Tangy IV Wind Farm
Section 36C Variation

Maximising Net Socio-Economic Benefit

Document Classification | **Public**

Contents

Executive Summary

SSE Generation Limited ('*the Applicant'*) has prepared this report to support its application to vary the consent for the Tangy IV Wind Farm ('*the Proposed Varied Development'*).

This report outlines how the construction and operation of the Proposed Varied Development is expected to generate economic and social benefits for the regional and national economy. The Applicant has considered the local, regional and national socio-economic context (Project Context) and has outlined targeted, place-based commitments (The Applicant's Approach) to maximise these benefits. These commitments are aligned to the key themes of the Scottish Onshore Wind Sector Deal[1].

An economic impact assessment was conducted by BiGGAR Economics (Economic Impact Assessment) which estimated that the total economic impact (gross) of the Proposed Varied Development could be:

- **£33.3 million Gross Value Add (GVA)** and **440 job years across Scotland**; of which **£14.2 million GVA** and **160 job years could be retained in Argyll and Bute during construction and development**.
- Support **£4.3 million GVA** and **44 jobs across Scotland**; of which **£1.3 million GVA** and **12 jobs would be retained in Argyll and Bute during the operational lifetime of the asset**.

The transition to net zero presents a significant opportunity for key local, regional and national challenges to be addressed. It can be, and already is, a contributor to the national ambition of Community Wealth Building. As an example, the Proposed Varied Development presents the potential opportunity for high-quality employment to be generated for local workforces and suppliers, which could contribute meaningfully to the attraction and retention of residents, particularly young people, within the region.

The Applicant considers that a coordinated and collaborative approach with industry, regional and sectoral organisation (including energy infrastructure and grid networks) represents best practice for maximising overall impact. This report provides examples of how the Applicant has engaged, and will continue to engage, with relevant bodies and initiatives (see 4.2.7 and 4.3.5 in this report, and SSE's Sustainability Partnerships webpage[2]). The Applicant remains committed to open engagement and to pursuing collaborative opportunities which add-value and maximise benefits.

[1] Onshore wind sector deal - gov.scot

[2] Partnerships | SSE

Commitments

The Applicant makes the following commitments to maximise the socio-economic impact of the Proposed Varied Development, further detail on these commitments is provided in The Applicant's Approach:

Supply Chain Development

- The Applicant will actively engage with the local supply chain and seek to maximise opportunities through its procurement processes.
- The Applicant will monitor and report on the level of local content and social impact associated with the Proposed Varied Development.
- The Applicant will look to explore options to unlock further value that could arise from the decommissioning and repowering.

Skills and Workforce Development

- The Applicant will provide high-quality employment and the opportunity for skills development through the lifetime of the Proposed Varied Development.
- The Applicant will promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and school engagement as a key social value theme throughout the tendering process for the Principal Contractor(s).

Community Empowerment

- The Applicant will continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure it understands local needs, aspirations and delivery capacity to support Community Wellbeing.
- The Applicant will provide Community Benefit Funding to deliver tangible outcomes that reflect local priorities and empower communities through participatory decision-making.
- The Applicant will maintain its position on Shared Ownership and will be open to working with stakeholders, communities and sector bodies to explore viable pathways to address barriers.

Environmental Protection and Enhancement

- The Applicant will uphold its best practice approach to protecting and enhancing the environment of the Proposed Varied Development, thereby supporting long-term socio-economic benefits from improved environmental quality.
- Through its community benefit fund, the Proposed Varied Development could support local green spaces and tourism infrastructure that enhance the local environment.

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this report

1.1.1. This stand-alone socio-economic report accompanies the Section 36C variation application for the Tangy IV Wind Farm development (‘*the Proposed Varied Development’*). This approach aligns with the EIA Task and Finish Group’s “Guidelines on Streamlining Environmental Impact Assessment for Onshore Wind Farms”[3].

1.1.2. This report aims to demonstrate how SSE Generation Limited (‘*the Applicant’*) is committed to **maximising the long-term socio-economic benefits of the Proposed Varied Development**, fulfilling the requirements of Scotland’s National Planning Framework 4 (‘*NPF4’*), Policy 11 paragraph c (see 2.1.2).

1.1.3. This report has been prepared by the Applicant, using the “Maximising Net Socio-Economic Benefit of Renewable Energy” guidance and report framework produced by Scottish Renewables and BiGGAR Economics[4].

1.1.4. An economic impact assessment estimating the impact of the construction and operation of the Proposed Varied Development was conducted by BiGGAR Economics (see Economic Impact Assessment).

1.1.5. The Applicant has continued to refine its approach to socio-economic reporting, in alignment with the updated NPF4 requirements, and welcomes feedback and comment on this report.

1.2. The Proposed Varied Development

1.2.1. In December 2019, SSE Generation Limited was granted consent by Scottish Ministers for the construction and operation of Tangy IV Wind Farm (*“the Consented Development”*) which comprised 16 WTG’s of up to a maximum tip height of 149.9m and associated ancillary infrastructure. The Applicant had progressed the Consented Development to construction, however, due to challenges affecting the onshore wind sector, the project was placed on hold. Following a detailed feasibility review, the Applicant decided to apply to vary the scheme to permit an increase in turbine tip height alongside associated infrastructure changes.

[3] Streamlining_EIA_Guidance_September_2025_original.pdf

[4] 2025.03.18_Maximising_Net_Socio-Economic_Benefit_Reporting_Framework_original.pdf

1.2.2. The Proposed Varied Development would comprise a generating station, consisting of a wind farm with 16 WTGs of up to a maximum tip height of 200m, supported by ancillary development. The total installed capacity of the Proposed Varied Development, whilst dependent on the rated power of the turbine model procured, is anticipated to be approximately 96MW.

1.3. The Applicant

1.3.1. The Applicant is part of SSE Renewables which is part of SSE plc, a FTSE-100 company headquartered in Scotland with operations across the UK and Ireland as well as a presence in carefully selected international markets. SSE's purpose is to provide energy needed today while building a better world of energy for tomorrow. It does this by developing, building, operating and investing in electricity infrastructure and businesses needed in the energy transition. This includes electricity transmission and distribution networks, onshore and offshore wind farms, hydro-electric power and flexible thermal generation technologies. It also provides energy products and services for businesses and other customers.

1.3.2. SSE Renewables operates one of the largest onshore wind fleets in the UK and Ireland, with around 2.5GW of installed operational capacity and around 1.8GW in construction or in development in these core markets. The Applicant delivers clean power assets to increase SSE's operational renewable generation capacity as part of the company's £33bn five-year investment plan to 2030 to deliver critical electricity infrastructure in support of a cleaner, more secure and affordable electricity system. SSE has committed to investing around £4bn to 2030 from this strategic investment plan to secure a targeted ~9GW of installed operational renewables capacity by the end of 2030, including from the delivery of new onshore wind farms and repowering of existing sites.

1.3.3. SSE employs more than 14,500 people and is proud to be a Living Wage, Living Hours and Living Pension employer and to be accredited with the Fair Tax Mark. SSE was also the first company in the world to develop a 'Just Transition Strategy' aimed at ensuring the benefits of the clean energy transition are shared by workers and communities.

2. Project Context

2.1. Policy

2.1.1. Across Scotland, there is a clear policy intent to ensure that the potential economic benefits of onshore wind are realised at a national, regional and local level.

National Policy Context

2.1.2. Scotland's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)[5] is Scotland's national spatial strategy which aims to create sustainable, liveable, and productive places, and opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish. "Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure" is outlined as one of the national developments that support this strategy. NPF4 is built around 33 national planning policies, Policy 11 (Energy) and Policy 25 (Community Wealth Building) are particularly relevant to this report:

- Policy 11, paragraph c states "*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*";
- Policy 25, paragraph a states "*Development proposals which contribute to local or regional community wealth building strategies and are consistent with local economic priorities will be supported*".

2.1.3. Scotland's Onshore Wind Sector Deal sets out the commitments from the Scottish Government and industry to deliver upon the collective ambition of 20GW of onshore wind in Scotland by 2030, whilst delivering maximum benefit to Scotland.

2.1.4. Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation[6] sets out the priorities for Scotland's economy as well as the actions needed to maximise opportunities to achieve a wellbeing economy. Section 1.6. identifies the just transition to net zero as the most significant economic opportunity for Scotland in the coming decade.

2.1.5. Scotland's current Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments [7], which are currently under

[5] National Planning Framework 4 - gov.scot

[6] Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation - gov.scot

[7] Community benefits from onshore renewable energy developments - gov.scot

review, provides a framework to ensure that communities near renewable energy developments can meaningfully benefit from them. The voluntary principles aim to promote transparency, consistency and fairness in how community benefits are offered and managed.

2.1.6. The Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Act 2026[8] aims to ensure that wealth is created, recirculated and retained within local communities. The Bill states that measures may include promoting employment opportunities and workforce development.

Regional and Local Policy Context

2.1.7. The Proposed Varied Development is sited in South Kintyre, at the southern end of the Kintyre Peninsula in Argyll and Bute. The development is approximately 6 miles north of Campbeltown, which is the only major town on the south of the Kintyre peninsula.

2.1.8. Argyll and Bute Council'[8]include the commitment under the Environment pillar to "harness opportunities from expansion of renewable energy sector in the area".

2.1.9. The refreshed Argyll and Bute Economic Strategy for 2024 – 2034[9] outlines its focus on four strategic pillars (People, Place, Planet and Prosperity), with key drivers of economic growth identified as "improving workforce skills", "supporting job opportunities in emerging and new industries", and "supporting the sustainable growth of clean energy production".

2.1.10. Argyll and Bute Council's Economic Strategy Action Plan 2025 – 2028[10] identifies renewables, among others, as a key industry to support prosperity in the region.

2.1.11. Argyll and Bute Council's Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-2034[11] outlines that community wellbeing is a key focus. This includes "working with partners to maximise sustainability of community facilities and services".

2.1.12. Since 2010, the South Kintyre Development Trust (SKDT) has been developing Community Action Plans for each of the community council areas of Campbeltown, East Kintyre, West Kintyre and Southend[12]. The Action Plans

[8] Priorities of Argyll and Bute Council | Argyll and Bute Council

[9] Argyll and Bute Economic Strategy | Argyll and Bute Council

[10] ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCILS ECONOMIC STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2025-2028.pdf, pages 25 and 26

[11] Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-2034 | Argyll and Bute Council

[12] Potential Co-Production Opportunities.pdf

describe local priorities, visions and proposed actions, and were informed through surveys and engagement with local people. SKDT's mission is "to be influential in developing South Kintyre as a vibrant and strong community working with partners both in the third sector and public bodies"[13].

2.1.13. Campbeltown's Community Action Plan 2022 – 2027[14], published by SKDT, notes that the challenges the area faces include a "declining, ageing population" and that "good quality, sustainable employment and training opportunities [are] needed". Campbeltown is notably one of nine Climate Action Towns designated by the Scottish Government and was supported by the Architecture and Design Scotland and the Scottish Community Development Council to include climate actions in its Community Action Plan[15] [16].

2.2. Local Economy

2.2.1. The content of this local economic context section was prepared by BiGGAR Economics. The local data in this section relates to the intermediate data zones of Campbeltown and Kintyre Trail. These data zones cover Argyll and Bute Council's South Kintyre ward, which encompasses the community council areas of Campbeltown, Southend, The Laggan, East Kintyre, West Kintyre and Gigha.

Population

2.2.2. The demographic profile of Argyll and Bute is comparatively older than that of Scotland, meaning there is a lower proportion of young people and a higher proportion of older residents. South Kintyre accounts for 8.5% of the total Argyll and Bute population. From 2003 to 2022, the total population of South Kintyre had decreased by 10.2%. Figure 1 shows how the demographic structure of South Kintyre had changed over the same period. From 2003 to 2022, the number of people aged 65 and over had increased (+24.0%), whilst the number of people aged 0 to 15 had decreased (-36.3%) and the number of people at working age had decreased (-13.4%).

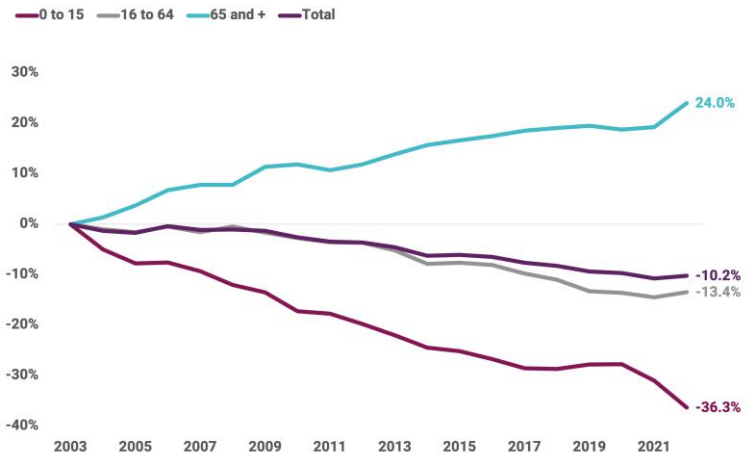
[13] 2024-final-signed-accounts-SKD01.pdf

[14] Campbeltown-Community-Action-Plan-Summary.pdf

[15] Climate Action Towns | A&DS

[16] Climate Action Towns: year one lessons | A&DS

Figure 1: South Kintyre Demographic Structure Change, 2003 to 2022



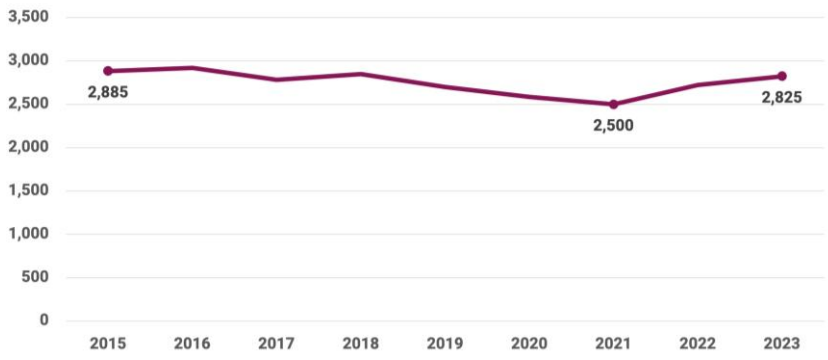
Source: Public Health Scotland (2025), Population Estimates - 2001 to 2021. National Records Scotland (2024), Small Area Population Estimates, mid-2022.

2.2.3. As of 2022, the total population of South Kintyre aged 65 and older is 28.7%. This is similar to Argyll and Bute (27.7%) but higher than Scotland overall (20.5%). Population projections at the local authority and Scottish level suggest that the population aged 65 and older in Argyll and Bute will reach 36.1% by 2047 and 25.0% in Scotland. The proportion of people of working age is expected to fall from 58.4% to 52.5% in Argyll and Bute, and from 63.3% to 60.9% in Scotland.

Industrial Structure

2.2.4. According to the Office of National Statistics, overall employment in South Kintyre remained relatively constant between 2015 and 2023, with a slight decline between 2018 and 2021, which may reflect the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Figure 2: South Kintyre Employment Change, 2015 to 2023

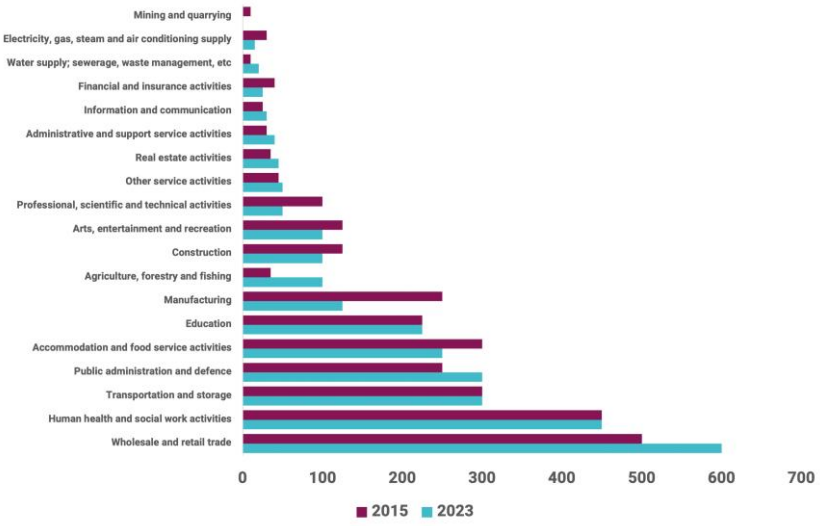


Source: Office of National Statistics (2025), Business Register and Employment Survey, 2015 to 2023

2.2.5. Between 2021 and 2023, employment growth was primarily driven by the wholesale and retail, human health and social work, and transportation and storage sectors which, by 2023, were the largest employment sectors for South Kintyre (21.2% for wholesale and retail, 15.9% for human health and social work and 10.6% for transportation and storage). The construction sector represents ~3.5% of the local workforce for South Kintyre. This, compared to a Scottish average of 5.1%, implies that the local area may have less capacity to secure construction related contracts than some other parts of Scotland.

2.2.6. Since 2015, some local sectors have experienced overall declines in employment. This has been most pronounced in manufacturing, which may reflect the closure of CS Wind at Machrihanish, but also includes accommodation and food services. At 8.8% of total employment in 2023, the accommodation and food services sector is similar to the Scottish average (8.6%) but substantially below the average for Argyll and Bute (15.1%), it is, however, the fifth largest sector in the local area.

Figure 3: Total Jobs by Sector in South Kintyre, 2015 and 2023



Source: Office for National Statistics (2025), Business Register and Employment Survey, 2015 and 2023.

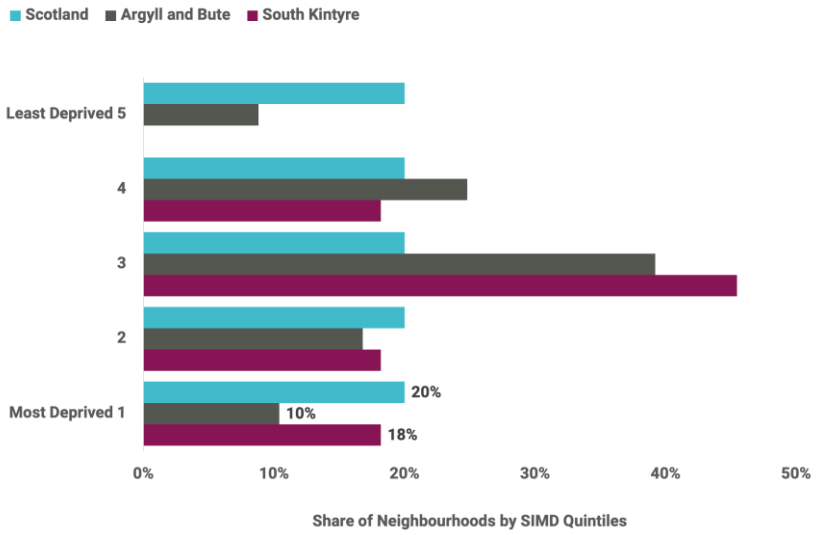
South Kintyre in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

2.2.7. The SIMD is a tool for identifying areas in Scotland with a high concentration of different types of disadvantages. It ranks areas on a scale of one to five according to how deprived they are. SIMD data is provided at the 'data zone' level. South Kintyre includes 11 data zones, and Argyll and Bute includes 125.

There are recognised limitations in applying the SIMD to rural areas[17], so conclusions should be treated with caution.

2.2.8. Overall, 18% of the data zones in South Kintyre rank in the highest deprivation level (this is similar to Scotland as a whole). South Kintyre also has a high concentration of data zones in the middle of the deprivation levels, indicating a moderate level of deprivation. Observing individual deprivation zones, access appears as the most significant challenge for South Kintyre with four out of the 11 data zones experiencing the highest level of deprivation. Access includes the time it takes to drive or access via public transportation to different services and access to superfast broadband[18].

Figure 4: SIMD for South Kintyre, Argyll and Bute and Scotland



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

Deprivation in South Kintyre

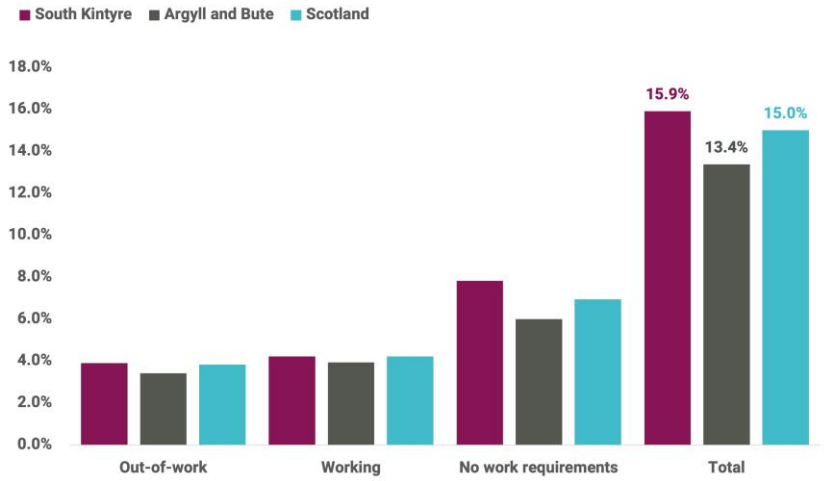
2.2.9. A higher percentage of people in South Kintyre are in receipt of Universal Credit (15.9%) compared to Argyll and Bute (13.4%) and Scotland (15.0%). Universal Credit is the main welfare benefit available to working aged people in Scotland and anyone of working age whose income falls below a specified threshold is potentially eligible for Universal Credit, regardless of their employment status. Claimant rates in South Kintyre are equal to or higher than

[17] How well does the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation identify income and employment deprived individuals across the urban-rural spectrum and between local authorities? - ScienceDirect

[18] Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020v2 - indicators - gov.scot

Argyll and Bute or Scotland. This suggests levels of deprivation in South Kintyre could be higher than what the SIMD scores suggest.

Figure 5: Working Age Population making Universal Credit Claims by Conditionality Regime



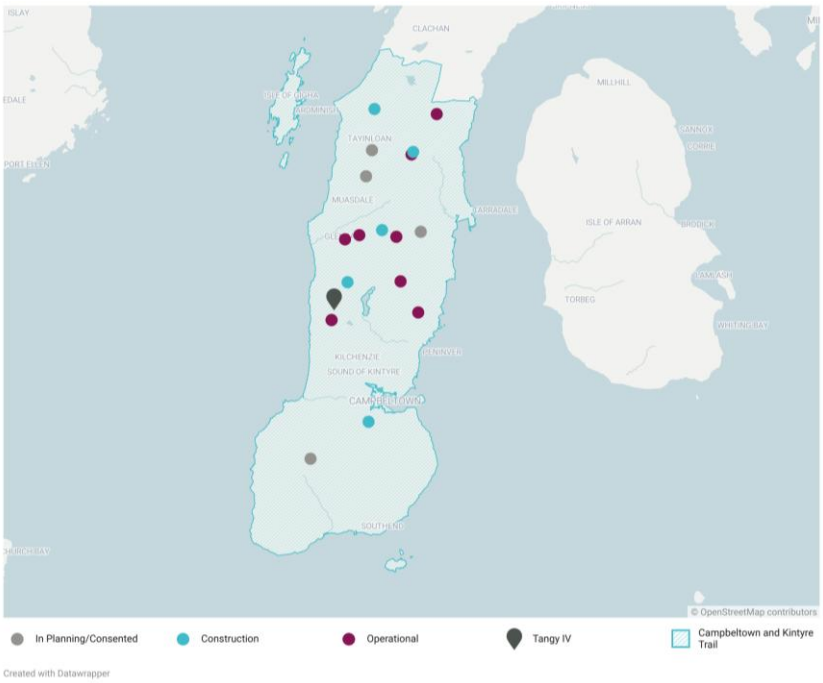
Source: Department Work and Pensions (2025), Stat-Xplore - Benefit Combinations, Feb 2025.

2.3. Developments

2.3.1. Kintyre was one of the earliest locations to be considered for harnessing wind energy, with the first permission for a commercial wind farm granted for Tangy Wind Farm in 1994.

2.3.2. At present, there are nine operational wind farms in South Kintyre, with a combined total of 136 turbines generating 212 MW. Five wind farms are also currently under construction, with a total capacity of 625 MW and 97 turbines generating power. Another five wind farms are in planning or have been consented, this includes the Proposed Varied Development, with a total capacity of 369 MW and 59 turbines generating power.

Figure 6: Wind Farms that are Operational, Under Construction and Planned in South Kintyre



Local Delivery Capacity

2.3.3. Over the past 20 years, community bodies in Kintyre have evolved to have considerable capacity to negotiate, administer and deliver benefits from community benefit funds from wind farms.

2.3.4. There are several Community Trusts operating in the area: Carradale Community Trust, West Kintyre Windfarm Trust and South Kintyre Development Trust. These bodies have delivered several substantial projects, both independently and in partnership, often combining funding from several different community benefit funds.

2.3.5. The East Kintyre Renewable Energy Group (EKREG) was formed to research new and/or proposed renewable energy developments that will impact on Kintyre, with the primary aim to highlight the socio-economic implications of such developments and maximise community benefit income to the community from agreed developments[19].

2.3.6. Kintyre Wind[20], a not-for-profit volunteer-led collaborative project between EKREG and Community Councils across Kintyre to facilitate and deliver

[19] EKREG

[20] https://kintyrewind.com/

Community Shared Ownership to impacted communities and ensure a fair share of Community Benefit Funding from local windfarms for East and West Kintyre, also operates in the area.

2.3.7. The Applicant operates a leading community investment programme, delivering financial support to a diverse range of community projects near its renewable developments[21]. The existing Tangy Wind Farm Community Fund[22] has delivered over £300,000 to local projects, supporting initiatives that enhance quality of life, strengthen community cohesion and build long-term resilience. The fund currently distributes approximately £28,000 per year to community and charitable projects in Argyll and Bute. The fund has supported a wide range of initiatives including:

- Annual micro-grants to five community council areas of Campbeltown, East Kintyre, The Laggan, West Kintyre and Southend. Micro-grants help to build grassroots community capacity, enabling local groups to text ideas, expand activities and respond flexibly to community needs. To date, more than 290 community initiatives have been supported through Tangy's micro-grant programme;
- Capacity building projects such as youth club equipment, playpark improvements, village hall energy efficiency measures, and local outdoor recreation activities;
- Support for ALIenergy, including £10,718 in 2024 for delivery of the Affordable Warmth Advice Service[23];
- Sponsorship and volunteer assistance for local events such as the Kintyre Ultra.

The Applicant places a strong emphasis on good governance for all community funds, with governance processes independently audited, including by Ernst & Young ('EY'), ensuring transparency, accountability and community trust.

2.3.8. Additionally, the Applicant's £10 million Hydro Community Fund[24], launched in 2024, has provided funding to the Argyll and Bute region to support education projects that help to improve local delivery capacity. The Hydro Community Fund shares the same core values as the Community Benefit Fund: creating lasting benefits for local communities, supporting local priorities and promoting sustainable development. In the first 18 months of the Hydro Community Fund, approximately £590,000 was awarded to 11 community projects in

[21] Communities | SSE Renewables

[22] 160800_ssercommunityinvestmentreview_2024_25_digital_final_29oct25.pdf

[23] Tangy | SSE Renewables

[24] Hydro Community Fund | SSE Renewables

Argyll and Bute. In addition, the Applicant has worked with the Argyll and Bute Council Education Department and local authority representatives to award £175,000 to five key STEM projects which support the council's education priorities in the area.

3. Economic Impact Assessment

3.1.1. This economic impact assessment was conducted by BiGGAR Economics.

3.1.2. The estimates provided in this section reflect the potential scale of economic impacts that could be generated from the construction and operation of the Proposed Varied Development.

3.2. Approach and Method

3.2.1. The assessment approach is based on BiGGAR Economics' model and previous experience working on similar developments across Scotland and includes the assessment of the Proposed Varied Development's:

- **Gross Value Added ('GVA')**: a measure of economic activity expressed as the difference between an organisation's turnover and its non-staff operational expenditure.
- **Job Years**: representing the number of years of employment supported in the construction phase, given the temporary nature of construction contracts.
- **Jobs**: representing the ongoing number of jobs supported during the operational phase.

To avoid spurious accuracy, GVA estimates have been rounded to the nearest £0.1 million and employment estimates have been rounded to the nearest 5 jobs/job years throughout the assessment.

3.2.2. Impacts presented are inclusive of the full scale of economic activity the development and operation of the Proposed Varied Development could support. This includes:

- **Direct impacts:** associated with Tier 1 suppliers, including from employing and paying staff, and generating profits. The direct impact is estimated by dividing the expenditure on a contract by the turnover/GVA and turnover/employee ratios for the relevant sectors to estimate the direct GVA and employment impacts.
- **Indirect impact:** associated with spending in the supply chain of Tier 1 suppliers. This is captured by applying Type I economic multipliers to the direct economic impacts.
- **Induced impact:** associated with staff spending their wages in the wider economy and is captured by subtracting Type I multipliers from Type II multipliers and applying this to the direct impact.

3.2.3. The economic assessment was carried out for the economics of:

- **Argyll and Bute**; and
- **Scotland**.

3.3. Development and Construction Impacts

3.3.1. Based on the current capacity and number of turbines of the Proposed Varied Development, it was estimated that the development and construction expenditure could be up to £151 million. For the purpose of the economic impact assessment, the expenditure was split according to the following component contracts: Development and Planning, Turbine Supply and Installation, Balance of Plant and Grid Connection.

3.3.2. To estimate the economic impacts from the development and construction, it was necessary to make assumptions on the ability of businesses within each study area to carry out contracts. As evidenced in Table 1, based on evidence from similar developments elsewhere, and the Applicant's previous work with contractors, it was estimated that approximately up to 25% of the contracts could be carried out by Scottish businesses, with a value of up to £37.3 million. It was estimated that spending on businesses based in Argyll and Bute could be approximately £19.7 million, equivalent to 13% of total development and construction expenditure. The largest opportunity for Scottish businesses would be in contracts associated with balance of plant, which could be worth £18.6 million. Balance of plant contracts would also be the largest opportunity for businesses in Argyll and Bute and could be worth up to £10.3 million.

Table 1: Development and Construction Expenditure by Study Area

	Argyll and Bute		Scotland	
	%	£m	%	£m
Development and Planning	34%	4.9	59%	8.5
Turbine Supply and Installation	2%	1.6	5%	4.0
Balance of Plant	23%	10.3	41%	18.6
Grid Connection	20%	2.9	43%	6.3
Total	**13%**	**19.7**	**25%**	**37.3**

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

3.3.3. The economic impact assessment estimated GVA and short-term employment by analysing contract categories, assigning them to an appropriate Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)[25] code, and applying turnover-to-GVA and turnover-to-job ratios from the Scottish Annual Business Survey (SABS)[26]. As evidenced in Table 2, it was estimated that the development and construction of the Proposed Varied Development is likely to generate £10.7 million direct GVA and 120 years of employment in Argyll and Bute and £19.8 million direct GVA and 260 years of employment in Scotland.

Table 2: Development and Construction Direct GVA and Employment Impact by Study Area

	Argyll and Bute		Scotland	
	GVA (£m)	Years of Employment	GVA (£m)	Years of Employment
Development and Planning	3.4	12	5.6	40
Turbine Supply and Installation	0.8	20	2.0	40
Balance of Plant	5.2	70	9.5	130
Grid Connection	1.2	20	2.6	50
Total	**10.7**	**120**	**19.8**	**260**

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

3.3.4. Indirect and induced effects, which capture wider supply chain activity and employee spending effects, were estimated using Type I and Type II multipliers from the Scottish Government Input-Output Tables[27]. As evidenced in Table 3, it was estimated, by adding up direct, indirect and induced impacts, that the total economic impact (gross) from the construction and development of the Proposed Varied Development could support:

- **£33.3 million GVA** and **440 job years across Scotland**, of which

[25] Office for National Statistics (2009), Standard Industrial Classification of Industrial Activities (SIC 2007) UK SIC 2007 - Office for National Statistics

[26] Scottish Annual Business Statistics 2023 - gov.scot

[27] Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables: 1998-2022 - gov.scot

- **£14.2 million GVA** and **160 jobs years could be retained in Argyll and Bute**.

Table 3: Total Economic Impact (Gross)

	Argyll and Bute	Scotland
Total GVA (£m)	14.2	33.3
Total Job Years	160	440

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

3.3.5. Employment impacts will peak during the construction phase when up to 212 jobs could be supported in Scotland, including around 89 in Argyll and Bute.

3.4. Opportunities in Argyll and Bute

3.4.1. There are a number of local opportunities associated with the construction of the Proposed Varied Development. 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, drainage, cleaning, accommodation, catering, security and other trades activities (plumbing, metal fabrication, electricals, joinery, painting and scaffolding).

3.4.2. In Argyll and Bute, the development and construction contracts associated with the Proposed Varied Development represent a significant opportunity for employment in the 'Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis', 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' and 'Specialised construction activities' sectors. This could directly generate 25 job years in the first sector, 19 job years in the second and approximately 16 in the latter.

3.5. Annual Operational Impact

3.5.1. The initial stage in determining the economic impact stemming from the operations and maintenance of the Proposed Varied Development involved assessing the annual total expenditure necessary when the site is fully operational. Based on the number of turbines and the installed capacity, it was

estimated that the annual cost of operations and maintenance (OPEX) is likely to amount to around £5.8 million.

3.5.2. It was further assumed that businesses in Argyll and Bute could benefit from a total £2.0 million in operations and maintenance contracts (34% of OPEX) annually and that annual expenditure with Scottish contractors could be up to £5.2 million (89% of OPEX).

3.5.3. The total turnover generated in each study area was then divided by the turnover per 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 Proposed Varied Development is likely to generate:

- £2.6 million GVA and 25 jobs in Scotland; of which
- £1.0 million GVA and 9 jobs would be in Argyll and Bute.

3.5.4. As evidenced in Table 4, accounting for multiplier effects, the total impact associated with operations could be around:

- **£4.3 million GVA** and **44 jobs across Scotland**; of which
- **£1.3 million GVA** and **12 jobs would be retained in Argyll and Bute**.

Table 4: Total Annual Operational Impact

	Argyll and Bute	Scotland
Total GVA (£m)	1.3	4.3
Total Jobs	12	44

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

3.6. Decommissioning Impact

3.6.1. There exists limited evidence on the economic benefits associated with the decommissioning of an onshore wind farm. This is because only a few sites have reached this phase of their lifetime.

3.6.2. Decommissioning is expected to take place in reverse order of construction. The scale of works required for decommissioning are not expected to be any greater than those for construction and development phase.

4. The Applicant's Approach

4.1. Maximising Net Socio-Economic Benefit

4.1.1. This section provides further detail on the commitments outlined on page 4 of this report. These commitments, informed by the context of the Proposed Varied Development (outlined in section 2), aim to maximise the socio-economic benefits for the local community. Collectively, these commitments meet the approach criteria set out in the "Maximising Net Socio-Economic Benefit of Renewable Energy" guidance and framework by being place-based, innovative, collaborative, transparent, flexible and deliverable.

4.2. Supply Chain Development

The Applicant will actively engage with the local supply chain and seek to maximise local opportunities through its procurement processes.

4.2.1. As outlined in line 2.2.5 of this report, the construction sector for South Kintyre represents ~3.5% of the local workforce. It is therefore likely that there is some capacity within the local economy that is well-positioned to support the delivery of the Proposed Varied Development, particularly in contracts associated with balance of plant, and the Applicant will aim to maximise these local procurement opportunities wherever possible. As an example, the Applicant has already contracted the services of McFadyen's Contractors (Campbeltown) Limited to perform public access road network improvements for the Proposed Varied Development.

4.2.2. SSE plc's Sustainable Procurement Code[28] outlines the expectation and requirements on its suppliers and contractors, and their supply chains. As per the Code, directly contracted suppliers for the Proposed Varied Development will be required to maximise opportunities for local people, local businesses and the surrounding economies. Suppliers will be encouraged to work collaboratively with the Applicant to strengthen domestic and local supply chains, thereby supporting broader economic resilience.

4.2.3. The Applicant will encourage and support its Principal Contractor(s) to undertake initiatives that facilitate access for local businesses, such as through local information sessions and Meet the Buyer events, to enhance transparency and accessibility, and maximise procurement opportunities for

[28] sustainable-procurement-code-2024-w-revised-review-date.pdf

local businesses. The Principal Contractor(s) for the Proposed Varied Development has not yet been appointed.

The Applicant will monitor and report on the level of local content and social impact associated with the Proposed Varied Development.

4.2.4. In line with the Applicant's commitments to the Onshore Wind Sector Deal, the Applicant plans to report on local content used during the construction of the Proposed Varied Development. As part of its enhanced social value approach, the Applicant will require tenderers for principal contracts to submit a Social Value Action Plan, including the requirement to submit data that demonstrates how place-based social value is being delivered during construction. For the Proposed Varied Development, 'supply chain spend split by location' will be one of the metrics. SSE plc has partnered with Loop to capture and measure the data, to support the maximisation of social value creation[29]. Regular reporting will enhance transparency, assess procurement effectiveness and contribute to national efforts to strengthen Scotland's renewable energy supply chain, supporting increased domestic capability and resilience.

The Applicant will look to explore options to unlock further value that could arise from decommissioning and repowering.

4.2.5. As a business, the Applicant is committed to exploring options to unlock further value from operational assets when they are reaching a mature life stage through either life extension or repowering. To support the continuing operation of a cleaner, more secure and affordable UK energy system, the most appropriate solution for the Proposed Varied Development was determined to be repowering.

4.2.6. As Tangy I and Tangy II Wind Farms may be among the first in the area to repower, they present an opportunity to stimulate the development of local supply chain services associated with turbine removal and decommissioning. The Applicant will actively engage with the local supply chain and with local community groups to identify and maximise such opportunities, including exploring the potential re-sale of the existing turbines.

4.2.7. The Applicant is committed to ensuring that decommissioning and end-of-life activities follow best practice and support sector-wide sustainability, and that circularity can be maximised for its components. To achieve this, the Applicant is already involved with initiatives such as the Coalition for Wind Industry

[29] sustainable-procurement-code-2024-w-revised-review-date.pdf, page 18

Circularity (CWIC) [30], SusWIND[31], ReMake Glasgow[32] and the Carbon Trust's Sustainability Joint Industry Partnership (SUSJIP)[33].

4.3. Skills and Workforce Development

The Applicant will provide high-quality employment and the opportunity for skills development through the lifetime of the Proposed Varied Development.

4.3.1. As outlined in the Economic Impact Assessment, the Proposed Varied Development is expected to generate significant employment and economic benefits for Scotland and for Argyll and Bute, which are particularly relevant in the context of national and local labour market trends (as outlined in section 2). Forecast growth in the Scottish onshore wind workforce, particularly in construction, installation and technical roles, such as high-voltage engineers and turbine technicians, is expected to increase demand for skilled labour[34]. At the same time, Argyll and Bute's declining working-age population, through rural depopulation, for example, presents risks to local labour market capacity. The Proposed Varied Development could help address these key issues for Argyll and Bute by providing stable, high-quality, local jobs that support population retention, strengthen local services and contribute to economic resilience. Additionally, the associated development of technical and industry-relevant skills aligns with national, regional and local policy objectives for economic diversification and reduced deprivation.

4.3.2. The Applicant recognises that effective skills planning is central to a just transition and community wealth building. It invests substantially in workforce upskilling, professional development and apprenticeships. Additionally, the Applicant's continued commitment to paying the real Living Wage ensures fair pay to all workers on site, supporting job quality and wellbeing. These measures reflect a clear and sustained approach to building a skilled, high-quality workforce.

4.3.3. The Applicant is committed to responsible and inclusive employment, ensuring the Fair Work principles are available to all its workers. Its policies and procedures ensure that all workers engaged on the Proposed Varied Development will benefit from safe working conditions, protection of human

[30] Re-use, refurbishment and re-engineering of broken wind turbine parts could create 20,000 UK jobs and multi-billion-pound supply chain | SSE Renewables

[31] UK initiative launched to advance technology for sustainable and recyclable wind turbine blades | NCCUK

[32] ReMake Glasgow | National Manufacturing Institute Scotland (NMIS)

[33] Offshore Wind Sustainability JIP | The Carbon Trust

[34] Workforce and skills requirements in Scotland's onshore wind industry | ClimateXChange

rights, and the promotion of inclusivity and diversity[35]. SSE plc maintains an uncompromising commitment on health and safety and has launched an immersive safety training programme[36] which, in 2024/25, was completed by more than 7,000 employees and over 900 contract partners.

The Applicant will promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and school engagement as a key social value theme throughout the tendering process for the Principal Contractor(s).

4.3.4. The Applicant recognises that long-term workforce development requires early engagement with young people and education providers. To support this, as outlined in 4.2.4 above, the Applicant will expect the Principal Contractor(s) to include engagement with local schools to raise awareness of careers in construction, engineering and the renewable energy sector in their Social Value Action Plans. The Applicant will welcome innovative ideas to promote STEM and the uptake of skills development, especially in areas where there are skills-gaps, such as for wind turbine technicians and machine operators. This would seek to inspire young people across the region to pursue a career in the industry and address persistent barriers to entry, particularly low awareness of construction-related career pathways among young people. Additionally, the Applicant will be open to collaborating with the appointed Principal Contractor(s) and local community groups, where feasible, to support school activities and broaden the reach of STEM engagement.

4.3.5. The Applicant is actively participating in initiatives to help build early-stage interest in engineering and energy careers, supporting the longer-term development of a skilled local workforce. Examples of this include SSE plc being an active private-sector partner to the Argyll and Bute Renewable Energy Alliance (ABRA)[37] and assisting the delivery of the Argyll and Bute's Renewable Energy Action Plan[38], which includes supporting actions relating to skills gap identification and education engagement. SSE plc is also a regular supporter of Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) and is one of the Board Members of Argyll and Bute's Regional Team [39] . DYW Argyll and Bute connects local employers with education to support skills development. Additionally, community benefit funding from the Tangy Wind Farm has contributed to ALIenergy[40], whose activities have included the delivery of

[35] Policies and assurances | SSE

[36] sse-sustainability-report-2025.pdf, pages 42-44

[37] Renewable Energy | Argyll and Bute Council

[38] RenewableEnergyActionPlan.pdf

[39] Argyll and Bute - DYW - Scotland

[40] Tangy | SSE Renewables

STEM-related workshops, school engagement events, and skills development programmes.

4.4. Community Empowerment

The Applicant will continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure it understands local needs, aspirations and delivery capacity to support Community Wellbeing.

4.4.1. The Applicant is committed to ensuring that the Proposed Varied Development delivers meaningful socio-economic benefit by grounding its approach in a thorough place-based understanding. The Applicant's dedicated Project Development, Community Investment and Community Engagement teams work collaboratively to ensure that project development is informed by the characteristics and priorities of the communities in which it operates. This includes maintaining continuous engagement with local stakeholders throughout the project lifecycle to foster transparent, responsive and effective collaboration. SSE plc's Community Investment Principles[41] and SSE Renewables and SSE Thermal's Principles of Engagement[42] reinforce this commitment. These principles ensure that community perspectives are systematically integrated into decision making and that engagement remains an ongoing and adaptive process.

4.4.2. The Applicant is also engaging directly with ABRA to provide information on the social benefits from the renewables industry and support the development of ABRA's Clean Energy Principles. ABRA promotes Argyll and Bute as a location for renewable energy development and brings together key public and private sector partners to ensure greater awareness of issues around renewable development.

4.4.3. In the Kintyre Peninsula, where the Applicant has a long-standing presence through the operational Tangy I and II Wind Farms, community capacity and expectations have evolved alongside the growing number of renewable energy developments. Local priorities increasingly focus on ensuring that wind farm projects deliver significant regional benefits, including sustainable employment opportunities that utilise existing local skillsets and assets. Broader community aspirations also include expanding access to affordable housing, creating skilled employment pathways, and ensuring that young people can live and work in South Kintyre. The Applicant's approach recognises these evolving priorities and seeks to align its community investment and engagement activities accordingly. Throughout the development of the Proposed Varied

[41] ssercommunityinvestmentreview_2024_25_final-1.pdf, page 4

[42] sse-principles-of-engagement-final.pdf

Development, the Applicant has hosted Public Exhibitions to answer questions and receive feedback to inform the submission of the Section 36C Variation application[43]. These Exhibitions took place in August 2025 and March 2026 and were hosted at the Tayinloan Village Hall (August 2025 only), Machrihanish Village Hall and the Campbeltown Town Hall.

4.4.4. The Applicant is also engaged in early discussions with EKREG and intends to maintain and deepen this engagement throughout the project lifecycle.

4.4.5. Additionally, it's important to note that repowering will enable long-term investment to continue in the local region, ensuring continued support for community initiatives and local development. The Proposed Varied Development will also create stable, long-term employment opportunities and deliver wider socio-economic benefits across the area. Repowering aligns[44] with and positively contributes to national, regional and local policy objectives by enhancing renewable energy generation, supporting economic resilience and promoting sustainable growth.

The Applicant will provide Community Benefit Funding to deliver tangible outcomes that reflect local priorities and empower communities through participatory decision-making.

4.4.6. The Applicant has a long-term commitment to investing in communities through structured and locally informed community benefit funds which are funded through the operating expenditure of each eligible asset. Across Scotland, the Applicant expects to invest at least £11.5 million in community benefit funding over 2026[45]. The funds are delivered in accordance with Scotland's current Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments, which are currently under review. The Applicant will continue to engage and have regard to any updates to the Principles as they emerge. The Applicant has been strongly advocating for ensuring community led control of future funds and a focus on capacity building and lasting legacy for communities.

[43] Tangy Repower | SSE Renewables

[44] *Industry evidence [*Equitable Energy Research (2025). *Onshore Wind Repowering in Argyll and Bute and Beyond* (EER-25002-DOC-001-A3-FINAL*] increasingly highlights onshore wind repowering as a critical inflection point for the UK and Scottish energy system. As significant volumes of assets reach end of life, repowering represents not only a technical upgrade but a strategic opportunity to reshape ownership, value distribution and community participation in renewable energy.*

[45] SSE reinforces leadership in community investment funding with 2026 plans | SSE Renewables

4.4.7. For the Proposed Varied Development, a community investment fund valued at £5,000 per MW per year, index-linked to CPI, will be available from first power and will remain in place for the operational life of the wind farm. Of this amount:

- £2,500 per MW per year will be allocated to local communities through the Tangy Community Fund. These funds may be administered by panels of local residents with support from SSE's Community Investment Team or delegated to community organisations, depending on local preferences and consultation outcomes.
- £2,500 per MW per year will be directed to a Sustainable Development Fund, a region-wide programme overseen by an independent panel. This fund will support transformative projects across Argyll and Bute, with a focus on enhancing education and employment opportunities, empowering communities including supporting vulnerable residents, and enabling meaningful community [46] [47].

The dual-funding model ensures that communities surrounding the Proposed Varied Development can access both locally targeted support and region-scale funding opportunities, amplifying the socio-economic impact across Argyll and Bute.

The Applicant will maintain its position on Shared Ownership and will be open to working with stakeholders, communities and sector bodies to explore viable pathways to address barriers.

4.4.8. The Applicant recognises shared ownership as an important mechanism for community wealth building and empowerment, and as a foundation to a fair low carbon society. Shared ownership can provide communities with a long-term revenue stream, strengthen local involvement in the energy transition and contribute to local economic resilience. However, significant structural challenges remain, particularly regarding access to affordable finance for communities wishing to invest. These challenges are common across the onshore wind sector and apply irrespective of the Applicant's willingness to offer shared ownership. SSE plc has been actively engaging with the UK and Scottish Government, and GB Energy, to influence what action should be taken to remove barriers to community participation in low carbon infrastructure ownership, including a focus on increasing community capacity and removing barriers to financial participation.

[46] Tangy Repower | SSE Renewables

[47] Sustainable development fund | SSE Renewables

4.4.9. As the Applicant is committed to exploring shared ownership opportunities on all new onshore wind developments, the Stakeholder Engagement Manager for the Proposed Varied Development will be prepared to facilitate discussions on shared ownership and community investment subject to planning consent and project progress.

4.5. Environmental Protection and Enhancement

4.5.1. The Proposed Varied Development is a repowering project. Repowering represents a sustainable and resource-efficient approach to renewable energy development. By making use of existing site access and infrastructure, the Proposed Varied Development reduces land disturbance and minimises environmental impacts relative to a greenfield development. Repowering also supports the long-term sustainability of renewable energy infrastructure by extending clean energy generation on a site with a proven operational history. This approach aligns with best practice in environmental stewardship and supports Scotland's transition to net zero by maximising clean energy production from existing assets.

The Applicant will uphold its best practice approach to protecting and enhancing the environment of the Proposed Varied Development, thereby supporting long-term socio-economic benefits from improved environmental quality.

4.5.2. The Applicant's approach to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was pre-development, which aligns with NPF4 Policy 3b[48]. The Applicant's *Positive for the Planet: Renewable energy with a Biodiversity Net Gain*[49] report, published in 2022, set out a 10-point plan for BNG which includes active industry participation, collaboration with partners and the delivery of BNG on all major onshore projects consented from 2025. To quantify biodiversity impact, the Applicant also published the SSE Renewables BNG project toolkit[50] and made it available on its website so that others can review the approach and implement it on their own projects, with the aim to aid the development of a consistent methodology for quantifying BNG across the sector. This toolkit has been endorsed by NatureScot[51], reflecting its robustness and alignment with best-practice standards. The Proposed Varied Development, if approved, will benefit from this approach to BNG and the Applicant will use the BNG project

[48] National Planning Framework 4 - gov.scot

[49] sser-biodiversity-net-gain-report-nov-2022-final.pdf

[50] Nature Positive | SSE Renewables

[51] Guidance on the use of existing biodiversity metrics in the Scottish planning system | NatureScot

toolkit to quantify the intrinsic 'biodiversity value' of the Proposed Varied Development before and after development.

4.5.3. The Applicant has a strong understanding of local habitat conditions and the environmental sensitivities of the Kintyre Peninsula from the management of the existing Tangy I and Tangy II sites. Additionally, the Applicant has extensive demonstrable experience of delivering peatland restoration and management activities, both on the open hill and forest-to-bog scenarios, including land previously drained for agriculture and at peatland extraction sites. The Applicant has recently, in collaboration with NatureScot's Peatland ACTION programme, offered training opportunities for accomplished excavator drivers to develop skills in forest-to-bog peatland restoration at its Strathy South wind farm on the north coast of Sutherland[52]. This demonstrates the Applicant's commitment to protecting and enhancing the environment.

4.5.4. As outlined in the Detailed Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for the Proposed Varied Development, the activities to protect and enhance the environment are: forest to bog restoration, broadleaved woodland creation, and peatland restoration of non-afforested habitats and areas of previous infrastructure. The Applicant's experience will inform its responsible approach to minimising negative impacts throughout the Proposed Varied Development's project lifecycle, and it will uphold its commitment to deliver BNG.

Through its community benefit fund, the Proposed Varied Development could support local green spaces and tourism infrastructure that enhance the local environment.

4.5.5. The Applicant recognises that access to high-quality natural environments and outdoor recreational infrastructure is essential to the socio-economic wellbeing of South Kintyre. Additionally, tourism in the region is closely tied to the natural landscape, with cycling, hiking and outdoor activities forming a key part of the area's economic offering. There are 22 core paths within 15km of the Proposed Varied Development, including the nationally significant 100-mile Kintyre Way walking route. The wider tourism offer includes Campbeltown's distilleries, the coastline and golf courses, the Kintyre 66 scenic route, and National Cycle Route 78, the Caledonia Way.

4.5.6. As outlined in paragraph 4.4.7, the Proposed Varied Development, once operational, will bring additional community benefit funding to the local region. This will include a Sustainable Development Fund, which supports strategic projects in the regions where SSE Renewables is operating. Whilst the Applicant would not be able to choose specific projects to be funded, as applications are reviewed and determined by an external panel, the project

[52] Peatland ACTION - Training and skills for restoration delivery | NatureScot

eligibility criteria[53] states that any successful application must fit into at least one of these areas:

- Creating opportunities;
- Empowering communities;
- Building sustainable places, which states that the Sustainable Development Fund can support projects which "stimulate meaningful regeneration to improve or enhance local infrastructure, landscape, biodiversity or heritage and make a lasting difference to the places we live, work and visit".

4.5.7. Additionally, Argyll and Bute has already received investment from SSE's current community funding that supports local green spaces and tourism infrastructure. For example, £100,000 was invested into a new stand at the Oban Lorne Stadium to enable the site to be utilised for more tourism-focused events, more information will be available when the SSE Renewables' Community Investment Review is published[54].

[53] Sustainable development fund | SSE Renewables

[54] Community investment reviews | SSE Renewables