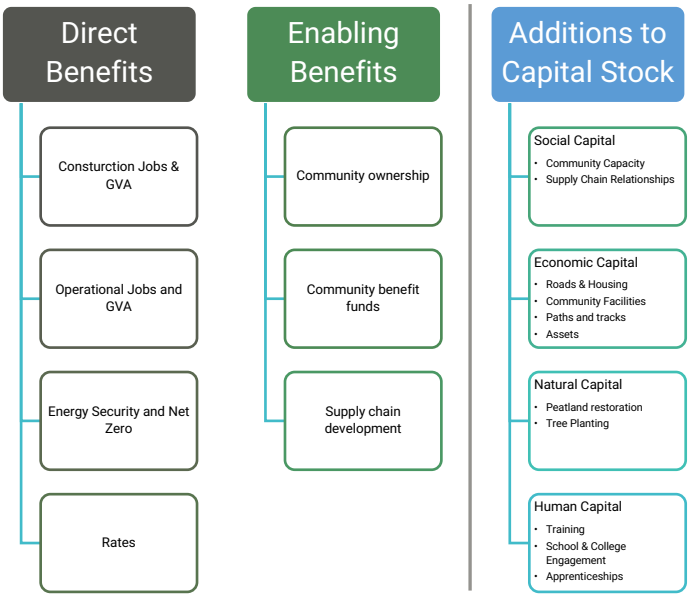
transformation. Sector initiatives to support this may include improving energy efficiency, installing solar panels, providing low-carbon heating for homes, and establishing EV charging stations in community areas.

1.1.4 Maximising Net Economic Benefit

The purpose of this report is to consider how OnPath Energy will maximise the net economic impact of Bodinglee Wind Farm. This will consider the different types of benefits that are generated by onshore wind projects. Examples of these are given in Figure 1.1, and this covers:

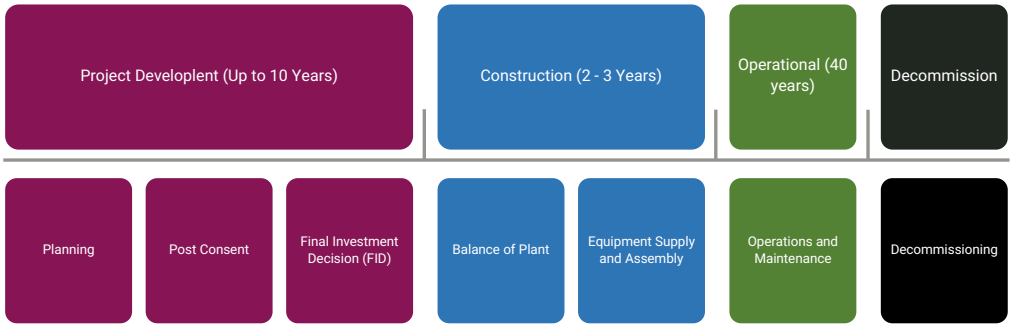
- **Direct Benefits** – these are the benefits and impacts over which the developer has direct control and can most easily influence. This can include the economic impacts generated by the projects and their contribution to public policy and public finances;
- **Enabling Benefits** – many of the potential positive impacts associated with an onshore wind farm are not within the control of the developer. These can include how communities invest any funding made available and how the supply chain builds capacity through the project. However, the developer can influence and support these organisations and individuals to maximise these enabling benefits and therefore it is appropriate to consider how the developer is working to maximise these enabled benefits; and
- **Additions to Capital Stocks** – the development of an onshore wind project should leave the local communities wealthier across all types of capital stock, including human, social, economic and natural capital.

Figure 1.1 Types of benefits from onshore wind in Scotland



The assessment of whether a project maximises the net economic impact is mindful of the process of building an onshore wind farm and the period in which this assessment takes place. The development timeline is outlined in Figure 1.2.

Figure 1.2 Example of Onshore Wind Farm Development and Timeline per Phase



Source: Scottish Renewables

Whilst there is currently no guidance on what this means, best practice is being established and the sector organisation, Scottish Renewables in 2025, have published guidance to support developers in delivering and maximising benefits. This guidance is designed to identify several principles that can be used to make a judgement on whether the Bodinglee Wind Farm is maximising net economic impact. These include:

- **Place-based:** every project and every community is slightly different, so packages of benefits that are tailored around the needs and capacity of the community in question are likely to generate greater benefits than a standardised approach.
- **Innovative:** many of the benefits that have been realised by renewables to date have happened because of innovation at the project level. To maintain this culture of continuous improvement developers must continue to innovate.
- **Collaborative:** many of the benefits of renewable energy developments are not directly within the gift of developers. They will require input and support of others in the public, private and third sector to realise, making a collaborative approach essential.
- **Transparent:** effective collaboration requires the parties involved to trust each other and an open and transparent approach is crucial for establishing this trust.
- **Flexible:** a lot can change between project inception and completion, and these changes can make a big difference to the benefits ultimately realised. A flexible approach that responds positively to such changes is therefore important.
- **Deliverable:** providing communities with realistic expectations about what can be delivered during the construction and operation phase of a project will help achieve trust with relevant stakeholders.

These principles highlight that in considering whether the Bodinglee Wind Farm maximises net economic impact, it is necessary to consider both the economic impacts that are expected and the approach that OnPath Energy is taking to ensure these benefits are consistent with community needs.

The focus of the assessment is on proposed approaches across supply chain engagement, skills development, and community empowerment. This is mindful of

the development timelines outlined in Figure 1.2 and the point at which impacts are likely to occur.

Report Structure

The structure of this report is:

- this Section presents the introduction and outlines the strategic policy context for maximising net economic impact, in particular NPF4 and the Onshore Wind Sector Deal;
- Section 2 presents the local labour market context and key insights;
- Section 3 focuses on the supply chain commitments to maximising benefits;
- Section 4 outlines skills development initiatives undertaken to maximise benefits;
- Section 5 highlights community empowerment commitments and actions to maximise benefits;
- Section 6 brings together actions and commitments for environmental protection; and
- Section 7 presents the economic impact of the Bodinglee Wind Farm.

2. Local Context

This section discusses the socio-economic context of the Bodinglee Wind Farm.

Understanding the socio-economic context in which a project will be built is crucial in ensuring that any intervention or proposed approach is place based and meets the needs of the communities that will be impacted.

Study Areas

The socio-economic baseline for the Bodinglee Wind Farm focuses on the following study areas:

- Local Area (defined as the electoral wards of Clydesdale East and Clydesdale South);
- South Lanarkshire; and
- Scotland

Socio-economic Context

2.1.1 Demographics

For the years of 2021 for the Local Area and 2023 for South Lanarkshire and Scotland, the Local Area had a population of 27,786, this was 8.4% of the total population of South Lanarkshire and 0.5% of the population of Scotland as a whole.

The Local Area is characterised by a lower-than-average working-age population (61.7%) when compared to South Lanarkshire (62.5%) and Scotland as a whole (63.4%). This may indicate a lack of economic opportunities in the area with those of the working age having moved to different locations in search of more available employment options.

Table 2-1 Population Estimates, mid-2021 and mid-2023

Age	Local Area	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
0-15	16.2%	16.9%	16.3%
16-64	61.7%	62.5%	63.4%
65+	22.2%	20.6%	20.3%
Total	**27,786**	**330,280**	**5,490,100**

Source: National Records of Scotland (2024), mid-2023 population estimates; National Records of Scotland (2022). The latest data for the local area is from 2021 while the latest data for South Lanarkshire and Scotland is from 2023.

Between 2023 and 2043, the population of South Lanarkshire is expected to decrease by 0.7% compared to an increase of 1.7% for Scotland as a whole. Over the same period, the number of working-age people in South Lanarkshire is projected to decrease by around 15,500 (a fall of 7.5%). This is significantly greater than the 3.4% decline projected for Scotland as a whole.

While the lack of economic opportunities may not be the sole factor leading to a higher decrease in the working-age population in South Lanarkshire and by extension in the Local Area, it may be a contributing factor, indicating a need for more economic opportunities in the area.

Table 2-2 Population Projections, 2023 to 2043

	South Lanarkshire		Scotland	
	2023	2043	2023	2043
Total	330,280	328,001	5,490,100	5,574,819
0-15	16.9%	15.5%	16.3%	14.8%
16-64	62.5%	58.2%	63.4%	60.3%
65+	20.6%	26.3%	20.3%	24.9%

Source: National Records of Scotland (2024), mid-2023 population estimates. National Records of Scotland (2020), population projections for Scottish areas (2018-based).

2.1.2 Industrial Structure

As shown in Table 2-3 in 2023 human health and social work was the largest source of employment in both the Local Area and South Lanarkshire (31.2% and 17.3% respectively). Transport and storage was the second highest source of employment in the Local Area (10.4%) which took up a higher share of the employment compared to South Lanarkshire and Scotland (5.0% and 4.5% respectively).

Of those working in the Local Area, 6.1% were employed in the construction industry, compared to 8.3% in South Lanarkshire and 5.1% in Scotland. This is likely to be one of the main beneficiaries of the opportunities for local content associated with the construction phase of the Bodinglee Wind Farm.

Table 2-3 Industrial Structure, 2023

	Local Area	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Human health and social work	31.2%	17.3%	15.6%
Transport and storage	10.4%	5.0%	4.5%
Accommodation and food service	9.8%	7.4%	8.6%
Wholesale and retail	9.2%	16.5%	13.2%
Education	8.0%	7.4%	8.2%
Manufacturing	7.6%	8.3%	6.7%
Construction	6.1%	8.3%	5.1%
Administrative and support service	4.6%	6.6%	6.8%
Professional, scientific and technical	3.7%	5.0%	7.2%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2.1%	2.1%	3.4%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1.8%	2.9%	2.7%
Other service activities	1.5%	1.9%	1.7%
Information and communication	1.0%	1.2%	3.1%
Real estate activities	0.8%	1.2%	1.5%
Mining and quarrying	0.7%	0.1%	0.9%
Electricity, gas, steam etc.	0.4%	0.7%	0.8%
Water supply; sewerage, waste, etc.	0.4%	1.0%	0.8%
Public administration and defence	0.4%	5.8%	6.2%
Financial and insurance activities	0.3%	1.4%	3.2%

Source: ONS (2024), business register and employment survey, 2023

There are several sub-sectors in the Local Area and South Lanarkshire which may benefit from the construction phase of the Bodinglee Wind Farm. Both the Local Area and South Lanarkshire have a higher proportion of the population working in civil engineering (1.3% and 1.7% respectively) which is higher than the Scottish average (0.9%).

Similarly, the Local Area and South Lanarkshire both have a higher concentration of the population working in specialised construction (3.5% and 4.1%) which includes

activities such as demolition and site preparation as well as electrical and plumbing. This is higher than the Scottish average of 2.8% working in specialised construction.

2.1.3 Economic Activity

The unemployment rate in South Lanarkshire was 2.9%, lower than the Scottish average of 3.3%. However, South Lanarkshire had a lower rate of economic activity (76.1%) compared to Scotland as a whole (76.6%).

Table 2-4 also shows that the median annual gross wage for residents (full and part-time) in South Lanarkshire which was £33,017, 3.5% higher than that of the Scottish average (£31,891).

Table 2-4 Labour Market Indicators

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Economic Activity Rate	76.1%	76.6%
Unemployment Rate (%)	2.9%	3.3%
Median Annual Gross Income (All Residents)	£33,017	£31,891

Source: ONS (2025), annual population survey – data for Oct 2023 to Sept 2023; ONS (2025), annual survey of hours and earnings – resident analysis – 2023; ONS (2025), model-based estimates of unemployment – data for Oct 2023 to Sept 2024.

2.1.4 Education

The workforce in South Lanarkshire has lower levels of qualifications than Scotland as a whole. Across South Lanarkshire, 48.9% of the population have achieved at least a Regulated Qualification Framework level four (RQF4), equivalent to a bachelor's proportion of people who have achieved no qualifications in South Lanarkshire (10.6%) is higher than Scotland as a whole (8.2%).

Table 2-5 Education Levels, 2023

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
% with RQF4 and above	48.9%	55.1%
% with RQF3 and above	69.2%	73.7%
% with RQF2 and above	86.6%	87.1%
% with RQF1 and above	87.1%	87.9%
% with Other Qualifications	2.3%	3.9%
% with No Qualifications	10.6%	8.2%

Source: ONS (2025), annual population survey – data for Jan 2023 to Dec 2023.

2.1.5 Household savings and perceptions of financial position

The Scottish Household Survey also reports on the economic health of households by either perception and measures of resilience. In both of these metrics, South Lanarkshire does not perform as well as the rest of Scotland. For example, 49% of households self-report that they are managing well in South Lanarkshire, compared to 52% in Scotland. Similarly, 19% of households in South Lanarkshire have no savings, compared to 17% across Scotland.

Table 2-6 Household finance indicators

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
% of households who feel they are "managing well" financially	49%	52%
% of households with no savings*	19%	17%

Source: Scottish Government (2024), Scottish Household Survey – data for 2023, *note that the survey data is based on a sample size of 150 for South Lanarkshire and should therefore be treated with caution, however the proportion of households with no savings in South Lanarkshire has been consistently lower than the Scottish average since 2013

2.1.6 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a relative measure of deprivation which ranks small areas of Scotland across seven dimensions: income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime, and housing. These areas can be ranked based on which quintile (fifth of the distribution) they belong to, with a small area in the first quintile being in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland.

The Local Area has slightly less small areas (17%) in the most deprived quintile compared to South Lanarkshire (20%). There are 36 small areas in the Local Area where most are concentrated towards the middle of the distribution with 77% of the small areas falling between the second and fourth quintile.

There are 431 small areas in South Lanarkshire of which it has a significantly higher proportion of small areas (17%) in the least deprived quintile compared to the Local Area (6%). The distribution of small areas in South Lanarkshire is more evenly distributed when compared to the Local Area.

When looking at the levels of educational deprivation, the Local Area has a significant share of the population who are in the most deprived quintile for education deprivation (28%) compared to South Lanarkshire (19%).

Table 2-7 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation by Quintile, 2020

	Local Area	South Lanarkshire
1 (most deprived)	17%	20%
2	28%	25%
3	31%	20%
4	19%	18%
5 (least deprived)	6%	17%

Source: Scottish Government (2020), Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.

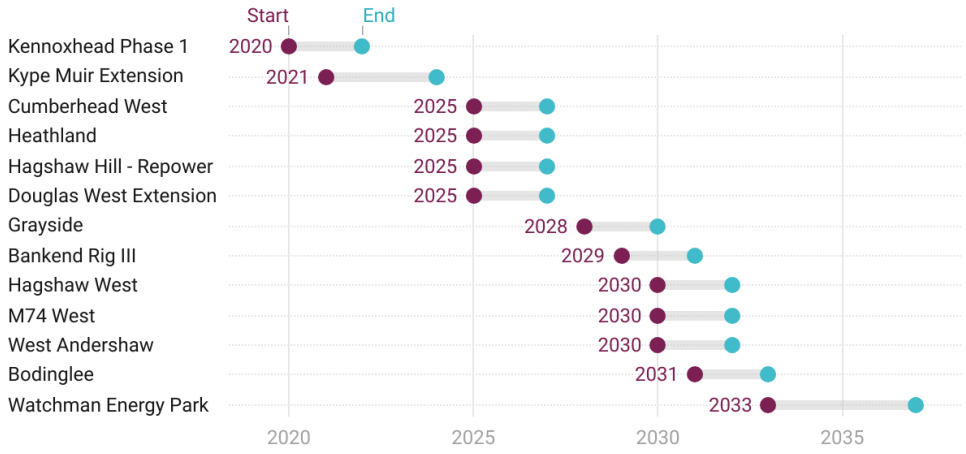
The Onshore Wind Market Context

2.1.7 Onshore Wind South Lanarkshire Pipeline

Data from EnergyPulse suggests that between 2025 and 2035, a total of 1.8 GW of onshore wind energy is expected to commence construction in South Lanarkshire. Since 2020, seven onshore wind farms, producing a combined 0.3 GW of energy, have already been constructed and are currently operational.

Looking ahead, EnergyPulse expects 45 new onshore wind projects, totalling 1.8 GW, to be constructed in South Lanarkshire over the period from 2025 to 2035. Of these, 19 are currently in planning, 14 have received consent and 12 are in development. Most of the larger projects, those exceeding 50 MW, are expected to begin in 2025 (four projects) and 2030 (three projects).

Figure 2.1 Construction of Large (> 50 MW) Onshore Wind Projects in South Lanarkshire



Source: BiGGAR Economics analysis of EnergyPulse Database

The Environment

2.1.8 Use of Natural Environment for Recreation

Residents of South Lanarkshire are less likely to use the outdoors for recreation than the Scottish average. Across South Lanarkshire, approximately 41% of residents visit the outdoors one or more times a week, compared to 54% of Scottish residents. This is the second lowest of all local authorities in Scotland, with only North Lanarkshire having a lower level of outdoor recreation participation.

This is despite the residents of South Lanarkshire having a living within a similar proximity to either green or blue space than the average Scottish resident. Across South Lanarkshire, approximately 84% of residents live within a 10-minute walk of either Green or Blue space, compared to 87% across Scotland.

Table 2-8 Outdoor Access data – Average for 2012 to 2023

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Visit the outdoors one or more times a week	41%	54%
Live within 10-minute walk of green/blue space	84%	87%

Source: Scottish Household Survey (2024)

2.1.9 Condition of Natural Environment

One of the reasons that outdoor recreation use in South Lanarkshire may be lower is due to the poorer condition of the natural environment in the area.

The Site Condition Monitoring is Scottish Natural Heritage's programme for monitoring the condition of features on designated sites in Scotland. This is to establish whether each natural feature is likely to maintain itself in the medium to longer term under the current management regime and wider environment or other influences.

A native woodland condition indicator has been developed by the Forestry Commission using measures from the survey that are relevant to every unit area of native woodland and can indicate ecological health or condition in relation to biodiversity, no matter what the age or type of native woodland.

Table 2-9 Native Woodland Condition Indicator, 2006 to 2013

	Clyde	Scotland
Satisfactory	29.3%	39.3%
Unsatisfactory	52.0%	46.1%
Nearly-native woodland	8.4%	3.7%
PAWS	10.2%	10.9%
Total (hectares)	**37,599.5**	**364,208.2**

Source: https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/ESHI/

Table 2-10 Site Condition Monitoring, 2024

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland
Favourable	58.6%	71.1%
Recovering	1.7%	4.2%
Unfavourable	39.7%	24.7%
Total (sites)	**58**	**5431**

Source: https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/ProtectedNatureSites/

Community Empowerment

The communities surrounding the Bodinglee Wind Farm are represented by a number of groups and representative bodies that would form the initial community capacity to deliver benefits from any community benefit funding. These include:

- Douglas CC
- Duneaton CC
- Carmichael CC
- Quothquan & Thankerton CC
- Lesmahagow CC
- Coalburn CC
- Symington CC
- Crawford & Elvanfoot CC
- Lanark CC
- Rigside tenants & residents association
- Coalburn regeneration group

Some of these community councils are well organised, resourced and have experience working with onshore wind projects in the area. This includes Lesmahagow Community Council, which used funding from OnPath's Kype Muir Wind Farm to develop a Community Lead Action Plan for Lesmahagow, Brocketsbrae and Hawksland.

Summary of Socio-Economic Context

As the Local Area faces a projected rise in its ageing population over the next two decades, creating local employment opportunities will become even more important. The Bodinglee Wind Farm will help to increase employment in the Local Area through direct economic activities. Therefore, the Bodinglee Wind Farm will play a role in attracting and retaining the working-age population.

The construction is more important to employment in the Local Area and South Lanarkshire than in Scotland as a whole. This may offer opportunities for local employment, particularly in the employment opportunities surrounding civil engineering and specialised construction. Both the Local Area and South Lanarkshire could potentially benefit from construction contracts, which will contribute to the Bodinglee Wind Farm's local impact.

The Bodinglee Wind Farm also has the opportunity to improve the attainment of educational qualifications in South Lanarkshire through the provision of apprenticeships. Increasing the levels of skills and education may have positive benefits on income and employment in the Local Area.

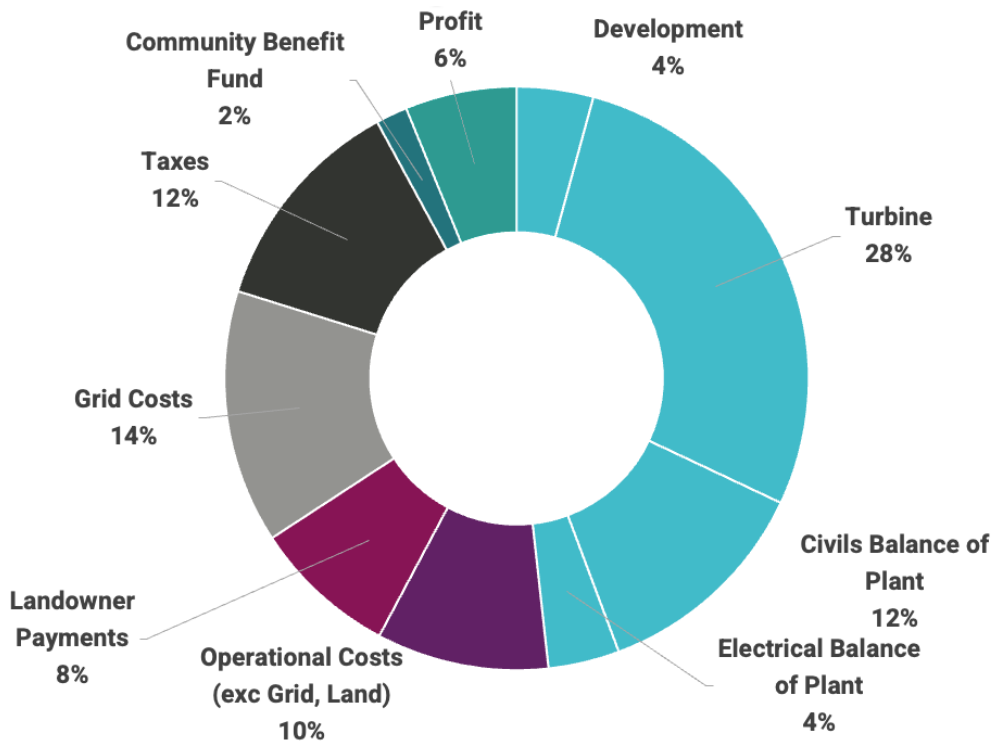
3. Supply Chain

Construction plays a more important role in the Local Area and South Lanarkshire relative to Scotland presenting supply chain opportunities to local supply chain contractors.

Maximising Benefits through the Supply Chain

The supply chain is vital for maximising economic benefits from wind farm development. The distribution of the income of a typical onshore wind farm in Scotland is shown in Figure 3.1. This shows that the majority of the value of an onshore wind farm is captured within various elements of the supply chain. Areas that Scotland has the ability to supply the majority of the work (such as development, the electrical and civil balance of plant and operational activities) account for at least 30% of the value of an onshore wind farm and therefore, maximising the supply chain opportunities from any project is crucial to maximising the net economic benefits of a project.

Figure 3.1 Distribution of Revenue of a Typical Onshore Wind Farm in Scotland



Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

Building local supply chain capacity allows developers to reduce costs while supporting regional economic growth. This approach brings together national policy and community expectations for local content and job creation.

Onshore wind developers can only utilise a local supply chain if it exists and is competitive at the time the developer needs the goods or services it could provide.

Social Capital

Supply Chain Development can contribute to the development of social capital, in addition to the more obvious contribution to financial capital within these businesses.

The opportunity will be particularly relevant for OnPath Energy and Bodinglee Wind Farm because of the cluster of onshore wind projects that will be developed in South Lanarkshire in the next ten years. The opportunities for repeat work within the business community can create bonds and networks within the supply chain that will encourage cooperation.

Effective capacity-building requires targeted outreach to raise awareness among local businesses about opportunities. This involves informing suppliers about technical standards, safety requirements and procurement processes and positions them to compete successfully for contracts. Clear communication of requirements and timelines gives local businesses the lead time needed to prepare, enhancing local competitiveness and reducing dependence on distant suppliers.

The supply chain serves as a strategic tool for developers to enhance economic returns, support communities and maximise local benefits in each stage of the development process while also strengthening the renewable energy sector's sustainability and commitment to deliver value.

Assessment Approach

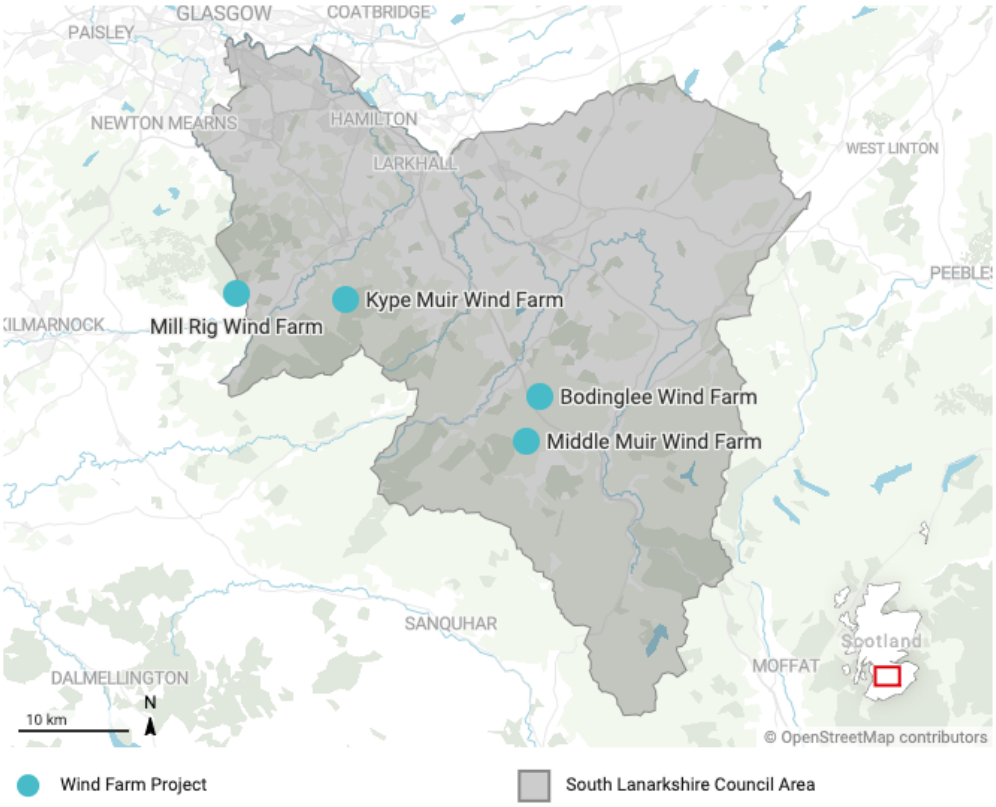
As outlined in Section 1.1.4, for a project to maximise its socio-economic benefits, it needs to be place-based, innovative, collaborative, flexible, transparent and innovative. For maximising benefits through the supply chain, this would mean the developer would need to:

- **research the local business base**, to understand the capacity to provide the goods and services needed and identify opportunities to support supply chain development;
- take reasonable steps to **maximise local supply chain content,** including working with Tier 1 contractors to make use of local suppliers;
- adopt **progressive procurement practices** that make it easier to make use of small local businesses and social enterprises; and
- supporting ongoing efforts to **increase regional supply chain capacity** and clusters of expertise.

OnPath Energy's actions and commitments

OnPath Energy is aware that South Lanarkshire is a key area for the development of the onshore wind sector in Scotland and its portfolio. In addition to Bodinglee Wind Farm, OnPath Energy has three other locations in South Lanarkshire with wind energy projects at various stages of development and operation. These are shown in Figure 3.2.

Figure 3.2 OnPath Energy's Projects in South Lanarkshire



In addition to the OnPath Energy portfolio, Figure 2.1 also highlights the number of other large onshore wind projects that are expected to be constructed in South Lanarkshire over the next ten years.

The significant level of activity within South Lanarkshire has both positive and negative implications for maximising supply chain content associated with Bodinglee Wind Farm. In particular, the pipeline of developments will give local contractors the confidence and security needed to invest in plant, skills and other equipment that would be needed to enable them to provide the services required. However, there is a risk that the high level of activity within South Lanarkshire could result in the displacement of supply chain companies between the projects and reduce the overall benefit.

OnPath Energy will work to build the capacity of the supply chain in South Lanarkshire to reduce displacement and maximise the sectoral benefits to South Lanarkshire

OnPath Energy has committed to maximising regional supply chain benefits through two primary mechanisms:

1. The Bodinglee Wind Farm Supply Chain, focusing on construction, manufacturing, and operational opportunities for local contractors and businesses.
2. A pilot program proposed as part of the Community Body focused on decarbonising heat sources and improving housing energy efficiency performance in nearby communities surrounding the Bodinglee Wind Farm to improve the housing stock and reduce energy bills. The pilot program will identify local suppliers and develop expertise within the area to then fulfil the Community body's mandate of installing these interventions across the properties within the 10km boundary of the site, creating hundreds of FTE job years.

3.1.2 Bodinglee Wind Farm – Supply Chain

The Bodinglee Wind Farm, located in South Lanarkshire, presents opportunities to enhance the local economy by integrating local contractors and suppliers into the onshore wind project lifecycle.

To ensure that the supply chain in South Lanarkshire can make the most of the development of the onshore wind cluster, OnPath Energy will establish a roundtable and working group of developers and economic agencies within South Lanarkshire, including South Lanarkshire College. The purpose of this group will be to collaborate in areas of supply chain and skills capacity building and to share information that could reduce the occurrence of displacement within the supply chain. This group will be established in the summer of 2025.

OnPath Energy has updated and enhanced the commitments within its Connect2renewables charter and -then rebranded it as OnPath Together - to guide its approach in outlining the delivery of benefits from renewable energy within the local economy. This aims to ensure that local businesses are identified and included in tendering processes.

In addition to the OnPath Together charter and South Lanarkshire working group, OnPath Energy has outlined several commitments designed to maximise the benefits secured through the local supply chain. These include:

- **Local Contractor Preference**: Giving priority to local contractors who submit bids within 10% of the lowest quote for development-related work. The purpose of this approach is not to subsidise local contractors but to attract new entrants into the market from the local area. Supply chain companies that work on onshore wind for the first time are less likely to have the specific experience that will enable them to be as efficient as contractors who have previously built onshore wind projects. Therefore, to avoid a vicious cycle that reduces the ability of new entrants to enter the market, the 10% preference will help local companies become competitive in the long term;
- **Stakeholder Collaboration**: Engaging with the Local Planning Authority, Chamber of Commerce, and Balance of Plant contractor and participating in "Meet the Buyer" events. The purpose of these events for OnPath Energy is to research the local business base and understand the capacity of local companies to deliver the goods and services needed. This engagement will also highlight opportunities to support supply chain development for companies that offer

either tangential services or have been unsuccessful in previous attempts to win work within the onshore wind sector.

- **Outreach and Awareness**: Promoting opportunities via social media, email, press releases, and local advertising to ensure suppliers are informed and have access to engage with the supply chain opportunities available from the Bodinglee Wind Farm.
- **Building a Supplier Database**: OnPath Energy has built a supplier database that includes companies that have participated in the engagement and outreach events and those which have participated in the previous onshore wind projects that OnPath Energy has constructed in South Lanarkshire. This database will enable OnPath Energy and its Tier 1 suppliers to find companies to invite to tender for different contracts as part of the project.
- **Local economic impact as a material consideration in contracts** – When companies bid for contracts through OnPath Energy, one of the criteria by which these bids are assessed will be a statement of local economic benefits. This will give companies that utilise local companies a competitive edge against those who do not, and therefore encourage direct suppliers to make use of the local supply chain where possible;
- **Economic Benefit Target**: Targeting a local economic impact of £1 million per MW for all onshore wind developments. This will require OnPath Energy to record, report and evaluate their impact within the local economy throughout the construction and operation of the onshore wind farm.
- **Local Restoration Contracts**: Using local firms for land restoration and other non-specialist tasks.

3.1.3 Community Body – Supply Chain

Beyond the wind farm, OnPath Energy proposed creating a Community Body to support long-term regional supply chain development focused on energy efficiency and retrofit. This initiative aims to build local expertise and capacity in South Lanarkshire, particularly in decarbonising housing stock and historical buildings.

This will be delivered through the pilot program that OnPath Energy has suggested with regard to the building decarbonisation needs of the local communities surrounding the Bodinglee Wind Farm.

Commitments include:

- **Pilot Decarbonisation Program**: Collaborating with local colleges to pilot retrofitting projects, focused on improving insulation and energy efficiency in community buildings and housing.
- **Supplier Development**: Using the pilot to identify and develop a pool of local suppliers that can support the assessment, design and delivery of high-quality interventions for the Community Body, ensuring long-term capability and knowledge transfer enabling these local businesses to grow.

Assessment of Maximising Economic Benefit Principles

This section considers whether the actions and commitments of OnPath Energy on the supply chain meet the principles required for them to maximise the local benefits. Note that upon consideration of the project, it was determined that the flexibility of the approach is not specifically relevant to this assessment.

3.1.4 Place-based

Place-based benefit is clearly a priority and well-embedded across both the Bodinglee Wind Farm and Community Body actions. OnPath Energy's strategy is notably tailored to the **local context of South Lanarkshire**:

- Engagement with local planning authorities and chambers ensures supply chain strategies are grounded in the regional economic context.
- Phasing development improves the accessibility of contracts for small or time-constrained local suppliers.
- Tailored outreach through locally relevant communication channels (in-person events, local advertising) demonstrates sensitivity to local engagement needs.

3.1.5 Collaborative

OnPath Energy shows clear evidence of working with others to co-deliver benefits. The developers approach reflects meaningful collaboration between the Bodinglee Wind Farm and community initiatives.

- OnPath Energy demonstrates a multi-stakeholder approach, working with planning authorities, chambers, and contractors.
- The Community Body concept introduces structured collaboration between the developer, education institutions, and local firms—enhancing regional skills and business readiness.

3.1.6 Innovative

OnPath Energy has proposed an innovative approach to supply chain development as part of the Community Body's work on energy efficiency and retrofitting. In particular, converting an identified social need (in this case energy efficiency to tackle fuel poverty) into an economic opportunity through supply chain development is an innovative approach to supply chain development.

3.1.7 Transparent

OnPath Energy has committed to quantifying and evaluating the impact of its supply chain activities. It is anticipated that this evaluation will occur at the end of the construction period, to capture the impact during this stage. OnPath Energy will feed back the findings of this evaluation to stakeholders and will contribute to the supply chain reporting requirements which form part of the Onshore Wind Sector Deal.

3.1.8 Deliverable

The proposals that OnPath Energy has committed to are deliverable. There is nothing that has been proposed which would place an unmanageable financial burden on the development and the process through which Bodinglee Wind Farm will support the development of the local supply chain has been considered.

Conclusion

A significant level of effort has been applied to developing approaches that address the needs and circumstances of the supply chain in South Lanarkshire. These approaches will enable the supply chain to benefit from the wider onshore wind cluster within South Lanarkshire, rather than Bodinglee on its own.

The approach that OnPath Energy is taking to supply chain development and utilisation meets the relevant criteria for maximising the socio-economic benefits of a project.

4. Skills Development

Skills Development is a key enabler of supply chain capabilities and is therefore crucial if the development is going to maximise its local economic benefits.

Maximising Benefits through Skills Development

Developing skills within the local region plays a pivotal role in maximising the economic benefits of wind farm projects. By investing in local workforce development and building relations with education and training providers the Developer can help ensure that the community directly benefits from the jobs and opportunities created by the project, thus fostering long-term economic growth.

Skills development enhances the capacity of the local workforce to meet the technical demands of the renewables industry. Offering training programs and upskilling opportunities ensures that local workers are prepared to take on both short-term construction roles and long-term operational positions, contributing to sustained employment.

Human Capital

Skills development is one of the key methods by which communities can build up human capital. Human capital includes the skills, knowledge and health/wellbeing that people accumulate throughout their lives. One of the ways in which this can be measured is through the total potential lifetime earnings of a community. A workforce with more skills is likely to earn more in the future.

In addition to greater potential lifetime earnings, a more skilled community has a greater level of economic resilience. Therefore, anything that can be done by OnPath Energy to develop skills will contribute to the long-term prosperity of the local area.

Building regional skills helps create a supply chain network, where local businesses can provide goods and services directly to the Bodinglee Wind Farm. This capacity-building in the local business community supports the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), driving economic diversification and resilience.

Through initiatives that target specific skills gaps and address industry requirements, the Developer not only maximises the immediate economic benefits of wind farm development but also fosters a skilled workforce that is competitive in future renewable energy sectors. This creates a foundation for the region's long-term economic vitality, ensuring that local communities remain integral to future renewable energy projects.

Assessment Approach

As outlined in Section 1.1.4, for a project to maximise its socio-economic benefits, it needs to be place-based, innovative, collaborative, flexible, transparent and innovative. For maximising benefits through skills development this would mean the developer would need to:

- **Adhere to progressive employment and recruitment practices** that meet or exceed current industry best practices
- **Understand the local labour market** and its capacity to provide the skills needed in the short and longer term, and identify important skills gaps;
- **Build relationships with education and training providers** and work with them to implement the national skills strategy and
- Work collaboratively with relevant training/education partners and community bodies to **develop bespoke labour market development solutions**, including apprenticeships where appropriate.

OnPath Energy's actions and commitments

In line with its supply chain commitments, OnPath Energy has outlined two primary mechanisms to maximise skills development arising from the Bodinglee Wind Farm. These opportunities stem from two key areas:

1. The direct skills and workforce needs associated with the construction, manufacturing, and operation of the wind farm; and
2. The establishment of a proposed Community Body, developed through local stakeholder engagement, to support long-term regional capacity-building in surveying, energy efficiency and retrofitting skills.

4.1.2 Bodinglee Wind Farm – Skills Development

The construction, manufacture, and operation of the Bodinglee Wind Farm presents significant opportunities to build and enhance the local skills base.

OnPath Energy is proactively enacting progressive employment and recruitment practices across the company and within its own supply chain. This includes being an accredited Living Wage employer and ensuring that its supply chain is also able to meet this requirement.

OnPath Energy has committed to supporting skills development in South Lanarkshire through a series of targeted actions aimed at maximising local benefit.

OnPath Energy is proactively engaging with South Lanarkshire College. This is because previous analysis of the supply chain spend of projects that it has already built in South Lanarkshire has found that the majority of the local contracts have been awarded to construction, civil engineering and associated industries. Workers in these industries are most likely to hold college course qualifications.

These include:

- Requiring supply chain partners to deliver direct employment and/or training opportunities for local people;
- Creating direct training and employment roles within OnPath Energy's wind farm projects;
- Offering apprenticeship and graduate programmes under the OnPath Energy banner;
- Supporting local employment by hiring for restoration and land-based work through local contractors;
- Collaborating with schools, colleges, and community groups to promote STEM learning and awareness of renewable energy careers;
- Forming partnerships with universities and South Lanarkshire College to shape curriculum content for the renewables sector;
- Identifying and addressing barriers to skill development in construction and related trades;
- Working in partnership with the local authority to establish jobs and training schemes to support people re-entering the workforce.

These skills commitments are complemented by strong community-led input. During engagement activities, including a survey conducted in July 2022, local residents expressed significant concern about the rising cost of living and fuel poverty. Feedback strongly prioritised improving energy efficiency in housing and securing access to affordable renewable energy.

In response, OnPath Energy proposes the creation of a new Community Body to help local households achieve better energy outcomes. This organisation would provide home energy assessments, coordinate the installation of efficiency improvements, and offer financial support for residents seeking to upgrade their housing. By linking energy transition goals with local employment and skills development, the initiative seeks to deliver both social and economic value.

Assessment of Maximising Economic Benefit Principles

4.1.3 Place-based

Place-based benefit is embedded across both wind farm and community-level skills initiatives:

- OnPath Energy commits to working with local schools, colleges, and universities, anchoring skills development within South Lanarkshire's existing educational infrastructure.
- The Community Body proposal reflects regional needs, particularly regarding energy efficiency and housing retrofit, shaped through community consultation and local survey data.
- The use of a locally focused skills needs report (via Natural Power) ensures place-specific barriers and opportunities are identified and addressed.

These place-based elements are strong and responsive to the unique needs of the region.

4.1.4 Innovative

There is moderate innovation, primarily driven by the Community Body approach. In particular:

- Aligning local community goals with national policy drivers (e.g., retrofit agenda) showcases a broader systems-thinking approach and innovative response to long-term skills development; and
- Potential innovation could be stronger with more detail on how educational partnerships will influence curriculum or practical training delivery.

4.1.5 Collaborative

Collaboration is a clear strength in OnPath Energy's approach to skills:

- Engagement with a range of local stakeholders—planning authorities, colleges, chambers of commerce, and community groups—demonstrates a partnership-based model.
- The Community Body itself represents a formal structure for co-design and co-delivery of benefits with the local community.

The developer is not acting alone, and their commitments reflect a shared ownership of outcome with a clear intent to develop and implement skills strategies in partnership with those who understand the local context.

4.1.6 Flexible

Skills development is typically a long term objective and interventions can take many years to have an impact on the labour market. Flexibility is therefore a challenge for skills development initiatives, as there needs to be a level of commitment and foresight on what the future skills demand will be.

OnPath Energy's current approach to skills development is general, in the sense that it is not targeting specific trades or positions at this point. The process of engaging with South Lanarkshire College and local supply chain companies will identify what the current gaps and needs are relevant to the onshore wind sector. However, this engagement will be ongoing and will therefore be able to evolve as priorities and requirements change.

In addition, the focus of apprenticeships and on the job training mean that new entrants can get into positions relatively quickly and be part the industry as it changes. Those who are in work, will also be more likely to be able to adapt to gradual changes in both skills requirements and levels of demand, compared to those involved in longer periods of education outwith the workplace.

4.1.7 Deliverable

The proposed commitments are deliverable because they are based on existing best practices and internal commitments that OnPath Energy has already committed to. The costs associated with the skills development initiatives will not be a barrier to their development and over time, should represent a net financial benefit to the sector which needs to grow its skills base.

Conclusion

A significant level of effort has been applied to developing approaches that address the needs and circumstances of the labour market in South Lanarkshire. These approaches will enable the labour market to benefit from the wider onshore wind cluster within South Lanarkshire, rather than Bodinglee on its own.

The approach that OnPath Energy is taking to skills development and utilisation meets the relevant criteria for maximising the socio-economic benefits of a project.

5. Community Empowerment

The construction and operation of Bodinglee Wind Farm has the potential to enable community empowerment through community benefit funding and associated capacity building.

The Role of Community Empowerment

Community empowerment initiatives play a role in maximising the socio-economic benefits derived from renewable energy projects. These initiatives extend the economic advantages beyond the physical construction phase, providing lasting support to local communities through mechanisms such as non-domestic rates payments, community benefit funds and community ownership.

While these financial mechanisms are not directly material to the planning process, they significantly enhance the socio-economic outcomes for the regions hosting renewable energy projects. Non-domestic rates payments contribute directly to local government funding, supporting essential public services and infrastructure.

Social Capital

Community benefit funding has the ability to build social capital in communities by providing residents with the resources needed to support networks, collaborate around shared objectives and enact change.

The community benefit funding from Bodinglee Wind Farm will be delivered through either representative bodies, such as community councils, or via community owned enterprises. The capacity for leadership within these organisations, and the ability of the wider public to influence the decision-making process within these organisations will be a key component of generating social capital.

Community benefit funds are particularly impactful, as they offer direct financial support to the communities hosting wind farm developments. These funds, which align with the Scottish Government's Good Practice Principles on Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments (2019), are designed to provide long-term economic support, enabling local communities to invest in a range of social, environmental, and economic projects.

Additionally, community ownership initiatives, where local residents have the opportunity to participate in the development and operation of the wind farm, empower communities by giving them a stake in the success of the project. This sense of ownership can foster further economic activity, collaboration and economic returns to the community.

Assessment Approach

As outlined in Section 1.1.4, for a project to maximise its socio-economic benefits, it needs to be place-based, innovative, collaborative, flexible, transparent and innovative.

The assessment will consider OnPath Energy's role as an enabler of impact, and the approach it is taking that will allow the community to maximise the benefits of the project

For maximising benefits through community empowerment, this would mean the developer would need to consider actions such as:

- working with local communities to **understand local needs, aspirations, appetite and delivery capacity**;
- developing a **community benefit package tailored to local needs** that is consistent with best practice principles and (where feasible) a proposition for community ownership;
- working closely with local communities to **build trusted relationships** to help support the emergence of innovative ideas and approaches, for example by appointing a single point of contact to manage discussions;
- working with community bodies to **establish effective governance**, administration, monitoring and evaluation arrangements consistent with best practice and providing data to enable the national community benefit register to be regularly updated; and
- engaging with regional partners in the public and third sectors to identify and develop opportunities to **generate regional benefits**.
- setting out any steps taken to **collaborate with other developers** working on nearby projects to secure greater impacts from community benefit proposals, for example by linking up access tracks to create a local network of paths or setting up joint governance arrangements for community benefit funds.

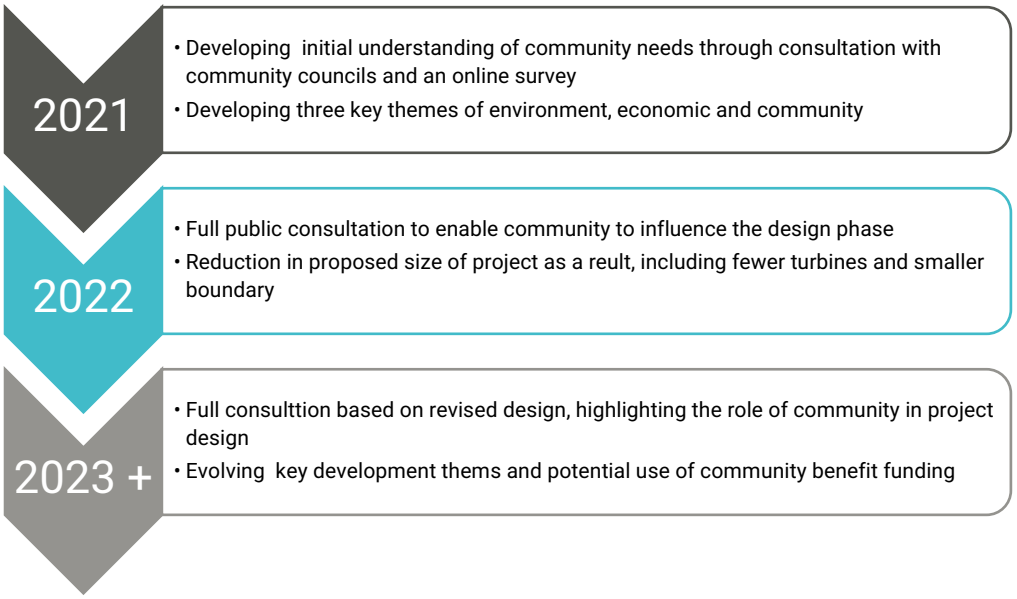
OnPath Energy's actions and commitments

In response to strong local interest in greater involvement and ownership, OnPath Energy has proposed a dual-track approach to community empowerment: supporting

the governance of community benefit funds and enabling direct community ownership of the Bodinglee Wind Farm.

A core part of the work that OnPath Energy has engaged with a comprehensive programme of engagement and dialogue to understand local needs and empower communities by getting their inputs to the design process. This engagement started after the Scoping Report was submitted in December 2020 and has been iterative as the project has developed. This iterative approach, to reflect changes in the design, has helped to build trusted relationships with the local communities and keep them informed of developments. This is particularly important for Bodinglee, as due to changes in design and grid connection dates the project team will have been engaging with the local community for ten years prior to the wind farm being constructed.

Figure 5.1 Community Engagement Highlights and Timescales



Through stakeholder engagement across communities surrounding the Bodinglee Wind Farm, a clear desire emerged for long-term, community-led involvement in both the management of benefits and local energy delivery. This led to the proposal to establish a new Community Body, which would be responsible for overseeing and implementing community benefits arising from the Bodinglee Wind Farm and serve as the recipient for any shared ownership offer.

The proposed Community Body is envisioned as a key coordinating entity, positioned to connect:

- local needs with national and regional government funding opportunities;
- private sector delivery capacity with local priorities; and
- community-led decision-making with expert operational delivery partners.
  - South Lanarkshire Council,
  - local councillors,

- OnPath Energy,
- local businesses, and
- energy sector experts such as Energy Saving Trust and Local Energy Scotland.

OnPath Energy commissioned a study from Natural Power on the best strategy to use money from Bodinglee to decarbonise local homes. This found that the programme could support between 20 and 25 full time roles related to the surveying, design, installation, after-sales support and management of the programme. This would just be based on servicing the homes that fall within the 10km radius of Bodinglee Wind Farm that will directly benefit from the programme. However, the community body would be established in a way that would enable it to become self sufficient and expand its operations across South Lanarkshire and beyond. This would include supporting other wind farm community benefit funds in the area that wished to enact a similar program.

A community panel would retain the flexibility to determine whether delivery is managed internally or contracted out to experienced third-party organisations.

The ability of the community to deliver the impacts associated with the Community Body is derived from the income the community will receive from the Bodinglee Wind Farm. This income will come from commitments that OnPath Energy has made regarding the financial benefits through community benefit funding and shared ownership, including:

- Shared ownership: gifting a 1% equity stake in the wind farm to local communities, and offering a further 9% ownership opportunity;
- Alternative community benefit model: offering enhanced annual payments if the 9% share offer is declined, equivalent to the value of a 1% stake;
- Community Benefit Fund: contributing £5,000 per MW of installed capacity per year to support community initiatives (in excess of £50 million over the project's lifetime);

Assessment of Maximising Economic Benefit Principles

5.1.1 Place based

OnPath Energy has shown a significant degree of place-based consideration when tailoring the needs of maximising the benefits from the Bodinglee Wind Farm with regards to Community Empowerment. The Community Body emerged through understanding the specific requirements and needs of the local communities surrounding the Bodinglee Wind Farm through an extensive stakeholder engagement process.

Community empowerment commitments demonstrate a strong place-based approach:

- The proposal for a Community Body stems directly from local stakeholder consultation, aligning with the region's expressed needs for greater governance, fuel poverty reduction and community-led delivery.
- The Body is designed to channel investment into priorities specific to the surrounding communities, such as energy efficiency, clean energy access and home insulation.
- Advisory roles for South Lanarkshire Council, local councillors and community experts ensure ongoing local representation in governance.

Place-based considerations are well integrated and reflect a thorough understanding of regional challenges and opportunities.

5.1.2 Collaborative

Collaboration is a core feature of OnPath Energy's approach:

- The Community Body proposal reflects co-design with local stakeholders, responding to community surveys, workshops, and repeated engagement.
- Partnerships are proposed with government agencies, local businesses, and expert organisations like Energy Saving Trust and Local Energy Scotland.
- The governance model includes advisory input from a broad range of actors, reflecting shared ownership of decision-making.

This is a collaborative model, both in development and proposed delivery.

5.1.3 Transparent

Transparency is relatively strong in intention, but could be improved in execution:

- The rationale behind the creation of the Community Body and the equity/share offer is clearly outlined.
- However, there is limited detail on how decisions will be made within the Body or how benefits will be measured and reported over time.
- The consultation process has been documented, but a public-facing implementation plan is lacking.

Transparency would be strengthened by providing governance structures, delivery milestones and reporting frameworks.

5.1.4 Flexible

The proposals are deliberately designed to be flexible:

- Communities can choose whether to pursue shared ownership or enhanced benefit payments.
- The Community Body may either deliver projects directly or contract them out, based on local capability and preference.
- The model allows for future adaptation based on community capacity and emerging priorities.

This flexibility is intentional and positive, enabling community-led direction while recognising current delivery constraints.

5.1.5 Deliverable

The impacts from any community benefit funding or other initiatives delivered by other bodies will depend on the activities and decisions that they make. OnPath Energy can act as an enabler of these impacts and activities by providing delivery support and through the provision of funding. OnPath Energy has undertaken a significant initial level of engagement with engineers and other professionals to mark a route to impact and create a business case for the energy efficiency programme. This initial investment and scoping work will enable the community groups to hit the ground running with the delivery of these impacts.

5.1.6 Innovative

The approach taken by OnPath Energy shows an innovative approach towards combining the specific needs of the local community and the opportunities to develop the skills base of the local population. This process of finding synergies between local needs and opportunities to develop valuable and transferable skills is innovative.

Conclusion

OnPath Energy has developed an approach to community benefit funding that is targeted at the needs of the local community and has delivering impact at its core. The initial work it has taken to understand the needs of the communities local to the development have resulted in an innovative approach to utilising community benefit funding to address key issues in the community and has the potential to have a catalytic effect on the recipient. A separate organisation will ultimately deliver these benefits, however OnPath Energy has established an approach that will enable that organisation to have a significant, positive effect.

The approach that OnPath Energy is taking to community empowerment meets the relevant criteria for maximising the socio-economic benefits of a project.

6. Environmental Protection and Enhancement

Environmental protection ensures sustainable, community-driven renewable energy that maximises economic benefit.

Role of Environmental Protection

Environmental protection is another area where maximising the economic benefits of renewable energy projects ensures the long-term sustainability of both the natural environment and built environment. By demonstrating a commitment to environmental protection, developers can create opportunities that not only preserve but enhance the surrounding areas, contributing to lasting socio-economic benefits.

Natural Capital

Natural Capital covers the aspects of nature that have value to society, including forests, land and rivers. This value is derived from how they can be used commercially, but also how the natural capital can be used outwith the market. This includes the use of natural capital for outdoor recreation and landscape amenity.

Increasing the recreational use of natural capital will therefore increase the value that this has, particularly for the local community. For onshore wind projects, there is a public right to access on the majority of the sites in Scotland and the works on the land during the construction phase represent a significant opportunity to enhance the value of the natural capital to the local community through recreational access.

By enhancing biodiversity, improving local infrastructure, and creating recreational opportunities, these activities not only safeguard the natural environment but also support long-term sustainable economic growth. Investment in local roads and green spaces typically increases accessibility, local wellbeing, boosts tourism and strengthens local businesses through positive spillover effects. Proactive planning for the site's future and collaboration with nearby developers on environmental issues and planning promotes efficient resource use and collective environmental management which fosters community support and ensures sustainable development.

Assessment Approach

As outlined in Section 1.1.4, for a project to maximise its socio-economic benefits, it needs to be place-based, innovative, collaborative, flexible, transparent and innovative. For maximising benefits through environmental protection and enhancement this would mean the developer would need to:

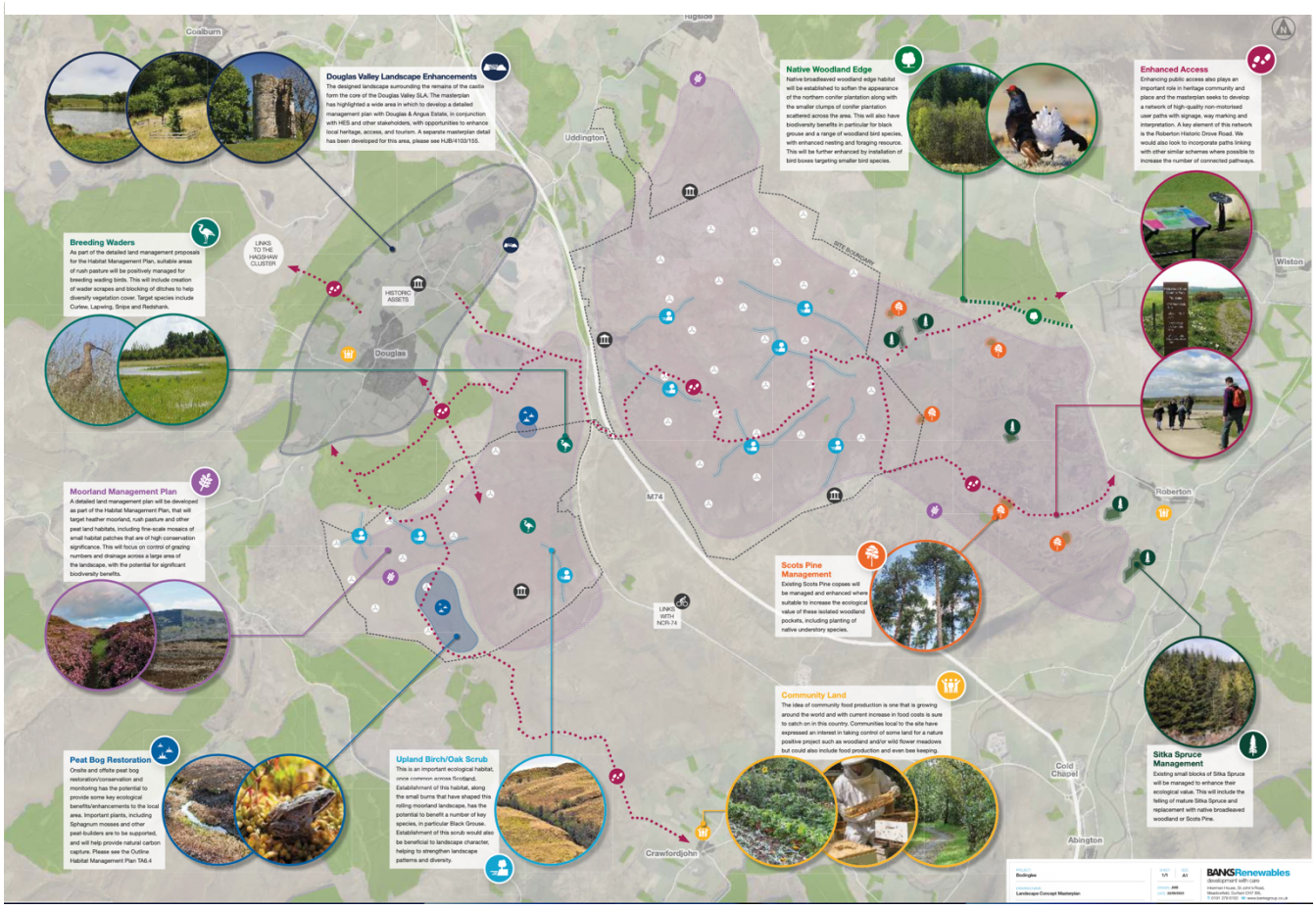
- explaining what has been (and will be) done to **protect and enhance biodiversity**;
- explaining any **investment in local infrastructure** planned or undertaken to restore or improve local roads used during the construction stage;
- creating new leisure and recreational opportunities to **improve community access to green and blue spaces**;
- **planning for the future** by putting a process in place to ensure communities are consulted on decisions about how a site is used at the end of its operational life; and
- setting out any steps taken to **collaborate with other developers** working on nearby projects on planning and environmental issues.

OnPath Energy's actions and commitments

OnPath Energy has made a suite of environmental commitments designed to improve biodiversity, restore degraded habitats and increase access to green infrastructure in and around the Bodinglee Wind Farm. These actions were shaped by extensive stakeholder engagement and local consultation, particularly in response to a strong desire from communities for enhanced access to green spaces and local heritage with improved connections between existing footpaths in the area. In response, OnPath Energy has proposed a nature-positive land strategy.

A summary of the paths and heritage assets that will be included within this strategy are shown in Figure 6.1.

Figure 6.1 Map of Paths and Restoration works at Bodinglee Wind Farm



Key environmental actions include:

- **Up to 45 hectares of new woodland planting** including broad-leaved and upland birch species to enhance biodiversity and bird habitats.
- Ditch blocking and hag remediation across **47.8 ha of existing blanket bog** and rush pasture topping and ditch blocking of **72.4 ha of Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE)** , supporting carbon sequestration by acting as an essential carbon sink and being a valuable habitat for wildlife, water management and habitat restoration.
- **Land management of approximately 1300 hectares of moorland habitat** to increase biodiversity value.
- Combined these direct and indirect measures to **deliver a compensation ratio of 1:14** on blanket bog and heathland**.**
- **Facilitation of land access for community nature projects** (e.g., flower meadows, beekeeping or gardens).
- **Contribution to circular economy practices,** including:
    - Working with turbine suppliers to recycle components.

- Partnering between CWIC and OnPath Energy to establish recycled content targets in line with the waste hierarchy.
- Planning a dedicated research project to identify regional supply chain partners following O&M contract award.

- **Collaborative master planning at Bodinglee and Hagshaw**, integrating footpath connectivity and environmental infrastructure.
- **Support for South Lanarkshire's Investment Zone application** around Junction 11, linking natural capital and regional economic ambitions.

These commitments reflect an emphasis on long-term environmental value, ecological stewardship, and the integration of circular economy principles into the wind farm lifecycle—from construction to decommissioning.

Social Capital

One of the key elements of social capital is agency, the ability of individuals and communities to influence decisions in their area. OnPath Energy has contributed to this through how it has engaged with the community to influence the design process and priorities for access.

One of the key themes raised during the community consultation was using the wind farm to improve access to green and blue spaces for the local community. This has influenced the prioritisation of improving the path network and creating a motivation to use this network, either to visit heritage or natural assets in the site or to traverse from one settlement to another. The community was also a crucial factor in the iterative design process and requested that the footprint of the entire scheme be reduced.

Heritage and Access

Recognising the cultural and historic value of the surrounding area, OnPath Energy has committed to a number of heritage and access-related initiatives that align with local identity and enhance regional connectivity. These include:

- **Up to 40km of new or improved multi-use paths** across Douglas Valley and Roberton, with a focus on safe, active travel between villages.
- **Restoration and reconnection of historical routes**, including parts of the Roberton Drove Road and the creation of new routes through the Bodinglee Bodinglee Wind Farm.
- **Heritage conservation measures**, such as:

- Enhancing the designed landscape around Douglas Castle in coordination with Historic Environment Scotland and South Lanarkshire Council.
- Restoring disused or underutilised historical buildings for public/community use.
- Installing new signage, wayfinding, and interpretation boards to improve local understanding and visibility of key heritage assets.

These interventions aim to create lasting social and cultural value, support a sense of place, and deliver tangible environmental and heritage benefits that are locally accessible and community-led.

Assessment of Approach

6.1.1 Place based

The strategy is rooted in specific local environmental and cultural needs:

- Commitments such as peatland restoration and new woodland planting reflect the ecology of the Douglas Valley and respond to land degradation patterns.
- Connectivity improvements, like multi-use path creation and the revival of historic routes, emerged directly from community consultations.
- Heritage initiatives focus on sites of local significance and respond to a recognised need to improve access to cultural assets and green infrastructure.

These actions clearly reflect the characteristics, history, and priorities of the place in which the Bodinglee Wind Farm sits.

6.1.2 Innovative

Innovation is present in both environmental planning and lifecycle thinking:

- The nature-positive land management strategy showcases modern ecological thinking aligned with biodiversity net gain.
- The integration of circular economy principles into construction and decommissioning (e.g., recycling turbine components) represents an emerging best practice.
- Community-led green initiatives go beyond traditional environmental mitigation by embedding ecological benefits within community wellbeing and the wider environment.

6.1.3 Collaborative

OnPath Energy has engaged a broad stakeholder base:

- Input from NatureScot, Historic Environment Scotland, Douglas & Angus Estates, South Lanarkshire Council, and local interest groups shaped the commitments.
- Workshops and site visits enabled in-person engagement and community council meetings to develop these plans with feedback.
- Environmental specialists (ecologists, hydrologists, foresters) helped refine site-level interventions.

The strategy was developed through a collaborative process with both technical and local partners involved.

6.1.4 Flexible

Flexibility is a strong feature of the proposed approach:

- Environmental interventions are adaptable to different landownership models and levels of community capacity.
- Land-based community projects (gardens, meadows) are framed as “facilitated access” rather than prescriptive schemes, allowing for local leadership.
- Heritage and access proposals accommodate multiple delivery models, whether via the Community Body, local authorities or external delivery partners.

This flexibility supports long-term responsiveness to evolving priorities and funding landscapes.

6.1.5 Deliverable

The commitments are grounded in existing best practices and appear feasible within the scale of the development.

- The clear distinction between firm commitments and aspirational proposals enhances credibility and helps manage expectations.
- Some actions (e.g., circular economy research or heritage restoration) may rely on partnerships or future funding, but this is acknowledged.

The deliverability of environmental and heritage actions is supported by OnPath Energy’s collaborative model and early engagement efforts. The commitments made by OnPath Energy are deliverable, in part due to a clear distinction made in the wording between firm commitments and proposals.

6.1.6 Transparent

The rationale for OnPath Energy’s environmental commitments is articulated clearly in its environmental section by clearly outlining what the specific environmental requirements are of the local environment as well as the specific desires of the local community. With commitments clearly following from the outlined needs.

Conclusion

OnPath Energy is taking an approach to environmental protection and enhancement that will enhance the value of the site to local communities and visitors. The improvements in public routes, including the introduction of new routes and the restoration of old ones, will enable a greater level of enjoyment from the natural environment around the Site.

The approach that OnPath Energy is taking to environmental enhancement and protection meets the relevant criteria for maximising the socio-economic benefits of a project.

7. Economic Impact

This section estimates the economic impact that could be generated by the Bodinglee Wind Farm

Economic Impact Methodology

1.1.1 Modelling the Economic Impact of Onshore Wind Farm Developments

The approach followed in estimating the economic impact from onshore wind developments is based on industry best practices and was used in a study undertaken in 2015 by BiGGAR Economics on behalf of RenewableUK [4].

Assumptions about spending and economic impact in each area were informed by analysis undertaken by BiGGAR Economics on the development, construction and operation of the 88.4 MW Kype Muir Wind Farm and the 51 MW Middle Muir Wind Farm. These were developed by Banks Renewables (now OnPath Renewables) and became operational in 2019 and 2018 respectively.

Using this analysis, it was possible to estimate total expenditure and economic impact per MW for each stage of development, construction and operation, which was then applied to the Bodinglee Wind Farm.

1.1.2 Sources of Economic Impact

Impacts have been measured across two different project stages: development and capital expenditure, and operational expenditure (over the lifetime of a development, assumed to be 40 years).

There are three significant types of economic impact associated with the wind farms:

- direct impacts: the economic value generated through the contracts associated with the Bodinglee Wind Farm;
- indirect impacts: the impact from the spending of contractors within their supply chains; and
- induced impacts: the impact from the spending of those workers carrying out contracts for the Bodinglee Wind Farm and on behalf of its contractors.

This approach captures the wider economic activity associated with the construction and operation of the wind farms.

For example, if a hotel receives a significant level of custom for half a year from contractors working on one of the wind farms, then the jobs supported during this

[4] RenewableUK (2015), Onshore Wind: Economic Impacts in 2014.

time at the hotel will be captured in this model. These will be in addition to the direct jobs of the contractors.

Similarly, if the wind farm procured the services of an equipment rental company the operator would be included in the jobs impact. A proportion of a mechanics job, who was paid to maintain the equipment would also be included in this model.

7.1.1 Measures of Economic Impact

Economic impacts are reported with respects to the following measures:

- Gross Value Added (GVA): a commonly used measure of economic output, which captures the contribution made by an organisation to national economic activity. This is usually estimated as the difference between an organisation's turnover and its non-staff operational expenditure; and
- Employment: this is expressed as years of employment for temporary contracts and as annual jobs for operations and maintenance contracts. Years of employment are used to report the short-term employment that is supported by the Bodinglee Wind Farm. As an example, a job that lasts for 18 months would support 1.5 years of employment.

1.1.3 Study Areas

Economic impacts were estimated with respects to the following study areas:

- South Lanarkshire;
- Scotland; and
- the UK.

Development and Construction Impacts

7.1.2 Expenditure

Based on the analysis of current costs in the onshore wind sector in Scotland and a development with 35 turbines and a total generating capacity of approximately 245 MW, it was estimated that the wind farm development and construction expenditure could be up to approximately £540 million.

This information has also been used to estimate the categories of spend, suggesting that the largest categories are expected to be the turbines (£245 million) followed by grid connection (£26 million) and the balance of plant (£74 million). Development and design contracts include expenditure associated with OnPath Energy's direct development.

In addition to the wind farm component, the Bodinglee Wind Farm will include a battery, with a capacity of 424 MWh and an output of up to 212 MW. Based on recent work by BiGGAR Economics on the battery storage sector across the UK[5], it was

[5] BiGGAR Economics (2025) The economic impact of solar and battery storage. Available at: https://solarenergyuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Solar-Energy-UK-Economic-Impact-of-Solar-and-Battery-Storage.pdf

estimated that the battery would cost £174 million. On this basis, it was assumed that the total capital expenditure would be £542 million.

Table 7-1 Development and Construction by Contract Type

	% Capex	Value (£m)
Development and Design	4%	23
Balance of Plant	14%	74
Grid Connection	5%	26
Turbines	45%	245
Battery	32%	174
Total	**100%**	**542**

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis of case study evidence from previously constructed wind farms. Analysis by Lichfield. Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

To estimate the economic impacts from the development and construction of the Bodinglee Wind Farm, it was necessary to make assumptions on the ability of businesses within each study area to carry out contracts.

Based on available evidence from similar developments within South Lanarkshire and previous onshore wind projects developed by OnPath Energy, it was estimated that around 7% of the Bodinglee Wind Farm's contracts could be carried out by businesses in South Lanarkshire, with a value of £40 million.

It is expected that Scottish businesses could secure 32% of development and construction spending, with a value of £172 million and the UK could complete contracts worth £194 million, equivalent to 36% of development and construction spending.

The largest opportunity for Scottish businesses would be in contracts associated with balance of plant, which could be worth £72 million. Balance of plant contracts would also be the largest opportunity for businesses in South Lanarkshire, worth up to £24 million.

Table 7-2 Development and Construction Expenditure by Study Area

	South Lanarkshire		Scotland		UK	
	%	£m	%	£m	%	£m
Development and Design	22%	5	71%	17	100%	23
Balance of Plant	33%	24	98%	72	100%	74
Grid Connection	5%	1	94%	24	98%	25
Turbines	2%	5	12%	30	15%	37

Battery	2%	3	16%	28	20%	35
Total	**7%**	**40**	**32%**	**172**	**36%**	**194**

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis. Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

1.1.4 Economic Impact

Having estimated the size of the contracts that could benefit each of the study areas, it was possible to consider the GVA and short-term employment that these could support. Each contract category was split into its component contracts and assigned to an industrial sector. Direct GVA was then estimated by applying the relevant turnover to GVA ratio from the UK Annual Business Survey (ABS)[6].

It was estimated that the development and construction of the Bodinglee Wind Farm could generate £20 million direct GVA in South Lanarkshire, £76 million direct GVA in Scotland and £88 million direct GVA in the UK.

Table 7-3 Development and Construction, Direct GVA by Study Area (£m)

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland	UK
Development and Design	3	9	12
Balance of Plant	12	35	35
Grid Connection	1	10	11
Turbines	3	10	15
Battery	1	11	14
Total	**20**	**76**	**88**

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis. Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

It was possible to estimate the number of direct jobs supported by spending in development and construction contracts by dividing the expenditure in each contract by the turnover per job ratio for the relevant sector. In this way, it was estimated that the development of the Bodinglee Wind Farm could generate 270 direct years of employment in South Lanarkshire, 1,040 direct years of employment in Scotland and 1,220 direct years of employment across the UK.

[6] Office for National Statistics (2020), Annual Business Survey 2018 - Revised.

Table 7-4 Development and Construction, Direct Employment by Study Area and Contract Type (Years of Employment)

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland	UK
Development and Design	30	100	150
Balance of Plant	150	410	420
Grid Connection	10	180	190
Turbines	60	170	240
Battery	20	180	220
Total	**270**	**1,040**	**1,220**

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis. Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Expenditure in development and construction contracts is also expected to generate 'knock-on' effects across the economy. In particular, it will be associated with further rounds of expenditure along the supply chain and with the spending of the wages and salaries of those involved in the development and construction of the Bodinglee Wind Farm. These are referred to as 'indirect' and 'induced' impacts.

To estimate indirect and induced impacts, it was necessary to apply the relevant Type 1 and Type 2 GVA and employment multipliers from the Scottish Government Input-Output Tables[7] to direct GVA and direct employment. Since the multipliers refer to sectoral interactions occurring at the level of the Scottish economy, it was necessary to adjust them when considering impacts taking place in South Lanarkshire.

Adding up direct, indirect and induced impacts, it was estimated that the development and construction of the Bodinglee Wind Farm could generate £27 million GVA and 340 years of employment in South Lanarkshire, £131 million GVA and 1,690 years of employment in Scotland and £219 million GVA and 2,780 years of employment in the UK.

[7]Scottish Government (2020), Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables.

Table 7-5 Economic Impact of Development and Construction Spending (£m)

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland	UK
Direct GVA	20	76	88
Indirect GVA	2	33	78
Subtotal (Exc Induced)	22	109	166
Induced GVA	4	22	53
Total GVA	**27**	**131**	**219**

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis. Note numbers may not sum due to rounding

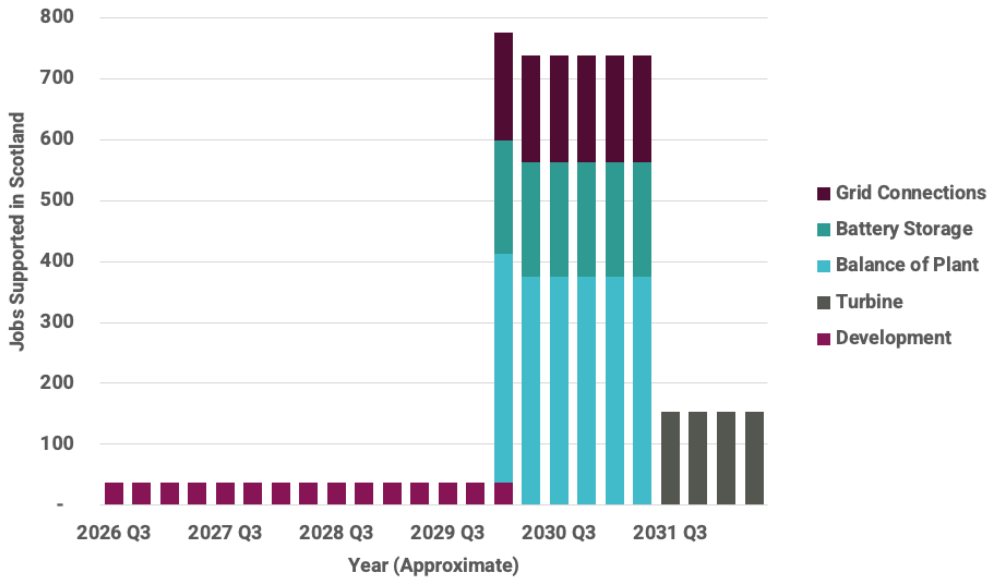
Table 7-6 Economic Impact of Development and Construction Spending (Years of Employment)

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland	UK
Direct Employment	270	1,040	1,220
Indirect Employment	30	430	1,030
Subtotal (Exc Induced)	300	1,470	2,250
Induced Employment	40	220	530
Total Employment	**340**	**1,690**	**2,780**

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis. Note numbers may not sum due to rounding

The employment and GVA impacts are expected to peak during the construction phase, in particular during the work associated with the balance of plant works. An indicative employment profile for Scotland is shown in Figure 7.1, which shows that in the first half of the construction period, the direct and indirect employment supported by Bodinglee Wind Farm will be between 700 and 800 jobs across Scotland.

Figure 7.1 Employment in Scotland over time (Direct and Indirect Impacts)



Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

1.1.5 Opportunities in South Lanarkshire

There are a number of local opportunities associated with the construction of onshore wind projects such as Bodinglee Wind Farm. In particular, there will be opportunities related to balance of plant contracts, including:

- provision of stone and aggregate;
- plant hire;
- civil engineering;
- road/bridge surfacing works;
- fencing;
- tree surgery and forestry;
- drainage;
- cleaning;
- and other trades activities (plumbing, metal fabrication, electricals, joinery, painting and scaffolding).

OnPath Energy also has a presence in Hamilton, South Lanarkshire, where a share of the development work is being undertaken resulting in higher economic impact than is typical.

In addition, local accommodation providers will benefit from increased occupancy, including during the off-season.

Operations and Maintenance

7.1.3 Expenditure

There will be a continuing economic impact associated with the operation and maintenance of the Bodinglee Wind Farm. As with development and construction, the first step in estimating the economic impact was to consider the total expenditure required for its operation each year.

Based on the number of turbines and the Bodinglee Wind Farm's capacity, the previous analysis of spending associated with Kype Muir Wind Farm and Middle Muir Farm and the latest estimates of the operating costs of commercial scale BESS units, it was estimated that the annual cost of operations and maintenance (OPEX) could be around £13 million.

It was further assumed that businesses in South Lanarkshire could benefit from £7 million in operations and maintenance contracts (54% of OPEX) each year, annual expenditure on Scottish contractors could be up to £12 million (90% of OPEX), and annual expenditure on UK contractors could be up to £13 million (97% of OPEX).

Table 7-7 Operations and Maintenance Expenditure by Study Area (£m)

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland	UK	Total
Annual Turnover	7	12	13	13
Lifetime	**283**	**471**	**505**	**523**
Turnover (%)	54%	90%	97%	-

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis.

1.1.6 Economic Impact

The total turnover generated in each study area was then divided by the turnover to GVA and turnover per job ratios of the sectors expected to carry out operations and maintenance contracts. In this way, it was estimated that the Bodinglee Wind Farm could generate £4 million direct GVA and 30 direct jobs in South Lanarkshire, £6 million direct GVA and 50 direct jobs in Scotland, and £6 million direct GVA and 60 direct jobs across the UK.

Table 7-8 Direct Economic Impact of Operational Spending (£m)

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland	UK
GVA	4	6	6
Direct O&M Jobs	30	50	60

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis.

As with the development and construction of the Bodinglee Wind Farm, it was necessary to estimate the indirect and induced impacts associated with operations

and maintenance contracts by applying the relevant GVA and employment multipliers.

Adding up direct, indirect and induced impacts, it was estimated that during its annual operations and maintenance, the Bodinglee Wind Farm could generate £5 million GVA and 40 jobs in South Lanarkshire, £10 million GVA and 80 jobs in Scotland and £15 million GVA and 130 jobs in the UK.

Table 7-9 Annual Economic Impact of Operational Spending

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland	UK
GVA (£m)	5	10	15
Lifetime GVA (£m)	**192**	**391**	**589**
Total O&M Jobs	40	80	130

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis.

1.1.7 Opportunities in South Lanarkshire

The main economic opportunities for South Lanarkshire during the operational phase of the wind farm are likely to be related to rents paid to the local landowner, enabling them to diversify and expand their business, as well as land and civil maintenance, for example maintaining roads. Habitat management is another opportunity, involving developing the land and increasing its conservation quality. There may also be opportunities to provide turbine maintenance services.

Jobs supported in the operation and maintenance of onshore wind tend to be in sectors that have relatively high levels of productivity and staff costs, such as the repair and installation of machinery, electric power generation, transmission and distribution and the rental sector[8]. This suggests that these are well-paid, high quality jobs.

[8] Office for National Statistics (2022), UK Annual Business Survey 2020

Economic Capital

Economic Capital includes cash in the bank, property and other tangible assets that are used by an organisation to support its activities. The economic activity that will be supported by Bodinglee Wind Farm will enable the local business community to build up economic capital.

The direct income, and profits generated, will enable those businesses to invest in tangible assets. This will be further stimulated by the cluster development support outlined in Section 3. This capital investment will help these companies to compete in the future and generate additional economic activity.

The income received by the workforce can also contribute to increasing economic capital at a household level. South Lanarkshire has a greater proportion of the population without any savings, which makes households less resilient to shocks. Elongated periods of employment, particularly through cluster development, can enable households to build up economic capital.

In addition, Bodinglee Wind Farm will form part of the energy infrastructure that supports the Scottish and UK economies. This infrastructure will therefore constitute an addition to the economic capital stock of the UK. The value of this contribution to economic capital will be greater than the other ways the project has contributed to economic capital because all the financial value is generated from the electricity it producers. However, because this contribution to capital stock is across the UK economy, this impact will be felt less acutely within the local community.

Community Benefits

Community benefits, an annual payment that is made by the developer to communities in the proximity of a wind farm development, have become a common practice to support local ambitions and needs. While they do not constitute a material consideration at the planning stage, commitment to a comprehensive package of community benefits has a role in fostering a good relationship between the developer and the community hosting the development.

To provide a framework on how to deliver community benefits, in 2019 the Scottish Government released its 'Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments',[9] which updated previous guidance issued in 2015. The Scottish Government recommends onshore wind developers to

[9] Scottish Government (2019), Scottish Government Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments.

deliver community benefit funding worth £5,000 per MW of installed capacity. The document also encourages developers to engage in holistic ways to maximise benefits locally, going beyond a purely monetary approach.

A level of funding associated with the Bodinglee Wind Farm which is consistent with Scottish Government guidance could result in local communities, defined using a 10km radius, receiving each year up to £1.2 million in community benefit funding. In addition, the Developer is offering a 1% gifted share of the development to the community, with an option to buy up to 9% at the market rate. If this isn't taken up then the Developer will offer an enhanced £ per MW equivalent to the value of the 1% gifted share offer. This could support local aims and projects, as well as generate economic impacts. Notably, the Natural power report highlighted that some of the local villages (e.g Rigside) have some of the highest rates of deprivation and fuel poverty anywhere in Scotland, and therefore an energy efficiency program designed to both tackle energy costs and employ locally has the potential to improve outcomes local residents.

Discussions with the community will take place to identify local priorities and areas where this funding could have the greatest benefit. OnPath Energy has extensive experience in this area, having previously administered community benefit funding related to Kype Muir and Middle Muir Wind Farms in surrounding towns and villages such as Abington, Douglas, Coalburn, Crawfordjohn, and Roberton.

In the first five years, part of this funding was ring-fenced for an employment and training initiative in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council. This aims to increase the employability of local residents and reduce unemployment and deprivation, which is higher than elsewhere in Scotland. Thus far over 2000 people nearby these projects have been helped into education or employment as a result of the initiative.

Other areas that may secure funding include environmental improvements. For example, the community benefit funding associated with Middle Muir Wind Farm supported habitat improvements at the Red Moss Bog near Douglas.

Non-Domestic Rates

In addition, the Bodinglee Wind Farm will be liable for non-domestic rates, the payment of which will contribute to public sector finances. Based on discussions with developers, it was assumed that the non-domestic rates paid would be £10,000 per MW. This may be subject to change, as there is limited information available on non-domestic rates paid by wind farms operating without subsidies.

Based on a capacity of 245 MW, the contribution would be £2.9 million. Over 40 years, the contribution would be £ 117.6 million. As an illustration of the level of impact this could support, the average revenue per employee at South Lanarkshire

Council is around £63,700[10], and therefore non-domestic rates paid by the Bodinglee Wind Farm could support 41 jobs at the Council[11].

Total Economic Impact

The total expenditure associated with Bodinglee Wind Farm, including during the construction and operational phases, is expected to be £1.1 billion. Of this:

- £322 million (30%) is expected to be secured in South Lanarkshire;
- £633 million (59%) is expected to be secured in Scotland; and
- £693 million (65%) is expected to be secured in the UK.

As can be seen in Table 7-10, the main opportunity for the local authority is in operations and maintenance.

If the BESS is excluded from the analysis, the total share of expenditure in South Lanarkshire increases to 36% and 68% of the total expenditure is retained within Scotland.

Table 7-10 Total Expenditure: Turnover by Study Area (£m)

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland	UK	Total
CAPEX	40	162	188	389
OPEX	283	471	505	523
TOTEX	**322**	**633**	**693**	**1,065**
Total (%)	30%	57%	66%	-
Total Excluding BESS				
TOTEX (Exc BESS)	319	605	658	891
Total (%)	36%	68%	74%	-

Source: BiGGAR Economics Calculations. Note, totals may not sum due to rounding.

Over the lifetime of the wind farm, total expenditure associated with these contracts is expected to support:

- £218 million GVA in South Lanarkshire;
- £522 million GVA in Scotland; and
- £808 million GVA in the UK.

[10] South Lanarkshire Council (2022), Financial Information: Council Budget 2022/2023
[11] In practice, South Lanarkshire Council may not receive all of this income

Table 7-11 Total Expenditure: Economic Impact, GVA (£m)

	South Lanarkshire	Scotland	UK
CAPEX	27	131	219
OPEX	192	391	589
TOTEX	**218**	**522**	**808**

Source: BiGGAR Economics Calculations. Note, totals may not sum due to rounding.

BiGGAR Economics, Shandwick House,
67 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh, Scotland EH2 4SD

info@biggareconomics.co.uk

biggareconomics.co.uk