

WELCOME TO THIS VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Thank you for visiting our virtual public exhibition, which provides an update on the proposed Achany Extension Wind Farm. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 risk and impacts, we are hosting the exhibition and public consultation on this online platform to guarantee the safety of the community and all stakeholders. We hope that you find the exhibition useful and look forward to sharing our plans with you.

We value your views, and we would like this exhibition to be an opportunity for you to provide your feedback about the proposed Achany Extension Wind Farm project, whether you are supportive of the proposal or have concerns that we can respond to before submitting a Section 36 Application.

Members of the project team will be available to discuss any matters regarding the proposed Achany Extension Wind Farm proposal during **live chat sessions on Tuesday 25th May from 5-7pm and Thursday 27th May from 2-4pm**. You can also get in touch with us or request further information through the "Contact Us" link or by clicking on the "Live Chat" button during operating hours.

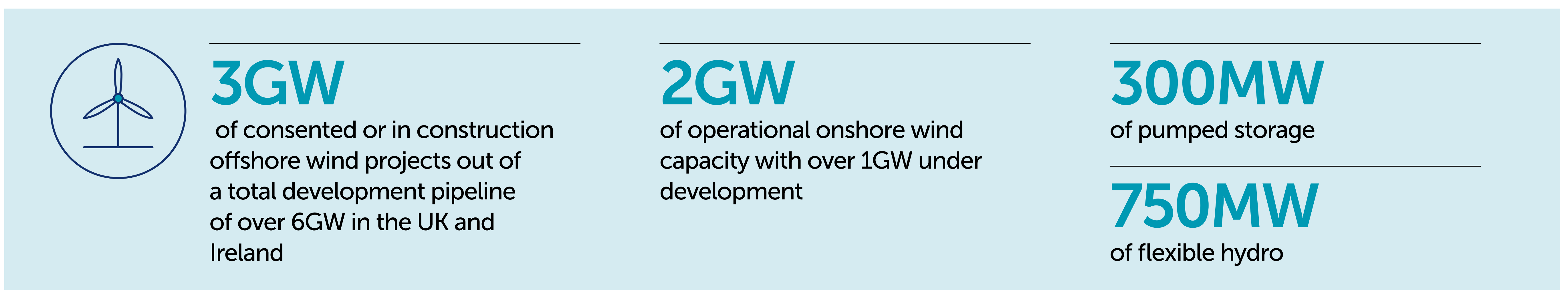


If you have any other queries after attending this event, please do not hesitate to contact our Stakeholder Engagement Manager Jade O'Hara either via email: jade.ohara@sse.com or call on **07436 482792**

WHO WE ARE

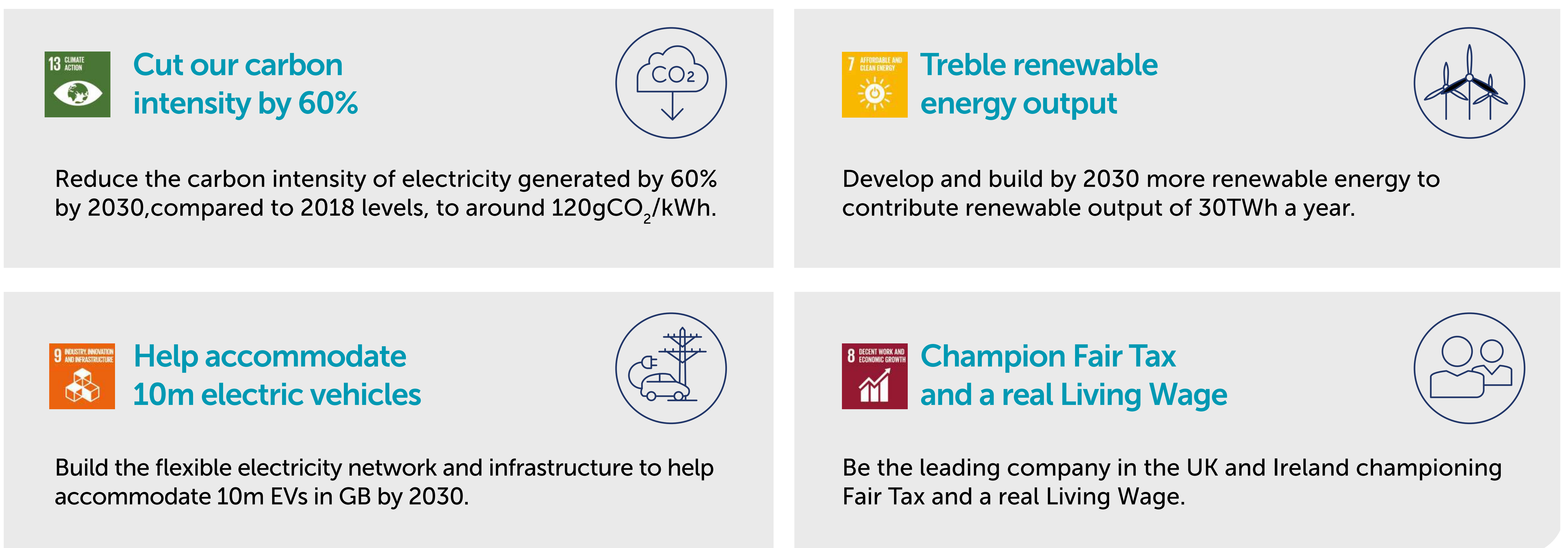
SSE Renewables is a leading developer and operator of renewable energy across the UK and Ireland, with an operational portfolio of around 4GW of onshore wind, offshore wind and hydro. Our strategy is to drive the transition to a net zero future and deliver value for society through the world class development, construction and operation of renewable energy assets.

SSE Renewables owns nearly 2GW of operational onshore wind capacity with more than 1GW currently in development. SSE Renewables has the largest offshore wind development pipeline in the UK and Ireland at over 6GW and has an onshore wind pipeline across both markets in excess of 1GW.



OUR 2030 GOALS

We have set four fundamental goals for 2030 which put sustainability at the heart of SSE's business strategy. These goals aren't just important to SSE, they matter to everyone – that's why they are directly linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

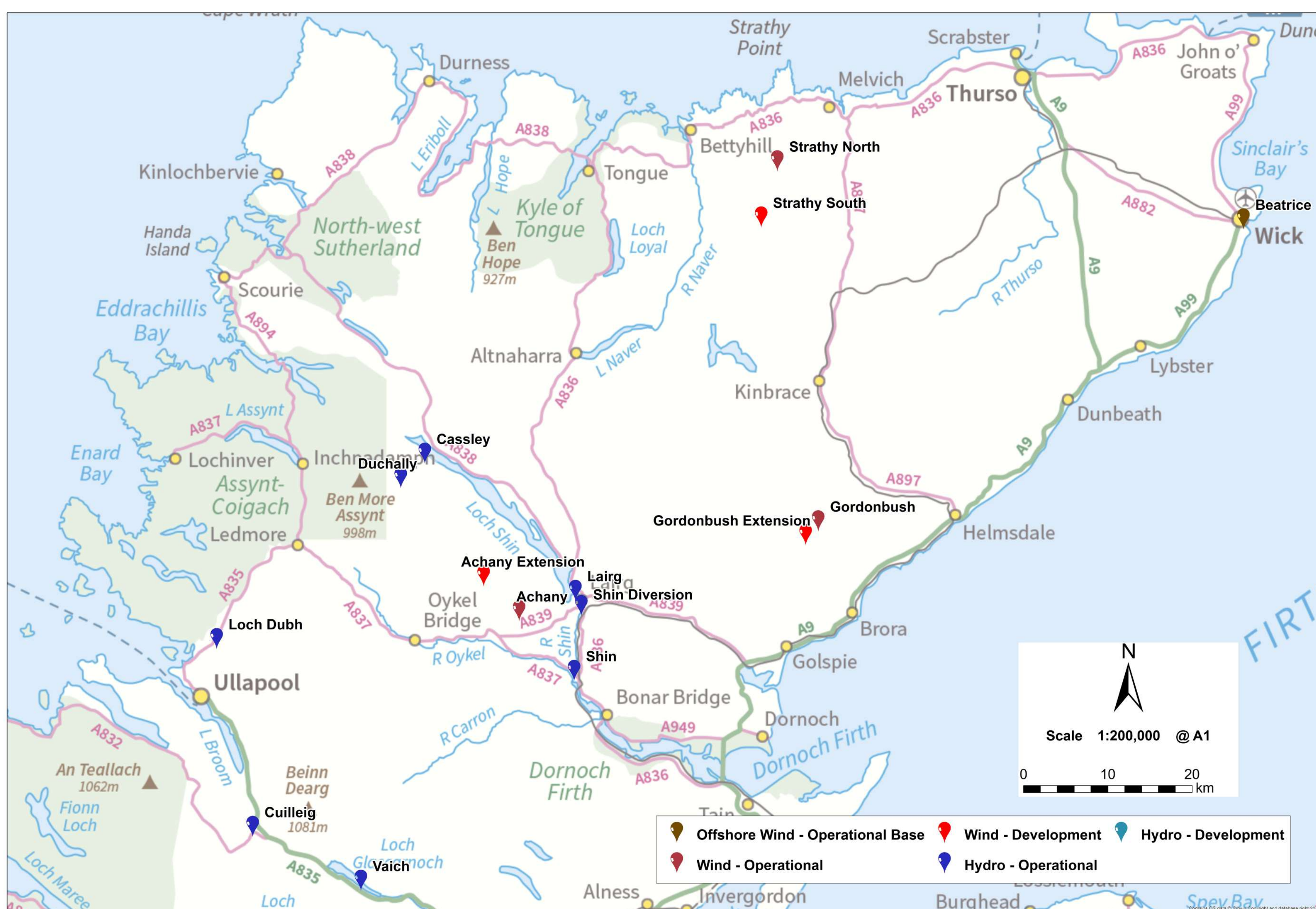


SSE IN SUTHERLAND

For over 10 years, SSE Renewables has been an active supporter of communities across Sutherland through the investment of over £640 million in building and operating four onshore wind farms in the region.

Our recently published report 'Delivering Investment, Supporting Jobs' shows the socio-economic value from SSE Renewables' projects in Sutherland through their development, construction and operation with analysis from BiGGAR Economics.

The county is rich in natural resources and vital in helping us to deliver the progress towards net zero that will make our country more sustainable. This map shows our current assets across the North Highlands including hydro and projects that are in development.



TOTAL LIFE TIME ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION:

£131m

Highland

£327m

Scotland (Incl. Highland)

£485m

UK (Incl. Scotland)



Achany Wind Farm

Our recently published report 'Delivering Investment, Supporting Jobs' shows the socio-economic value from SSE Renewables' projects in Sutherland through their development, construction and operation with analysis from BiGGAR Economics.

KEY FACTS

19

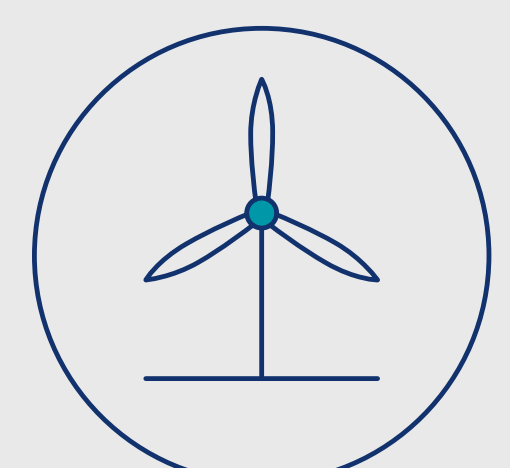
turbines generating an installed capacity of around 38 MW

34,436

homes approximately powered by Achany wind farm

105m

tip height

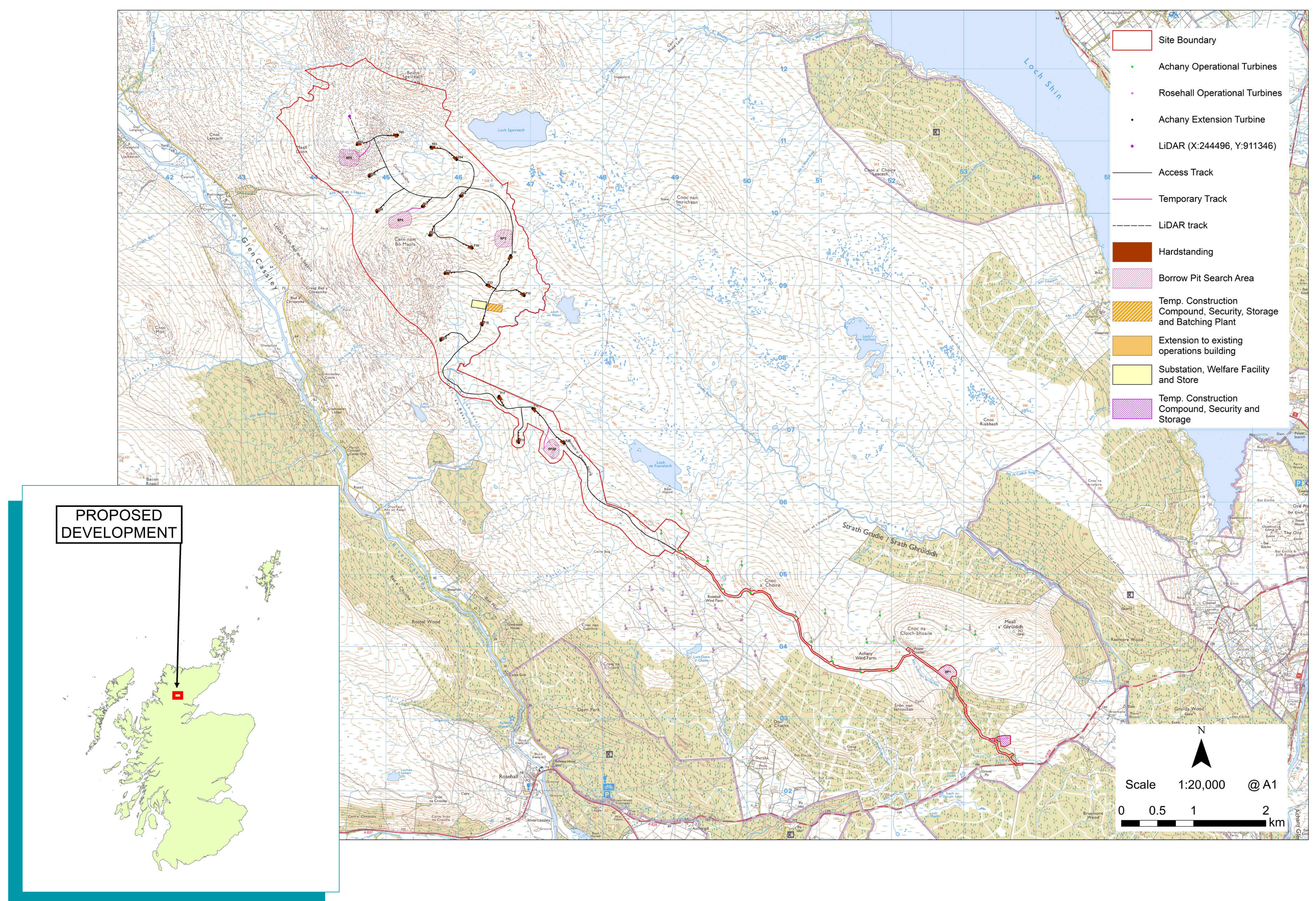


ACHANY EXTENSION

The proposed Achany Extension Wind Farm is located in the adjoining land to the north west of the operational Achany Wind Farm, approximately 4.5km north of Rosehall and 10.7km north west of Lairg.

The project has been shaped through engagement with local communities and other key stakeholders from 2012 to present. Up to 20 turbines are proposed (reduced from 26 in 2012) at 149.9m tip height, meaning there is no need for visible aviation lights.

The project also benefits from an existing 65MW grid connection to the distribution network and a transmission connection offer is under evaluation to potentially increase this to 105MW.



KEY FACTS

20

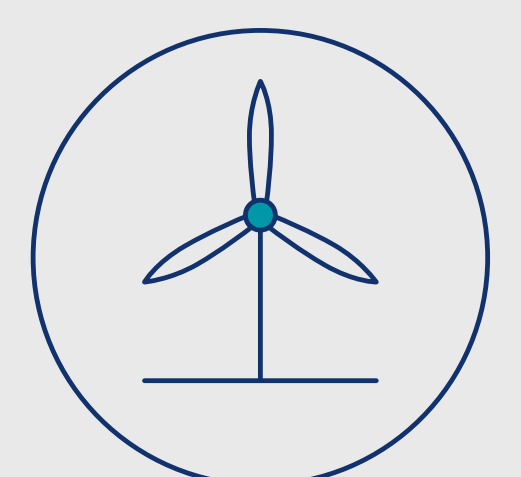
turbines generating an installed capacity of around 65-105 MW (depending on grid connection selected)

95,151

homes could be powered by the Achany Extension

149.9m

carefully considered maximum tip height



PROJECT TIMELINE

- Scoping (July 2019)
- Public Exhibition (November 2019)
- Environmental Surveys (2018 till 2020)
- Scoping Refresh (November 2020)
- Further Engagement with Key Stakeholders (January-March 2021)
- **Virtual public exhibition (May 2021) - We are here**
- Submission of the Section 36 Application (expected end of June 2021)
- Earliest Construction (2024)
- Earliest Operational Phase (2025)

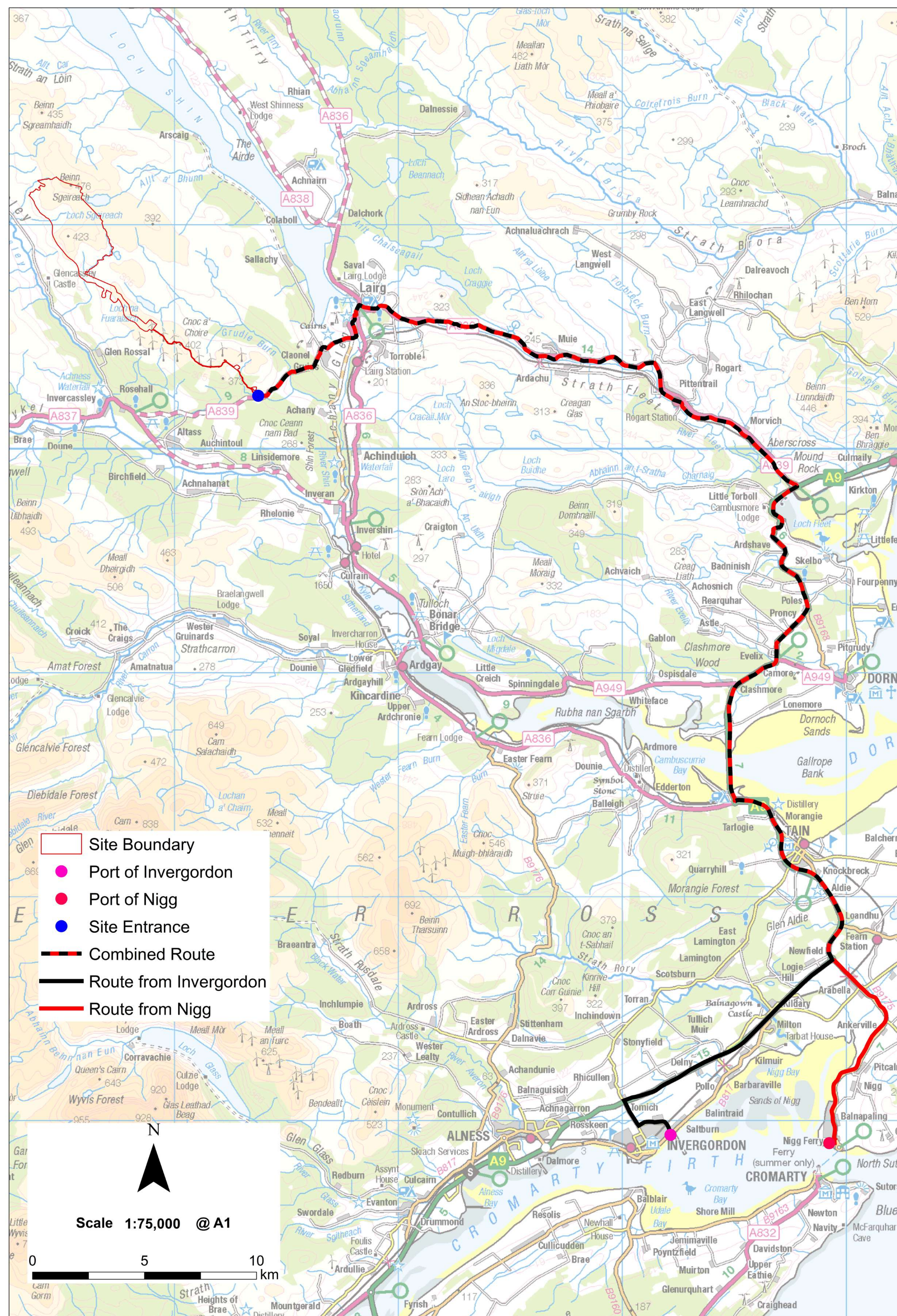


TRANSPORT ROUTES

A key consideration in shaping this proposal has been to ensure our transport routes are as efficient and safe as possible.

Turbine components would be transported from either Nigg or Invergordon and access the site via the A9 to Loch Fleet then the A839 passing through Lairg before entering the existing Achany Wind Farm site entrance.

To minimise new track construction, the existing wind farm tracks have been incorporated into the design allowing access to the extension site through the existing site. Other existing site infrastructure will be also be reused where possible (e.g. borrow pit and operations building).

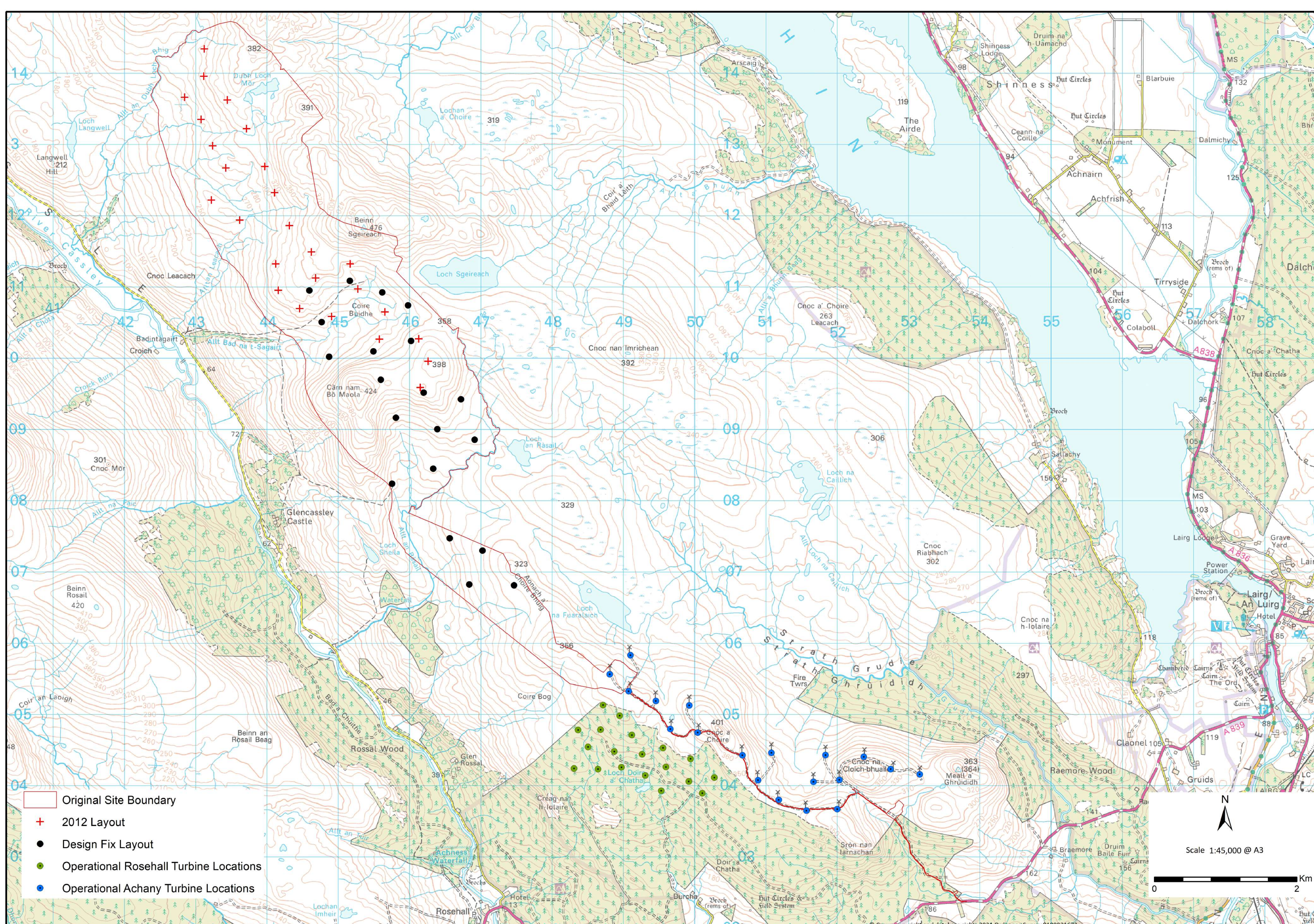


ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

In the context of the Climate Emergency and increased renewable energy generation targets, the proposed design has been developed through stakeholder engagement and an iterative and detailed design process.

Extensive environmental survey and assessment work has been undertaken to develop a robust design which addresses findings from the previous decision, whilst ensuring capture of the excellent and established wind resource and maximising reuse of the existing Achany Wind Farm infrastructure.

Particular attention has been paid to minimising impacts on sensitive habitats, avoiding deeper areas of peat, ornithological sensitivities, and minimising landscape and visual effects as much as possible.



Ecology

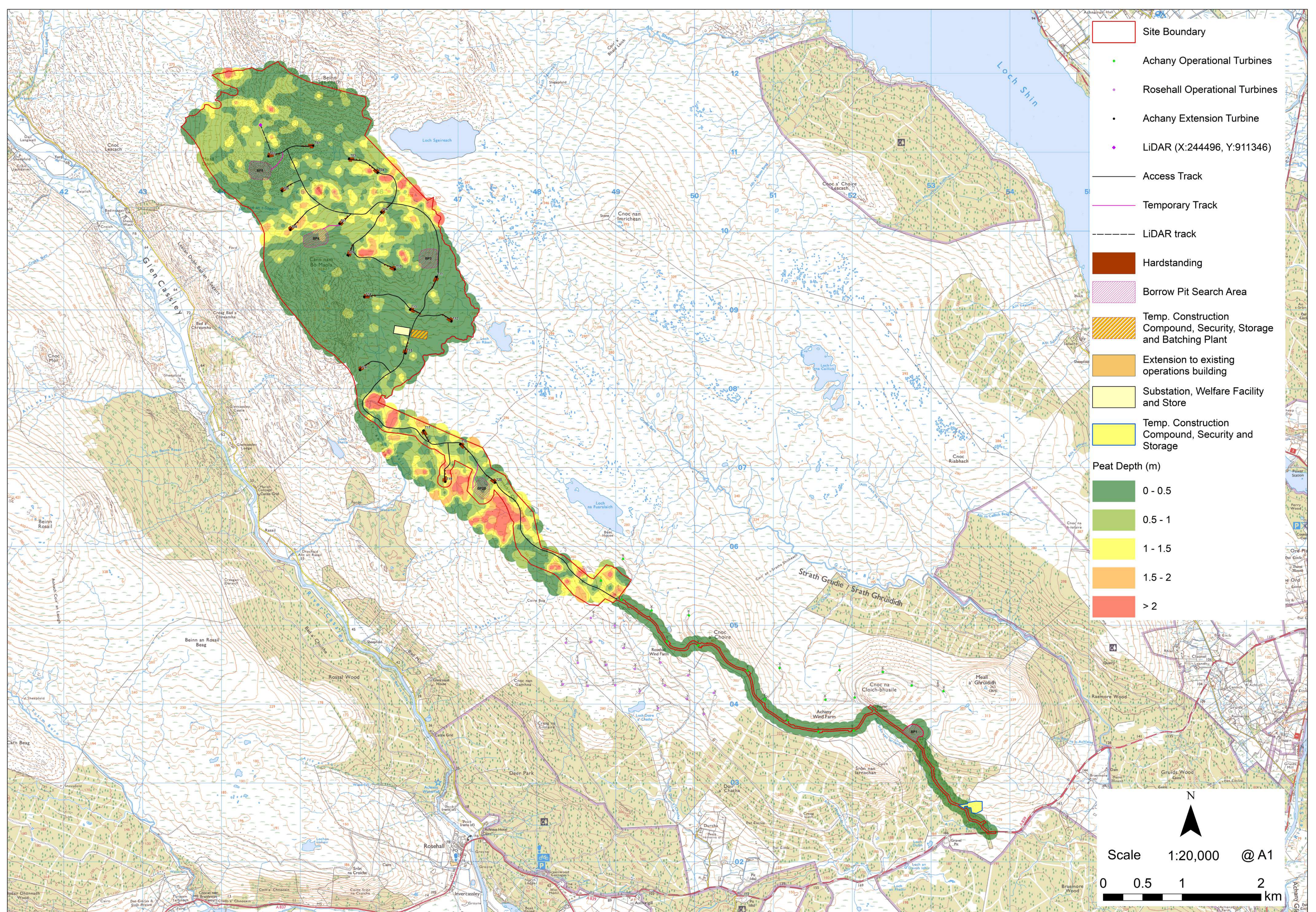
There are no statutory designated nature conservation sites for ecological features within the site boundary. The nearby River Oykel SAC and Grudie Peatlands SSSI have been carefully considered throughout the design along with habitats and protected species such as Bats, Otter and Water Vole. Following the implementation of Habitat Management, proposed mitigation and application of best practice measures throughout each phase of the development, no significant effects are anticipated.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

Geology and Hydrology

The hydrological and hydrogeological environment, including water quality, ground water dependent terrestrial ecosystems and private water supplies, have been carefully considered throughout the site design process. Following the application of best practice and proposed mitigation measures throughout the development, no significant impacts are anticipated.

A detailed peat probing exercise and a peat slide risk assessment has also been undertaken to ensure the design avoids areas of deeper peat, where possible. The data gathered has also been used for assessments of carbon balance, peat stability and to inform calculations for peat excavation and reuse volumes.



Ornithology

Two years of breeding bird surveys and vantage point flight surveys have been completed and the results have informed the design in terms of layout and location of the turbines. These surveys have also informed the design on potential impacts on the bird populations, collision risk, displacement and disturbance for breeding birds during both the construction and operational phases of the wind farm extension.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

The Kyle of Sutherland

Since 2010, the SSE Renewables Achany Community Fund has awarded over £1 million in grants for various initiatives across the Kyle of Sutherland area.

SSE Renewables is proud to play our part in the communities in the Kyle of Sutherland area as a developer, constructor and operator of important assets across the region.

Through the years, the Achany Community Fund has supported initiatives aimed at improving skills and training opportunities, social care, and sustainable tourism.

The graphic below shows some of the added value we have delivered across Sutherland as a result of our projects:

£6.9m

donated to support 591 projects across Sutherland since 2010

£23.1m

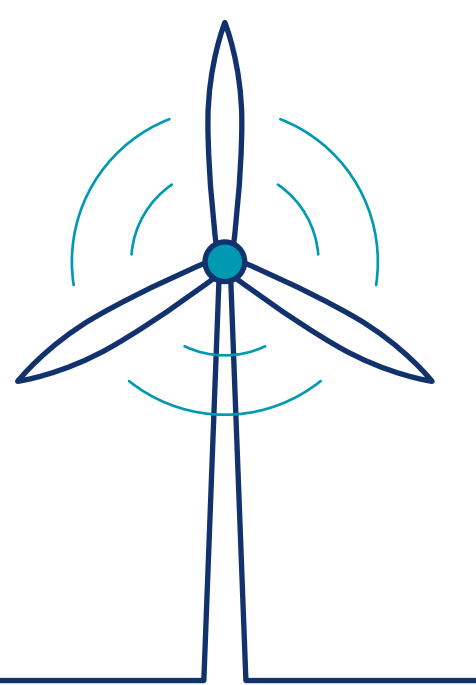
to be invested in Sutherland communities over the wind farms' lifetime

265,000

visitors attracted to Sutherland each year from investment in The Falls of Shin Centre

15

Apprenticeships provided in 2019/20



£25,000 awarded to the Kyle of Sutherland Hub from the existing Achany community fund.

A multi-use family and community hub built to address issues of geographic disadvantage, social isolation and lack of resources for young people in the Creich, Ardgay and Lairg areas.



£52,000 was made immediately available to support the community coronavirus response in Sutherland.

When the COVID-19 epidemic struck, SSE Renewables introduced a more flexible approach to awarding grants that helped local organisations to step up their service provision and look after the most vulnerable in your communities.

For more information about the Achany Community Benefit fund, contact Fiona Morrison via email: Fiona.Morrison@sse.com or phone: **01738 340098**

MEET THE TEAM



Karen Anderson
Consent Manager

I am the Consent Manager for the proposed development project and have worked for SSE since 2009. I have worked for SSE Renewables since 2011 in the development team, mainly working on Onshore Wind projects.



Jordan Ridley
Project Manager

I work as a Project Manager in the development of onshore wind for SSE. Having started in the renewables industry in 2012, I have been involved in a number of onshore wind and substation development works across Scotland and Northern England.



Gillian Wilson
Development Project Manager

I have worked as a Project Manager in the Development phase for 12 years, largely in onshore wind development. I was the Project Manager in the development phase for the Gordonbush Extension Wind Farm project.



Chris Bell
Head of Project Liaison

I lead a team of Stakeholder Engagement Managers who provide communication support to all of our renewable projects in Scotland. I have been with SSE for 12 years working in a variety of roles within Corporate Affairs.



Aimi Munro
Consents Advisor

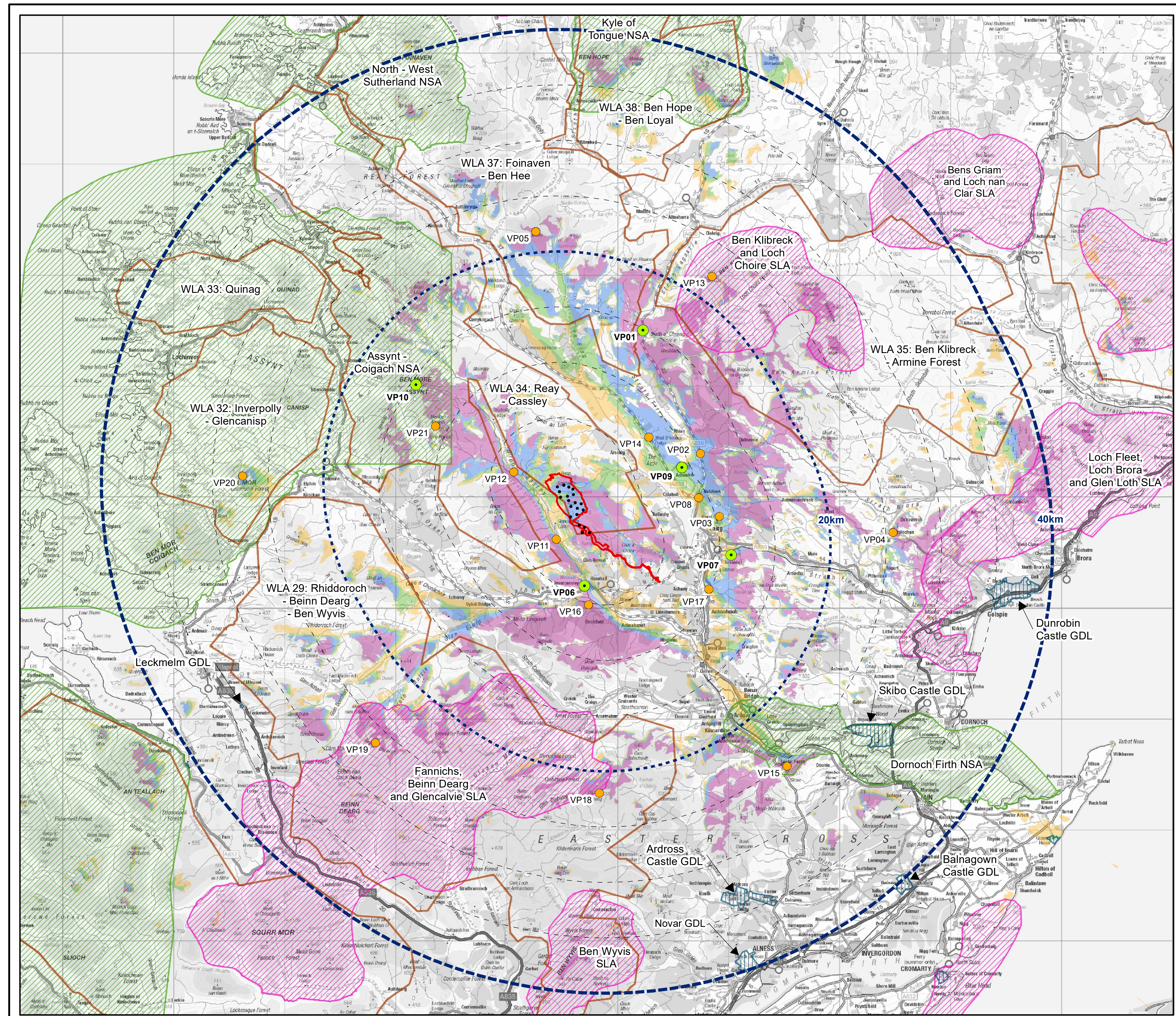
I have worked for SSE since 2005 and joined SSE Renewables in 2019. I am a Consents Advisor, helping to deliver planning consents and licenses for Onshore Wind Farm projects.



Jade O'Hara
Stakeholder Engagement Manager

I am Stakeholder Engagement Manager for the Achany Extension wind farm and act as first point of contact for members of the community who would like to discuss the development. I'm here to assist with any enquiries members of the community may have about the project and also support other Renewables projects across the Highlands.

VIEWPOINT LOCATIONS



ash

Key

- Site Boundary
- Proposed Turbine
- 40km Wider Study Area
- 20km Detailed Study Area
- 5km Distance Radii

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV):
Number of Turbines Theoretically Visible

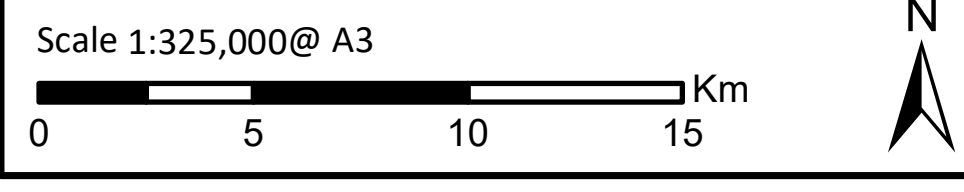
- 0 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 - 15
- 16 - 20

Designated and Protected Landscapes

- National Scenic Area (NSA)
- Wild Land Area (WLA)
- Site Included on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL)
- Special Landscape Area (SLA)

Viewpoints used for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)

- Viewpoint illustrated in public exhibition visualisations
- Other Viewpoint



LVIA Viewpoint Locations

Achany Extension Wind Farm
Public Exhibition

Drawing No.: 120008-D-PE1-0-2.0 Date: 04/05/2021

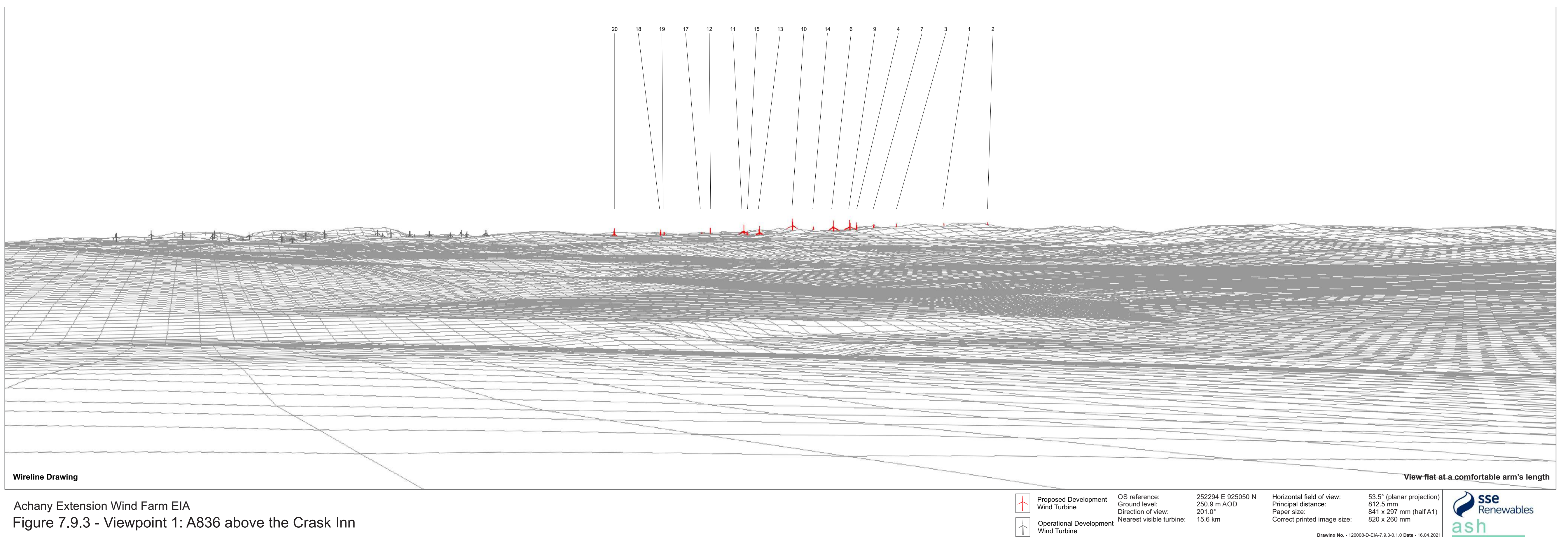
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For a better world of energy

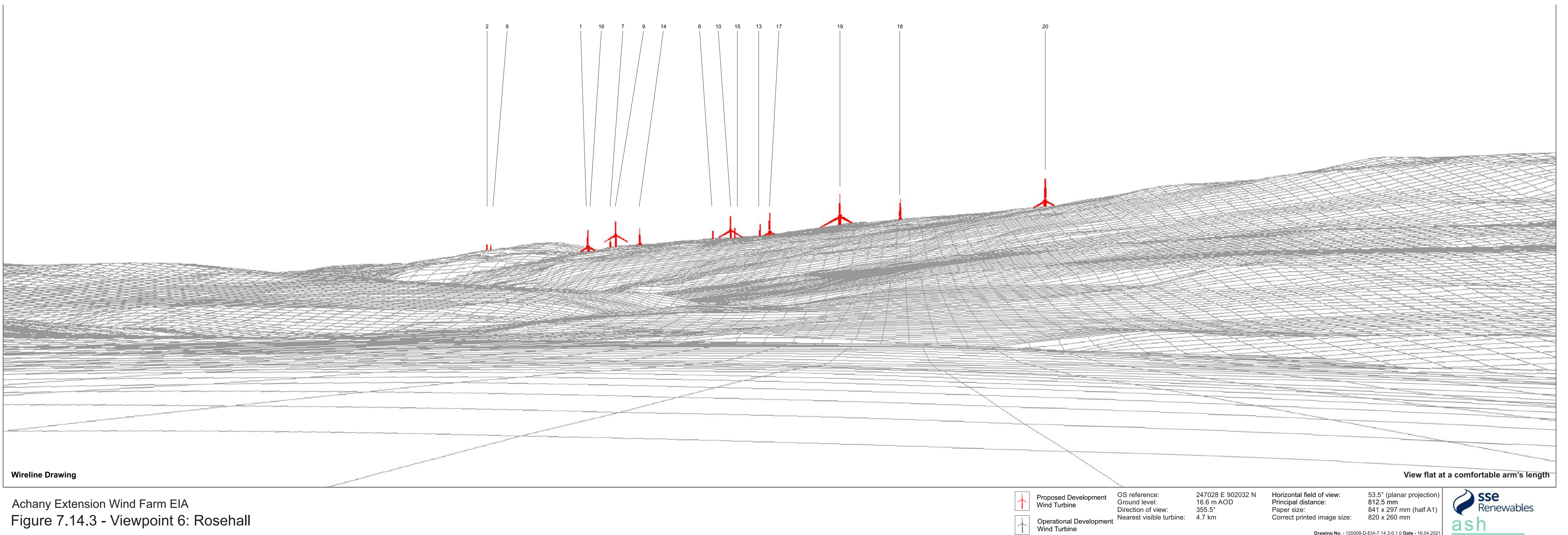
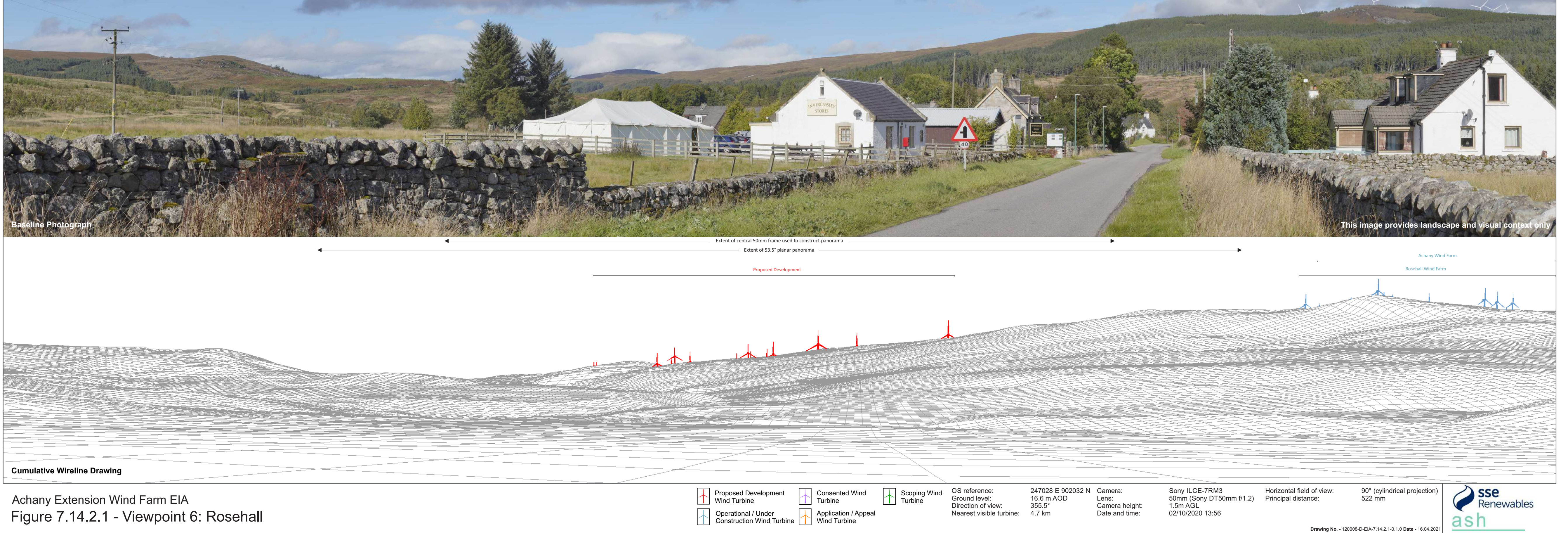
VIEWPOINT 1

A836 above the Crask Inn



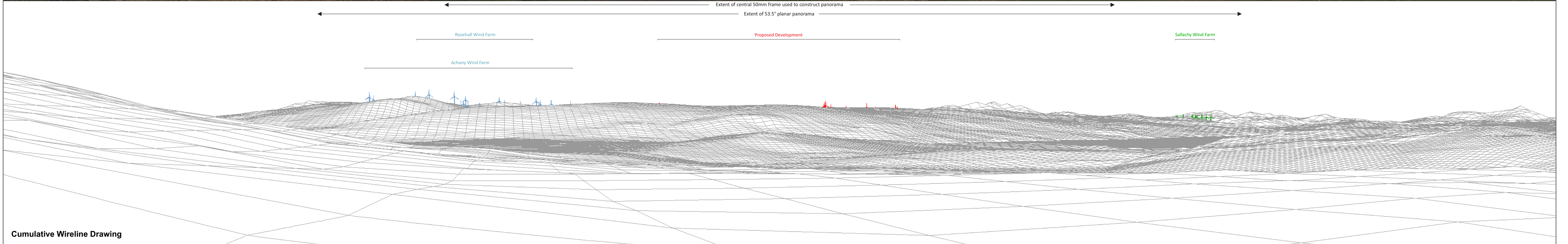
VIEWPOINT 6

Rosehall



VIEWPOINT 7

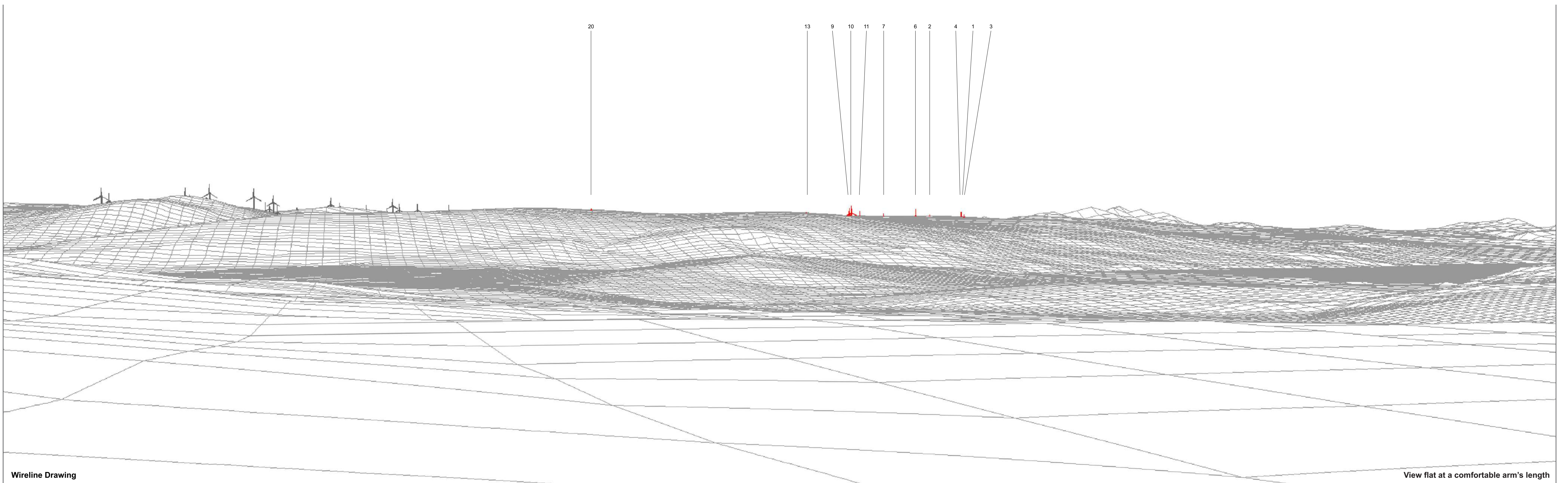
High Road



Achany Extension Wind Farm EIA
Figure 7.15.2.1 - Viewpoint 7: High Road

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Proposed Development Wind Turbine + Operational / Under Construction Wind Turbine + Consented Wind Turbine + Application / Appeal Wind Turbine + Scoping Wind Turbine 	OS reference: 260226 E 904804 N Ground level: 175.3 m AOD Direction of view: 285.9° Nearest visible turbine: 12.9 km	Camera: Canon EOS 6D Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.4) Camera height: 1.5m AGL Date and time: 23/09/2020 10:13	Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection) Principal distance: 822 mm	
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Drawing No. - 130009-D-EIA-7.15.2.1.0 Date - 16.04.2021



Achany Extension Wind Farm EIA
Figure 7.15.3 - Viewpoint 7: High Road

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Proposed Development Wind Turbine + Operational Development Wind Turbine 	OS reference: 260226 E 904804 N Ground level: 175.3 m AOD Direction of view: 285.9° Nearest visible turbine: 12.9 km	Camera: Canon EOS 6D Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.4) Camera height: 1.5m AGL Date and time: 23/09/2020 10:13	Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection) Principal distance: 812.5 mm Paper size: 841 x 297 mm (half A1) Correct printed image size: 820 x 260 mm	
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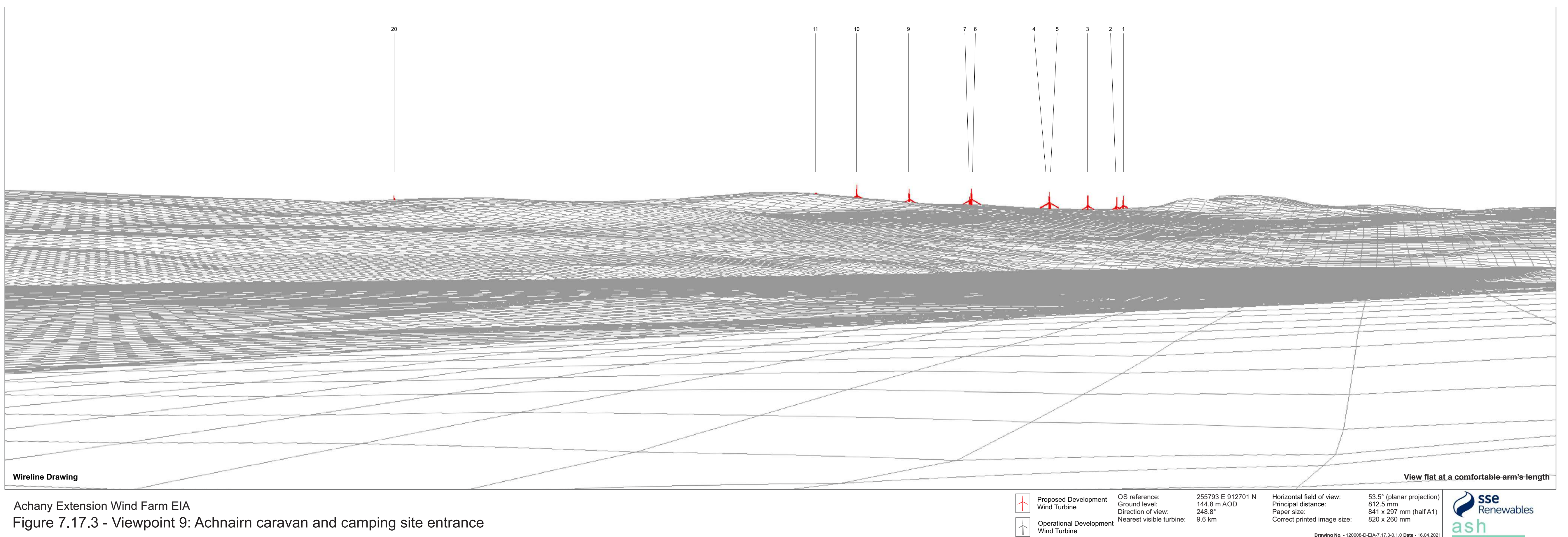
Achany Extension Wind Farm EIA
Figure 7.15.4 - Viewpoint 7: High Road

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Proposed Development Wind Turbine + Operational Development Wind Turbine 	OS reference: 260226 E 904804 N Ground level: 175.3 m AOD Direction of view: 285.9° Nearest visible turbine: 12.9 km	Camera: Canon EOS 6D Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.4) Camera height: 1.5m AGL Date and time: 23/09/2020 10:13	Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection) Principal distance: 812.5 mm Paper size: 841 x 297 mm (half A1) Correct printed image size: 820 x 260 mm	
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VIEWPOINT 9

Achnairn caravan and camping site entrance



VIEWPOINT 10

Ben More Assynt

