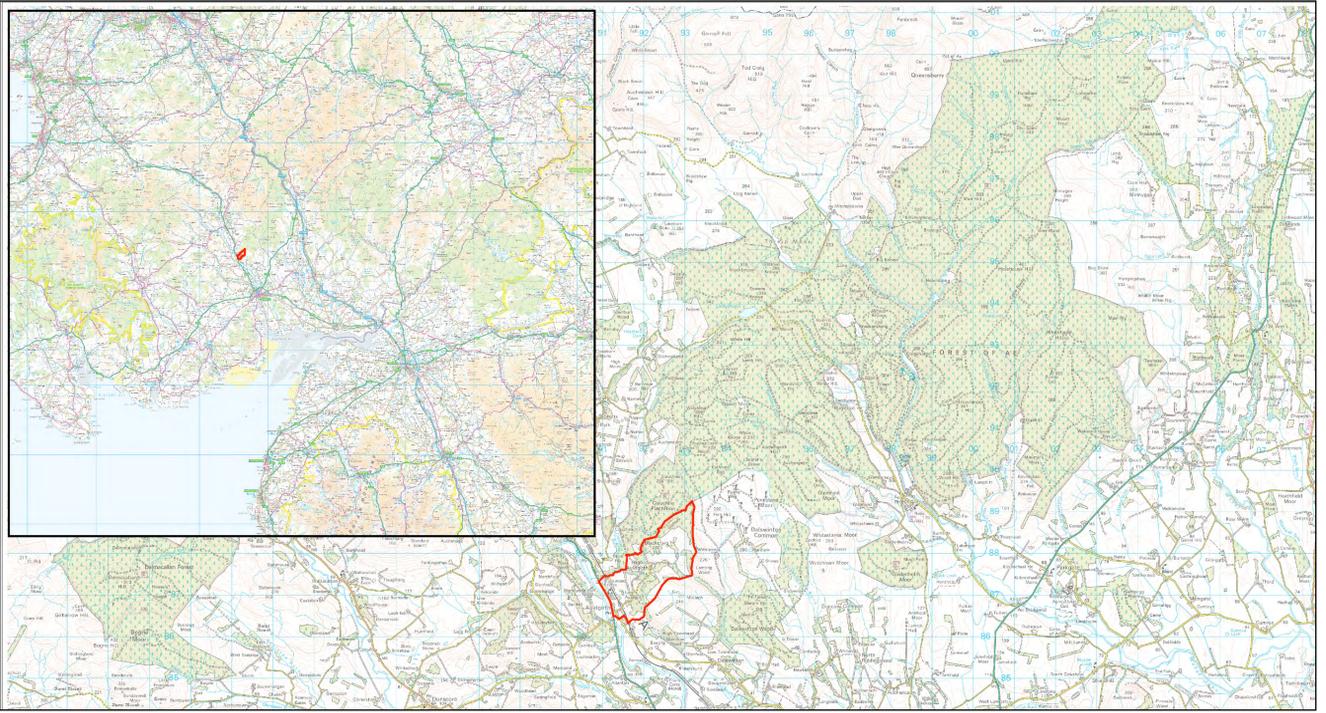


BLACKWOOD WIND FARM

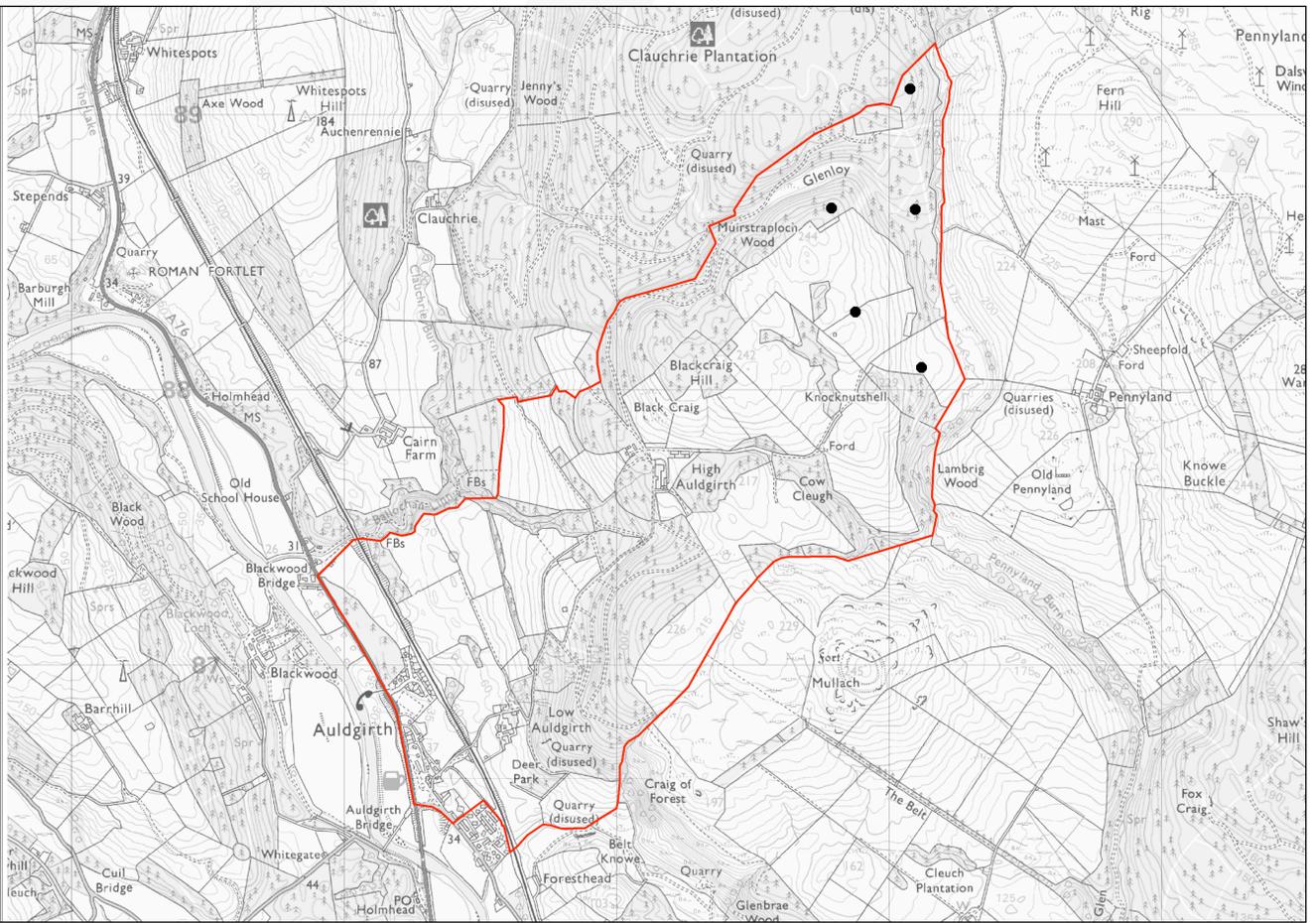
WELCOME TO OUR EXHIBITION

Force 9 Energy is seeking to develop a 5 turbine wind farm 1.5km to the east of Auldgirth, approximately 15km north of Dumfries. It is bounded to the north by Clauchrie Plantation, to the east by Fern Hill and to the south by Mullach Hill.

The proposed turbines would have a maximum height of between 120m to 140m and an installed capacity of up to 12.5MW (based on 5 x 2.5MW turbines). It is estimated that the wind farm could generate enough power to meet the annual domestic energy requirements of 5590 homes.¹



Site location



Site layout

¹ Please note that this figure is based on 5 turbines with a rated capacity of 2MW operating at 30% capacity and assuming 4,700 is the average UK household electricity consumption in kW hours.



WHY DEVELOP A WINDFARM?



The Scottish Government has set ambitious targets for Scotland to achieve in the creation of energy generation from renewable sources. By 2020 the Government want 100% of Scotland's electricity consumption to come from renewable sources such as wind energy. The aim is to reduce Scotland's reliance on less sustainable forms of energy generation and contribute towards energy security by utilising resources found readily in this country.



The UK has the potential to become a world leader in renewable technology due to the vast availability of resources such as wind, tidal and wave. The UK is the windiest country in Europe and with the right investment wind energy could provide the UK with the majority of its renewable energy consumption.²

Benefits of wind energy

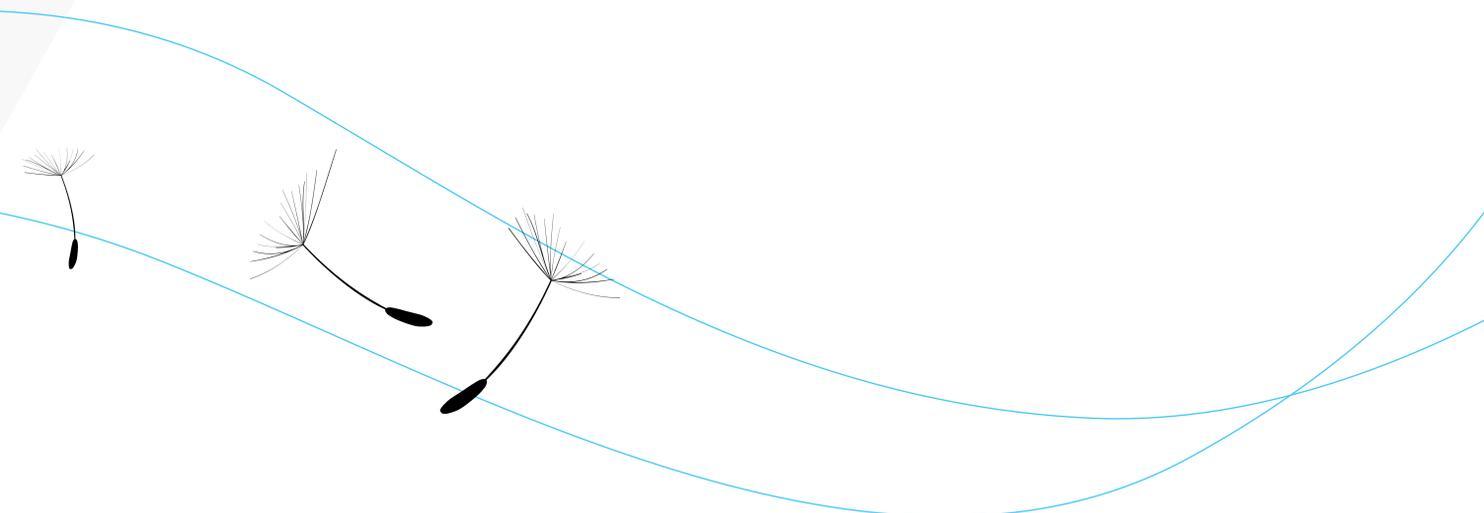
- Wind power is completely renewable. Using renewable energy makes our current lifestyle more sustainable and helps to preserve a high standard of living for generations to come.
- Wind power produces no harmful waste such as carbon dioxide and offsets the emissions of generating electricity from other energy sources. This means that sourcing our energy from wind power instead will assist with the global need to tackle CO² emissions to prevent climate change.
- Wind energy is considered to be a reliable, cost-effective, pollution free and secure source of energy.
- Wind energy is compatible with other land uses and can serve as a boost for rural economic development.
- Wind energy costs are low and stable for consumers especially at a time when oil and gas prices are at an all time high.

In response to contributing to the Scottish Government's targets and increasing the energy mix utilised in Scotland and the UK as a whole, Force 9 Energy is seeking to develop a 5 turbine wind farm on Blackwood Estate. The Blackwood site benefits from a high wind resource, which if suitably harnessed and developed would create enough electricity to meet the annual domestic energy needs of approximately 5590 homes³.... this would keep the lights on for the whole of Mid Galloway⁴.

² <http://www.bwea.com/onshore/index.html>

³ Please note that this figure is based on 5 turbines with a rated capacity of 2MW operating at 30% capacity and assuming 4,700 is the average UK household electricity consumption in kW hours.

⁴ Dumfries and Galloway Council, "Housing Need and Demand: Final Report", November 2009, <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=6690&p=0>, p.39





Viewpoint 6: Auldgirth Bridge

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How efficient are wind turbines?

A modern wind turbine generates different outputs of energy depending on how windy it is. Wind farms generate electricity around 80-85%⁵ of the time, and power is converted to electricity very efficiently, with none of the thermal waste inherent in fossil fuel plants. Wind power is an efficient way to generate electricity, employing a free energy source that is also renewable.

Why can't all wind turbines be offshore?

Onshore wind turbines are currently more economical than offshore wind turbines. Offshore wind farms also take considerably longer to develop and require a significant maintenance regime once operational. Given these factors, it would be impractical at the present time to place all wind farms offshore. As the technology develops, offshore wind farms are likely to become more competitive, but on-shore wind will always be cheaper, quicker to deploy and easier to maintain.

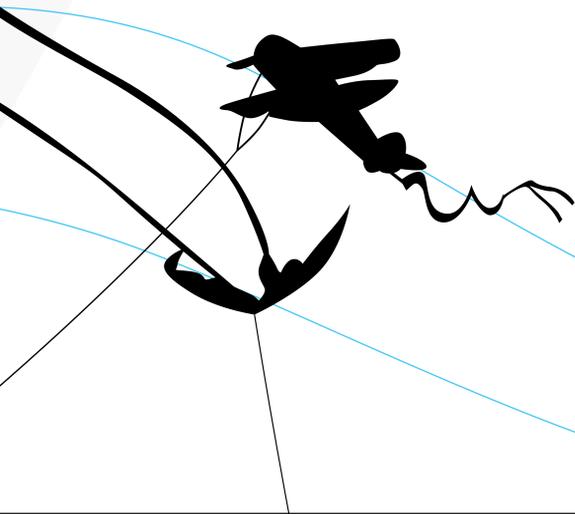
Will a nearby wind farm affect the value of my property?

The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) cites several studies in its recent publication 'Common concerns about wind power', (published May 2011) regarding the relationship between the proximity of wind turbines and the value of property. In this publication they state that in the most comprehensive study done to date on the issue, the main findings were summarised as follows:

"Specifically, neither the view of the wind facilities nor the distance of the home to these facilities is found to have any consistent, measurable and statistically significant effect on home sales prices."⁶

⁵ Centre for Sustainable Energy, "Common Concerns About Wind Power," May 2011 www.cse.org.uk, p5

⁶ Centre for Sustainable Energy, "Common Concerns About Wind Power," May 2011 www.cse.org.uk, p.18





Photomontage View from Shawsholm Road, Closeburn

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Socio-Economics

The economic benefits of Blackwood wind farm will be measured alongside the potential impact of the wind farm on tourism and recreational activities in the area. The wind farm will bring with it employment opportunities during its construction along with the associated infrastructure such as the access tracks, control building and meteorological mast. It is Force 9 Energy's policy, through EDF Energy Renewables, to encourage local businesses to tender for construction contracts associated with their development wherever possible.

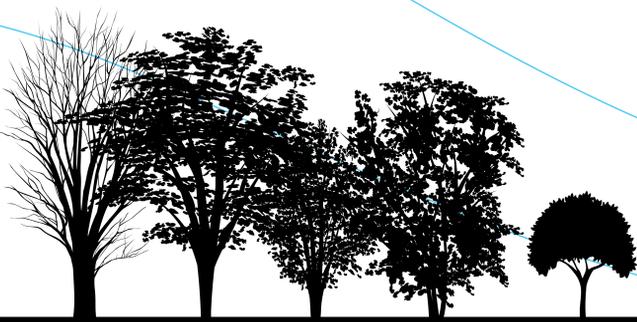
Community Benefit

Force 9 Energy is committed to the principal that local communities should share in the benefits of local renewable energy development. As such, Force 9 Energy proposes to fund a community benefit package for every installed megawatt (MW) of energy that Blackwood wind farm generates.

Dumfries and Galloway Council's newly adopted policy on community benefit maintains that 50% of community benefit funds go directly to wind farm host communities and 50% go towards a regional wide socio-economic fund. The purpose of the fund is to invest in social, economic and environmental projects that aim to support a sustainable low carbon economy and which seek to deliver in one or more of the following areas:

- Business and skills development
- Environment and community
- Cultural and tourism
- Affordable housing
- Community transport
- Improved broadband connectivity

If you would like more information on the socio-economic fund application process please contact Dumfries and Galloway Council.





Viewpoint 7: View from Ellisland Farm

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

As part of the development of Blackwood Wind Farm an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is being undertaken. The EIA will identify the existing conditions for a large range of technical subjects that need to be considered to allow the potential impact of the wind farm on the surrounding environment to be assessed. Where potentially significant effects are considered likely, measures to reduce these will be incorporated into the final design of the wind farm.

A scoping report has been submitted regarding the proposed wind farm at Blackwood. The content of this scoping report is based on a documentary review and preliminary field assessment carried out in March 2011.

Landscape and Visual

A comprehensive assessment is being undertaken to examine how the wind farm could affect the character and appearance of the surrounding landscape, views from residential properties, recreational areas, as well as public rights of way and transport routes.

Noise

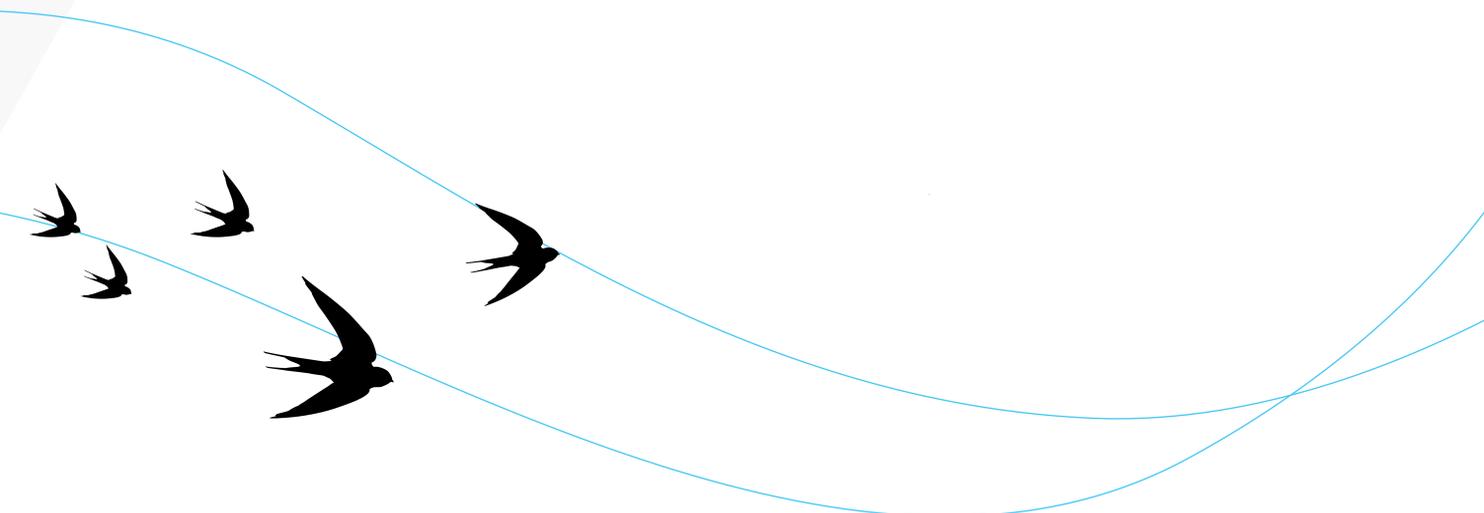
Strict guidelines exist on wind turbines and noise emissions. As part of the EIA, Force 9 Energy has located noise sensitive receptors at several locations surrounding the proposed Blackwood wind farm to record noise levels. The potential impacts on sensitive receptors are construction traffic noise (primarily along the local road network) and construction plant noise from the site as well as operational noise from turbines and substations. The scheme has also been designed to account for potential noise impacts around the site.

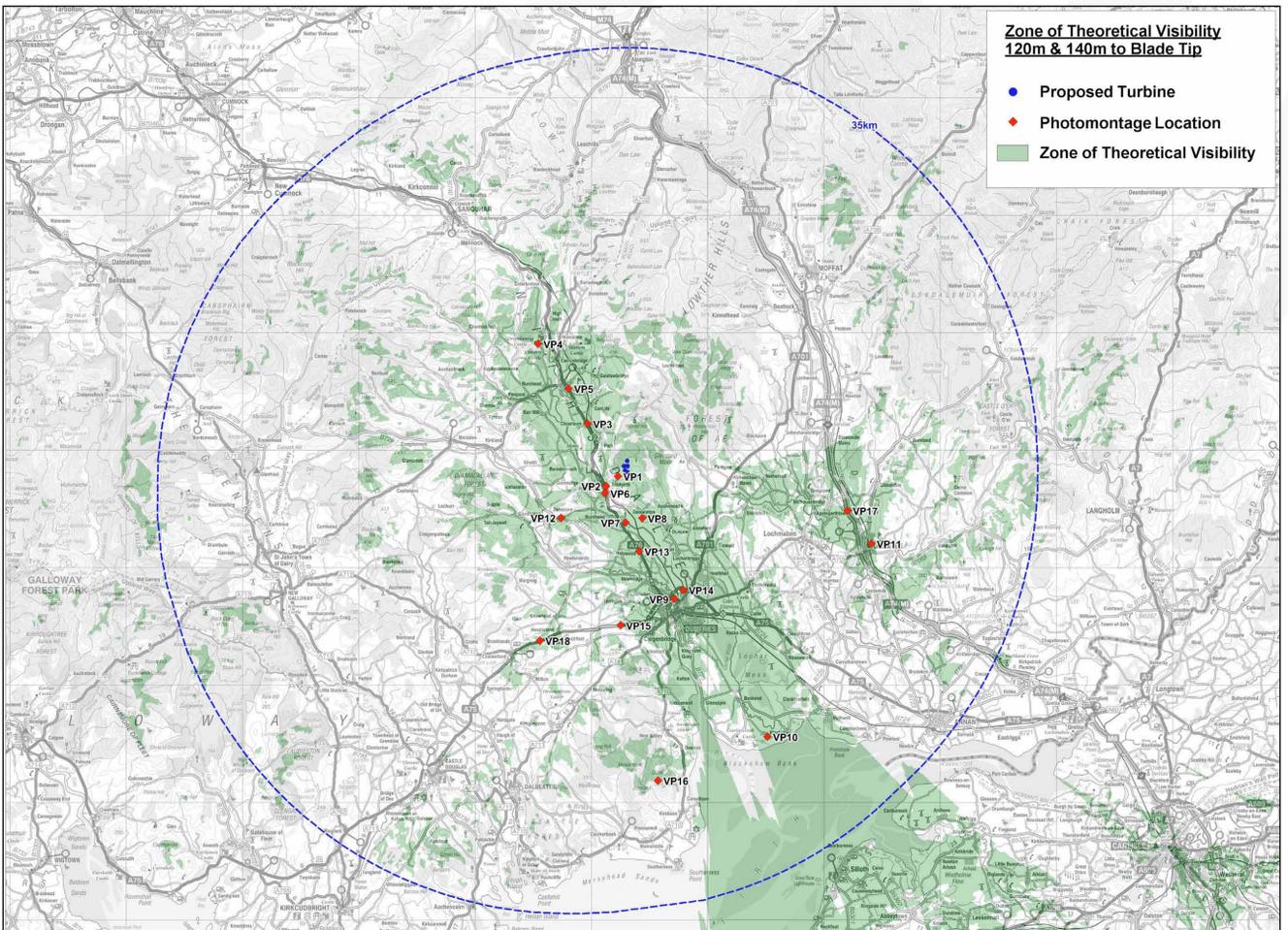
Ecology and Ornithology

The ecological and ornithological assessment will include a review of any relevant existing ecological information for the development area and immediate surroundings combined with detailed site surveys. Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has produced guidance on the siting of new wind farm developments.

Shadow Flicker

Shadow flicker can occur where sunlight shines from behind a turbine and the rotating blade creates a flicker affect. It is only likely to be a significant issue within 130 degrees either side of north and within 10 rotor diameters of the windfarm. Any shadow flicker effects on any properties which fall within these criteria will be considered in detail and suitable mitigation incorporated into the operation of the windfarm.





About Force 9 Energy

Force 9 Energy is a small, privately owned wind farm development company that is dedicated to delivering high quality renewable energy schemes throughout the UK. The company was established in 2002 and has offices in Glasgow and in Amersham, Buckinghamshire. To date Force 9 Energy has successfully taken 4 wind farm developments through the planning process with a 5th application recommended for approval. Our completed and consented projects amount to a total potential installed capacity of almost 200MW.

On the proposed Blackwood wind farm, Force 9 Energy is working in partnership with EDF Energy Renewables (EDF). Under the terms of the partnership, Force 9 Energy will lead on the wind farm development throughout the planning stage and up to the start of construction. Should the wind farm be consented, EDF will take the lead during the construction and subsequently own and operate the wind farm.

Public Exhibition

At Force 9 Energy we are committed to the principal that the community are given the chance to feedback their views directly to our project team at every stage of the development process. Today's exhibition is an opportunity for our team to introduce the proposals, listen to the views of local people and integrate these views into the ongoing consultation process.

Force 9 Energy have provided a questionnaire to gain your views on the proposals for Blackwood. We would be extremely grateful if you would take the time to complete the questionnaire and return it to us today. Alternatively if you would like to take it away with you and complete it after the exhibition, there is a return address detailed on the questionnaire. If you have any further questions regarding any aspect of the proposals please contact Steven Park at steven.park@ppsgroup.co.uk or on **01312261951**.

