

# CLASHINDARROCH II

**Design and Access Statement**  
**Prepared for: Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd**

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1 The UK and Scottish governments have set ambitious climate change targets with net zero CO<sub>2</sub> targets for 2050 and in Scotland a 66% reduction in emissions by 2032. Vattenfall Wind Power Limited (the Applicant) is helping to lead the fight against climate change by developing renewable energy projects, such as the proposed Clashindarroch II Wind Farm (the proposed development).
- 2 Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd (Vattenfall) propose to install and operate 14 wind turbines and associated infrastructure on land (the Site) adjacent to the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm, in Aberdeenshire, on land owned by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS). This would be known as the Clashindarroch II Wind Farm (the proposed development). The proposed development would be located approximately (approx.) 6km to the south-west of Huntly, as shown on Figure 1 and Figure 2.
- 3 For the avoidance of doubt, this application for the proposed development under section 36 (s.36) of the Electricity Act 1989 (the 1989 Act) and would not be an extension to the existing wind farm. If consented, the proposed development would be a new and separate development. However, the proposed development is considered in the context of the Clashindarroch Wind Farm for assessment purposes in this Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report).
- 4 The application boundary of the proposed development site is shown on Figure 3. The application boundary encompasses the proposed wind turbines and associated infrastructure. An aerial view of the Site is shown on Figure 1.
- 5 The maximum height of the proposed turbines would be 180m to the tip of the blade in an upright position. It is expected that each wind turbine would be rated to between 4.0 megawatts (MW) and 6.0 MW (or greater, subject to future advances in turbine technology) giving a total installed capacity of between 56MW and 84MW. The proposed development would produce an average of between approximately 184GWh and 276GWh of electricity annually (based on an average capacity factor of 37.5%). This equates to the power consumed by between 48,654 and 72,980 average homes in the UK<sup>1</sup>.
- 6 The generating capacity of the proposed development would exceed 50MW and as such an application for the proposed development will be submitted to Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) under s.36 of the 1989 Act.
- 7 The proposed development would connect to the Transmission Grid network near Craighead, at the same location as the existing Scottish and Southern Electricity (SSE) substation associated with the Clashindarroch Wind Farm. The grid connection cabling for the proposed development would be underground and within the application boundary, and as such it forms part of the application under s.36 of the 1989 Act. At this stage, it is not envisaged that there would be a separate application for the Transmission Grid connection under section 37 of the 1989 Act. The project has an expected grid connection date of 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> Calculated using the most recent statistics from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) showing that annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,781kWh (RenewableUK, 2018). Calculation is based on the previous stated range of turbines (4.0 – 6.0) and assume a consistent supplier for all turbine locations (MW x capacity x 8760)/3.781 – where 8760 is number of hours in a year.

## 2.0 Site Location

- 8 In order to understand the design of the proposed development it is considered important to understand the Site and its context. A site location plan is contained as Figure 2 of this document. A plan showing the application boundary is contained as Figure 3. An aerial photograph of the Site and its surroundings are contained as Figure 1.
- 9 The proposed development is located within Clashindarroch Forest, approximately 6km to the south west of the settlement of Huntly, Aberdeenshire and is centred on grid reference NGR 344000,833000. The site is within the administrative boundary of Aberdeenshire Council and is managed by Forestry Land Services (FLS) on behalf of Scottish Ministers. The area of the Site extends to approximately 1,234 hectares (ha), with the proposed wind turbines located in the southern part of the Site. Access to the Site is provided from the A920 and would utilise as far as possible the existing onsite access tracks.
- 10 The Site lies within an upland landscape which is characterised by a series of rounded hills and interlocking spurs separated by incised river valleys. Topography ranges from approximately 220m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) to 525m AOD. The western side of the Site forms the most elevated part and is defined by a series of rounded hills which form a distinctive ridgeline comprising forestry to the east, and moorland/farmland to the west. Notable hills along this ridgeline include Red Hill (522m AOD), Grumack Hill (517m AOD), Black Hill (505m AOD), Mount of Haddoch (521m AOD), and Lelds Hill (482m AOD). To the east of this ridgeline, the Site is characterised by a series of rounded hills with interlocking spurs and incised valleys descending towards the River Bogie.
- 11 There are no statutory ecological designations, no international or national landscape designations and no scheduled archaeological or cultural heritage designations within the Site.
- 12 The surrounding area is generally rural in nature with large areas of commercial forestry to the east of the Site. The River Deveron is also located to the west of the Site.
- 13 Nearby statutory ecological and ornithological designations include the Craigs of Succoth Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the Hill of Towanreef SSSI and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Nearby landscape designations include the Deveron Valley Special Landscape Area (SLA), Upper Don Valley SLA, Bennachie SLA, and the Moray Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV). The Cairngorms National Park (CNP) (including Wild Land and National Scenic Area designations) is located to the south west of the Site.
- 14 Scattered within a 7km radius of the proposed development there are 41 residential properties. The predicted noise levels for these properties are assessed in Chapter 14 of the EIA. Larger settlements nearby include Gartly to the east and Rhynie to the south east.

## 3.0 Design Policies

- 15 The preparation of this DAS has had regard to Planning Advice Note 68: Design Statements, The Aberdeenshire Development Plan and its associated Supplementary Guidance.
- 16 The design of the proposed development was carefully considered in the context of national advice in respect of design, the development plan and supplementary guidance which is relevant to the proposed development.

### National guidance

- 17 The most important national policy documents relating to the siting and design of the proposed development are the National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3), and Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) along with the associated Planning Advice Notes (PANs), and also Onshore Wind Turbines: Planning Advice. See Chapter 4 of the EIA Report.
- 18 In relation to the design and layout of windfarms, Table 1 in the SPP sets out the basis for a spatial framework in which a hierarchy of protection is defined. Group 1 areas such as National Parks and National Scenic Areas and are defined as *"Areas where wind farms will not be acceptable"*. Group 2 areas are based on a range of national designations, other nationally important environmental interests (such as wild land or carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat), and community separation (2km from cities, towns and villages identified in the Local Development Plan). Group 2 areas are defined as *"Areas of Significant Protection"*. Group 3 areas are defined as *"Areas with potential for wind farm development"* depending on detailed consideration against the specified policy criteria.
- 19 Having assessed the Site against these criteria it is considered that the proposed development lies predominately within a Group 2 area. The categorising of parts of the Site as Group 2 is deemed to be due to areas of carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat.
- 20 The Onshore Wind Turbines: Planning Advice, published by the Scottish Government in 2014 provides an overview of common issues which need to be considered and some guidance on how to assess these in order to inform windfarm design. The advice relating to windfarm design, such as landscape assessment, shadow flicker analysis, noise, potential impacts on wildlife and more, has been incorporated into the design of the proposed development.

### Locational guidance

- 21 Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (June 2014) provides support for wind development in principle and encourages local authorities to guide developments towards appropriate locations. Paragraph 154 states that planning authorities *"should support the development of a diverse range of electricity generation from renewable energy technologies – including the expansion of renewable energy generation capacity"*. Paragraph 155 also states that *"development plans should seek to ensure an area's full potential for electricity and heat from renewable sources is achieved, in line with national climate change targets."*
- 22 In response to these policy requirements Aberdeenshire has undertaken a landscape capacity study - Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Aberdeenshire (SLCAWEA)
- 23 The SLCAWEA was produced by Ironside Farrar for Aberdeenshire Council, published in March 2014. It assesses the landscape sensitivity, the capacity of landscape units to accommodate change and provides advice on how the scale, siting and design of development should be informed by local landscape character.

- 24 In brief, the SLCAWEA concludes that there is no underlying capacity for wind turbine development in the Moorland Plateaux Landscape Character Areas (LCA) in which the proposed development would be located, primarily due *“to their importance to the Aberdeenshire landscape, high visual prominence, high relative wildness and recreational value.”* It is however noted that within the Aberdeenshire Council LDP 2017 the Site under the Spatial Framework for Wind Energy lies within Group 3 areas which are *“areas with potential subject to detailed consideration”*.

## Development plan

- 25 The Development Plan is defined by the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended, as being the local development plan; the planning authority's resolution of adoption and any supplementary guidance issued in connection with the local development plan.
- 26 The development plan for the site comprises:
- Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2014; and
  - Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) 2017.
- 27 In addition, there are number of supplementary guidance documents which are relevant to the proposed development as part of the emerging development plan. They are not part of the Development Plan.
- 28 The EIA Report Chapter 4 sets the proposed Development in the context of the relevant Development Plan policies. The Planning Statement provides an assessment of the proposed Development against the Development Plan and material considerations relevant to the decision-making process.

### Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2014

- 29 The Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan is strategic in nature and does not contain proposal specific design policies. It is not considered further.

### Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) 2017.

- 30 The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan contains Policy P1 Layout, Siting and Design which is relevant to the design of the proposed development. Policy 1 is as follows:

*“We will support major developments (more than 50 homes, or more than 2 hectares of employment, retail or mixed use development), or new development on sites we have identified within the settlement statements as requiring a development framework or masterplan, if they keep to a previously agreed statement(s) on the proposed design for the site. We will assess all development, whether on sites we have allocated or elsewhere, using a process that includes appropriate public consultation. We will only approve development designs that demonstrate the six qualities of successful places, which are to be:*

- *distinctive with a sense of local identity through creation of a sense of place and the aesthetics of the design features and elements;*
- *safe and pleasant, encouraging both activity and privacy, providing security and protecting amenity;*
- *welcoming through visual appeal, style and the creation of a welcoming environment;*
- *adaptable to future needs through the balance of land uses, building types, density, sizes and tenures (including housing for people on modest incomes), and the flexibility to adapt to the changing circumstances of occupants;*

- *efficient in terms of resources used in terms of waste management, water use, heating and electricity, the use of recycled materials and materials with low embodied energy, and responding to local climatic factors associated with cold winds, rain, snow and solar gain; and*
- *well connected to create well connected places that promote intermodal shifts and active travel.*

*Measures require to be identified to enhance biodiversity or geodiversity in proportion to the opportunities available and the scale of the development opportunity and to accord with the Zero Waste Plan, a Site Waste Management Plan will be submitted to demonstrate that developers have minimised the generation of waste during the construction and operational phases of new development. These obligations may be controlled by conditions.”*

31 Policy E2 Landscape also refers to design, it states

*“We will refuse development that causes unacceptable effects through its scale, location or design on key natural landscape elements, historic features or the composition or quality of the landscape character. These impacts can be either alone or cumulatively with other recent developments. Development should not otherwise significantly erode the characteristics of landscapes as defined in the Landscape Character Assessments produced by Scottish Natural Heritage (see [www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlandsnature/looking-after-landscapes/lca/](http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlandsnature/looking-after-landscapes/lca/)) or have been identified as Special Landscape Areas of local importance.*

*Boundaries and qualifying criteria for Special Landscape Areas are identified in the supplementary guidance Aberdeenshire Special Landscape Areas. Developments located within Special Landscape Areas will only be permitted if the qualifying interests are not being adversely affected or effects of the development are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of at least local importance.”*

32 Regard has been had to these policies and the wider Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan during the design of the proposed Development and in the subsequent EIA process.

## 4.0 Design Principles

- 33 The EIA process associated with this application has enabled identification of the key constraints and sensitivities of the Site. A review of these previous proposals together with related planning and consultation responses has fed into the design considerations for this application. For example, the positioning of turbines along the ridgeline on the east side of the Deveron Valley was judged unacceptable because of the potential for significant landscape and visual effects on the Valley. The relationship of the proposals to the key summit of Tap O'Noth was also cited as another key landscape, visual and cultural heritage consideration.
- 34 The main landscape and visual design considerations that were identified comprised the following:
- selection of a turbine height which could be accommodated by the scale of the landform across the Site and which would be reasonably consistent with the Clashindarroch turbines;
  - achieves a reasonable relationship with the varied landform across the Site and the Clashindarroch turbines, when seen from multiple directions and elevations around the Site and taking account of the location of key sensitive receptors such as Tap O' Noth and the western ridgeline;
  - consideration of the cumulative landscape and visual impacts induced by a wind farm on the Site in addition to the Clashindarroch Wind Farm, as well as other nearby consented wind farms; and
  - potential visibility from the closest residential receptors, particularly the Tillathrowie area to the north east and the Deveron Valley to the west.
- 35 The key design objectives for the development of the proposed development, which were agreed with the Applicant following meetings, with consultees, including SNH, Historic Environment Scotland and Aberdeenshire Council were as follows:
- avoid the ridgeline and upper slopes at the western side of the Site;
  - limit proximity to closest residential receptors;
  - limit impacts on priority peatland and carbon areas;
  - respect other environmental constraints;
  - create a scheme which maximises the potential of the Site to generate and store renewable energy; and
  - use of the existing infrastructure (tracks and borrow pits on the Site) as far as practicably possible.

## 5.0 Consultation

- 36 A Scoping Report was submitted to Scottish Government Local Energy and Consents (LEC) on 5th April 2017 to accompany a request for the Scottish Ministers to adopt a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 7 of the EIA Regulations 2000. At that time the proposal was for up to 16 turbines each having a maximum blade tip height of 149.9 metres, with the total generating capacity proposed to be in excess of 50MW when considered with the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm. A consultation was carried out by the Energy Consents Unit and a Scoping Opinion received from the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) on 3rd July 2017 (Technical Appendix 6.2).
- 37 A summary of the information contained in the Scoping Opinion is detailed in the consultation tables contained within the EIA Report technical Chapters, numbers 7-17. The full 2017 Scoping Opinion can be found in Technical Appendix 6.4 of the EIA Report.
- 38 Since the submission of the Scoping Report in 2017, the Applicant took the opportunity to review the project and consider the economic viability of the project and this resulted in the consideration of a number of revised turbine options. This has resulted in a layout of up to 14 turbines with a maximum tip height of 180m. This layout is presented at EIA Report Figure 3.1.
- 39 In June 2018 SLR Limited contacted the ECU and informed them there had been a reconsideration on the final design and that the proposed development would be up to 14 turbines with a maximum tip height of 180m. A revised scoping document was prepared at this point (and submitted in October 2018) and it was agreed with ECU that further consultation would be carried out and that this would address the revisions to the project only.
- 40 A Scoping Opinion for the revised scheme was received in March 2019. The revised Scoping Report and Opinion are provided in EIA Report Technical Appendices 6.3 and 6.4.
- 41 A summary of the key issues raised about the proposed development in the scoping exercise is provided in Table 6.1 of the EIA Report.
- 42 In addition to the scoping process a number of meetings were held with consultees. These included the following:
- Aberdeenshire Council;
  - Cairngorms National Park;
  - Historic Environment Scotland;
  - River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board;
  - Scottish Environmental Protection Agency;
  - Scottish Natural Heritage; and
  - The Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust.

## 6.0 Design Evolution

- 43 The constraints map (Figure 4) was used to inform the evolution of the turbines and associated infrastructure. The way in which the design of the proposed wind turbine layout developed to take account of the identified constraints is described in the following text.

### Design Evolution Process

- 44 The design optimisation process was iterative, involving review of multiple layouts and related wirelines from key landscape and visual receptor locations in the study area, with adjustments made to turbine locations to minimise potentially adverse landscape and visual impacts in so far as possible, whilst also taking into consideration the other environmental, technical and economic considerations that had been agreed with Vattenfall. Figure 2.2 shows the key design viewpoints used to inform the design optimisation process.
- 45 A range of turbine dimensions were considered and discussed as part of the design evolution process. Site visits with wirelines illustrating the various turbine dimensions were undertaken by the landscape team. SLR provided advice and recommendations to the Applicant based on this work. This is reflected in the following text where the various layout iterations are described.
- 46 Five key stages in the design evolution, spanning from the Initial Scoping Layout through to the Final EIA Report Layout are described in the following paragraphs with each of these layouts being presented on Figure 5. Wirelines for each of these stages from key viewpoints in the surrounding area are shown on Figures 2.4a-2.4f.

### Landscape and visual design iteration

#### Layout A Scoping

- 47 Layout A (Scoping) consisted of 16 turbines at 149.9m to blade tip height. The turbines were positioned directly to the north east of Clashindarroch Wind Farm appearing as a cluster of ten turbines in the south and two lines of three turbines to the north east. Turbine 1 (T1) was the furthest north and located on the lower slopes of Muckle Black Hill (522m AOD). T2 and T6 were located to the south east of T1 on the top of Carlin Hill (384m AOD) and Little Black Hill (373m AOD) respectively and formed the northern line with T1. The second line of turbines included T3, T12 and T9. T3 was located on the lower slopes of Red Hill (526m AOD) and T12 and T9 sat either side of the top of Craigie Beg (approx. 350m AOD). The main group of turbines in the south covered the tops and lower slopes of Raven Hill (421m AOD), Hill of Finglenny (approx. 400m AOD), lower slopes of Grumack Hill (517m AOD) and near Shank Beditimmer (approx. 370m AOD).
- 48 On review of the design viewpoints for Layout A, the turbines in the north east (T1, T6, and T2) appeared to sit separately from the rest of the wind farm and appeared most prominent in views where visibility is potentially greatest (see Figure 2.4j). The blade tips of T5 and T11 appeared just above the ridgeline in views from the west side of the Deveron Valley. In addition, noise, shadow flicker, and proximity to the Corrylair property in the north east were also a concern in respect of T2 and T6.

#### Layout B Design Feasibility Meeting

- 49 Layout A was reviewed at a design team meeting, taking into consideration the separation and prominence of the northern turbines and their proximity to Corrylair, and the positioning of turbines near the ridgeline. As a result, T1, T2 and T6 were moved south west and T1 and T5 moved south east. T4 was also moved to reduce potential visibility from the Deveron Valley. An additional turbine (T17) was also

positioned within a gap in the main cluster of turbines.

- 50 On review of Layout B, it was found that T5 and T11 were still marginally visible from the Deveron Valley and T1, T2 and T6 were still prominent and sitting apart from rest of group, although this had improved from Layout A. Noise, shadow flicker and proximity to Corrylair was still a potential issue. The addition of T17 also increased the density of spacing in the southern cluster which contrasted with the more open layout of turbines in the north.

### Layout C Public Exhibition 2016

- 51 Several iterations of the design were made following the design team meeting, and considered the northern turbines, the balance of the wind farm layout as a whole, and its relationship with Clashindarroch Wind Farm. The layout (Layout C) that was presented at the Public Exhibitions held in June 2016 returned to 16 turbines with the three northern turbines (T1, T2, and T6) removed and replaced by two new turbines (T18) and (T19) positioned on the lower slopes of Little Black Hill (373m AOD) and Carlin Hill (384m AOD). This resulted in a more balanced and evenly spaced layout, reduced the prominence of turbines in views from the closest residents to the north east, and removed any shadow flicker or noise concerns. Turbines 11, 5 and 3 were also repositioned further down the slope to further minimise any visibility from the Deveron Valley.
- 52 On further review of Layout C and taking into account feedback from the public exhibitions it was noted that while T18 and T19 improve the balance of the layout over the original northern turbine locations, they still noticeably increased the horizontal extent in views from the south east and north west, particularly in relation to the Tap O' Noth (see Figure 2.4a-p). In addition, these northern turbines appeared to be more backclothed by the Deveron Valley ridgeline than the southern part of the wind farm, and they could be perceived to dominate and/or compete with the scale and character of the landscape. T18 and T19 also caused more notable stacking of turbines in some views, particularly from the north east.

### Layout D June 2017 Layout

- 53 The design aimed to address the observations made during the review of Layout C and reduced the proposed wind farm to 13 turbines. T17, T18 and T19 from Layout C were removed. This improved the containment of the wind farm group to a similar horizontal extent as the Clashindarroch Wind Farm. The removal of the northern turbines reduced the number of turbines directly backclothed against the ridgeline, and reduced the potential for the intrusion upon, or reduction of distinction of the Tap O' Noth when seen from some viewpoints. The layout also increased the distance of the turbines from residential properties in the north east to approximately 2km at closest and reduced the prominence of the turbines in views from this direction.

### Layout E Final Design Layout 2019

- 54 In October 2017 the Applicant took the opportunity to review and consider the project, including its economic viability. A number of layouts and tip heights were considered. This review work was undertaken throughout 2018. Further consultation was undertaken in September 2018. This work resulted in a layout of 14 turbines with a tip height of 180m. The effects of the larger turbines, including aviation lighting, were carefully considered in relation to all environmental topics and the Applicant considered it appropriate to seek consent for larger turbines in order to maximise the potential of the Site. Work was undertaken to ensure that it was possible to deliver the larger turbines to the Site. This resulted in the final layout being confirmed in June 2019.

## Tracks and infrastructure

- 55 Careful consideration was given throughout the design iteration process to the location of the various ancillary components of the proposed development, including the cable routes, borrow pits, substation compound options and the access tracks within the Site. For example, wherever possible the number of watercourse crossings has been minimised.
- 56 The access point to the Site is shown in Figure 3 and in Technical Appendix 13.1. The design allows all abnormal loads e.g. turbines and all construction traffic to access the Site directly from the A96. This is to minimise the extent of road upgrades and minimal disturbance to settlements during the construction period. Within the Site, it is proposed to utilise existing tracks to minimise the amount of new track construction and also provide flexibility when accessing the Site.
- 57 The proposed development would re-use and share existing infrastructure from the existing onsite forestry operations and Clashindarroch Wind Farm access tracks where possible.

## Embedded mitigation

- 58 Mitigation of the potential effects of the proposed development has been predominately incorporated through the iterative design process. Changes made as a consequence of this iterative design process are considered to be embedded mitigation.
- 59 There was a conscious decision to utilise the existing infrastructure within the Site in so far as was possible. The proposed development contains a substantial amount of embedded mitigation as a result of the design process. The location of infrastructure seeks, in so far as is possible, to do the following:
- use the existing infrastructure;
  - avoid localised areas of peat;
  - avoid identified sensitive ecological habitats;
  - retain an acceptable distance from properties;
  - minimise water course crossings;
  - minimise landscape and visual impacts; and
  - ensure acceptable noise levels are achieved.
- 60 The design evolution process which has been undertaken has resulted in the inclusion of further embedded mitigation measures for works which are required as part of the Site preparation, construction and operation of the proposed development. This embedded mitigation includes the following:
- minimising effects on those environmental features which were identified as part of the constraints mapping process;
  - minimising the length of the new track proposed;
  - minimising the number of new watercourse crossings; and
  - the sourcing of construction materials onsite, as far as possible.

## 7.0 The Proposed Development

61 The layout for the proposed development is described in detail in Chapter 3 of the EIA Report and is shown on Figure 6. Additional details on construction methods are provided in the outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) included in EIA Report Technical Appendix 3.2. The key component parts of the proposed development include the following:

- 14 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of 180 m and associated aviation lighting, transformers and foundations;
- approx. 33.8km of track, including approx. 10.9km of new access tracks with a typical 5m running width and associated drainage; upgrading of up to 1.9km of the existing onsite access tracks; and approx. 21km of track which would not be upgraded, except in a limited number of locations where vertical and horizontal realignment is required;
- Improvement of site access junction;
- 3 borrow pit search areas
- underground cabling along access tracks to connect the turbine locations, and control building;
- control building and associated compound;
- a temporary construction compound during the construction period; and
- one permanent met mast 112m in height.

62 Further detailed information can be found in the EIA Report at Chapter 3.

## 8.0 Access

### Access route

- 63 The wind turbine components would be delivered to the Site using the existing public road network. The approach to the Site for wind turbine components would be taken via the A96 and then via the A920. The Site entrance would be gated from the public highway and, during construction, access to the Site would be controlled by a security guard based in an onsite cabin next to the Site entrance. The location of the Site entrance is shown in Figure 2.
- 64 Abnormal loads would be required to transport turbine components to the Site. The access route for these abnormal loads would be via two main feasible routes:
- Port of Inverness, then travelling on the A9, A96 and the A920 to the Site access junction; and
  - Port of Aberdeen, then travelling on the A96, A9001, A920, A96 and the A920 to the Site access junction.

### Internal access tracks

- 65 Access to the Site from the A920 would be provided along much of the same route as used for Clashindarroch Wind Farm, initially via existing forestry routes. Access to the turbine locations would be via new spur roads from the main forestry spine track, using Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) tracks and rides as much as practical, with upgrading of existing tracks where necessary. The proposed track has been carefully considered to ensure that the larger turbines can be transported through the Site. In some cases, 2 options are shown for tracks to turbines. This is to allow flexibility in construction. The technical chapters have considered both options to ensure a worst case scenario.

### Public access – pedestrian

- 66 It is acknowledged that the site is currently well used by local people for recreation purposes. Public access to the proposed development would be restricted during the construction of the proposed development for obvious health and safety reasons due to construction activities, the movement of heavy plant and the erection of turbines.
- 67 Members of the public would be able to access the Site on foot and make use of the access tracks under the provisions of the Land Reform Act.
- 68 During periods of maintenance, access by the public could be restricted depending on the nature of the maintenance activity.

### Public access – vehicular

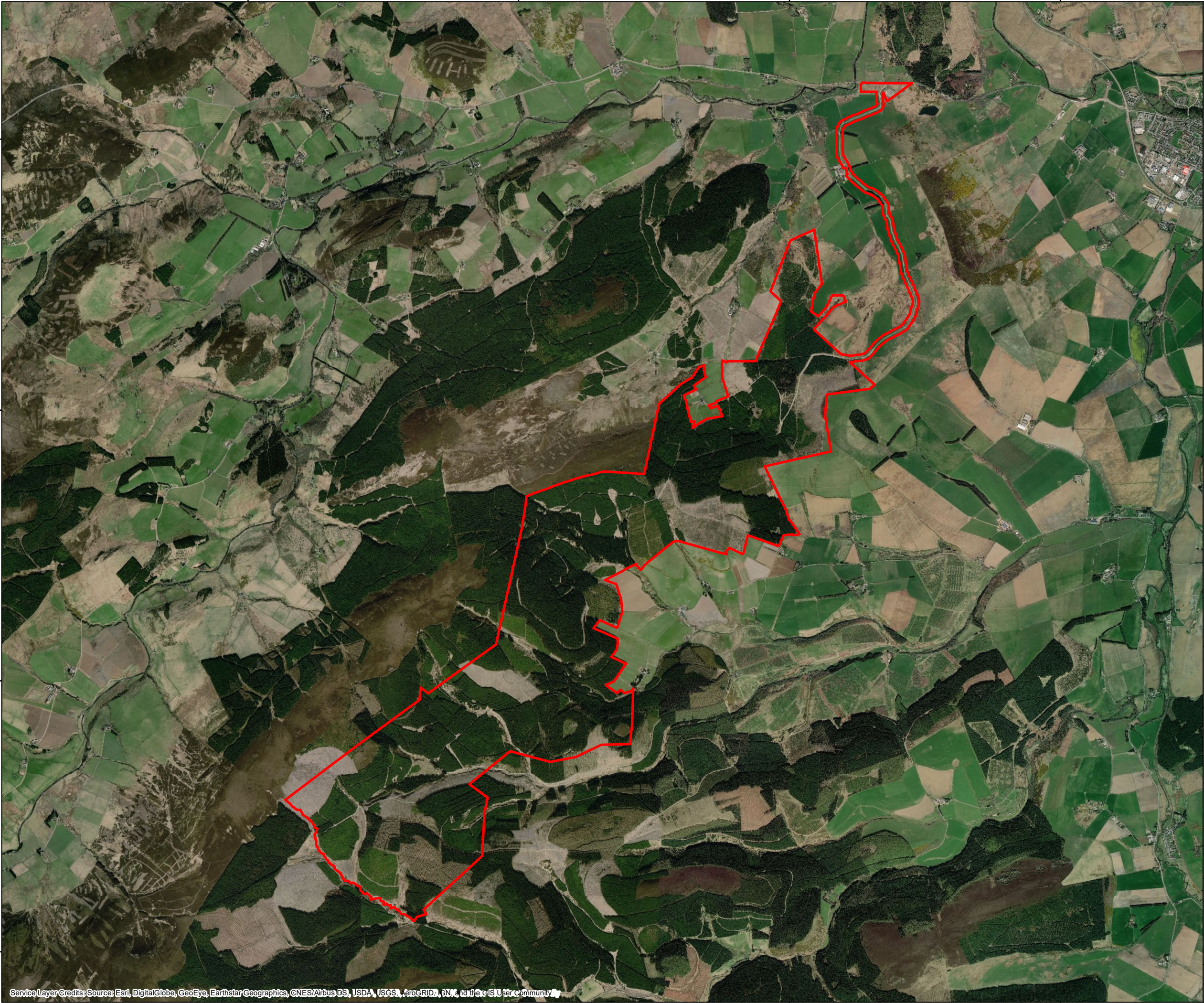
- 69 Once the proposed development is operational (if consent is granted) vehicular access would be limited to individuals directly involved in the maintenance of the proposed development, the landowners and their agents, and emergency vehicles.

### Turbine access

- 70 It is not proposed that there would be public access to the proposed wind turbines. Due to health and safety reasons access to the turbines will be restricted to employees of, and contractors appointed by the Applicant.

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## FIGURES



Legend

 Site Boundary

VATTENFALL 



4/5 LOCHSIDE VIEW  
EDINBURGH PARK  
EDINBURGH  
EH12 9DH

T: +44 (0)131 335 6830  
www.slrconsulting.com

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0 0.25 0.5 1 Km



Clashindarroch II Wind Farm

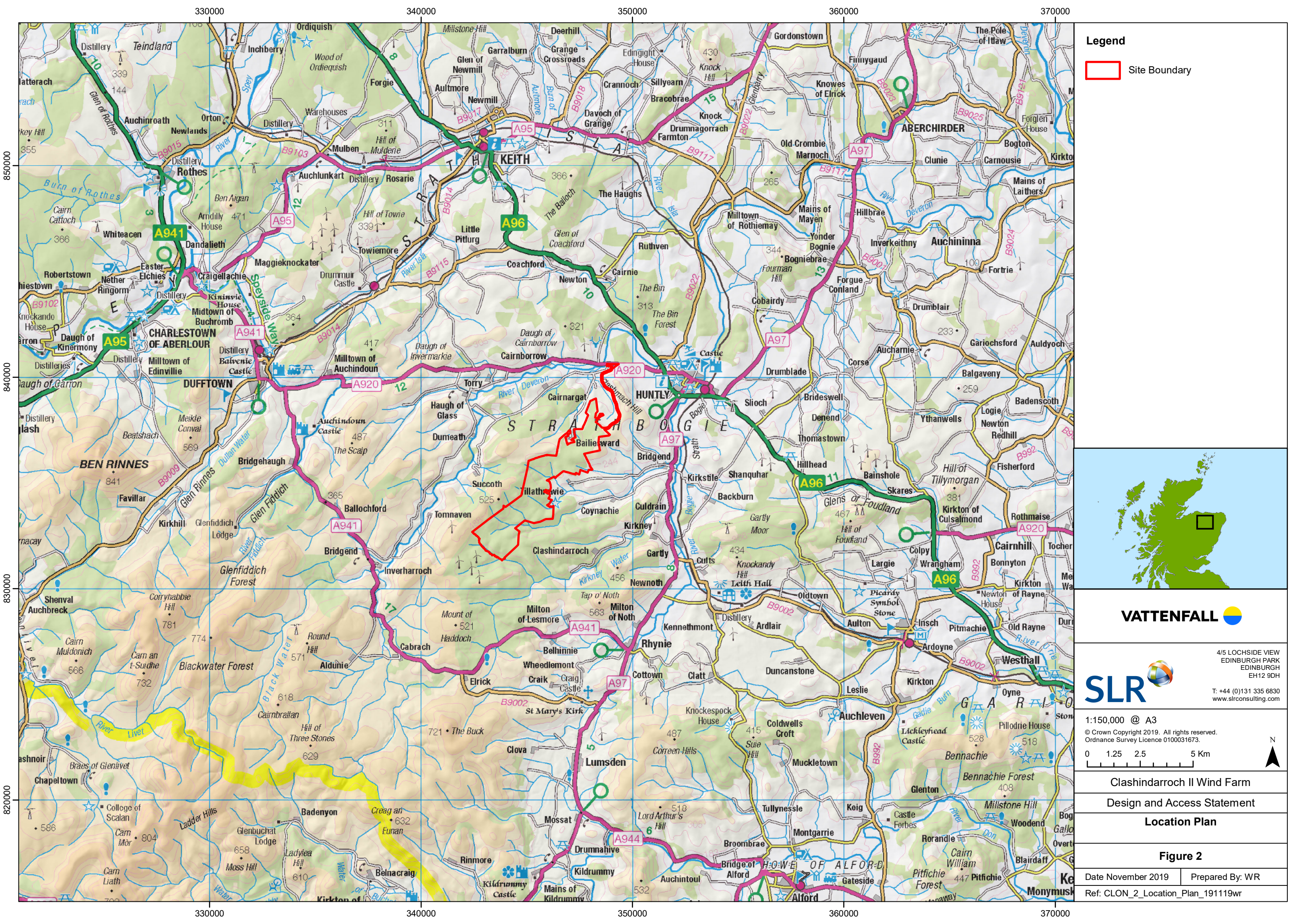
Design and Access Statement

Site Aerial Photography

Figure 1

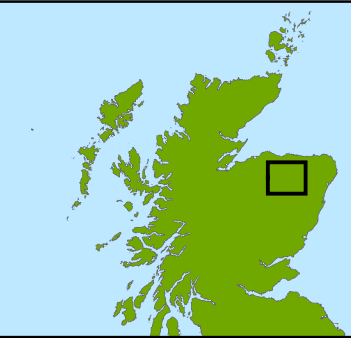
Date: November 2019 Prepared By: WR


Ref: CLON\_1\_Site Aerial Photography\_191119wr




**Legend**

 Site Boundary



**VATTENFALL**

**SLR**

4/5 LOCHSIDE VIEW  
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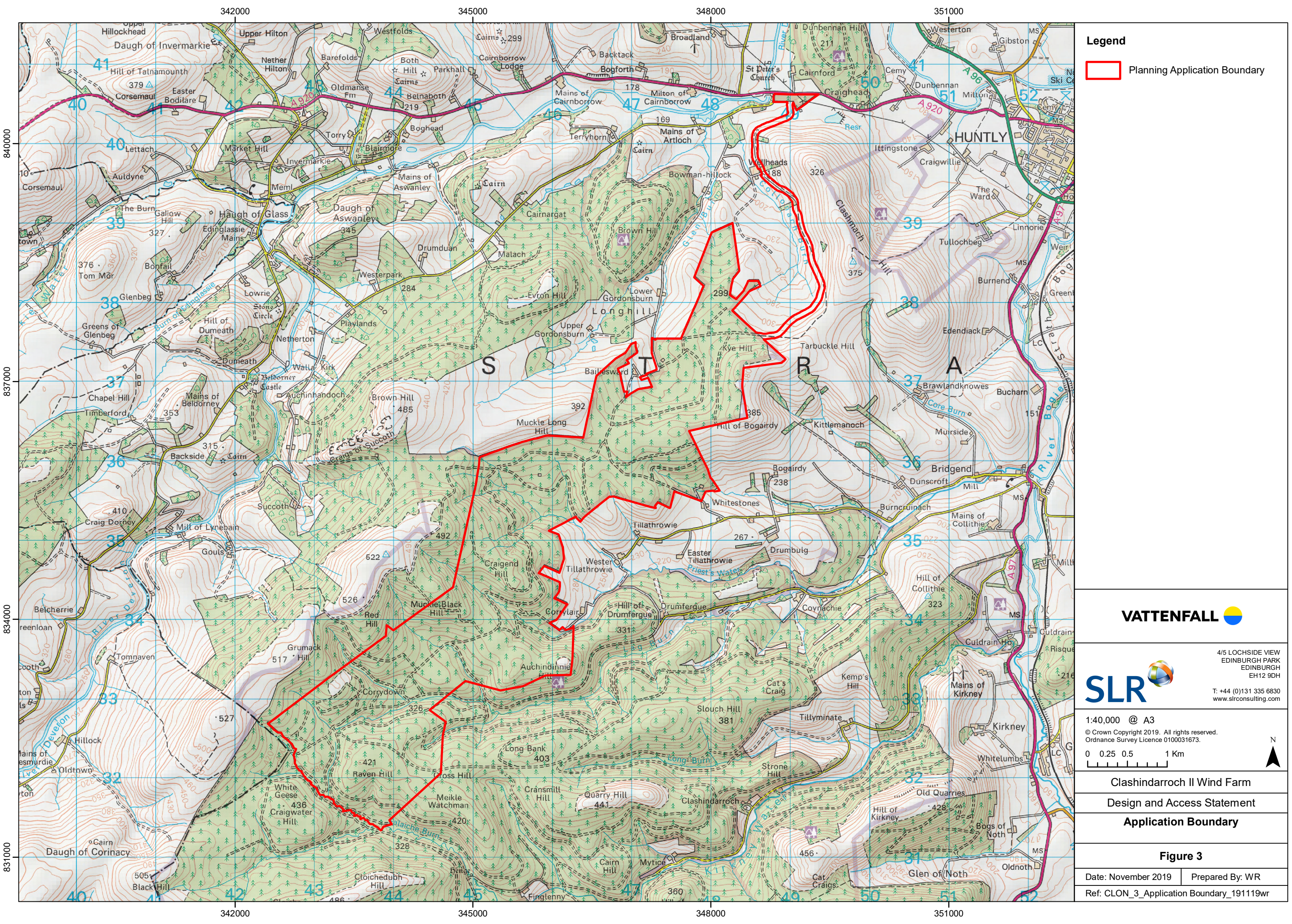
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0 1.25 2.5 5 Km

N

Clashindarroch II Wind Farm	
Design and Access Statement	
Location Plan	
Figure 2	
Date November 2019	Prepared By: WR
Ref: CLON_2_Location_Plan_191119wr	



**Legend**

Planning Application Boundary

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00.250.51

Km

N

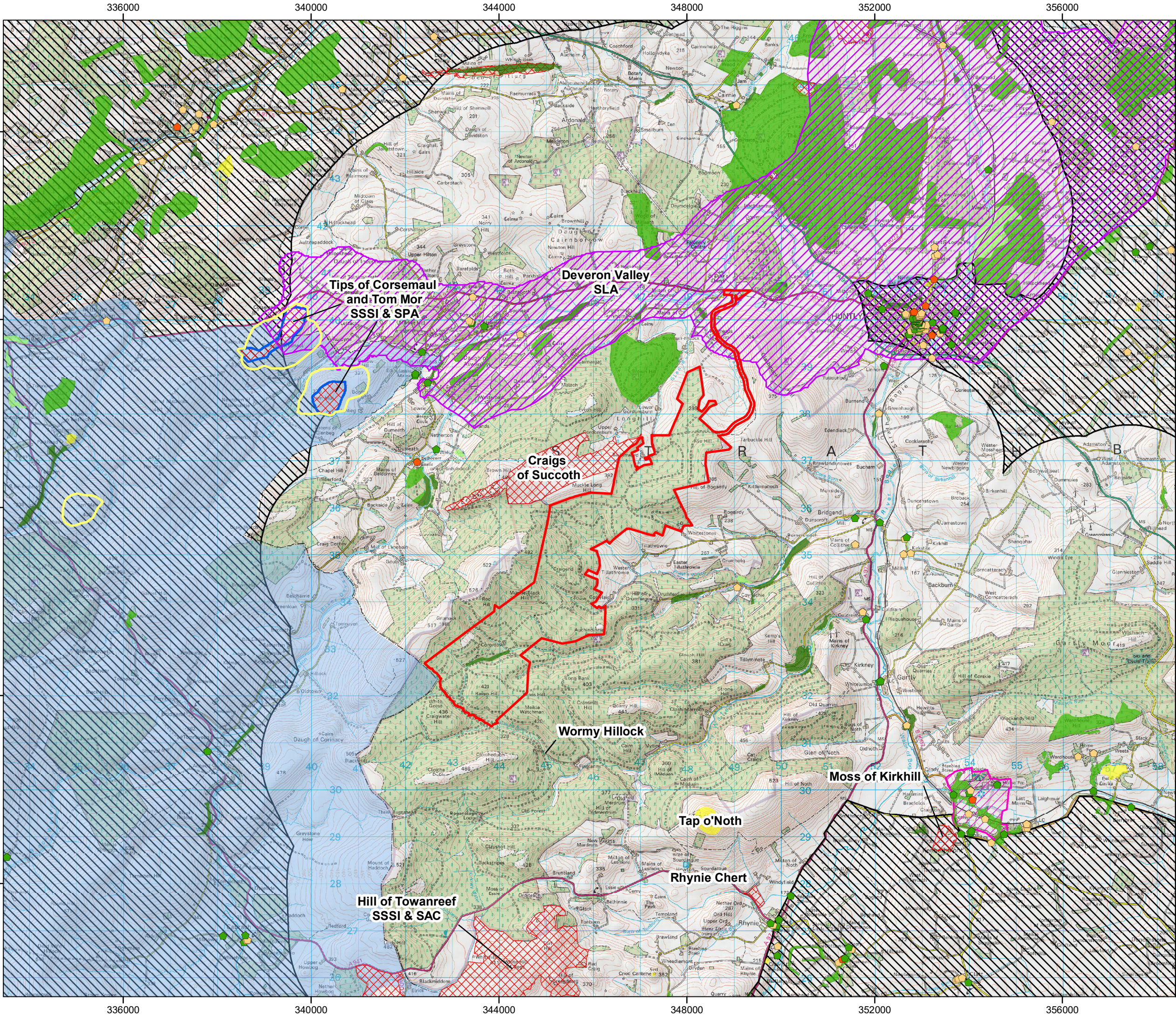
Clashindarroch II Wind Farm

Design and Access Statement

Application Boundary

**Figure 3**

Date: November 2019	Prepared By: WR
Ref: CLON_3_Application Boundary_191119wr	



- Legend**
- Site Boundary
  - Site of Special Scientific Interest - Biological
  - Special Protection Area
  - Special Areas of Conservation
  - Gardens and Designed Landscapes
  - Area of Great Landscape Value (Moray)
  - Candidate Special Landscape Area defined by Aberdeenshire Council
  - RSPB Important Bird Areas
  - Areas Excluded from Wildcat Priority Area (WPA)
- Ancient Woodland Inventory**
- Ancient (of semi-natural origin)
  - Long-Established (of plantation origin)
  - Other (on Roy map)
  - Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building (Grade)**
- A
  - B
  - C





4/5 LOCHSIDE VIEW  
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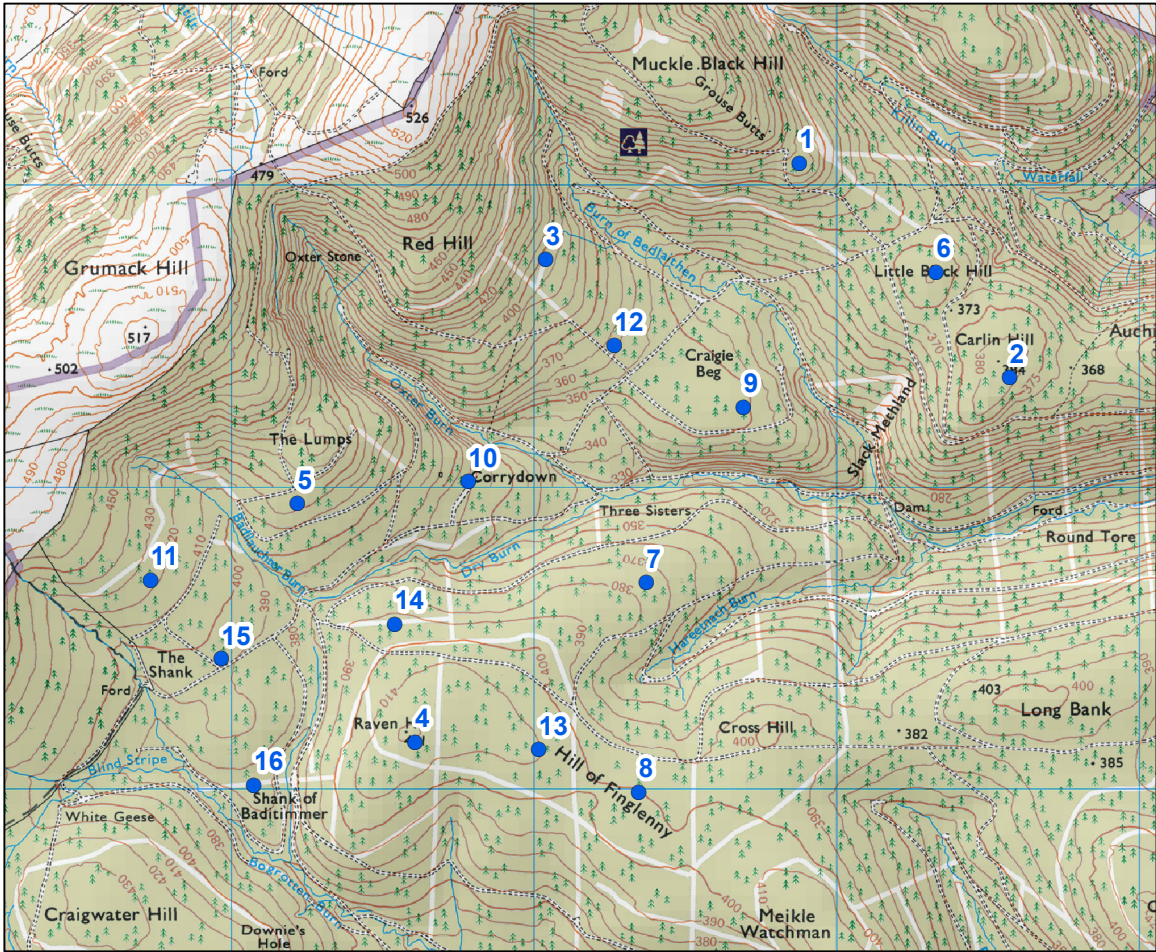
0 0.75 1.5 3 Km

N

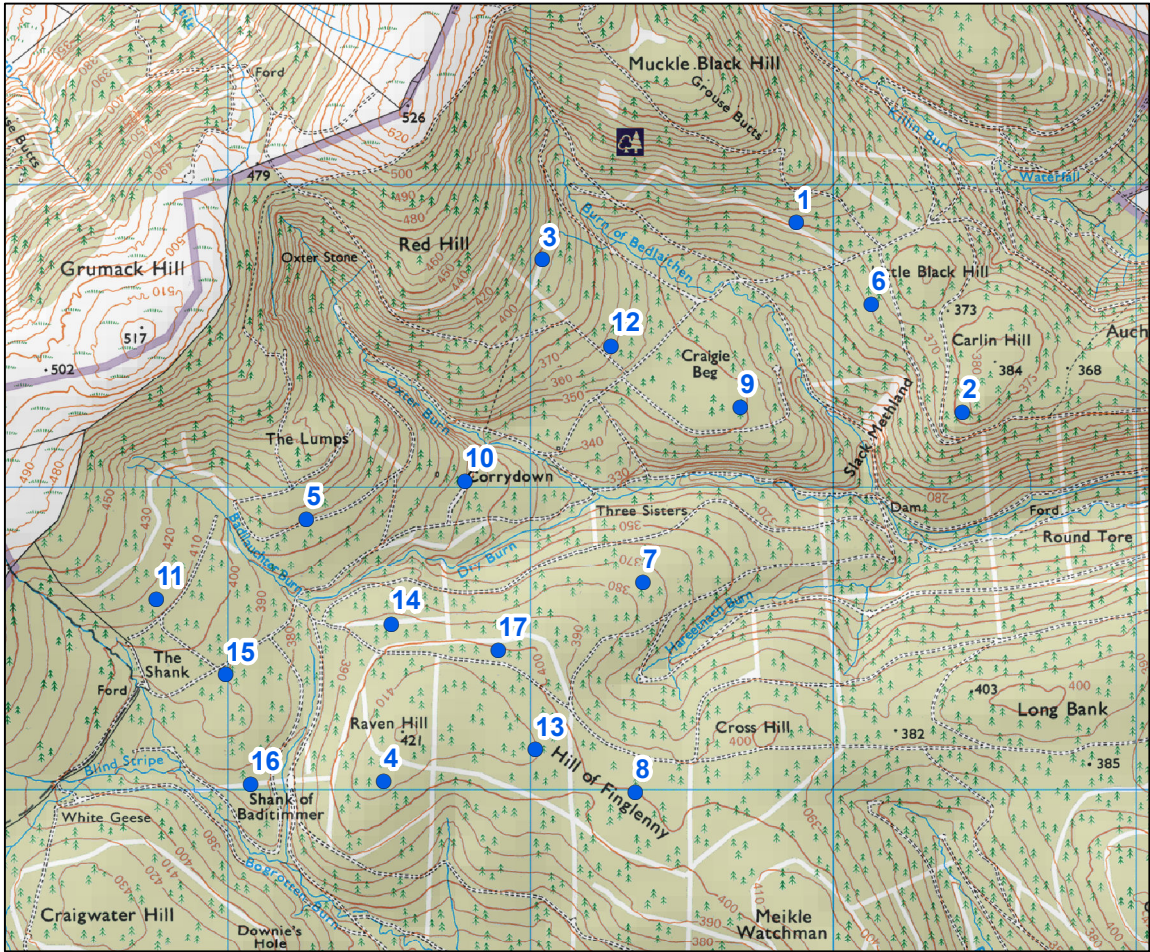
Clashindarroch II Wind Farm

Design and Access Statement

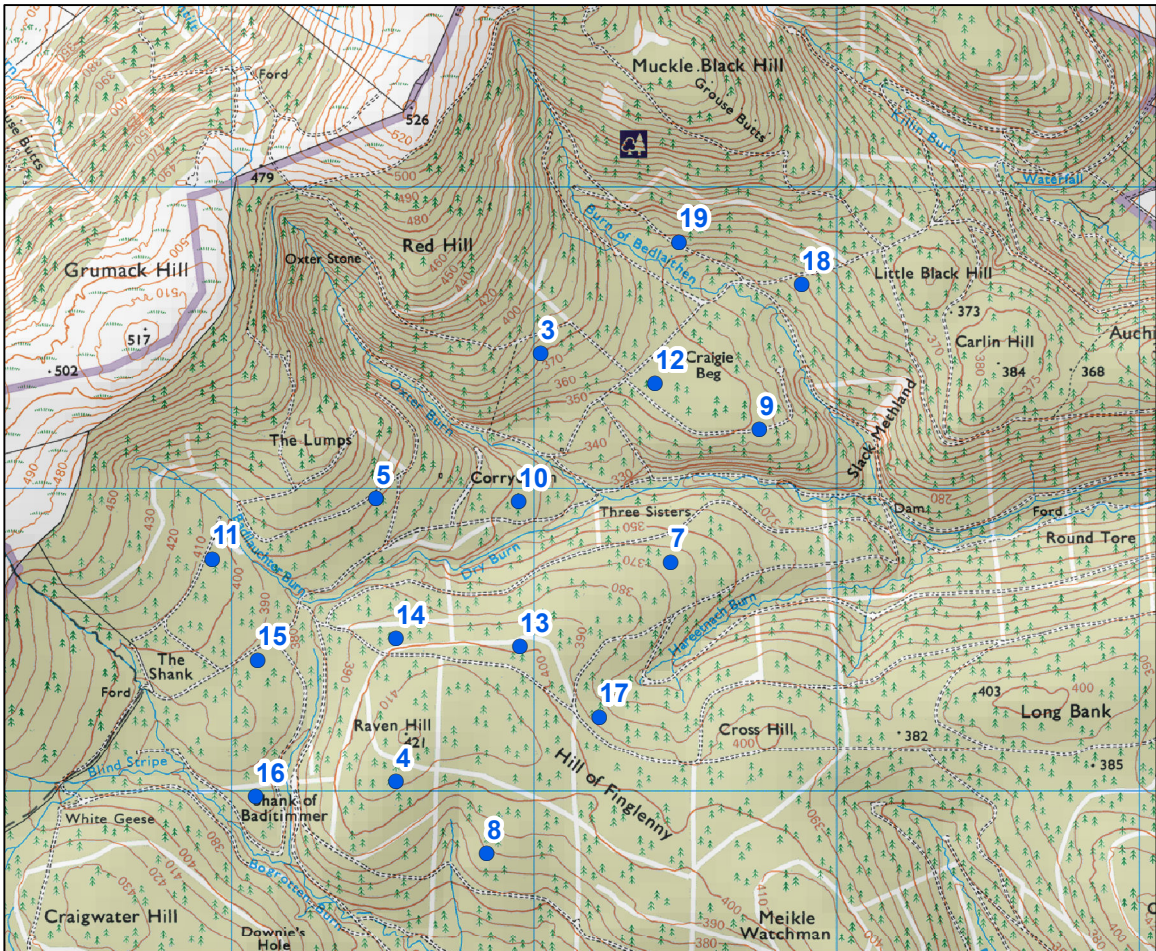
Environmental Designations



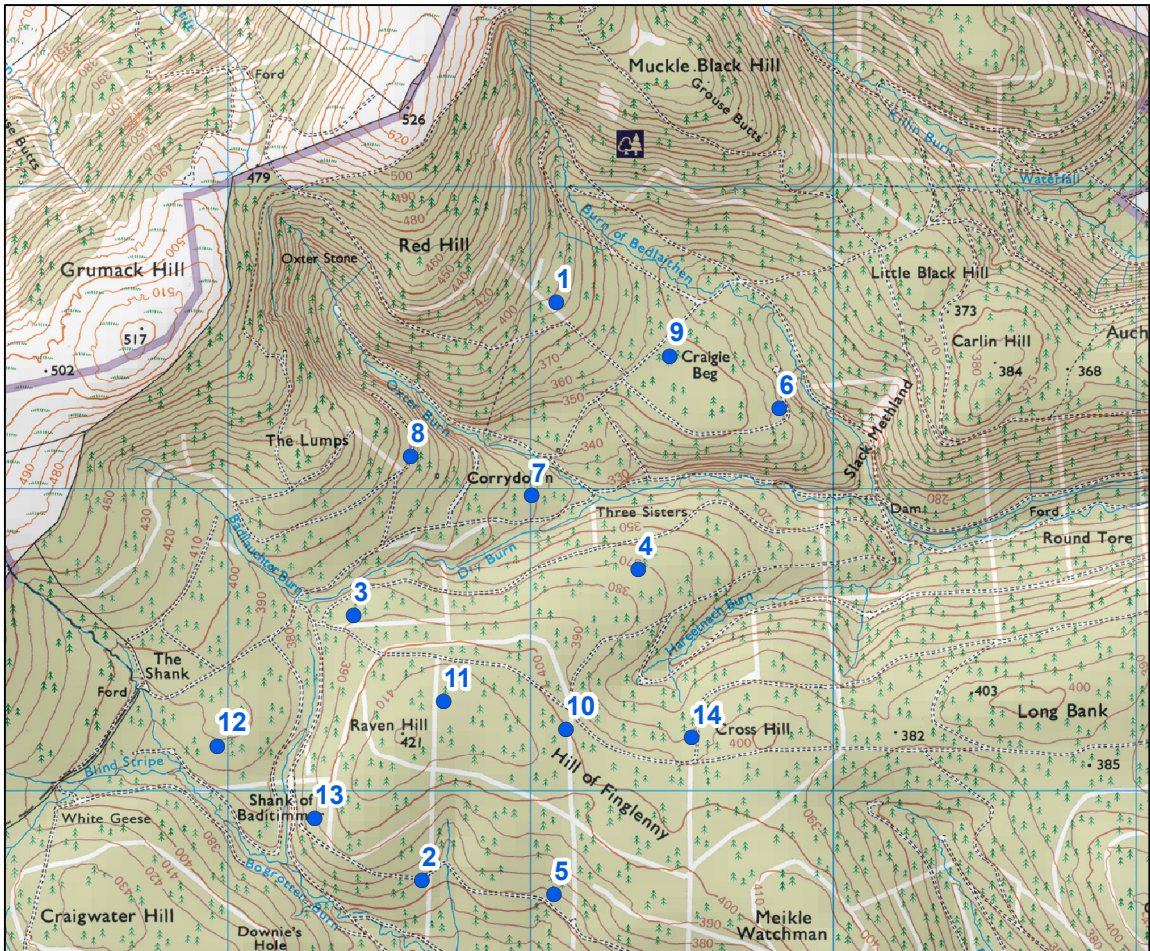
Layout A (Scoping)



Layout B



Layout C (June 2016 Public Exhibitions)



Layout D (Final ES)

**Legend**

● Proposed Turbine Layout

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0 0.25 0.5 1 Km

N

Clashindarroch II Wind Farm

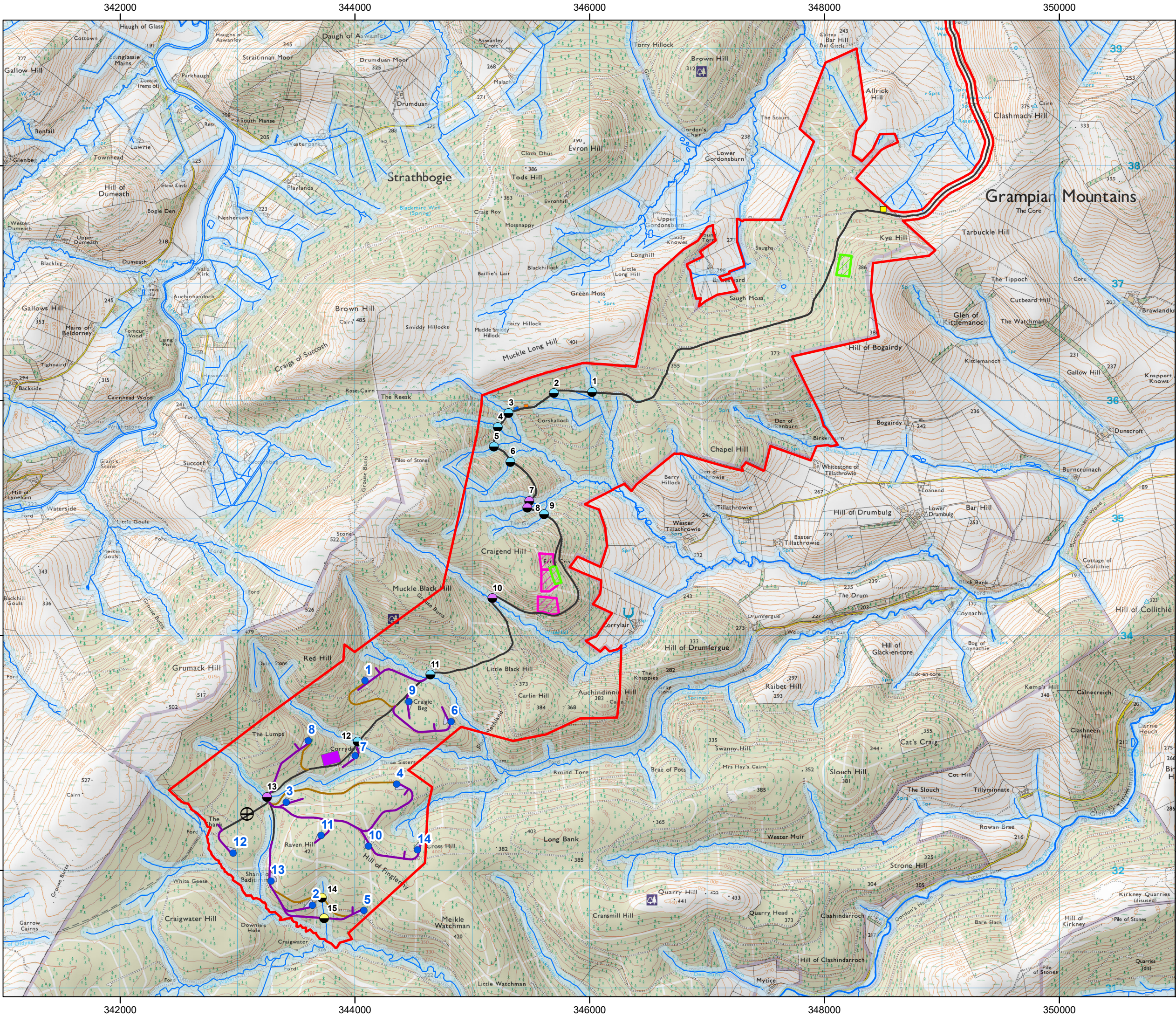
Design and Access Statement

Site Layout Evolution

Figure 5

Date: November 2019 Prepared By: WR

Ref: CLON\_5\_Site Layout Evolution\_191119wr



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Proposed Turbine Locations
- Proposed Met Mast Location
- Proposed Access Track
- Alternative Access Track
- Existing Access Track
- Existing Substation
- Proposed Substation
- Proposed Laydown Area
- Temporary Construction Compound
- Existing Borrow Pit
- Proposed Borrow Pit Search Area
- Proposed Crane Hardstanding
- Existing Water Crossing
- Existing Water Crossing with Additional Works
- New Water Crossing
- Watercourse
- 50m Buffer from Watercourse

VATTENFALL

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4/5 LOCHSIDE VIEW  
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0 0.25 0.5 1 Km

Clashindarroch II Wind Farm

Design and Access Statement

Site Layout

Figure 6

Date: November 2019      Prepared By: WR  
Ref: CLON\_6\_Site Layout\_191119wr

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