welcome

wind2

This exhibition sets out the status of the project, including findings from the environmental impact assessment and detailed proposals on the community benefit fund linked to the wind farm.

Please take as much time as you need to review the information presented and the visual representations of the wind farm.

Key members of the project team are on hand to provide you with the opportunity to discuss our proposals or answer any questions you may have.

We value your feedback and would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to share your views via the feedback form available on the website or using the paper copies available here today.

ABOUT THE APPLICANT

The Applicant is Swarclett Wind Energy Ltd, a subsidiary of Wind2 Ltd. Wind2 is a specialist wind developer founded in 2016. The company has staff based in Cromarty, Perth, Edinburgh, Somerset and Wales, with significant expertise in renewable energy and a track record of successfully developing onshore wind farms throughout the UK.

Wind2 is working on the development of a number of renewable energy projects and is committed to investing in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed Swarclett Wind Turbines are predominantly located on land at Hoy and Swarclett Farms, by Durran, Caithness.

The proposal for the project comprises up to two turbines each with a blade tip height of up to 149.9m and a rating of around 4.8MW, and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). If consented, it is anticipated that the project would be constructed in 2029. We hope to submit the planning application in April 2024.

If you can, please take a few minutes to fill out a feedback form using the below QR code or contact us at www.swarclettwindturbines.co.uk after the exhibition.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – RESULTS

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is now complete and ready to be submitted to the local authority along with the planning application in support of the wind farm. Following our previous events, we understand noise and impact to birds were two of the main concerns. Therefore, we have included the below overview from the EIA for information.

ORNITHOLOGY

Surveys by qualified ornithologists were carried out and breeding Curlew, Lapwing, Barn owl and Osprey were all recorded in the vicinity of the wind farm. Flights of Greylag goose, Pink-footed goose and Whooper swan were seen regularly during the winter months, and flocks of Lapwing were also recorded. Foraging surveys for geese and swans carried out in the winter months mapped the occurrence of these species in the wider area but recorded no use of the wind farm site and occasional and variable use of the surrounding area.

The following important ornithological receptors were assessed in detail: Caithness Lochs SPA, Barn Owl, Whooper swan, Greylag goose, Pink-footed goose, Lapwing and Curlew.

Potential impacts assessed were habitat loss and disturbance/displacement during construction and during operation of the wind farm, additional mortality as a result of collision risk and displacement and barrier effects on commuting geese and swans.

Mitigation was identified which would protect ornithological receptors during the construction and operational phases. These included monitoring of Breeding Birds with buffer zones to protect sensitive bird species from disturbance if encountered during construction. Habitat management to improve habitat for Lapwing and Curlew was also identified.

The results of this assessment determined there would be no significant adverse effects on ornithological receptors (birds) on or in the vicinity of the wind farm.

NOISE

Noise during the construction phase of the development will arise from construction vehicles accessing the wind farm site and from construction activities within it, including track construction, foundation excavation and pouring and turbine erection. Noise during the operational phase of the development will arise from the installed wind turbines as they rotate to generate energy and from the electrical plant associated with the battery facility (BESS).

Construction noise impacts have been assessed with regard to relevant guidance BS 5228:2009+A1:2014 Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites.

The results of the construction noise impact assessment indicates that no significant effects will arise from the construction of the wind farm as the relevant noise limits set out in BS 5228 will be met. Construction noise may be audible at noise sensitive properties in the vicinity of the wind farm, particularly from construction vehicles accessing the site. Although the relevant noise limits will be met, noise during the construction phase will be controlled and minimised through a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), an Outline Construction Management Plan (OCEMP) is included in the planning application documents.

Operational wind turbine noise impacts have been assessed in line with ETSU-R-97, The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms, and the associated guidance provided by the Institute of Acoustics (IOA) document, A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise.

Operational BESS impacts have been assessed in line with BS 4142, Methods for Rating and Assessing Industrial and Commercial Sound.

Predicted operational noise levels from the development meet the relevant noise limits set out in ETSU-R-97 and proposed criteria derived from methodology set out in BS 4142, and therefore the noise impact is considered to be not significant. Noise during the operational lifespan of the wind farm and battery will be controlled by noise limits that will be applied via planning conditions.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT AND NEAR NEIGHBOURS ELECTRICITY CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

The wind farm will generate around £48,000 of community benefit annually, depending on final turbine procurement.

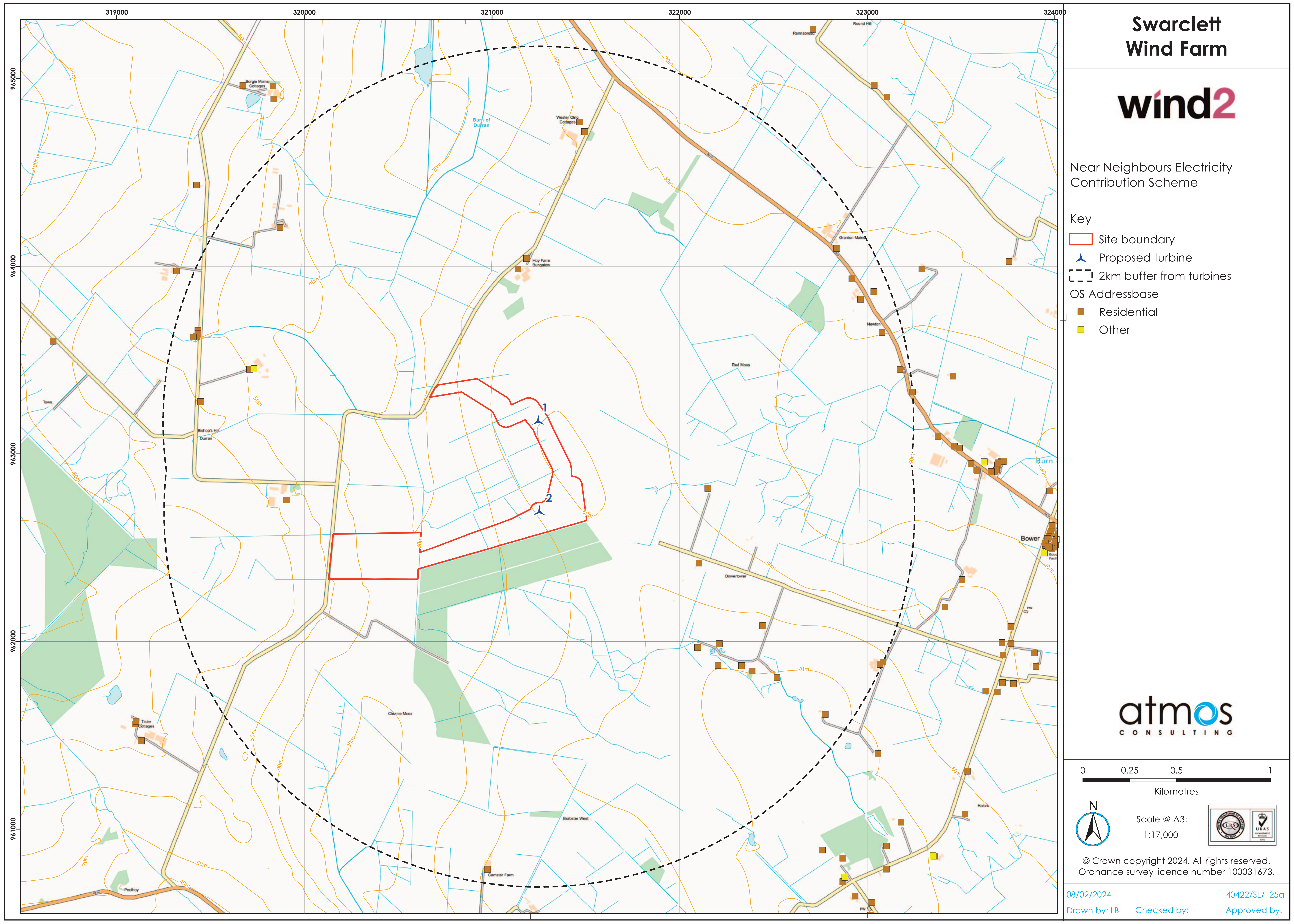
The wind farm proposes to split this between Casteltown and Bower Community Council areas as the project lies in both geographical areas. We acknowledge the residents in the identified area in the figure shown here will receive impacts from the wind farm.

It is therefore proposed that, before the funds are split 50/50, that a portion around 35% is utilised for our Near Neighbours Electricity Contribution Scheme (NNEC).

Utilising 35% of £48,000 works out at up to £600 provided to each property in the identified area, per annum, to assist in covering electricity bills.

The remaining 65% (£31,000) would be split 50/50 between Castletown and Bower Community Council areas.

We welcome feedback on this proposal from the community members.



GRID ROUTE AND ABNORMAL DELIVERY LOAD ACCESS ROUTE

wind2

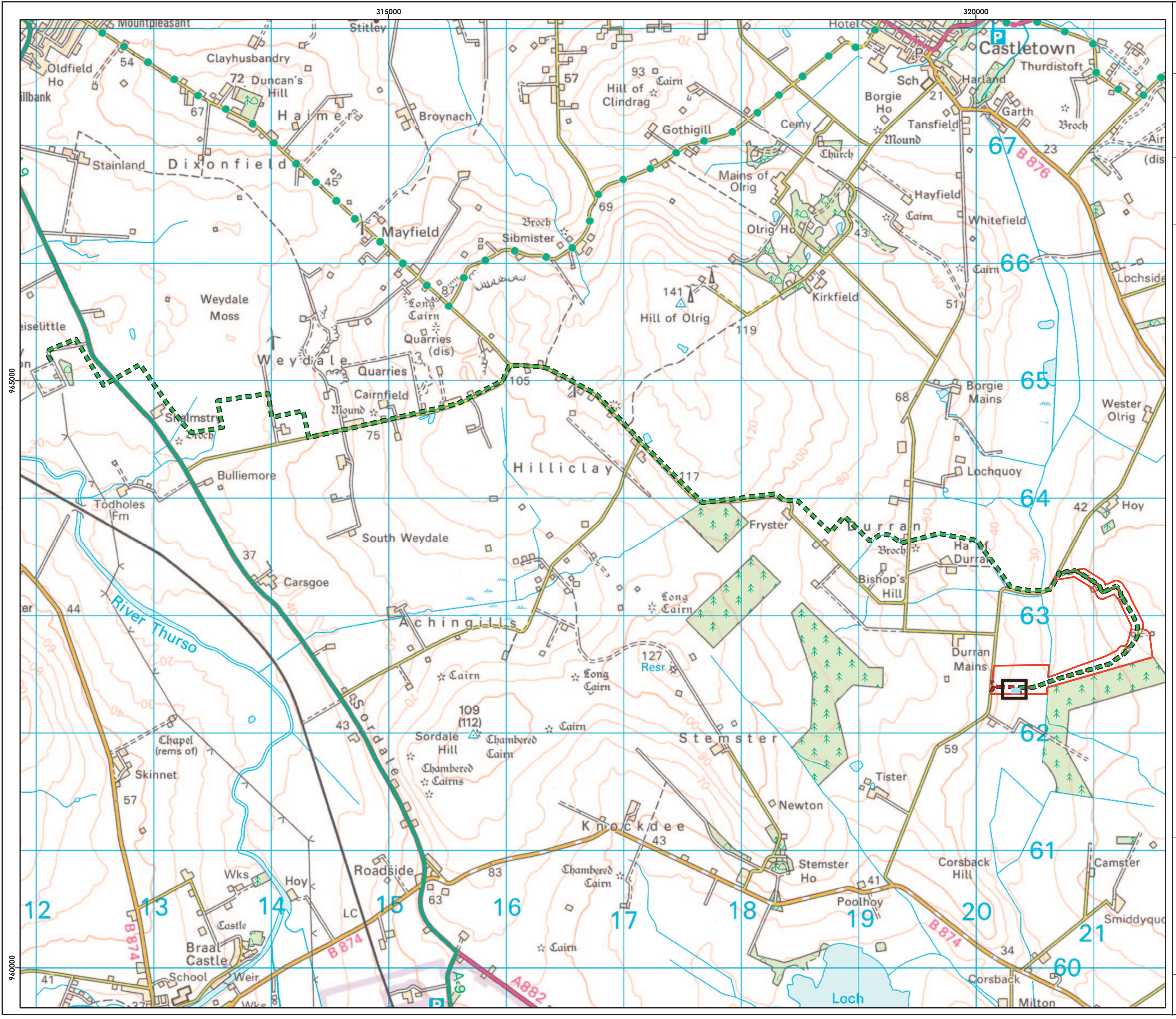
Swarclett Wind Farm

wind2

Figure 11-4
Abnormal Load Delivery Route

Key

🟥 Site Boundary
- - - AIL Delivery Route



Swarclett Wind Farm

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Figure 3-11
Grid route Location Plan

Key

🟥 Site boundary
- - - Infrastructure Line
- - - Onsite access track - new
- - - Onsite access track - to be upgraded
🟦 Construction compound
🟫 Crane hardstanding
▨ Temporary hardstanding
🟥 Substation
🟨 Turbine foundation
🟩 Turning head
☐ Battery storage compound
🟩 Battery storage, Power Conversion and Transformer units

atmos CONSULTING

0 0.5 1 2
Kilometres

N

Scale @ A3:
1:30,000

11/01/2024
40422/SL/124a
Drawn by: AF
Checked by: TH
Approved by: MT

VIEWPOINT 3 –
B876 WEST BOUND AT BOWER

When viewed at a comfortable arms length (approx. 500mm), this printed image is representative of our detailed central vision, but is not representative of scale and distance.

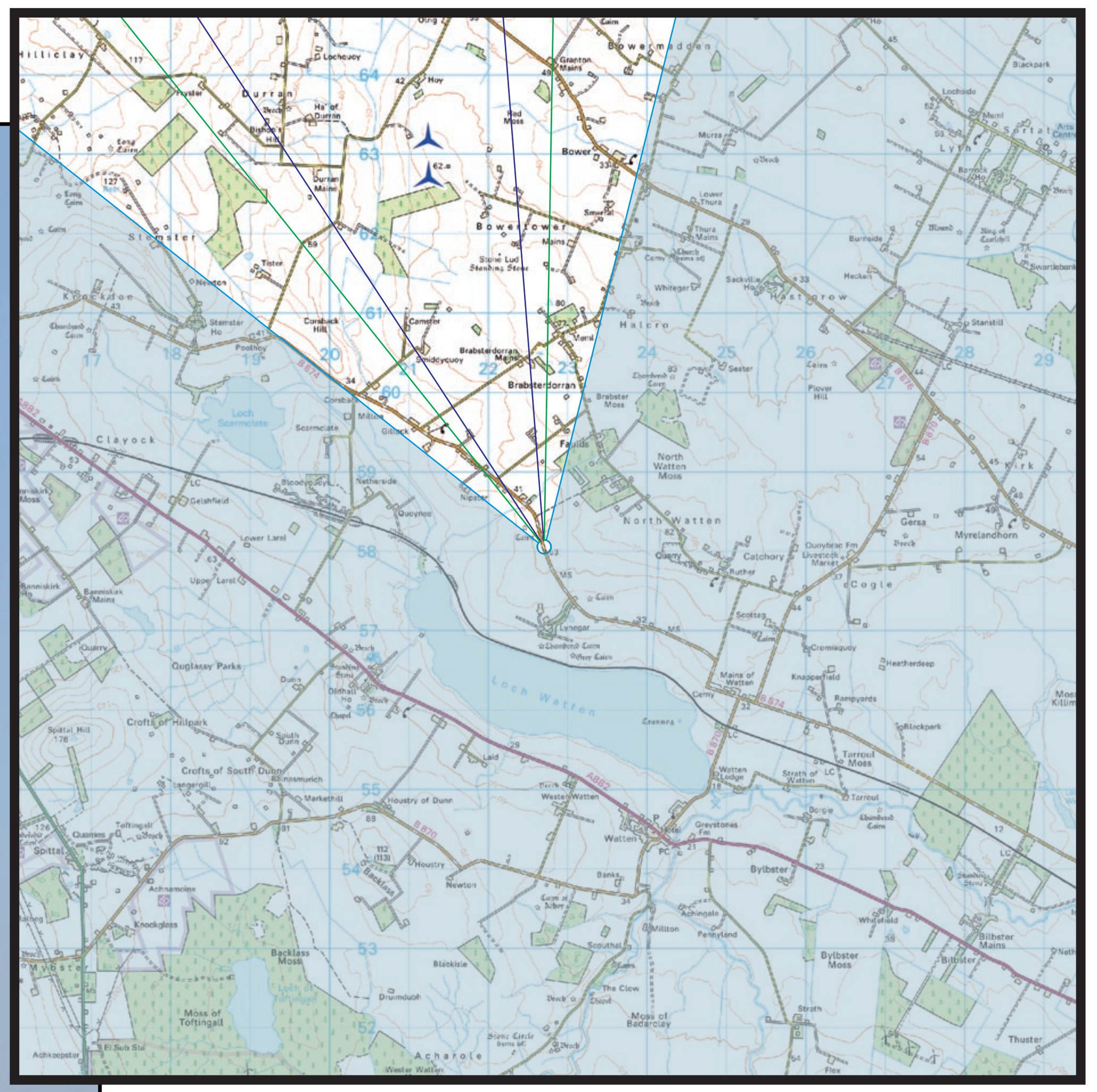
	Swarclett Wind Farm	Viewpoint 3: B876 West-bound at Bower	Distance to nearest turbine: 1.91km	Canon 5D Mark II @ 1.5m 23/03/2022 10:31	Horizontal Field of View: 39.6° Focal Length: 50mm	Figure 5-2-3d		Drawn by JT TL01i Checked by TH 15/09/2023 Approved by MT 40422_PM_C003a

VIEWPOINT 5 – EASTER DURRAN

When viewed at a comfortable arms length (approx. 500mm), this printed image is representative of our detailed central vision, but is not representative of scale and distance.

wind2 atmos CONSULTING	**Swarclett Wind Farm**	Viewpoint 5: Easter Durran	Distance to nearest turbine: 2.18km	Canon 5D Mark II @ 1.5m 22/03/2022 15:25	Horizontal Field of View: 39.6° Focal Length: 50mm	Figure 5-2-5 d	UKAS	Drawn by LB TL01i Checked by TH 15/09/2023 Approved by MT 40422_PM_C005a

VIEWPOINT 6 – B874 WEST BOUND



When viewed at a comfortable arms length (approx. 500mm), this printed image is representative of our detailed central vision, but is not representative of scale and distance.

wind2 atmos CONSULTING	**Swarclett Wind Farm**	Viewpoint 6: B874 West-bound	Distance to nearest turbine: 4.84km	Canon 5D Mark II @ 1.5m 22/03/2022 13:15	Horizontal Field of View: 39.6° Focal Length: 50mm	Figure 5-2-6 d	Drawn by LB Checked by TH Approved by MT	TL01i 15/09/2023 40422_PM_C006a

VIEWPOINT 7 – LOCH WATTEN PICNIC SPOT

When viewed at a comfortable arms length (approx. 500mm), this printed image is representative of our detailed central vision, but is not representative of scale and distance.

wind2 atmos CONSULTING	**Swarclett Wind Farm**	Viewpoint 9: Loch Watten Picnic Spot	Distance to nearest turbine: 8.50km	Canon 5D Mark II @ 1.5m 22/03/2022 12:41	Horizontal Field of View: 39.6° Focal Length: 50mm	Figure 5-2-9 d	Drawn by LB TL01i Checked by TH 15/09/2023 Approved by MT 40422_PM_C009a