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Chapter 13

Socioeconomics

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Glossary

Term	Definition
Baseline studies	'Work done to determine and describe the environmental conditions against which future changes can be measure or predicted and assessed'
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a means of drawing together by the developer, in a systematic way, a description of the development and information relating to an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects arising from a Proposed Development.
Environmental Impact Assessment Report	A document reporting the findings of the EIA and produced in accordance with the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 Regulation 5
Sensitivity	'A term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor.
Significance	'A measure of the importance or gravity of the environmental effect, defined by significance criteria specific to the environmental topic in terms of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017'
The Applicant	Fred Olsen Renewables (Ltd)
The Proposed Development	The proposed Scawd Law Wind Farm development
The Proposed Development Area	The development area within the red line site boundary (application area) as shown in Volume 3a Figure 1.2: Site Layout

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
CAT	Countryside around Town
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CITP	Construction Industry Training Board
CMS	Construction Method Statement
DMS	Decommissioning Method Statement
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
FORL	Fred Olsen Renewables (Ltd)
FTE	Full-time Equivalent
GVA	Gross Value Added
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LCT	Landscape Character Types
NPF	National Planning Framework
NSA	National Scenic Area
OHMP	Outline Habitat Management Plan
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PYE	Person Years of Employment
SBC	Scottish Borders Council
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system
SDA	Strategic Development Area
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot)
STEAM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics
TMP	Traffic Management Plan
TTWA	Travel to Work Area
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

13.1 INTRODUCTION

13.1.1 This Chapter has been prepared by Stantec to provide an assessment of the likely significant socio-economic, tourism and recreation effects of the Proposed Development on behalf of Fred Olsen Renewables Ltd (FORL). It accompanies an application under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to the Scottish Ministers for the Scawd Law Wind Farm ('the Proposed Development'), approximately 4 km north of the Walkerburn (Proposed Development Area). The Proposed Development is a wind farm comprising of up to eight wind turbines with a blade tip of up to 180 m (based on a candidate turbine V150 6 MW, giving 48 MW) and 12 MW of battery storage units as described in Chapter 4.of this Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

13.1.2 This Chapter is supported by the following:

- Figure 13.1: Labour Market Study Area;
- Figure 13.2: Recreation and Public Access Study Area;
- Appendix 13.1: Detailed Baseline Conditions;
- Appendix 13.2: Socioeconomic Policy Context; and
- Appendix 13.3: Proposed Multi-Use Trails.

13.1.3 The assessment draws upon relevant conclusions from other technical assessment chapters of this EIAR, in particular regarding likely Primary environmental or physical effects arising from changes in public access, landscape character, visual amenity or the setting of heritage assets which may lead to Secondary effects on the tourism and recreation sector (see sections 13.4.16 and 13.4.17 for more detail on these definitions). This assessment should therefore be read in conjunction with Chapter 2; Policy Context; Chapter 4 - Project Description**;** Chapter 6 - Landscape and Visual**;** Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage and Chapter 12 - Traffic and Transport**.**

Statement of Expertise

Table 13.1: Statement of Expertise

Company	Individual	Pen Profile	Role
Stantec	Nick Skelton	Qualifications: MA Social Sciences, MSc Urban Development Nick is a Member of the Institute of Economic Development and a Member of the Economic Development Association Scotland. Relevant Experience and Expertise: Nick is an economist planner with more than 30 years' experience across the private & public sectors in the UK and overseas. He has expertise in economic and strategy development, planning and economic analysis, infrastructure development, monitoring and appraisal. His work spans major projects, area strategies, energy, road and rail improvements, and major attractions. He lectures in socioeconomic impact analysis and its Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) role.	Director of Planning & Economics Socio-economics Lead

Source: Stantec

13.2 POLICY CONTEXT, GUIDANCE AND RESEARCH

13.2.1 The overarching planning policy framework applicable to this EIAR from the Proposed Development is outlined in Chapter 2- Policy Context. The below provides an overview of the policies of specific relevance to this socio-economic, tourism and recreation assessment. To review the full extent of the policy assessment undertaken to inform this chapter, please refer to Appendix 13.2 – Socioeconomic Policy Context.

13.2.2 This assessment has been carried out in accordance with relevant principles and requirements contained within the following policy and guidance documents:

- Scottish Government (2014) National Planning Framework 3.;
- Scottish Government (2022) Revised Draft National Planning Framework 4;
- Scottish Government (2014) Scottish Planning Policy;
- Scottish Government (2021) The Scottish Government's Programme for Government 2021-2022;
- Scottish Government (2021) Scotland's Energy Strategy Position Statement;
- Scottish Government (2017) The Scottish Governments Onshore Wind Policy Statement;
- Scottish Government (2021) Consultation Draft Onshore Wind Policy Statement Refresh;
- Scottish Government (2022) Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation;
- COP26 The Glasgow Climate Pact (2021);
- UK Government (2021) Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener;
- UK Government (2020), Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future
- South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (2021) South of Scotland Draft Regional Economic Strategy;
- Scottish Borders Council (2016) Scottish Borders Local Development Plan;
- Scottish Borders Council (2018) Supplementary Guidance on Renewable Energy;
- Scottish Borders Council (2020) Tweedale Locality Plan;
- Scottish Borders Council (2018) Scottish Borders Community Plan;
- Scottish Borders Council (2013) The Scottish Borders Economic Strategy 2023; and,
- Scottish Borders Council (2013) The Scottish Borders Low Carbon Economic Strategy 2023.
- HM Treasury (2020). Green Book Guide.

13.2.3 This policy framework highlights the importance of considering net socio-economic effects, including supply chain effects, in this assessment. The Proposed Development provides an opportunity to contribute to national renewable targets and the critical measures announced at COP26 to meet the challenges of global warming, in addition to the legislative requirements outlined in The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019). The provision of renewable energy infrastructure to support the transition to a low carbon economy, impacts on communities, impacts on tourism and recreation, and the delivery of sustainable development are also of relevance to this assessment.

Guidance and Standards

13.2.4 The assessment of the likely significant socio-economic, tourism and recreation effects of the Proposed Development presented in this chapter has adopted a methodology consistent with HM Treasury's Green Book

appraisal guidance. The latest iteration of the Green Book (2020)[1] has been taken account of in the assessment of the labour market effects.

13.3 CONSULTATION

13.3.1 As detailed in Volume 4 Technical Appendix 1.1: Scawd Law EIA Scoping Report (July 2020) and Technical Appendix 1.2: Scoping Opinion (October 2020), the Proposed Development was initially conceived in 2017 as an 18-turbine development. This initial application enabled early stage engagement with key stakeholders including the Scottish Borders Council (SBC), NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)) and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA).

13.3.2 The design has subsequently been refined such that it now comprises of eight turbines (180m blade-tip height) and associated wind farm infrastructure.

13.3.3 Formal pre-application planning advice was sought from the SBC in 2019 prior to an EIA Scoping Request. The Scawd Law EIA Scoping Report (July 2020) outlined the proposed scope of a Population and Human Health chapter.

13.3.4 The Proposed Development Area now includes proposed multi-use trails around the windfarm, to be pursued through a separate planning application and thus out with the scope of this assessment. Appendix 13.3 - Proposed Multi-Use Trails provide narrative regarding this planning application.

13.3.5 The October 2021 Scoping Response from the Energy Consents Unit on behalf of the Scottish Ministers provided a number of comments from various consultee's pertinent to this assessment. Consultation responses were received from the following of particular note for this assessment:

- SBC;
- Parish of Stow Community Council;
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation;
- Historic Environment Scotland (HES);
- Mountaineering Scotland; and
- NatureScot.

13.3.6 These responses were collated and reviewed to identify key sensitivities of relevance to this assessment and were accounted for accordingly, including relevant socio-economic, tourism and recreation assets. For details of scoping comments and related responses please see **Appendix 13.1 Socioeconomic Detailed Baseline Conditions.**

13.4 METHOLDOGY

Assessment Scope

13.4.1 The principal aspects of this assessment include:

- Direct, indirect and induced employment / labour market effects during the construction and operational phase of the Proposed Development;
- Direct and indirect effects on relevant business sectors (construction, tourism and onshore wind);
- Direct and indirect effect on local communities, resulting from inward investment;
- Direct and indirect effects on tourism (primarily focused on landscape impacts during operational stage);
- Direct and indirect effects on recreation and public access (effects on access are further assessed in Chapter 12 – Traffic and Transport, Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage and Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual, including:
  - Restrictions during the construction and phase;
  - Enhancement during the operational phase; and,
- Indirect effects resulting from Secondary changes in social or economic activities (e.g. changes in visitor attractiveness) catalysed by Primary changes in environmental or physical conditions attributable to the construction or operation of the Proposed Development (e.g. changes in visual amenity).

13.4.2 The above methodology was informed by a baseline and policy review to identify key receptors for assessment. This is provided in Appendix 13.1: Socioeconomic Detailed Baseline Conditions and Appendix 13.2: Socioeconomic Policy Context**.**

Study Areas

13.4.3 The following Study Areas have been adopted, each focused upon the geographical area where socio-economic**,** tourism and recreation effects are likely to occur and which have the potential to be significant in the context of the EIA Regulations. These areas are shown in Figure 13.1 and 13.2**:**

- **Labour Market Study Area:** The labour market assessment will include both the Galashiels and Peebles Travel to Work Areas (TTWA)[2] and the SBC Study Area. A TTWA is a statistical tool used by UK Government agencies and local authorities, to indicate an area from where the population will generally commute to a larger town, city or conurbation for the purposes of employment. The TTWA Study Area will allow for an analysis of the mobility of labour across administrative boundaries, whilst the SBC Study Area will effectively capture the regional scale of effect that the Proposed Development may have.
- **Tourism and Visitor Economy Study Area:** To enable consistency with the significant visual effects concluded within Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual**,** tourism effects will be assessed within a 12 km radius of the site capturing key tourist recreational routes and tourism assets. Recreation and public access effects will be assessed within the context of "*Designated Walking and Other Recreational Routes*" receptor grouping. This Study Area will consider the Primary visual and setting effects from the Proposed Development with the potential to generate Secondary tourism and recreation effects. This assessment will capture likely significant effects as reported within Chapter 12 – Traffic and Transport, Chapter 10 - Cultural Heritage and Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual.

Baseline Data Collection

13.4.4 To inform the assessment, a desk-based review of publicly available data was undertaken to establish relevant baseline socio-economic conditions at the Proposed Development and across the identified Study Areas, as well as to consider how these conditions compare with the regional average. The key settlements within the study area are Galashiels, Innerleithen and Peebles, supported by smaller settlements Walkerburn, Cardrona, Traquair, Eddleton, Stow, Clovenfords and Bowhill. The following socio-economic indicators were considered:

- Current demographic characteristics, including population size and age structure;
- Current labour market characteristics, including working age population profile (level of economic activity, occupation and skills profiles) as well as the workplace economy profile (employment by industry and earnings); and,
- Nationally, regionally and locally important tourism assets.

[1] HM Treasury (2020). Green Book Guide. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/938046/The_Green_Book_2020.pdf

[2] S22000063 Galashiels and Peebles comprising of the following towns within the Scottish Boarders: Towns: Innerleithen – Peebles – Galashiels – Lauder – Melrose – Selkirk

13.4.5 A detailed overview of the baseline and policy assessment is provided in Appendix 13.1: Socioeconomic Detailed Baseline Conditions **and** Appendix 13.2: Socioeconomic Policy Context**.**

13.4.6 The following statistical sources have also been used to inform the assessment of likely effects:

- Office of National Statistics (ONS) Travel to Wok Areas (TTWA) (2016);
- Scottish Annual Business Statistics (2018);
- ONS (2018) Job Density;
- ONS Population estimates - local authority based by five-year age band (2019);
- ONS (2019) Annual Population Survey;
- ONS (2019) Business Register and Employment Survey; and,
- ONS (2020) Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

Modelling

13.4.7 Relevant quantitative data was analysed to predict gross and net socio-economic effects, including demographic changes and employment generation, from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. This model applied economic multipliers and additionality assumptions as detailed below under the **Impact Assessment Methodology** subheading.

Approach to Assessment

Consideration of Relevant Receptors

13.4.8 The assessment of receptor sensitivity has been informed by publicly available information sources. At the time of writing, COVID-19 has resulted in changes to socio-economic conditions, however, there is no evidence to indicate the long-term implications of these changes. The assessment of receptor sensitivity is therefore informed by a suite of baseline conditions prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

13.4.9 From the information sources outlined above, the current baseline conditions of the site and surrounding area were characterised. This led to the identification of relevant sensitive receptors to consider within the assessment, as detailed within Appendix 13.1 – Socioeconomic Detailed Baseline Conditions. Of note, any potential receptor with no or negligible sensitivity to possible socio-economic, tourism and recreation change(s) arising from the Proposed Development has no potential to experience likely significant effects (within the context of the EIA Regulations) and was therefore excluded from this assessment at the outset. This ensures the assessment remains proportionate and focused on reporting likely significant effects.

13.4.10 For employment effects, the availability of labour and skills is critical in accommodating the demands, needs and requirements of the Proposed Development. The sensitivity of the labour market has been defined in relation to:

- The availability of skilled labour in the Study Area relative to national averages;
- The proportion of employment in relevant sectors (e.g. construction) within the Study Area;
- The availability of labour (including the unemployed) within the Study Area; and,
- Relevant education provision provided by institutions serving the Study Area.

13.4.11 Plentiful labour and/or skills capacity results in a low sensitivity, whilst limited labour and/or skills capacity results in a high sensitivity. Sensitivity criteria relating to employment are shown in Table 13.2 below.

Table 13.2: Employment Sensitivity Criteria

Sensitivity	Example
High	There is a shortfall of appropriate labour and skills. The Proposed Development would therefore lead to labour market pressure and distortions (i.e., skills and capacity shortages, import of labour, wage inflation).
Medium	There is a low/limited supply of appropriate labour and skills. The Proposed Development may therefore lead to labour market pressure or distortions.
Low	The is a readily available supply of appropriate labour and skills. The Proposed Development is therefore unlikely to lead to labour market pressure or distortions.

Source: Stantec, 2022

13.4.12 For wider socio-economic, tourism and recreation effects, receptor sensitivity was determined with reference to the importance of the receptors likely to be affected and the extent to which any change upon these by the Proposed Development could affect their economic performance or livelihood. The sensitivity of relevant receptors was therefore defined on a case-by-case basis, as detailed in Appendix 13.1 – Socioeconomic Detailed Baseline Conditions**.**

13.4.13 The assessment of likely tourism and recreation effects was underpinned by the identification of key components of the tourism and recreation business sector with the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development. Notwithstanding the unique characteristics and offering of all individual tourism and recreational assets across the Tourism and Recreation Study Area, receptors of relevance to this assessment can be categorised under seven broad groupings, each with different sensitivity to changes in visitor attractiveness (as detailed in Appendix 13.1 – Socioeconomic Detailed Baseline Conditions**):**

- Designated walking and other recreational routes;
- Outdoor tourist destinations;
- Indoor tourist destinations;
- Hospitality;
- Visitor Accommodation;
- Recreational activities in the open countryside; and,
- Tourists travelling (by road) through the open countryside.

13.4.14 Of these, indoor tourist destinations are not likely to experience a significant effect on their visitor attractiveness or tourism potential and thus can be scoped out from further consideration. This is due to the main features of such destination being experienced indoors, often on a localised or special interest basis, and therefore being unrelated to the surrounding landscape.

13.4.15 The visitor attractiveness and tourism potential of each of the remaining (six) receptor groupings could be affected by environmental or socio-economic changes (i.e. 'Primary Effects'), including likely effects from the construction or operation of the Proposed Development as assessed in other technical assessment chapters of the EIAR.

13.4.16 These Primary Effects can broadly be divided into two categories

- Visual effects (i.e. the development will be visible from a particular receptor) and
- Physical effects (the Proposed Development will physically alter the receptor in some way – for example re-routing of an access track).

13.4.17 Primary visual and primary physical effects are identified for each of the six receptor groupings. Secondary Effects on visitor attractiveness induced by these primary visual and physical effects are then assessed.

13.4.18 The relevant individual tourism and recreational assets within the Tourism and Recreation Study Area are listed as part of the description of Socioeconomic Detailed Baseline Conditions (Appendix 13.1)**.**

13.4.19 In relation to the assessment of Primary effects on recreational access during the construction phase of the Proposed Development, the sensitivity of impacted designated walking routes was assigned based on their recognition in policy terms at the national level (e.g. within National Planning Framework (NPF) 3 and Draft NPF4) and the level of statutory protection afforded to them (for example under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003). The assessment of wider Secondary Effects on the identified key components of the tourism and recreation sector was conducted by assigning a sensitivity to each receptor grouping based on both the importance of identified tourism assets within the Tourism and Recreation Study Area and their susceptibility to changes in the visitor attractiveness of such assets ultimately catalysing changes in visitor numbers and tourist expenditure.

13.4.20 This approach captures the elasticity of demand of each receptor grouping and the key question to underpin the identification of receptor sensitivity was therefore: "*To what extent would any change in the visitor attractiveness and tourism potential of this component of the tourism and recreation sector (i.e. this receptor grouping) be likely to result in a change in visitor numbers and expenditure?".* This socio-economic based sensitivity level differs from user-based landscape, visual, cultural heritage and access sensitivities assigned to individual tourism and recreation related receptors, as identified separately in relevant technical assessment chapters of this EIAR.

Impact Assessment Methodology

13.4.21 The magnitude of change from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development on identified socio-economic receptors was determined using the criteria set out in Table 13.3 below. This assessment has been informed by all publicly available information sources at the time of this assessment.

Table 13.3: Magnitude of Change Criteria

Magnitude of Change	Type of Change	Criteria
High	Adverse	Employment changes: the number of jobs lost in the Study Area would be 250 or greater (based upon the EU definition of small and medium enterprises (European Commission, 2003)).
		Other socio-economic changes: adverse changes to identified receptors would be observed on an international, national or regional scale. Changes are likely to be experienced over the long term (i.e. 5+ years). Employment changes: the number of jobs created in the Study Area would be 250 or greater
	Beneficial	Other socio-economic changes: beneficial changes to identified receptors would be observed on an international, national or regional scale. Changes are likely to be experienced over the long term (i.e. 5+ years). Employment changes: the number of jobs lost in the Study Area would be 50 or greater, but fewer than 250
Medium	Adverse	Other socio-economic changes: Noticeable adverse changes, judged to be important at a local scale, to identified receptors. Changes are likely to be experienced over the medium term (i.e. 3-5 years). Employment changes: the number of jobs created in the Study Area would be 50 or greater, but fewer than 250.
	Beneficial	Other socio-economic changes: Noticeable beneficial changes, judged to be important at a local scale, to identified receptors. Changes are likely to be experienced over the medium term (i.e. 3-5 years). Employment changes: the number of jobs lost in the Study Area would be greater than 10, but fewer than 50.
Low	Adverse	Other socio-economic changes: Small scale adverse changes to identified receptors at the local level only. Changes are likely to be experienced over the short term (i.e. 1-2 years). Employment changes: the number of jobs created in the Study Area would be greater than 10, but fewer than 50.
	Beneficial	Other socio-economic changes: Small scale beneficial changes to identified receptors at the local level only. Changes are likely to be experienced over the short term (i.e. 1-2 years). Employment changes: the number of jobs lost in the Study Area would be less than 10.
Negligible	Adverse	Other socio-economic changes: very small-scale adverse changes to identified receptors at the local level only. Changes are likely to be experienced over the short term (i.e. less than 6 months). Employment changes: the number of jobs gained in the Study Area would be less than 10.
No change	Beneficial	Other socio-economic changes: very small-scale beneficial changes to identified receptors at the local level only. Changes are likely to be experienced over the short term (i.e. less than 6 months). No change would be perceptible, either beneficial or adverse.

Source: Stantec, 2022

13.4.22 As detailed in Table 13.3 above, other likely socio-economic changes (including effects on relevant key business sectors) require to be examined qualitatively on a case-by-case basis:

- In relation to the construction and onshore wind sectors, the key question which underpinned the assessment was: *"To what extent would the socio-economic activity or outcome generated by the Proposed Development be likely to result in a change in the performance of the sector within the assessed Study Area?".*
- In relation to the Tourism Study Area, the sensitivity of the key components of the tourism and visitor economy sector (as detailed in Table 13.2 and Table 13.2.4 in Appendix 13.1 Detailed Baseline conditions), is reflected in the extent to which change in the visitor attractiveness of the tourism sector and each of its components is likely to influence change in visitor numbers and expenditure. For individual receptors, sensitivity in socio-economic terms therefore differs from the criteria applied in landscape, visual, cultural heritage, access and other assessments. Rather, it reflects tourists choosing to visit an area (or not) and how the local/regional sector may react to a change in visitor numbers/spend. The type and level of Primary environmental or socio-economic changes generated by the Proposed Development which could catalyse Secondary changes in visitor attractiveness and tourism potential (and thus visitor numbers and visitor expenditure) was then examined. In doing so, the key question which underpinned the assessment was: *"To what extent would change in landscape character, visual amenity, heritage setting and/or physical access (as assessed in relevant chapters of this EIAR) be likely to result in a change in the visitor attractiveness and tourism potential of tourism receptors, in terms of visitor numbers and expenditure?"*; and,
- In relation to Primary Effects on Recreation and Public Access (Part of the Tourism and Visitor Economy) Study Area, the key question which underpinned the assessment was: "*Taking account of proposed embedded mitigation, to what extent would the Proposed Development necessitate changes in public access and/or infringe upon statutory or policy protections afforded to designated routes?".*

13.4.23 In line with standard EIA practice, a matrix-based approach was adopted to consider the sensitivity of identified receptors in tandem with the likely magnitude of change from the Proposed Development. This method allowed the level and significance in EIA terms of all predicted socio-economic, tourism and recreation effects to be determined. The EIA significance matrix adopted in this assessment is detailed in Table 13.4 below.

Table 13.4: Significance Matrix of Socio-Economic Effects

Sensitivity of Resource / Receptor	Magnitude of Change		
	Low	Medium	High
High	Moderate	Moderate / Major	Major
Medium	Low / Moderate	Moderate	Moderate / Major
Low	Low	Low / Moderate	Moderate
Negligible	Negligible / Low	Low	Low / Moderate

Source: Stantec, 2022

13.4.24 For the purposes of this assessment, major and moderate effects are considered significant in the context of the EIA Regulations. Significance of effects assessed as low or negligible magnitude of change which, depending on receptor sensitivity, would not be perceptible.

13.5 APPROACH TO CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

13.5.1 The EIA Regulations require assessment of the likely significant cumulative effects of the Proposed Development and other approved developments, at construction and operational stages.

13.5.2 The EIA Regulations require assessment of the likely significant cumulative effects of the Proposed Development and other approved developments, at construction and operational stages.

13.5.3 The assessment of likely socio-economic, tourism and recreation effects has taken account of the Cumulative Sites presented in Table 6.26 of Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual of this EIAR, with the cumulative developments comprising of other wind farm developments only.

13.5.4 Development phasing and associated employment projections (construction and operational) were not available for all of the relevant committed developments. It has therefore not been possible to conduct a quantitative cumulative assessment of the likely significant cumulative effects in relation to Socioeconomics. Instead, qualitative commentary has been provided in relation to the anticipated cumulative labour market effect across construction and operational phases.

13.5.5 This cumulative assessment has been presented in Section 13.9 of this EIAR Chapter. This cumulative assessment has been undertaken with reference to the methodology, policy, baseline conditions and conclusions presented in Chapter 13: Socioeconomics of this EIAR.

Limitations and Assumptions

13.5.6 The following limitations and assumptions have been adopted in this assessment:

COVID-19

13.5.7 The baseline conditions presented within this assessment utilise data collected prior to the global disruption as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. At the time of writing, COVID-19 has resulted in changes to socio-economic conditions, however, there is no evidence to indicate the long-term implications of these changes. The baseline data presented remains representative and appropriate to inform a robust and proportionate assessment of the Proposed Development.

Tourism Industry and COVID-19 Implications

13.5.8 Key components of the tourism sector have different sensitivities to potential impacts from development proposals (i.e. linked to relevant primary environmental effects on individual receptors). Of note, sensitivity ratings assigned to the tourism and recreation sector have not been adjusted in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as whilst sectoral performance was reduced compared with pre-pandemic levels, this does not detract from the continued importance of the sector to local, regional and national economies.

Other Assumptions

13.5.9 Labour market statistics will be assessed using available information about both the Galashiels and Peebles TTWA Study Area. Any labour market statistics not available from the TTWA statistics have been taken from the SBC level.

Capital Expenditure

13.5.10 Construction costs for the Proposed Development including associated infrastructure was provided by the Applicant in November 2022 to an estimated value of £80.1 million.

Gross Employment

13.5.11 In absence of the turnover per worker for the TTWA being available, the Scottish Borders figure has been used as a proxy, resulting in the same gross jobs across the TTWA Study Area and SBC Study Area. The net employment calculations have however been adjusted to take account of the additional factors applicable to each of the Study Areas characteristics (see Table 13.5).

Net Employment

13.5.12 To assess the scale of net additional jobs likely to be generated or supported by the Proposed Development, additionality factors based on the characteristics of the Labour Market Study Area, were applied to predicted gross employment. Appropriate economic appraisal guidance and professional judgment based on similar economic impact assessments have been used to estimate values for:

- **Deadweight:** what would happen in the absence of the Proposed Development;
- **Leakage:** the proportion of employment opportunities accessed by people living outside the Study Area;
- **Displacement:** the proportion of Proposed Development benefit accounted for by a reduction in benefit elsewhere;
- **Substitution:** when a firm substitutes one activity for another to take advantage of public sector assistances; and,
- **Multipliers:** to estimate further economic activity associated with additional income and supplier purchases.

13.5.13 The additionality factors adopted in this assessment are detailed under the **Impact Assessment Methodology** subheading.

13.6 BASELINE CONDITIONS

13.6.1 This section sets out a series of short summaries of the relevant baseline conditions used to inform this socioeconomic, tourism and recreation assessment. Appendix 13.1 presents the detailed socioeconomic baseline conditions which are summarised below:

The Site

13.6.2 The site is located within the Holylee Estate to the north-east of Innerleithen, approximately 3 km to the east of the B709 and 4 km north of the A72 (see Figure 1.1, Volume 3a).

13.6.3 The land is currently used for sheep farming and the release of birds for game shooting. A legally binding agreement has been entered into with the landowner for the development area associated with the Proposed Development.

The Surrounding Area

13.6.4 The following section presents the relevant baseline conditions for the SBC Study Area and TTWA Study Area where information is available. Scotland has been used as comparator where appropriate.

Settlement Profile

13.6.4 The Scottish Borders is the sixth largest Local Authority in Scotland in terms of land mass or area. The SBC Local Development Plan (2016) details that over two thirds of the area is classed as accessible rural by the Scottish Government, with just under one third being remote rural.

13.6.5 Galashiels, Peebles and Innerleithen are located in the Central Borders Strategic Development Area (SDA) as defined in the SESplan (2013)[3]. The Central SDA is considered to be the primary centre of population within the Borders and resultantly contains a significant part of the business base and acts as a main administrative centre within the wider administrative area. It is set within a Countryside around Town (CAT) designation that is aimed at preventing coalescence, improving the quality of the surrounding countryside and providing a recreational resource for the population as part of a wider green network.

13.6.6 Peebles has a successful town centre which has an important role in the tourism market, which in turn, benefits from the mountain biking opportunities provided by 7Stanes Mountain Bike Trails at Glentress Forest.

13.6.7 The Central SDA is supported by the Western SDA, as defined in the SESplan (2013)[4], in which Walkerburn is situated. The Western SDA plays a secondary role in the wider SBC spatial strategy, with recognition of the important roles of its hinterland area.

13.6.8 Both the Central and Western SDA benefit from good connectivity to the City of Edinburgh (c. 45-minute drive) via the A703/A701 and the A7. The Central and Western SDA are also supported by the newly reopened Borders Railway route departing from Edinburgh Waverly and stopping at Stow, Galashiels and ending at Tweedbank. Galashiels station provides a key transport hub for local and regional bus travel, providing a terminus for a number of onward local bus routes throughout the Scottish Borders. The availability of public transport options in the Scottish Borders play a key role in the local economy, recreation and the tourism and visitor sector.

13.6.9 Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual identified the following residential properties within 3 km of the Proposed Development:

- Seathorpe (within red line boundary of the Proposed Development);
- Caberstongrans (within red line boundary of the Proposed Development);
- Glentress (2.5 km west of the Proposed Development);
- Colquhar (2.5 km west of the Proposed Development);
- The Common (2.6 km south east of the Proposed Development); and,
- Blackhopebyre (2.7 km north west of the Proposed Development).

Labour Market

13.6.10 In 2016, the Galashiels and Peebles TTWA Study Area was estimated to have a population of 57,774[5]. Population estimates overall for the Scottish Borders indicate a total population of 115,500, 58.8% of which are of working age (16-64) (2019). Overall, the Scottish Borders has a higher population of pensionable age (65+) at 24.8% compared to the Scottish average of 19.1%[6].

13.6.11 Table 13.5 below presents key metrics of economic activity across the Labour Market Study Area, including the economic activity rate which measures the percentage of the population (employment and unemployed) that represents the available labour supply.

Table 13.5 Key Economic Activity Metrics

	Economic Activity (16 – 64 years)	Employment Rate (16 – 64 years)	Median Full Time Gross Annual Pay[7]
TTWA Study Area[8]	80.4%	77.7%	*
SBC Study Area[9]	78.7%	76.2%	£26,861
Scotland[10]	77.5%	74.8%	£31,839

Source: ONS (2020) Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings; ONS (2019) Annual Population Survey

13.6.12 Job density indicates the available of jobs per resident (16-64 years). Although there is less than one job per resident in the TTWA Study Area (0.87), this is above the national comparator for Scotland (0.82). The SBC Study Area exhibits the lowest job density (0.79) within the Labour Market Study Area[11].

13.6.13 The SBC Proposed Local Development Plan (2020) details that the area continues to have a significant reliance upon traditional rural activities, focused upon agriculture, forestry and fishing. This is reflected in the latest available date with employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing industry accounting for 10.7% of employment within the TTWA Study Area[12].

Key Business Sectors

Construction Sector

13.6.14 The construction sector in the TTWA Study Area supports some 1,500 jobs[13] representing 6.0% of total jobs in the Study Area. The construction sector in the SBC Study Area supports some 3,000 jobs representing 6.4% of total jobs in the Study Area. This indicates that construction actively in the round is balanced, whilst a slight increase in activity across the SBC Study Area. Both Study Area's moreover exhibit a higher proportion of employment in the construction sector than the national average for Scotland (5.5%) indicating a healthy supply of construction labour across the Labour Market Study Area as a whole.

Onshore Wind Sector

13.6.15 The UK onshore wind sector produces more electricity than any other renewable source, providing 30.2 million MWh of electricity to the UK Grid in 2018, equivalent to 27% of all renewable energy generated[14]. It is estimated

[3] Scottish Government (2013) SESPlan https://www.sesplan.gov.uk/assets/files/docs/290813/SESplan%20Strategic%20Development%20Plan%20Approved%2027%20June%202013.pdf

[4] Scottish Government (2013) SESPlan https://www.sesplan.gov.uk/assets/files/docs/290813/SESplan%20Strategic%20Development%20Plan%20Approved%2027%20June%202013.pdf

[5] ONS (2016) Travel to Work Areas

[6] ONS (2019) Population estimates - local authority based by five year age band

[7] ONS (2020) Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

[8] ONS (2019) Annual Population Survey

[9] ONS (2019) Annual Population Survey

[10] ONS (2019) Annual Population Survey

[11] ONS (2018) Job Density

[12] ONS (2019) Business Register and Employment Survey

[13] ONS (2019) Business Register and Employment Survey

[14] ONS (2018); Regional Renewable Statistics: Renewable Electricity by Local Authority; https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics

that up to 35 GW of onshore wind could be needed across the UK by 2035 to accommodate the rapid uptake of electric vehicles and hybrid heat pumps alone (Vivid Economics and Imperial College London, 2019[15]).

13.6.16 Scotland is the UK's largest producer of onshore wind electricity, producing 18.0 million MWh in 2018 (60% of the UK total), while the Scottish Borders produced 1,781,903 MWh (9.9% of Scotland's total output)[16]. Installed onshore wind capacity in the Scottish Borders in 2019 totalled 531.1MW, an increase of 410MW since 2009. This is less than Aberdeenshire (+433.8), Dumfries & Galloway (573.7), Highland (+1,609.8) and South Lanarkshire (+1,079.6)[17]. This translates to 276 installed turbines in the Scottish Borders as of 2019.

13.6.17 In 2017, the Scottish Government published the Onshore Wind Policy Statement[18] which states Scotland will continue to need more onshore wind development and capacity, in locations across our landscapes where it can be accommodated. The onshore wind sector also makes an important economic contribution, creating employment opportunities throughout the development process, with operational and maintenance requirements often extending across the supply chain for construction and also the lifetime of the project. In 2017 the UK's 4,000 onshore wind businesses generated turnover of £2.8 billion, supported 5,300 direct jobs, and exported £53 million of goods and services[19].

Tourism and Recreation

13.6.18 This section sets out a series of summaries of the baseline conditions reviewed for assessment. Please refer to Figures 13.1 and 13.2, and Appendix 13.1 Socioeconomic Detailed Baseline Conditions for details.

Economic Importance of Tourism

13.6.19 At national level the tourism sector is recognised by the Scottish Government as an important part of the Scottish economy, supporting a range of business activity and employment opportunities[20].Of all overnight visits to Scotland in 2019, approximately 80% were made by UK residents (comprising 14.1 million trips), while the remaining 20% of overnight visits were from international visitors (comprising 3.5 million trips). Whilst only 20% of trips in 2019 were made by international visitors, their expenditure totalled £2.5 billion, or 43% of total overnight spend in Scotland[21]. Tourism forms a key business sector for the Scottish Borders, identified by Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) research as having an economic value of £204 million (a 5% increase from 2015), with approximately 1.8 million visits (of which 1.15 million were day visitors)[22]. The STEAM research (2016) identifies the positive impact from the Borders Railway as the most likely reason for the rise in visitor numbers (both day visitors and overnight trips).

13.6.20 Between 2017-2019, Visit Scotland data indicates that the average annual number of visits to the Scottish Borders was estimated at approximately 3.07 million (of which 2.7 million were day visitors)[23]. Day visitors therefore make up the vast majority of visitors to the Borders region.

Characteristics and Assets

Visitor Attractions

13.6.21 The Scottish Borders provide a wide range of tourism assets and attractions for both day and overnight visitors. Of tourism attractions in the Scottish Borders, the most popular free attractions in terms of visitor numbers in 2019 were Tweed Valley Forest Park (347,763 people), St Abbs Head (63,721 people) and Newcastleton Forest (34,943). The top paid for attractions in terms of visitor numbers in 2019 were Melrose Abbey (61,325 people), Dawyck Botanic Garden (37,051 people) and Floors Castle (34,284 people)[24]. There are several heritage assets which attract visitors within the study area, including Neidpath Castle, Leithen Lodge, Kalzie Gardens, Glen House and Bowhill House and Gardens. Additionally, there is Traquair Estate which comprises of around 4,500 acres including around 300 acres of mixed forestry, around 20 listed buildings (either A or B listed) including Traquair House for which the land is also designated as a Garden and Designed Landscape.

13.6.22 The Scottish Borders Tourism Strategy 2013-2020[25] sets out the aspirations for the tourism sector to 2020, aiming to inform the future direction of the tourism sector and the targets/goals it seeks to achieve. The Strategy aims: *"To grow tourism visits and spend in The Scottish borders, through positioning and promotion as a sustainable, year-round destination, which capitalises on its unique geography, heritage, natural environment and people."*

13.6.23 In September 2019, the Scottish Borders Council executive committee confirmed[26] that the development of a South of Scotland Tourism Strategy is underway. This will set out a 12–18-month programme of activity in preparation of the launch of a transformational 5-year Destination Development Programme. There has been no further update on the preparation of the Strategy since then. The South of Scotland destination alliance was formed in 2020 and includes an objective to deliver a clear tourism strategy during the first 5 years.[27]

Designated Walking and Other Recreational Routes

13.6.24 The Study Area consisted of a wide range of designated and non-designated routes used by both residents and visitors. All core paths and other promoted recreational routes, including the Southern Upland Way, within the Tourism and Recreation Study Area, and with visibility of the Proposed Development. The following are of relevance to our assessment:

- Tweed Valley;
- Southern Upland Way;
- Core Paths 41, 158, 159, 161,163, 181;
- Scottish Hill Tracks:
  - No. 22: Peebles to Craig Douglas;

[15] Vivid Economics and Imperial College London (2019) Accelerated electrification and the GB electricity system: https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/accelerated-electrification-and-the-gb-electricitysystem/

[16] ONS (2018); Regional Renewable Statistics: Renewable Electricity by Local Authority; https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics Visit Scotland: Insight Department: Key Facts on Tourism in Scotland (2019) https://www.visitscotland.org/binaries/content/assets/dot-org/pdf/research-papers-2/key-facts-on-tourism-in-scotland-2019.pdf

[17] BiGGAR Economics (2021) Wind Farms & Tourism Trends in Scotland: Evidence from 44 Wind Farms. Available at: https://biggareconomics.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/BiGGAR-Economics-Wind-Farms-and-Tourism-2021.pdf

[18] Scottish Government (2017) Onshore Wind Policy Statement https://www.gov.scot/publications/onshore-wind-policy-statement-9781788515283/pages/3/

[19] RenewablesUK (2019); Quantifying Benefits of Onshore Wind to the UK; https://www.vivideconomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Quantifying_the_Benefits_of-report-.pdf

[20] Scottish Government (2022). Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation. Available at: https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-national-strategy-economic-transformation/documents/

[21] Visit Scotland: Insight Department: Key Facts on Tourism in Scotland (2019) https://www.visitscotland.org/binaries/content/assets/dot-org/pdf/research-papers-2/key-facts-on-tourism-in-scotland-2019.pdf

[22] STEAM Final Trend Report for 2009-2016 Scottish Borders Council. Available at: https://www.mbtag.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Steam-Report-Scottish-Borders.pdf

[23] Visit Scotland: Insight Department: Scottish Borders Factsheet (2019)

[24] Visit Scotland: Scotland Visitors Survey (Scottish Borders) 2015 & 2016. Available at: https://www.visitscotland.org/binaries/content/assets/dot-org/pdf/research-papers/scotland-visitor-survey-scottish-borders-2016.pdf

[25] Scottish Borders Tourism Strategy (2013) Available at: https://www.mbtag.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2013-2020-Scottish-Borders-Tourism-Strategy.pdf

[26] Scottish Borders Council Executive Committee. Available at: https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s38770/Item%20No.%206%20-%20South%20of%20Scotland%20Tourism%20Action%20Plan%20-%20Executive%20-%2017%20September%202019%20-%20Draft.pdf

[27] South of Scotland Destination Alliance https://www.ssdalliance.com/about-v2/

- No. 23: Traquair (Innerleithen) to Tibbie Shiels Inn (St Marys Loch);
- No. 24: Traquair (Innerleithen) to Ettrick by Yarrow;
- No. 25: Traquiair to Yarrowford or Selkirk by Minch Moor;
- No.26: Galashiels to Yarrowford (Broadmeadows) by Yair;
- No.43: Peebles to Innerleithen (by Leithen Water); and,
- No. 44: Peebles to Innerleithen (by 'The Tops').

13.6.25 None of the above routes are located within the Proposed Development Area.

13.6.26 The Study Area also includes a number of other ecological and cultural heritage designations. These are set out in full in Appendix 13.1 Detailed Baseline Conditions. This review takes account of the protections of The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967.

Outdoor Tourist Destinations

13.6.27 The Scottish Borders has a number of tourist attractions which utilise the scenic and landscape value of the region, including the award winning 7Stanes Mountain Biking Centres of which the Scottish Borders contains two: Glentress Forest near the settlement of Peebles and Innerleithen, a small town in the committee area of Tweeddale. The Proposed Development Area benefits from its proximity to several forests which make up the Tweed Valley Forest Park. These provide a variety of opportunities for outdoor recreational activities including walking, running, mountain biking, cycling and horse-riding. Other local outdoor tourist attractions include:

- Haughhead Stables; guided pony rides, picnic experiences and riding holidays;
- Velvet Hall Alpacas; guided alpaca treks;
- Kalzie Gardens; and,
- GoApe Glentress Outdoor Activity Centre.

Hospitality

13.6.28 In a Visit Scotland survey undertaken between 2016-2018[28], eating out was the second most popular activity undertaken as part of a day trip to the Scottish Borders, responsible for c.400,000 visits. Hospitality businesses including those located within hotels are mostly located in key settlements Galashiels, Peebles & Innerleithen. In Galashiels, these are mainly located along Bank Street, in Peebles along High Street/Eastgate and in Innerleithen along the A72. It is noted in the Study Area that local visitor accommodation may also host a number of locally popular restaurants due to their regional tourism offering in establishments such as the Macdonald Cardrona Hotel and Peebles Hydro.

Visitor Accommodation

13.6.29 The economic contribution of the tourism sector is underpinned by visitor accommodation. The average number of overnight visits to the Scottish Borders by both British and international visitors totalled 3.074 million between 2017 and 2019, a decrease of 7% from 2016-2018. Between 2016-2018, only one in twelve overnight visits were made by international travellers. Of overnight visits to the Scottish Borders within this period, 92% were from UK visitors, with the remaining 8% from international visitors.

13.6.30 Visitors to the Scottish Borders generated £144 million of expenditure from both day and overnight visitors from 2017 to 2019. In 2019, average net occupancy rates for hotels in the region totalled 57% for hotels, 39% for guest houses/B&Bs and 52% for self-catering accommodation[29].

Recreational Activities in The Open Countryside

13.6.31 In addition to walking and heritage-based tourism, golf tourism is also important to South Scotland and the Scottish Borders. The economic value of golf to the south of Scotland in 2016 was valued at £6.3m, supporting 173 jobs. Visitors to the golf clubs in the south of Scotland were recorded as most likely to be from Scotland (60%) or from the rest of the UK (39%)[30].

13.6.32 There are many golf clubs in the study area, including Peebles Golf Club, Cardrona Golf & Country Club, Innerleithen Golf Club, Galashiels Golf Club and Torwoodlee Golf Club. These golf clubs also play a key role for visitors, providing bars and restaurants before, during and after golf.

13.6.33 In addition to the popularity of golf in the Scottish Borders, there are many popular recreational activities along the River Tweed in the Tweed Valley which flows for 97 miles through Innerleithen, Peebles and Galashiels and on to Berwick upon Tweed and into the North Sea, including mountain biking, running, fishing, canoeing and cycling. In the study area, there is also the Go Ape High Ropes Outdoor Activities in Peebles and several biking trails such as 7stanes and the Tweed Valley Railway Path. Local heritage assets such as Cairn Hill Cairn and Pirn Hill Fort provide opportunities to enjoy the cultural heritage of the area, representing locally popular recreational routes.

Tourists Travelling (By Road) Through the Open Countryside

13.6.34 Travelling to, from or between tourist destinations, recreational activities or hospitality/accommodation itself forms part of the overall tourism experience. Tourists may select particular accommodation or destinations owing to their accessibility (amongst other factors), and any unexpected disruption to journeys may detract from their enjoyment of the experience. Key routes of note include:

- A72 Road (scenic route);
- A7 Road;
- B7007 Road;
- B709 Road;
- B6362 Road; and,
- B7062 Road.

13.6.35 Please note a detailed list of all baseline conditions considered for this assessment, including a full list of individual tourism receptors identified for assessment is provided **in** Appendix 13.1 Socioeconomic Baseline Conditions.

[28] Visit Scotland: Insight Department: Scottish Borders Factsheet (2019)

[29] Visit Scotland: Insight Department: Scottish Borders Factsheet (2019)

[30] Scotland Golf Visitor Survey 2016 Regional Report- South Scotland. Available at: https://www.visitscotland.org/binaries/content/assets/dot-org/pdf/research-papers/golf-south-scotland-2016.pdf

13.7 BASELINE EVOLUTION

The Proposed Development Area

13.7.1 In the absence of the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development Area which has previously been identified as having potential for wind farm development[31] , will remain undeveloped. This would mean that it is unlikely that another windfarm will be delivered on site within the timescales of this Proposed Development. Overall. the Proposed Development Area would remain as land used for sheep farming and the release of birds for game shooting.

The Surrounding Area

13.7.2 In the absence of the Proposed Development, operational uses and economic activities within the Labour Market and Tourism and Visitor Economy Study Areas are expected to remain broadly unchanged. In the absence of the Proposed Development, there would be no contribution towards national renewable energy targets in the requirement to meet the impacts of the climate crisis. In relation to climate change, the UK Climate Projections database projects the following for the Scottish Borders:

- An increase in summer and winter temperatures;
- Up to three days per summer above 25 ºC per month on average;
- A reduction in summer rainfall; and,
- an increase in winter rainfall of up to 11%.

13.7.3 These changes are likely to affect the tourism and recreation sector, in particular by accentuating the existing seasonal nature of outdoor recreational activities and associated visitor accommodation bookings in the summer months. Unstable changes in temperature and rainfall amounts may impact the ability to partake in outdoor recreational activities, resulting in lost income for local tourism businesses.

13.8 SUMMARY OF RECEPTOR SENSITIVITY

13.8.1 As discussed in the Section 13.4 – Methodology, the visitor attractiveness and tourism potential of each of the six receptor groupings could be affected by environmental or socio-economic changes (i.e., Primary Effects), including likely effects from the construction or operation of the Proposed Development (as assessed in other technical assessment chapters of the EIAR). For employment effects, the availability of labour and skills is critical in accommodating the demands, needs and requirements of the Proposed Development and therefore the sensitivity reflects the available supply of these elements.

13.8.2 Table 13.2.3 **in** Appendix 13.1 Socioeconomic Detailed Baseline Conditions identifies the receptors likely to experience population effects from the Proposed Development and thus requiring to be considered in the impact assessment. A detailed breakdown of the receptors identified for assessment under the six tourism and recreation assessment headings is provided in Appendix 13.1 (Socioeconomic Detailed Baseline Conditions).

13.8.3 Table 13.6 below provides a summary of the sensitivity of each identified receptor grouping and the development phase(s) when it would be likely to be affected by each phase of the Proposed Development.

Table 13.6: Summary of Receptor Sensitivity

Receptor	Type of Effect	Sensitivity	Phase of Likely Effect(s)
Labour Market			
Labour market	Changes in employment	**TTWA Study Area:** Low **SBC Study Area:** Low	Construction
Key Business Sectors			
Construction	Changes in sectoral activity and performance	**TTWA Study Area:** Low **SBC Study Area:** Low	Construction
Onshore Wind		**TTWA Study Area**: Medium **SBC Study Area:** Medium	Operation
Tourism and Recreation			
Designated walking and recreational routes	Changes in visitor attractiveness and tourism potential (visitor numbers and expenditure)	Medium	Construction and operation
Outdoor tourist destinations		Low	Construction and operation
Hospitality		Low	Construction and operation
Visitor Accommodation		Low	Construction and operation
Recreational activities in the open countryside		Low	Construction and operation
Tourists travelling (by road) through the open countryside		Low	Construction and operation

Source: Stantec, 2022

[31] Scottish Borders Council (2018) Renewable Energy Supplementary Guidance. Available at: https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20051/plans_and_guidance/766/renewable_energy_supplementary_guidance

13.9 EMBEDDED MITIGATION

13.9.1 A number of design features and embedded mitigation measures have been incorporated into the design and construction of the Proposed Development to avoid, prevent or minimise significant adverse environmental effects and to enhance beneficial effects. Further details regarding embedded mitigation measures associated with the Proposed Development are present in Chapter 4 – Project Description.

13.9.2 Embedded mitigation measures of relevance to this assessment are:

Design Principles

13.9.3 The design strategy for the key elements of the Proposed Development has taken into account the following objectives:

- To maximise site efficiency and electricity production;
- To provide a turbine layout with simple form, which relates to the landform and landscape character of the site and its surroundings;
- Retain a suitable separation between operational / consented wind farms and the Proposed Development;
- To avoid areas of constraint where practical; and,
- To reflect the pattern of nearby existing and consented wind farms as far as practical.

Access Tracks

13.9.4 Approximately 6.8 km of new tracks will be constructed, including sections linking to proposed turbine locations. New tracks have been designed, amongst other environmental criteria, to avoid prominent slopes and summits to reduce the requirement for cut and fill.

13.9.5 During the construction phase of the Proposed Development, all access tracks will be constructed/widened to a nominal width of 5 m and wider on bends and junctions to accommodate construction vehicles and abnormal load deliveries.

13.9.6 The proposed internal tracks are aligned to take advantage of the screening effect of intervening topography and/or vegetation where possible.

Traffic Management Plan (TMP)

13.9.7 As part of Chapter 12 - Traffic and Transport a preliminary TMP has been prepared (see Appendix 12.2) and it is expected a Planning Condition will be applied to the development for a final construction TMP to be prepared and approved by SBC post consent and prior to construction works commencing.

Construction Method Statement (CMS)

13.9.8 Prior to the commencement of construction, a CMS incorporating a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be produced setting out in detail the individual items of works associated with the construction of the Proposed Development (see Chapter 9: Hydrology, Geology & Hydrogeology for detail on the CMS). It will be prepared in accordance with the detail provided in this EIAR and relevant planning conditions.

13.9.9 The CEMP will see to reduce the risk of any likely significant adverse effects on environmental receptors as a result of construction activities, and to minimise disturbance to local residents (which can be secured through a suitable planning condition). Of relevance to this assessment, the CEMP will include measures and procedures to manage recreation and public access effects during construction.

13.10 ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY EFFECTS

Construction Phase

Capital Expenditure

13.10.1 Based on capital cost estimated provided by the Applicant in March 2022, the construction of the Proposed Development is expected to require a total capital expenditure of £93.8million[32]. This will give rise to employment and associated expenditure in the economy (direct, indirect and induced) as detailed below.

13.10.2 Construction of the Proposed Development is expected to extend across a 15th month programme of works. A typical 15-month construction programme is presented in Table 4.2 of Chapter 4 – Project Description.

Gross Construction Employment

13.10.3 Gross construction employment can be estimated by dividing the capital expenditure figure above (£93.8million) by the average annual turnover required to support an employee in the construction sector.

13.10.4 Analysis of the Annual Business Survey (ONS, 2020) and the Business Register and Employment Survey (ONS, 2019) suggests that a turnover of £111,652 per annum is required on average to support a single construction employee in the Scottish Borders in 2020 (SABS, 2020). Applying the GDP price deflator[33] to uprate this the 2022 prices[34] suggests that a turnover of £120,946.68 per annum is required on average to support a single construction employee in the Scottish Borders in 2022.

13.10.5 The construction of the Proposed Development is therefore estimated to support a total 663 gross Person Years of Employment (PYE)[35] over the 15-month construction programme across the Study Area[36]. This equates to 498 Full time equivalents (FTE)'s[37] over the 15-month construction programme across the Study Area.

Net Construction Employment

13.10.6 Only a proportion of total construction employment will occur within the Labour Market Study Area due to mobility of labour, competition from externally located construction firms and supply chain impacts. To take account of these factors, the additionality assumptions detailed in Table 13.7 below have been used to convert the estimated gross construction employment from the Proposed Development within the TTWA Study Area and SBC Study Area.

[32] £93.8million capital expenditure as provided by FORL in March 2022

[33] The GDP price deflator measures the changes in prices for all of the goods and services produced in an economy

[34] GDP Deflator used: 1.05976067

[35] The PYE number effectively describes how many people you would need to take on if you wanted to get the project build in one year

[36] In absence of the turnover per worker for the TTWA being available, the Scottish Boarders figure has been used as a proxy, resulting in the same gross jobs across the TTWA Study Area and SBC Study Area.

[37] The full time equivalent figure describes the total number of people who would, on average, be working on the site at any particular point in time during the construction phase

Table 13.7: Construction Additionality Assumptions

Factor	TTWA Study Area		SBC Study Area	
	Value	Rationale	Value	Rationale
Deadweight	0%	In absence of the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development Area would remain as land used for sheep farming and the release of birds for game shooting.	0%	In absence of the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development Area would remain as land used for sheep farming and the release of birds for game shooting.
Leakage	65%	Given that the Study Area accounts for the TTWA, it is assumed that a proportion of employment opportunities will be realised by firms within the Study Area. Construction in the TTWA Study Area accounts for some 1,500 jobs, representing 6.0% of the total jobs in the labour market. Whilst construction activity is balanced across the Labour Market Study Areas, there is slight increase in activity across the SBC Study Area, as reported in Section 13.6 - Baseline Conditions and Appendix 13.1 - Detailed Baseline Conditions. This has resulted in a slightly higher leakage rate than that of the SBC Study Area. The relative mobility of the construction sector as a whole however indicates that employment opportunities may be realised by firms external to the TTWA Study Area. This is reflected in the leakage value presented.	60%	Given that the Study Area is the Scottish Borders, a local authority area already populated with a number of wind farm developments alongside supplementary planning policy guidance for such projects, it is assumed that a proportion of employment opportunities will be realised by firms within the Study Area. Construction in the SBC Study Area accounts for some 3,000 jobs, representing 6.4% of the total jobs in the labour market. The slight increase in construction activity across the SBC Study Area will result in a lower leakage rate across the SBC Study Area [than from the TTWA?] . The relative mobility of the construction sector as a whole however indicates of the employment opportunities may be realised by firms external to the SBC Study Area, particularly where specialist skills are sought.
Displacement	20%	The primary determinant of market displacement is between supply and demand.	20%	The primary determinant of market displacement is between supply and demand.
Substitution	0%	There are no known public sector incentives that would influence substitution activity at this time.	0%	There are no known public sector incentives that would influence substitution activity at this time.
Multiplier	1.52	Sectoral Type II multipliers from Scottish Government Input-Output Tables have been applied and adjustment in line with the above leakage assumptions[38].	1.59	Sectoral Type II multipliers from Scottish Government Input-Output Tables have been applied and adjustment in line with the above leakage assumptions[39].

Source: Stantec, 2022

13.10.7 Based on the additionality assumptions, the 663 gross temporary construction jobs created by the Proposed Development are expected to support approximately 281 net temporary construction jobs within the TTWA Study Area over the 15-month construction period within the assessed Labour Market Study Area. This represents 18.0% of existing construction jobs (1,500 jobs) within the Study Area.

13.10.8 Based on the additionality assumptions, the 663 gross temporary construction jobs created by the Proposed Development are expected to support approximately 337 net temporary construction jobs within the SBC Study Area over the 15-month construction period within the assessed Labour Market Study Area. This represents 11.2% of existing construction jobs (3,000 jobs) within the Study Area.

13.10.9 Indirect local benefits will arise from the construction phase, including use of hotels, Bed & Breakfasts and other accommodation, hire of local equipment and plant, temporary employment of local work force and potential contracting of local subcontractors. The Applicant as stated their intent to spend a minimum of 30% of the contract value locally and will host a local supply chain event to support this.

13.10.10 In accordance with the methodology detailed in Section 13.4**,** the net construction employment associated with the Proposed Development within the TTWA Study Area will result in a High magnitude of change on the Labour Market receptor (a Low sensitivity receptor as per Table 13.5**)**, resulting in a **Short-Term Moderate Beneficial effect**.

13.10.11 In accordance with the methodology detailed **in** Section 13.4**,** the net construction employment associated with the Proposed Development within the SBC Study Area will result in a High magnitude of change on the Labour Market receptor (a Low sensitivity receptor as per Table 13.5), resulting in a **Short-Term Moderate Beneficial effect.**

Key Business Sector

Construction Sector

13.10.12 The key sector likely to experience socio-economic effects from the Proposed Development during the construction phase is the construction sector.

13.10.13 Gross Value Added (GVA) generated through the construction phase of the Proposed Development will act as a stimulus to the wider construction sector and induce multiplier effects. The creation of 271 net temporary construction jobs within the TTWA Labour Market Study Area is anticipated to generate some £17.00million Net GVA over the 15-month construction period. The creation of 324 net temporary construction jobs within the SBC Labour Market Study Area is anticipated to generate some £20.38million Net GVA over the 15-month construction period.

13.10.14 The Embedded Mitigation (see Section 13.8**)** for the Proposed Development includes the implementation of a CMS, CEMP and TMP to reduce the risk of any likely significant adverse effects on environmental receptors as a result of construction activities, and to minimise disturbance to local residents. Of relevance to this assessment, the TMP and CEMP will include measures and procedures to manage recreation and public access effects during construction. It is anticipated that this will incorporate the 6.8 km of new access tracks. As part of the Embedded Mitigation, the proposed internal tracks are aligned to take advantage of the screening effect of intervening topography and/or vegetation where possible.

13.10.15 As detailed in Chapter 4 – Project Description, due to the isolated location of the Proposed Development and the industrial operations occurring during construction, signs will be required on-site for safe day-to-day navigation for works traffic and personnel; access for emergency vehicles; and for the health and safety of the public. To further protect the health and safety of all those visiting the site a risk assessment for visitors will be produced.

13.10.16 As detailed in Chapter 11 – Noise**,** the extent of on-site construction noise and the levels received at residential properties will depend on wind direction. Vibration from on-site construction activities is not anticipated to be

[38] Sectoral Type II multipliers from Scottish Government Input-Output Tables have been applied in line with best practice. The Scottish Government Sectoral Type II multipliers provide a detailed ratio of full-time equivalent employment accounting for direct, indirect and induced employment. The application of this enables an assessment of the construction sector.

perceptible at residential properties within the surrounding area. Vibration from construction vehicles accessing the site may be perceptible at roadside properties but will be no greater than from other heavy good vehicles already using the roads and therefore not considered to be significant.

13.10.17 In accordance with the methodology detailed in **Section 13.4**, the net construction GVA associated with the Proposed Development within the TTWA Study Area will result in a High magnitude of change on the Labour Market receptor (a Low sensitivity receptor as per Table 13.5), resulting in a **Short-Term Moderate Beneficial effect**.

13.10.18 In accordance with the methodology detailed in **Section 13.4**, the net construction GVA associated with the Proposed Development within the SBC Study Area will result in a High magnitude of change on the Labour Market receptor (a Low sensitivity receptor as per Table 13.5), resulting in a **Short-Term Moderate Beneficial effect**.

Tourism and Visitor Economy Sector

Impact of Wind Farms on Tourism

13.10.19 As part of the wider baseline and policy assessment, a review of available research on the interactions between wind farms and tourism was undertaken. This reviewed the following research:

- James Hutton Institute (2012) The Impact of Wind Farms on Scottish Tourism;
- BiGGAR Economics (2016) Wind Farms and Tourism Trends in Scotland;
- BiGGAR Economics (2021) Wind Farms and Tourism Trends in Scotland: Evidence from 44 Wind Farms; and,
- Mountaineering Scotland (2015) Windfarm Proposals: Position Statement.

13.10.20 The research conducted by the James Hutton Institute and BiGGAR Economics highlighted a lack of evidence of correlation between presence of wind farms and reduction in tourist activity across Scotland. The research analysed trends in tourism employment in the immediate vicinity of windfarm developments across Scotland. Between 2015-2019, of the 28 areas surrounding the previously studied wind farms, 18 experienced an increase in tourism-related employment above the Scottish average in the period following construction. This includes Glenkerie, an operational windfarm less than 30km from the Proposed Development Area, which experienced an 18.1% rise in tourism employment between 2015 and 2019. The research concludes that at a Local Authority level, the development of the onshore wind energy industry does not have a detrimental impact on the tourism sector. This supports earlier conclusions from the 2008 Moffat Report[40] which found that windfarms have little to no adverse impact on tourism in Scotland. Whilst the Mountaineering Scotland position statement is acknowledged here, the Tourism and recreation baseline assessment for this development has not identified any Munros or Corbetts within the Socioeconomic, Tourism and Recreation study area, these being the two categories of upland that are identified in Mountaineering Scotland's position statement. A detailed overview of the policy context review undertaken for this assessment is provided in Appendix 13.2 Socioeconomic Policy Context.

13.10.21 In accordance with the methodology detailed above, Table 13.8 below provides a proportionate assessment of likely construction phase effects on each assessed receptor grouping of the tourism and recreation sector from the development of the Proposed Development. This assessment considers likely 'secondary' effects on the sector as a whole, rather than assessing Primary Effects on individual tourism assets. The assessment makes reference to individual identified receptors and associated likely primary environmental effects where relevant, but it applies equally to other receptors of the same grouping. The assessment takes account of likely effects associated with the construction phase of development.

[40] MoffatCentre MC (2008) The Economic Impacts of Windfarms on Scottish Tourism ttps://www.gov.scot/publications/economic-impacts-wind-farms-scottish-tourism/

Table 13.8: Assessment of Construction Phase Effects on Tourism and Recreation Sector

Receptor Group	Sensitivity (Refer to Section 13.6)	Magnitude of Change- Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Potential	Assessment Rationale	Significance of Effect
Designated walking and recreational routes	Medium	Low	**Primary Environmental Effects on Tourism Assets:** **Table 13.2.3** presented in **Appendix 13.1** provides a detailed list of tourism assets within this receptor grouping. Visual effects during the construction phase would be progressive and cover a large geographical area within the site boundary. Visual effects would be most pronounced and widespread late in the construction period as the turbines are constructed. At this point there would be visibility of the turbines and other tall features including cranes and the met mast, with the theoretical extent of visibility of the turbines set out in the ZTV in Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual. Based on the ZTV, the following routes will be subject to primary visual effects (i.e. some aspects of the Proposed Development will theoretically be visible from these receptors): • National Cycle Routes (NCR): No. 1 Long Distance Routes: • Southern Upland Way • Cross Border Drove Road • Tweed Valley Railway Path SBC Core Paths: • No. 41 near Scroof Hill • No. 42- Stow-Blackhaugh	Low / Moderate adverse effect (not significant).

Receptor Group	Sensitivity (Refer to Section 13.6)	Magnitude of Change- Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Potential	Assessment Rationale	Significance of Effect
			• No. 161 Walkerburn-Priesthope • No. 163 Walkerburn - Minch moor • No. 181 Innerleithen-Walkerburn Scottish Hill Tracks: • No. 22: Peebles to Craig Douglas • No. 23: Traquair (Innerleithen) to Tibbie Shiels Inn (St Marys Loch) • No. 24: Traquair (Innerleithen) to Ettrick by Yarrow • No. 25:Traquiair to Yarrowford or Selkirk by Minch Moor • No.26: Galashiels to Yarrowford (Broadmeadows) by Yair • No.43 : Peebles to Innerleithen (by Leithen Water) No. 44: Peebles to Innerleithen (by 'The Tops')Whilst the Proposed Development would theoretically be visible from the above receptors, Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual Amenity only identifies significant visual effects in relation to the following: • **Southern Upland Way**: Due to face-on views for a section between Traquair and Blake Muir, as well as between Traquair and Three Brethren including Minch Moor; • **Cross Border Drove Road**: obtains same level of effects where the route follows the SUW; and • **Core Paths No 161 & 163**: would receive close face-on views of the Proposed Development within 5 km. **Secondary Effects on Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Experience.** As detailed in Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual**,** the construction works will be perceived from a number of locations, including those noted above. The development would result in a substantial change in terms of the perceptual experience within the Proposed Development Area and immediate surrounding hill sides, however this is temporary in nature. Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual**,** has identified the Southern Upland Way, Cross Border Drove Road and the Core Paths as having a high visual sensitivity. The ZTV shows that theoretical visibility would however be limited to mainly occur on elevated ground, with screening by topography. The closest views being from the northeast corner of the Proposed Development. Irrespective of temporary and localised changes in visual amenity, all recreational routes will continue to remain open and fulfil their purpose of providing countryside access	

Receptor Group	Sensitivity (Refer to Section 13.6)	Magnitude of Change- Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Potential	Assessment Rationale	Significance of Effect
			(whether local or long distance). As detailed within the Embedded Mitigation (see Section 13.8) TMP, CMS and CEMP will ensure continuity of access is maintained, whilst temporary and intermittent visual effects alone will not inhibit access or greatly alter the recreational or experiential value of these routes. On this basis and taking account of all relevant Primary Effects, the construction phase is considered likely to result in **temporary low magnitude** change to visitor attractiveness and tourism potential of designated walking and recreational routes. Having regard to the medium sensitivity of this receptor grouping, the construction of the Proposed Development is likely to result in a **Low / Moderate adverse effect (not significant).**	
Outdoor tourist destinations	Low	Low	**Primary Environmental Effects on Tourism Assets:** **Table 13.2.3** presented in **Appendix 13.1** provides a detailed list of tourism assets within this receptor grouping. • No likely significant adverse effects predicted. **Secondary Effects on Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Experience.** A number of outdoor tourist destinations have been identified within the Study Area	Low adverse effect (not significant).

Receptor Group	Sensitivity (Refer to Section 13.6)	Magnitude of Change- Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Potential	Assessment Rationale	Significance of Effect
			however irrespective of temporary changes in visual amenity, the destinations will continue to provide the same tourism offering. As detailed within the Embedded Mitigation (see **Section 13.8**) TMP, CMS and CEMP will ensure continuity of access is maintained thereby not altering the recreational or experiential value of these destinations. Temporary and intermittent visual effects are not considered likely to detract from the main purpose of visits to specific outdoor tourist destinations and thus to alter the recreational or experiential value of the visit. On this basis, the construction phase is considered likely to have at a temporary Low magnitude of change on this receptor grouping where outdoor tourist destinations experience primary environmental effects, resulting in a **Low adverse** effect.	
Hospitality	Low	Low	**Primary Environmental Effects on Tourism Assets** **Table 13.2.3** presented in **Appendix 13.1** provides a detailed list of tourism assets within this receptor grouping. • No likely significant adverse effects predicted. **Secondary Effects on Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Experience.** Indirect local benefits will arise from the construction phase,	Low beneficial effect (not significant).

Receptor Group	Sensitivity (Refer to Section 13.6)	Magnitude of Change- Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Potential	Assessment Rationale	Significance of Effect
			including use of hospitality services by the construction workforce, No change is predicted on hospitality businesses during the construction period, as the primary draw to such establishments is not visual amenity and is assessed on an aggregate level. On this basis, the Proposed Development is considered likely to have a temporary Low beneficial magnitude of change on this receptor grouping, resulting in a **Low beneficial** temporary effect.	
Visitor accommodation	Low	Low	**Primary Environmental Effects on Tourism Assets:** **Table 13.2.3** presented in **Appendix 13.1** provides a detailed list of tourism assets within this receptor grouping. • No likely significant adverse effects predicted. **Secondary' Effects on Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Experience.** Construction of the Proposed Development will not directly impact on any of the visitor accommodation assets identified. Temporary changes in visual amenity are unlikely alone to have a significant impact on the functioning of relevant businesses. Indirect local benefits will arise from the construction phase, including use of hotels, Bed & Breakfasts and other	Low beneficial effect (not significant).

Receptor Group	Sensitivity (Refer to Section 13.6)	Magnitude of Change- Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Potential	Assessment Rationale	Significance of Effect
			accommodation by the construction workforce. On this basis, the Proposed Development is considered likely to have a temporary Low beneficial magnitude of change on this receptor grouping, resulting in a **Low beneficial** temporary effect	
Recreational activities in the open countryside	Low	Negligible	**Primary Environmental Effects on Tourism Assets:** **Table 13.2.3** presented in **Appendix 13.1** provides a detailed list of tourism assets within this receptor grouping. The ZTV confirms that the proposals will be visible from the following assets: • River Tweed Valley including by those participating in activities including mountain biking, running, fishing, canoeing and cycling predominantly in the section of river to the east of Innerleithen. • Cairn Hill Cairn • Pirn Hill Fort • Western areas of Peebles Golf Course The LVIA at chapter 6 confirms that significant visual effects will only be experienced at Cairn Hill. **Secondary Effects on Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Experience.** Irrespective of likely temporary changes in visual amenity (see **Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual**), land out with construction working areas	Negligible / Low adverse effect (not significant)

Receptor Group	Sensitivity (Refer to Section 13.6)	Magnitude of Change- Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Potential	Assessment Rationale	Significance of Effect
			and associated compounds will continue to remain available for recreational use. As detailed within the Embedded Mitigation (see **Section 13.8**) TMP, CMS and CEMP will ensure continuity of access is maintained, whilst temporary and intermittent visual effects alone will not inhibit access or greatly alter the recreational or experiential value of recreational activities in the open countryside. Taking account of the temporary nature of construction and all aspects of recreational activities including the experiential value of the activity itself (i.e. not merely views from hill summits or other locations in good weather conditions), there is no quantifiable evidence available to indicate that this would be likely to impact on the undertaking of recreational activities (see literature evidence in **Appendix 13.2 – Policy Context**). On this basis the construction phase of the Proposed Development is not likely to have a discernible effect on this receptor grouping. The predicted **Negligible** magnitude of change results in the level of effect on this receptor grouping being assessed as **Negligible / Low adverse** effect.	

Receptor Group	Sensitivity (Refer to Section 13.6)	Magnitude of Change- Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Potential	Assessment Rationale	Significance of Effect
Tourists (travelling by road) through the open countryside.	Low	Negligible	**Primary Environmental Effects on Tourism Assets:** **Table 13.2.3** presented in **Appendix 13.1** provides a detailed list of tourism assets within this receptor grouping. The LVIA in chapter 6 notes that the following viewpoints on routes will experience significant adverse visual effects: • SUW/B709 road near Kirkhouse • Bonnington Road, Peebles. These effects are assessed from selected viewpoints and it is considered that whilst visibility of construction activities could momentarily affect the experience of tourists travelling in the open countryside, this would be insufficient to materially affect the experience of travelling along the route in question. **Secondary' Effects on Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Experience.** The visibility of construction activities could momentarily affect the experience of tourists travelling in the open countryside, however this would be insufficient to materially affect the overall tourism experience of the wider area and thus the attractiveness of the area as a tourist destination. Taking all the above into consideration, the construction phase of this connection is not likely to have a discernible	Negligible / Low adverse effect (not significant)

Receptor Group	Sensitivity (Refer to Section 13.6)	Magnitude of Change- Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Potential	Assessment Rationale	Significance of Effect
			effect on this receptor grouping. The predicted **Negligible** magnitude of change results in the level of effect on this receptor grouping being assessed as **Negligible / Low adverse** effect.	

Source: Stantec, 2022

Summary of Construction Phase Effects on Tourism and Recreation Sector

13.10.22 Table 13.9 below provides a summary of the assessed construction phase effects on the visitor attractiveness and tourism potential of each key component of the tourism and recreation sector (i.e. each receptor grouping). The assessment has been undertaken on a sectoral basis across the Tourism and Recreation Study Area (i.e. the identified 6 relevant components of the tourism sector), rather than focusing only on individual tourism assets.

Table 13.9: Construction Summary – Tourism and Visitor Sector

Receptor Group	Significance of Effect
Designated walking and recreational routes	Low / Moderate adverse effect (not significant)
Outdoor tourist destinations	Low adverse effect (not significant)
Hospitality	Low beneficial effect (not significant)
Visitor accommodation	Low beneficial effect (not significant)
Recreational activities in the open countryside	Negligible / Low adverse effect (not significant)
Tourists (travelling by road) through the open countryside.	Negligible / Low adverse effect (not significant)
Tourism and Recreation Sector	**Low / Moderate adverse effect (not significant)**

Source: Stantec, 2022

13.10.23 Table 13.9 above confirms that no relevant receptor grouping of the tourism and recreation sector is likely to experience construction phase effects which would be considered significant in the context of the EIA Regulations. As all receptor groupings make important contributions to the tourism and recreation sector as a whole. The sector is likely to experience a **temporary Low / Moderate adverse effect** from the construction of the Proposed Development. This would be considered not significant in the context of the EIA Regulations.

Operational Phase

Labour Market Effects

13.10.24 Once installed and fully commissioned, the wind turbines at the Proposed Development will operate automatically and can be controlled remotely or from the on-site metering building.

13.10.25 Wind farm performance will be remotely monitored using the existing permanent anemometer masts, together with a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system (SCADA) that would monitor the individual turbines and the grid connection.

13.10.26 The control of the battery storage system is also automated. It will receive signals through a communication link determining when to deliver power to the grid and when to recharge.. The system will undertake its own condition and alarm monitoring and take steps to either shutdown, limit operation or advise the control room of any issues.

13.10.27 The lifetime of the project is envisaged to be up to 35 years from completion of commissioning to commencement of decommissioning. To ensure that turbines continue to operate with acceptable reliability (i.e., with each turbine capable of operating on average, between 95% and 98% of the time), regular pre-planned maintenance and servicing programmes will be performed on each turbine. A typical maintenance programme is outlined in Chapter 4 – Project Description**.**

13.10.28 Maintenance and site visits will be undertaken by existing the Applicant technicians (to the infrastructure and turbines). Given the nature of the Proposed Development, it is therefore not anticipated that any new employment opportunities will be generated through its delivery and associated maintenance, with existing staff across the Applicant's regional clusters / supply chain to be used accordingly.

13.10.29 In accordance with the methodology detailed in **Section 13.4**, the operational employment associated with the Proposed Development within the TTWA Study Area will result in a **No Change** on the Labour Market receptor.

13.10.30 In accordance with the methodology detailed in **Section 13.4**, the operational employment associated with the Proposed Development within the SBC Study Area will result in a **No Change** on the Labour Market receptor.

Local Economic Development

13.10.31 The Scottish Borders Community Plan (2018) identifies the Proposed Development as being within the Tweedale Area Partnership. By working with the local community, there is significant potential for the Proposed Development to redirect benefits back into the local economy.

13.10.32 The Applicant has held discussions with relevant Stakeholders regarding community ownership. Though this is subject to further discussion, an option has been presented for the local community to buy up to 5% of the shares in the company directly owning the windfarm.

13.10.33 It is proposed that there will be a scheme for the delivery of multi-use trails within the Proposed Development Area. This proposal will be subject to a separate planning application which will be progressed post consent of the Proposed Development. Appendix 13.3 – Proposed Multi-Use Trails provides detail of this proposal including the range of socio-economic benefits it may bring.

13.10.34 In accordance with the methodology detailed in Section 13.4, the local economic development effect associated with the Proposed Development within the local area will result in a Low magnitude of change on the Labour Market receptor (a Low sensitivity receptor as per Table 13.5**),** resulting in a **Long-Term Low Beneficial effect**.

Key Business Sector

Onshore Wind Sector

13.10.35 The Proposed Development is a wind farm comprising of up to eight wind turbines with a blade tip of up to 180 m (based on a candidate turbine V150 6 MW, giving 48 MW) and 12 MW of battery storage units. Therefore, the

Proposed Development has a total generation capacity of 60 MW directly contributing towards the UK onshore wind sector.

13.10.36 The UK onshore wind sector already producing more electricity than any other renewable source as evidenced in Appendix 13.1 – Socioeconomic Detailed Baseline Conditions. The Proposed Development will further contribute to this whilst increasing renewable energy capacity within Scotland, in line with National, Regional and Local Policy targets and ambitions as detailed in Appendix 13.2 – Socioeconomic Policy Context**.**

13.10.37 In accordance with the methodology detailed in **Section 13.4**, the local economic development effects associated with the operation of Proposed Development within the local area will result in a medium magnitude of change on the Onshore Wind Sector receptor (a Low sensitivity receptor as per Table 13.5**),** resulting in a **Long-Term Moderate Beneficial effect**.

Tourism Recreation and Visitor Economy Sector

13.10.38 Table 13.10 provides a proportionate assessment of likely effects on each tourism and recreation sector receptor grouping during the operational phase of the Proposed Development. This assessment considers likely Secondary Effects on the sector as a whole, rather than assessing Primary Effects on individual tourism assets. The assessment makes reference to individual identified receptors and associated likely primary environmental effects where possible, but it applies equally to other receptors of the same grouping.

Table 13.10: Assessment of Operational Phase Effects on Tourism and Recreation Sector

Receptor Group	Sensitivity (Refer to Section 13.6)	Magnitude of Change - Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Potential	Assessment Rationale	Significance of Effect
Designated walking and recreational routes	Medium	Low	**Primary Environmental Effects on Tourism Assets:** **Table 13.2.3** presented in **Appendix 13.1** provides a detailed list of tourism assets within this receptor grouping. The theoretical extent of visibility of the turbines set out in the ZTV in Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual. Based on the ZTV, the following routes will be subject to primary visual effects (i.e. some aspects of the Proposed Development will theoretically be visible from these receptors): • National Cycle Routes (NCR): No. 1 Long Distance Routes: • Southern Upland Way • Cross Border Drove Road • Tweed Valley Railway Path SBC Core Paths: • No. 41 near Scroof Hill • No. 42- Stow-Blackhaugh • No. 161 Walkerburn-Priesthope • No. 163 Walkerburn - Minch moor • No. 181 Innerleithen-Walkerburn Scottish Hill Tracks: • No. 22: Peebles to Craig Douglas • No. 23: Traquair (Innerleithen) to Tibbie Shiels Inn (St Marys Loch) • No. 24: Traquair (Innerleithen) to Ettrick by Yarrow • No. 25:Traquiair to Yarrowford or Selkirk by Minch Moor • No.26: Galashiels to Yarrowford (Broadmeadows) by Yair • No.43 : Peebles to Innerleithen (by Leithen Water) • No. 44: Peebles to Innerleithen (by 'The Tops') Whilst the Proposed Development would theoretically be visible from the above receptors, Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual Amenity only identifies significant visual effects in relation to the following: • Southern Upland Way: Due to face-on views for a section between Traquair and Blake Muir, as well as	Low / Moderate adverse effect (not significant)

Receptor Group	Sensitivity (Refer to Section 13.6)	Magnitude of Change - Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Potential	Assessment Rationale	Significance of Effect
			between Traquair and Three Brethren including Minch Moor; • Cross Borders Drove Road: obtains same level of effects where the route follows the SUW; and • Core Paths No 161 & 163: would receive close face-on views of the Proposed Development within 5 km. **Secondary Effects on Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Experience.** **Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual**, has identified the Southern Upland Way, Cross Border Drove Road and the Core Paths as having an overall high visual sensitivity. It is acknowledged that the majority of significant visual effects are identified as typically occurring within approximately 12 km from the nearest proposed turbine. This includes a number of nearby route receptors and surrounding hill tops to the south east and south west. The ZTV however shows that theoretical visibility would be limited to mainly occurring on elevated ground, with screening by topography. Intermittent visual effects alone will not inhibit access or greatly alter the recreational or experiential value of these routes. The length of the Southern Upland Way for example, and the visibility of wind farm developments along it suggests that additional	

Receptor Group	Sensitivity (Refer to Section 13.6)	Magnitude of Change - Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Potential	Assessment Rationale	Significance of Effect
			visibility of infrastructure associated with the Proposed Development is unlikely to greatly reduce its attractiveness to visitors. In summary, it is likely that the recreational purpose of designated routes will be unaffected and there is no conclusive evidence to suggest changes in visual amenity would materially alter the experiential value of using affected recreational routes (as highlighted through the literature presented in the **Appendix 13.2 – Socioeconomic Policy Context**. On this basis, it is considered that the presence of the Proposed Development is likely to have a Low magnitude of change on this receptor grouping, resulting in a **Low / Moderate adverse effect (not significant).**	
Outdoor tourist destinations	Low	Low	**Primary Environmental Effects on Tourism Assets:** **Table 13.2.3** presented in **Appendix 13.1** provides a detailed list of tourism assets within this receptor grouping. • No likely significant adverse effects predicted. **Secondary Effects on Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Experience.** **Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual** details that the operation of the Proposed Development will result in direct effects on the landscape fabric	Low adverse effect (not significant)

Receptor Group	Sensitivity (Refer to Section 13.6)	Magnitude of Change - Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Potential	Assessment Rationale	Significance of Effect
			of the Proposed Development with a number of the LCT's affected within 8 km from the Proposed Development. Beyond this, effects would reduce as a result of distance, and screening from landform, woodland and forestry. Irrespective of potential changes in visual amenity at outdoor tourist destinations across the assessed Study Area, these destinations will continue to provide the same tourism offering based around localised special features or characteristics. As detailed in the wind farm and tourism impacts evidence base presented in **Appendix 13.2 – Socioeconomic Policy Context**, intermittent visual effects are not likely to detract from the purpose of visits to specific outdoor tourist destinations, thereby not altering their recreational or experiential value. On this basis, the operational phase is considered likely to have at a **Low** magnitude of change on this receptor grouping where outdoor tourist destinations experience primary environmental effects, resulting in a **Low adverse** effect.	
Hospitality	Low	No Change	**Primary Environmental Effects on Tourism Assets:** **Table 13.2.3** presented in **Appendix 13.1** provides a detailed list of tourism assets within this receptor grouping.	No Change (not significant)

Receptor Group	Sensitivity (Refer to Section 13.6)	Magnitude of Change - Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Potential	Assessment Rationale	Significance of Effect
			• No likely significant adverse effects predicted. **Secondary Effects on Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Experience.** As the main draw to hospitality establishments is their food, drink and entertainment offering, which would be unaffected by the Proposed Development (rather than visual amenity per se or localised changes to the landscape character), it is considered that the Proposed Development is not likely to have a discernible effect on this receptor grouping. On this basis, the operational phase of the Proposed Development is not likely to generate a discernible magnitude of change on this receptor grouping, resulting in no perceptible adverse effect ('**No Change**).	
Visitor accommodation	Low	Low	**Primary Environmental Effects on Tourism Assets:** • No likely significant adverse effects predicted. **Secondary Effects on Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Experience.** **Table 13.2.3** presented in **Appendix 13.1** provides a detailed list of tourism assets within this receptor grouping. Whilst **Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual** denotes a number of Primary environmental	Low adverse effect (not significant)

Receptor Group	Sensitivity (Refer to Section 13.6)	Magnitude of Change - Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Potential	Assessment Rationale	Significance of Effect
			changes, evidence discussed in **Appendix 13.2 – Socioeconomic Policy Context** indicates that visibility of infrastructure alone would be unlikely to diminish the experience of tourists staying in the area. On this basis, it is considered that the presence of the Proposed Development will have a Low magnitude of change on this receptor grouping, where primary effects are experienced. Taking account of receptor sensitivity, this results in a **Low adverse** effect.	
Recreational activities in the open countryside	Low	Low	**Primary Environmental Effects on Tourism Assets:** This receptor grouping encompasses a broad range of recreational activities which may be undertaken in the countryside including hillwalking and golf. **Table 13.2.3** presented in **Appendix 13.1** provides a detailed list of tourism assets within this receptor grouping. The ZTV confirms that the proposals will be visible from the following assets: • River Tweed Valley including by those participating in activities including mountain biking, running, fishing, canoeing and cycling predominantly in the section of river to the east of Innerleithen. • Cairn Hill Cairn • Pirn Hill Fort • Western areas of Peebles Golf Course The LVIA at chapter 6 confirms that significant visual effects will only be experienced at Cairn Hill. **Secondary Effects on Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Experience**. **Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual** details that the operation of the Proposed Development will result in direct effects on the landscape fabric of the Proposed Development Area. This will include ground vegetation and soil removal and the introduction of new elements (including the Proposed Developments infrastructure) into the rough pasture/ moorland context. As detailed in the wind farm and tourism impacts evidence base presented in **Appendix 13.2 – Socioeconomic Policy Context**, visual effects are not likely to detract from the purpose of specific recreational activities in the open countryside, thereby not altering their recreational or experiential value. **Chapter 7 – Ecology**, notes that an Outline Habitat Management Plan (OHMP) has been prepared as detailed in Paragraphs 7.7.64 to 7.7.68 of the corresponding Chapter. The main aim of this OHMP	Low beneficial effect (not significant)

Receptor Group	Sensitivity (Refer to Section 13.6)	Magnitude of Change - Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Potential	Assessment Rationale	Significance of Effect
			will be to improve and restore areas of wet/dry modified bog and enhance riparian habitat within the Proposed Development Area. With the restoration of bog habitats as part of the HMP for the Proposed Development, there will be an overall positive regional impact on blanket bog. Additional bog will be restored above the extent of bog habitat loss. This could contribute towards an enhance experience of recreational activities in the open countryside, in particular where they extend across the Site. The Applicant is also committed to consulting with the local community on the inclusion of multi-use trails to the west of the windfarm, to be pursued through a separate planning application and thus out with the scope of this assessment. **Appendix 13.3 – Proposed Multi Use Trails** provides narrative regarding this proposal. On this basis, the Proposed Development is considered likely to have a Low beneficial magnitude of change on this receptor grouping, resulting in a **Low beneficial** effect.	
Tourists (travelling by road) through the open countryside.	Low	Negligible	**Primary Environmental Effects on Tourism Assets:** **Table 13.2.3** presented in **Appendix 13.1** provides a detailed list of tourism assets within this receptor grouping. The LVIA in chapter 6 notes that the following viewpoints on routes will experience significant adverse visual effects: • SUW/B709 road near Kirkhouse • Bonnington Road, Peebles. These effects are assessed from selected viewpoints and it is considered that whilst visibility of turbines could momentarily affect the experience of tourists travelling in the open countryside, this would be insufficient to materially affect the experience of travelling along the route in question. **Secondary Effects on Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Experience.** An assessment of impacts on the experience of tourists travelling through the open countryside must firstly account for the fact that the primary focus of drivers would be on the road rather than surrounding landscapes. Furthermore, the evidence presented in **Appendix 13.2 – Socioeconomic Policy Context** and the consenting of nearby wind farms also indicates that visibility of infrastructure alone would be unlikely to diminish the experience of tourists travelling through scenic landscapes for the purpose of reaching specific destinations.	Negligible / Low adverse effect (not significant)

Receptor Group	Sensitivity (Refer to Section 13.6)	Magnitude of Change - Visitor Attractiveness and Tourism Potential	Assessment Rationale	Significance of Effect
			Taking the above factors into account, whilst visibility of the Proposed Development will could momentarily affect the experience of tourists travelling (by road) in the open countryside, any such perception would be insufficient to materially affect the overall tourism experience and thus the attractiveness of the Tourism and Recreation Study Area as a tourist destination, including for repeat visits. On this basis the operational phase of this development is not likely to have a discernible effect on this receptor grouping. The predicted **Negligible** magnitude of change results in the level of effect on this receptor grouping being assessed as **Negligible / Low adverse** effect.	

Source: Stantec, 2022

Summary of Operational Phase Effect on Tourism and Recreation Sector

13.10.39 Table 13.11 below provides a summary of the assessed operational phase effects on the visitor attractiveness and tourism potential of each key component of the tourism and recreation sector (i.e. each receptor grouping). The assessment has been undertaken on a sectoral basis across the Tourism and Recreation Study Area (i.e. the identified 6 relevant components of the tourism sector), rather than focusing only on individual tourism assets.

Table 13.11: Operation Summary – Tourism and Visitor Sector

Receptor Group	Significance of Effect
Designated walking and recreational routes	Low / Moderate adverse effect (not significant)
Outdoor tourist destinations	Low adverse effect (not significant)
Hospitality	No Change (not significant)
Visitor accommodation	Low adverse effect (not significant)
Recreational activities in the open countryside	Low beneficial effect (not significant)
Tourists (travelling by road) through the open countryside	Negligible / Low adverse effect (not significant)
Tourism and Recreation Sector	**Low / Moderate adverse effect (not significant)**

Source: Stantec, 2022

13.10.40 Table 13.11 above confirms that no relevant receptor grouping of the tourism and recreation sector is likely to experience operational phase effects which would be considered significant in the context of the EIA Regulations. As all receptor groupings make important contributions to the tourism and recreation sector as a whole. The sector is likely to experience a **Long-Term Low / Moderate adverse effect** from the construction of the Proposed Development as a whole. This would be considered not significant in the context of the EIA Regulations.

Decommissioning Phase

13.10.41 At the end of the Proposed Development's operational lifetime (assumed to be 35 years), it is proposed that the turbines and transformers will be removed. Decommissioning is anticipated to take place across a one-year programme.

13.10.42 The upper sections of the turbine foundations, to a depth of at least 1 m, will be removed and backfilled with appropriate material. Peat or topsoil will be replaced, and the area reseeded.

13.10.43 Tracks will be left and allowed to grass over or would be covered with soil and reseeded. Cabling will be left in-situ, unless ducted.

13.10.44 At least six months prior to the decommissioning of the Proposed Development, a Decommissioning Method Statement (DMS) will be prepared, for agreement with the local authorities and relevant consultees.

13.10.45 Traffic generated during the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development is likely to be significantly lower than during the construction phase and at a level which will not generate significant effects on the local road network.

13.10.46 In accordance with the methodology detailed in Section 13.4, the decommissioning of the Proposed Development will result in a Low magnitude of change on the Onshore Wind Sector receptor (a medium sensitivity receptor as per Table 13.6**),** resulting in a **Short-Term Low / Moderate Beneficial effect**.

Further Mitigation and Enhancement

13.10.47 Given the nature, scale, and location of the Proposed Development, some degree of adverse visual amenity impacts is inevitable during the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development, including on adjacent recreational receptors. However, the sympathetic integration of the site into the wider landscape has been a key design objective together with retention of the site's semi-natural character and key features. No further mitigation measures are proposed to reduce the level of visual effects identified for the Proposed Development, resulting in no change to the associated effects on recreational receptors assessed.

Residual Effects

13.10.48 The likely residual effects from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development are identified in Tables 13.12 - 13.14 below.

Table13.12: Summary of Residual Effects (Construction)

Potential Effect	Duration	Receptor Sensitivity	Residual Magnitude of Change	Assessment of Residual Effect	Residual EIA Significance
Labour Market					
Net Construction Employment - TTWA	Temporary	Low	High	Short Term Moderate Beneficial	Short Term Moderate Beneficial
Net Construction Employment- SBC	Temporary	Low	High	Short Term Moderate Beneficial	Short Term Moderate Beneficial
Net Construction GVA- TTWA	Temporary	Low	High	Short Term Moderate Beneficial	Short Term Moderate Beneficial
Net Construction GVA- SBC	Temporary	Low	High	Short Term Moderate Beneficial	Short Term Moderate Beneficial
Local Economic Impact- TTWA	Temporary	Low	Low	Short Term Low Beneficial	Short Term Low Beneficial
Local Economic Impact- SBC	Temporary	Low	Low	Short Term Low Beneficial	Short Term Low Beneficial
Tourism and Visitor Economy					
Designated walking and recreational routes	Temporary	Medium	Low	Low / Moderate adverse effect (not significant).	Low / Moderate adverse effect (not significant).
Outdoor tourist destinations	Temporary	Low	Low	Low adverse effect (not significant).	Low adverse effect (not significant).
Hospitality	Temporary	Low	Low	Low beneficial effect (not significant).	Low beneficial effect (not significant).
Visitor Accommodation	Temporary	Low	Low	Low beneficial effect (not significant).	Low beneficial effect (not significant).
Recreational Activities in the open countryside	Temporary	Low	Negligible	Negligible / Low adverse effect (not significant)	Negligible / Low adverse effect (not significant)
Tourists travelling (by road) through the open countryside	Temporary	Low	Negligible	Negligible / Low adverse effect (not significant)	Negligible / Low adverse effect (not significant)

Table 13.13: Summary of Residual Effects (Operation)

Potential Effect	Duration	Receptor Sensitivity	Residual Magnitude of Change	Assessment of Residual Effect	Residual EIA Significance
Labour Market					
Key Business Sector- Onshore Wind Sector	Operational Lifetime	Low	Medium	Long Term Moderate Beneficial	Long Term Moderate Beneficial
Local Economic Impact- TTWA	Operational Lifetime	Low	Low	Long Term Low Beneficial Effect	Long Term Low Beneficial Effect
Local Economic Impact- SBC	Operational Lifetime	Low	Low	Long Term Low Beneficial Effect	Long Term Low Beneficial Effect
Operational Employment - TTWA	Operational Lifetime	Low		No Change	No Change
Operational Employment - SBC	Operational Lifetime	Low		No Change	No Change
Tourism and Visitor Economy					
Designated walking and recreational routes	Operational Lifetime	Medium	Low	Low / Moderate adverse effect (not significant)	Low / Moderate adverse effect (not significant)
Outdoor tourist destinations	Operational Lifetime	Low	Low	Low adverse effect (not significant)	Low adverse effect (not significant)
Hospitality	Operational Lifetime	Low	No Change	No Change (not significant)	No Change (not significant)
Visitor Accommodation	Operational Lifetime	Low	Low	Low adverse effect (not significant)	Low adverse effect (not significant)
Recreational Activities in the open countryside	Operational Lifetime	Low	Low	Low beneficial effect (not significant)	Low beneficial effect (not significant)
Tourists travelling (by road) through the open countryside	Operational Lifetime	Low	Negligible	Negligible / Low adverse effect (not significant)	Negligible / Low adverse effect (not significant)

Source: Stantec, 2022

Table 13.14: Summary of Residual Effects (Decommissioning)

Potential Effect	Duration	Receptor Sensitivity	Residual Magnitude of Change	Assessment of Residual Effect	Residual EIA Significance
			Labour Market		
Key Business Sector- Onshore Wind Sector	Temporary	Medium	Low	Short-Term Low / Moderate Beneficial effect.	Short-Term Low / Moderate Beneficial effect.

Source: Stantec, 2022

13.11 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

13.11.1 This section assesses the likely significant cumulative effects in relation to Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation only. This assessment draws on the Cumulative Sites presented in Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual of this EIAR, with the cumulative developments comprising of other wind farm developments only. The assessment of cumulative developments within the LVIA has been taken across a three stage approach as follows, with specific corresponding sites presented in Table 6.20 **of** Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual**:**

- **Scenario 1:** the introduction of Proposed Development to a landscape with other operational wind farm developments and those under construction[41];
- **Scenario 2:** considers the addition of the Proposed Development in the context of operational wind farms, those under construction and additionally those developments currently consented[42](this represents the likely future scenario); and
- **Scenario 3:** considers the addition of the Proposed Development in the context of operational, under construction, consented, undetermined planning applications and wind farm developments currently at appeal[43] (i.e. a less certain future scenario).

13.11.2 Development phasing and associated employment projections (construction and operational) were not available for all of the relevant committed developments. It has therefore not been possible to conduct a quantitative cumulative assessment of the likely significant cumulative effects in relation to Socioeconomics. Instead, qualitative commentary has been provided in relation to the anticipated cumulative labour market effect across construction and operational phases.

Labour Market Effects

13.11.3 Construction of the Proposed Development is estimated to support a total 638 gross temporary construction jobs over the 15 month construction programme across the Study Area[44].

13.11.4 Based on the additionality assumptions (refer to Table 13.4), the 638 gross temporary construction jobs created by the Proposed Development are expected to support approximately 271 net temporary construction jobs within the TTWA Study Area and 324 net temporary construction jobs within the SBC Study Area, over the 15-month construction period

13.11.5 The construction of the cumulative developments in combination with the Proposed Development has the potential to give rise to cumulative labour market effects. However, potential deadweight effects and the displacement of construction activity has already been accounted for in the assessment of both construction phase employment (refer to Table 13.7**)** and sectoral key business effects provided in Section 13.9.

13.11.6 It is however acknowledged that the employment generated within the construction period of the Proposed Development in combination with the committed developments could encourage greater levels of investment in the construction sector, in response to leakage which would otherwise occur. This could therefore stimulate growth in the construction sector across the TTWA Study Area and SBC Study Area.

13.11.7 Taking account of temporary net construction employment associated with the Proposed Development in combination with the Cumulative Developments is likely to result in a **Long-Term Moderate Beneficial cumulative effect** on the labour market across both the assessed SBC Study Area and the TTWA Study Area.

[41] Scenario 1: Aikengall I, Aikengall II, Aikengall IIa, Black Hill, Bowbea, Carcant, Clyde, Clyde II, Crystal Rig I, Crystal Rig II, Crystal Rig III, Dun Law I, Dun Law II, Fallago Rig, Ferneylea, Glenkerie, Harburnhead, Heathland, Hoprigshiels, Keith Hill, Langhope Rig, Longpark, Muirhall, Muirhall Extension, Muirhall South, Pates Hill, Pogbie I, Pogbie II, Toddleburn

Tormywheel

[42] Scenario 2: Camilty, Crystal Rig IV, Cloich, Glenkerie II, Longhill Burn, Perrie Law, Pines Burn, Priestgill, Whitelaw Brae, Windy Edge

[43] Scenario 3: Cloich Variation, Dichter Law, Faw Side, Grayside, Greystone Knowe, Heathland Variation

[44] In absence of the turnover per worker for the TTWA being available, the Scottish Boarders figure has been used as a proxy, resulting in the same gross jobs across the TTWA Study Area and SBC Study Area.

Sectoral Effects: Construction

13.11.8 The creation of 271 net temporary construction jobs within the TTWA Labour Market Study Area is anticipated to generate some £17.00million Net GVA over the 15-month construction period. The creation of 324 net temporary construction jobs within the SBC Labour Market Study Area is anticipated to generate some £20.38million Net GVA over the 15-month construction period.

13.11.9 GVA generated through the construction phase of the Proposed Development in combination with the Cumulative Developments will act as a stimulus to the wider construction sector and induce multiplier effects.

13.11.10 Taking account of temporary net construction employment GVA associated with the Proposed Development in combination with the Cumulative Developments is likely to result in a **Long-Term Moderate Beneficial cumulative effect** on the labour market across both the assessed SBC Study Area and the TTWA Study Area.

Sectoral Effects: Onshore-Wind

13.11.11 The Proposed Development is a wind farm comprising of up to 8 wind turbines with a blade tip of up to 180 m (based on an indicative turbine generating approximately6 MW, generating approximately 48 MW in total) and 12 MW of battery storage units. Therefore, the Proposed Development has a total generation capacity of approximately 60 MW directly contributing towards the UK Onshore Wind and Renewable Energy sector.

13.11.12 The delivery of the Proposed Development in combination with the cumulative sites presented in Table 6.20 of Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual (comprising of other wind farm developments) will further contribute towards the UK Onshore Wind sector and continue to emphasise it's strategic importance. The delivery of new wind farms and sources of renewable energy will further contribute towards policy targets at a local, regional and national scale.

13.11.13 In accordance with the methodology detailed in **Section 13.4**, the local economic development effects associated with the operation of Proposed Development within the local area will result in a Medium magnitude of change on the Onshore Wind Sector receptor (a Low sensitivity receptor as per Table 13.5), resulting in a **Long-Term Moderate Beneficial cumulative effect** within the assessed SBC Study Area and the TTWA Study Area. This is considered significant in the context of the EIA Regulations

13.6.5 The sectoral assessment of the across the Tourism and Recreation Study Area for the Proposed Development concluded that there is likely to be temporary Low / Moderate adverse effect from the construction of the Proposed Development and Long-Term Low / Moderate adverse effect from the operation of the Proposed Development.

13.6.6 Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual identifies that Cumulative Scenario 2 sites would be located further away from the assessed nd the addition of the proposed development would not lead to a change to Scenario 1 effects predicted.

13.6.7 Scenario 3 wind farms includes Greystone Knowe located 5.6 km to the north east of the Proposed Development. This would be separated from the Proposed Development by the land mass of the Moorfoot Hills providing some visual separation. Nevertheless both developments would be visible from the south with the Proposed Development turbines being more prominent due to their higher elevation**.** Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual concludes that only the Dissected Plateau Moorland LCT would receive an increase in effects as a result of the Proposed Development and Greystone Knowe being located within the same LCT. This gives potential to catalyse cumulative Secondary tourism and recreation effects on the visitor attractiveness and tourism potential of the receptor groupings[45], located within the Dissected Plateau Moorland LCT. Namely, this consists of some individual receptors within the Designated Walking and Other Recreational Routes[46], Outdoor Tourist Destinations[47], Visitor Accommodation[48], Recreational Activities in the Open Countryside grouping[49] and Tourists Driving (by road) Through the Open Countryside[50].

13.6.8 There is no quantifiable evidence available to indicate that the cumulative visual impacts identified in Scenario 3 will materially alter the experiential value of each key component of the tourism and recreation sector (i.e. each receptor grouping) considered in this Chapter. On this basis, there would be no new or different likely cumulative effects on the tourism and recreation sector from the Proposed Development in combination with the cumulative sites.

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[45] Designated walking and other recreational routes; Outdoor tourist destinations; Indoor tourist destinations; Hospitality; Visitor Accommodation; Recreational activities in the open countryside; and, Tourists travelling (by road) through the open countryside.

[46] Located within this LCT: Core Path 41, Scottish Hill tracks No.43 : Peebles to Innerleithen (by Leithen Water) & No. 44: Peebles to Innerleithen (by 'The Tops'). Located within immediate proximity Core Path 161.

[47] Located within this LCT: Glentress Forest, including 7stanes Glentress and GoApe Glentress.

[48] Located within this LCT: Leithen Lodge.

[49] Located in this LCT: Innerleithen Golf Club. Located within immediate proximity of LCT: Cairn Hill Cair

[50] Located within this LCT: B709

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