

Email: nationalparkreporter@nature.scot

Peter Rawcliffe
Reporter Team, NatureScot
Battleby
Redgorton
Perthshire
PH1 7EW

13 February 2025

Dear Peter,

Response to Consultation paper – Proposed National Park in Galloway (Released November 7, 2024)

Scottish Renewables (SR) is the voice of Scotland's renewable energy industry. Our vision is for Scotland to lead the world in renewable energy. We work to grow Scotland's renewable energy sector and sustain its position at the forefront of the global clean energy industry. We represent over 360 organisations that deliver investment, jobs, social benefit and reduce the carbon emissions which cause climate change.

Our members work across all renewable technologies, in Scotland, the UK, Europe and around the world, ranging from energy suppliers, operators and manufacturers to small developers, installers, and community groups, as well as companies throughout the supply chain. In representing them, we aim to lead and inform the debate on how the growth of renewable energy can provide solutions to help sustainably heat and power Scotland's homes and businesses.

SR appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed National Park in Galloway. On behalf of our members, SR questions the need for a National Park designation in Galloway when increased investment in renewable energy developments and existing designations would achieve the same goals.

Onshore wind is an established industry that helps achieve the aspirations set out in the New National Parks Appraisal Framework Guidance. Renewables bring a suite of benefits in addition to contributing to emissions reduction and net-zero targets. These include Cultural Heritage Enhancement Plans, Peat Management Plans, Habitat Management Plans, Biodiversity Net Gain, recreational improvements, Socio-Economic Benefits and community benefits. In addition, the UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve has the potential to promote ecosystem restoration, community development and environmental education. The Scottish Government can invest in all these aims in the absence of a National Park designation.

A National Park designation would create a barrier to consenting renewable energy projects. While this consultation references onshore wind specifically, a National Park designation would be a barrier to deploying any renewable energy technology. As NPF4 Policy 11b specifically states that onshore wind cannot be developed in a National Park, it makes sense that the consultation would reference onshore

wind specifically. However, the increased bureaucracy and focus on natural heritage for all planning applications within a National Park designation would become a barrier to the deployment of all renewable energy technologies, battery storage and transmission. It would be unfortunate to put such a barrier in place at a time when the Scottish and UK Governments are both investing significantly in speeding up the planning process to meet net-zero targets.

The UK Government's [Clean Power 2030 Action Plan](#), released by DESNZ on December 13, 2024, specifically outlines the case for speeding up the planning process for renewable technologies and outlines the capacity expected to be built by 2030 and 2035 by technology and by region. Southern Scotland is expected to supply 8.8GW of onshore wind by 2030, 800 MW of solar by 2035, and 3.9GW of battery storage by 2030. None of this expected capacity can be achieved with a National Park designation, which allows a planning authority to prioritise natural heritage over net-zero targets.

The National Energy System Operator's (NESO's) [Strategic Spatial Energy Plan \(SSEP\)](#) draft methodology, released December 9, 2024, lays out how the UK will coordinate system design and planning efforts across the whole energy system to achieve net-zero by 2050. While this plan will not be completed until 2026, in the interim, it is imperative that the Scottish Government does not put designations in place that would create barriers to deployment within the planning system of any technologies critical to achieving carbon neutrality. As referenced in the SSEP, these essential technologies are solar; onshore and offshore wind; nuclear; hydrogen for power, storage, and transportation; storage including pumped storage hydro, batteries, and compressed air; bioenergy, carbon capture and storage; gas-fired power plants; and interconnectors.

The Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP), which NESO is expected to release in 2027 once the SSEP is finalised, will outline where grid network capacity must be built to achieve net-zero. Any National Park designation created in advance of these spatial plans being released by the UK Government could impede our ability to achieve net-zero.

The National Park Designation as a Barrier to Renewable Energy Deployment

The Dumfries and Galloway Council area has extensive wind resource. This is reflected in the Onshore Wind Pipeline Analysis, done twice annually as a commitment of the Scottish Onshore Wind Sector Deal and most recently [updated in December 2024](#), where 94 S36 projects and 31 Town and Country Planning projects are identified as being in development. Within the originally proposed National Park boundary, 1.3GW of pre-construction projects expected to be operational by 2030 are at risk with a National Park designation. That is significant onshore wind capacity to jeopardise with a National Park designation as the Scottish and UK Governments attempt to achieve net-zero targets. That also does not address the capacity potentially lost from solar or battery storage, which would also be jeopardised with a National Park designation, or the impacts on net-zero targets by missing grid connection dates should grid reform not be achieved in the required timeline.

Under NPF4, new onshore wind is not permitted to be developed in a National Park. However, the New National Parks Appraisal Framework Guidance for Nominations states:

'All areas of Scotland are eligible to submit nominations to become a new National Park (including those that have current or potential onshore wind developments). To ensure any

National Park addresses the climate emergency and supports progressive development, we will develop new bespoke planning policy on onshore wind to be applied in new National Parks. This means that a new National Park will be treated differently to existing National Parks with respect to NPF4 policy for onshore wind’.

In response to a request for more information about when this will happen, Kathryn Hossack, Senior Planner at Planning, Architecture and Regeneration Division shared in a letter to SR on August 28, 2024 that a ‘bespoke’ policy cannot be created until regulations for amending NPF4 are in place. ‘Once the regulations are in place, we will provide further information on the work required to develop bespoke policy applicable to onshore wind in a new National Park, including a proposed timeline’.

Now that a mechanism for amending NPF4 exists, a bespoke policy must be created. However, the delayed process for determining how onshore wind will be treated within planning does not provide us with sufficient information to respond to this consultation or sufficient confidence in a planning process that will ensure that onshore wind will be consented within a new National Park. This outstanding question is a fundamental commitment made at the outset of this process but still remains unclear in how it will be applied. Stakeholders should have this information upfront in order to appropriately respond to the consultation.

Even if NPF4 were to be amended to allow consenting of onshore wind, a National Park designation inherently prioritises natural heritage over other land uses. As the consultation paper lays out:

‘The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 establishes the four aims of all National Parks which allows for them to deliver for both people and nature:

- *to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area*
- *to promote sustainable use of natural resources of the area*
- *to promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public*
- *to promote sustainable economic and social development of the area’s communities.*

‘...if there appears to the National Park Authority to be conflict between the first aim and any of others, the Act requires it to give greater weight in its decision-making to the first aim (of protecting the natural and cultural heritage of the area) in the long-term’.

This could impact the consenting of any renewable technology or transmission should there be a conflict.

Whether a proposed Galloway National Park would be a planning authority or statutory consultee working with existing overlaid planning authorities, a National Park will create additional bureaucracy within the planning system for any renewable energy project proposed within the boundary. The Dumfries and Galloway Council is already under resourced and lacks technical expertise to evaluate renewable energy proposals in a timely manner.

Members have raised examples of proposals that have sat with Dumfries and Galloway for two years before getting a response from the Council. Members mention waiting 6 months on average for a response from the Council at pre-application and scoping stages, and no response at all for proposals within the proposed National Park boundary. Adding any further planning complexity or any additional planning consultees in response to the governance of a National Park will slow down or potentially stop renewable energy planning consents altogether. This is in direct conflict with the goal of the Scottish Onshore Wind Sector Deal, where the Scottish Government and the onshore wind sector committed to shortening planning determination timelines.

In addition, creating a new regime, will slow down planning determination timelines. Slowing down the deployment of transmission or onshore wind in particular will make it difficult for Scotland to reach its net-zero targets.

Boundaries of a National Park

Section 2 of the National Park (Scotland) Act 2000 sets out what are described as conditions which require to be satisfied in relation to a particular area that the Scottish Ministers propose to designate as a National Park. Section 2(2) sets out those conditions which are as follows:

'(a) that the area is of outstanding national importance because of its natural heritage or the combination of its natural and cultural heritage,

(b) that the area has a distinctive character and a coherent identity, and

(c) that designating the area as a National Park would meet the special needs of the area and would be the best means of ensuring that the National Park aims are collectively achieved in relation to the area in a co-ordinated way'.

These are legal requirements, and we are concerned that to date limited analysis has been undertaken of the potential boundaries that are contained within the current consultation proposals. The Scottish Ministers appointed a National Park appraisal panel to review the submissions that have been made. The panel were provided with nomination guidance and an appraisal framework. In terms of the actual exercise undertaken by this panel, the final report notes:

'The appraisal process has been based on the information provided in the nominations with limited additional information (supplementary analysis) and cross checking provided by officials'.

In July 2024, the Scottish Ministers set out their proposal for the new National Park in Galloway. Scottish Ministers again appear to rely on information provided in the nomination documentation and commentary and in the report of the appraisal panel that the Galloway nomination meets the criteria within the appraisal framework.

It is important to note the limitations on the actual evaluation that has taken place in relation to whether or not the whole of the area that has been identified in the nomination document will meet the statutory

conditions. The panel acknowledged the limitations of their own assessment, and no further substantive work appears to have been undertaken by the Ministers on the detail.

Given that position, it is important that this consultation process and the subsequent exercise to be undertaken by the Reporter ensure that there is a proper and detailed evaluation of all parts of the potential area that could be designated as a new National Park. Scotland's national designations have a history of being well supported by appropriate analysis in advance of designation. There is an inherent danger that, if a proper analysis is not undertaken, areas that do not meet the conditions of the legislation could be put forward.

Should NatureScot recommend to Scottish Ministers to move forward with a National Park, further professional work should be commissioned to support a boundary review. The failure to undertake such an exercise and consult upon it is likely to give rise to a National Park boundary that is not justified. This would undermine the creation of the new park and devalue the whole national designation process.

Investing in Renewables to Meet Scottish Government Goals

SR recommends investing in more renewable energy development and the UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve to achieve the goals the proposed National Park seeks to achieve.

The stated goal of a National Park—promoting a sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities—could be better achieved by investing in renewable energy developments. Adding a National Park designation in the region would stunt economic growth rather than promote it, should renewable energy and transmission projects be rejected because of it.

The financial benefits of a National Park are a fraction of the benefits that the local area would see with additional renewable energy and transmission developments. A study by BiGGAR Economics, commissioned by ScottishPower Renewables, attached here, outlines the potential loss of GVA, jobs and community benefit should a National Park limit the consent of only onshore wind in the current planning pipeline.

- Given the current onshore wind pipeline, Dumfries and Galloway could expect to produce by 2035:
 - 3.2GW of onshore wind capacity
 - £925 million GVA (between 2024 and 2035)
 - 624 jobs per year
 - £146 million community benefit payments by 2035
- Should no new onshore wind be developed because of the National Park designation, Dumfries and Galloway could expect to see:
 - A loss of 1.7GW of onshore wind capacity
 - A loss of £543 million GVA
 - A loss of 467 jobs per year

- A loss of £64 million in cumulative community benefit payments
- Should a National Park allow for repowering but not consenting of new wind farms, Dumfries and Galloway could expect to see:
 - A loss of 1.4GW of onshore wind capacity
 - A loss of £489 million GVA
 - A loss of 397 jobs per year
 - A loss of £62 million in cumulative community benefit payments

This study only looks at the impact of a National Park designation on onshore wind proposals and does not include the socio-economic impact of not consenting solar, battery storage or transmission projects. It can reasonably be concluded that not consenting other renewable energy proposals would only increase the economic loss to the area in terms of GVA and jobs lost.

In terms of community benefits received in this region, there are many examples of the benefits to the community from current wind farms. ScottishPower Renewables, which operates four wind farms within the originally proposed boundary, has highlighted both in [2020](#) and in [2024](#) examples of what communities have chosen to invest in with community benefit funds. In addition, the Glenkens & District Trust, which covers land within 'option 1' of this consultation, has awarded £1.3 million in benefits from Blackcraig and Windy Rig wind farms. They state in their [most recent annual report](#): *'Community benefit monies have made a real and tangible difference to our area and we appreciate the support of our donors and the continued work of all our community groups. The availability of these funds can and does make a real difference to the communities we love and is a clear demonstration of the value of place-based decision making'*.

The benefits to nature of a National Park designation, as stated in this consultation, ignore the significant nature management and enhancement renewable energy and transmission projects provide, with no additional designation required. All renewable energy projects require habitat management plans and peatland management plans where applicable. Per the Scottish Onshore Wind Sector Deal, the onshore wind sector has committed to biodiversity net gain.

The renewable industry has been a key partner for the Scottish Government in restoring peatland, at a level government could not afford using public money. SSE's recently operational Viking Wind Farm on Shetland has a plan to restore nearly 260 hectares of peatland.

The government cannot afford to fund the level of nature protection and restoration renewable developers provide with their projects, and a National Park designation will not change that reality.

To properly evaluate the benefits and costs of a potential third National Park, the opportunity cost of losing renewable energy projects within the proposed boundary must be adequately accounted for.

Scottish Renewables appreciates NatureScot's efforts to engage with us and our members in this conversation. We look forward to working together to find alternative ways to achieve our shared economic, climate, and nature goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Megan Amundson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

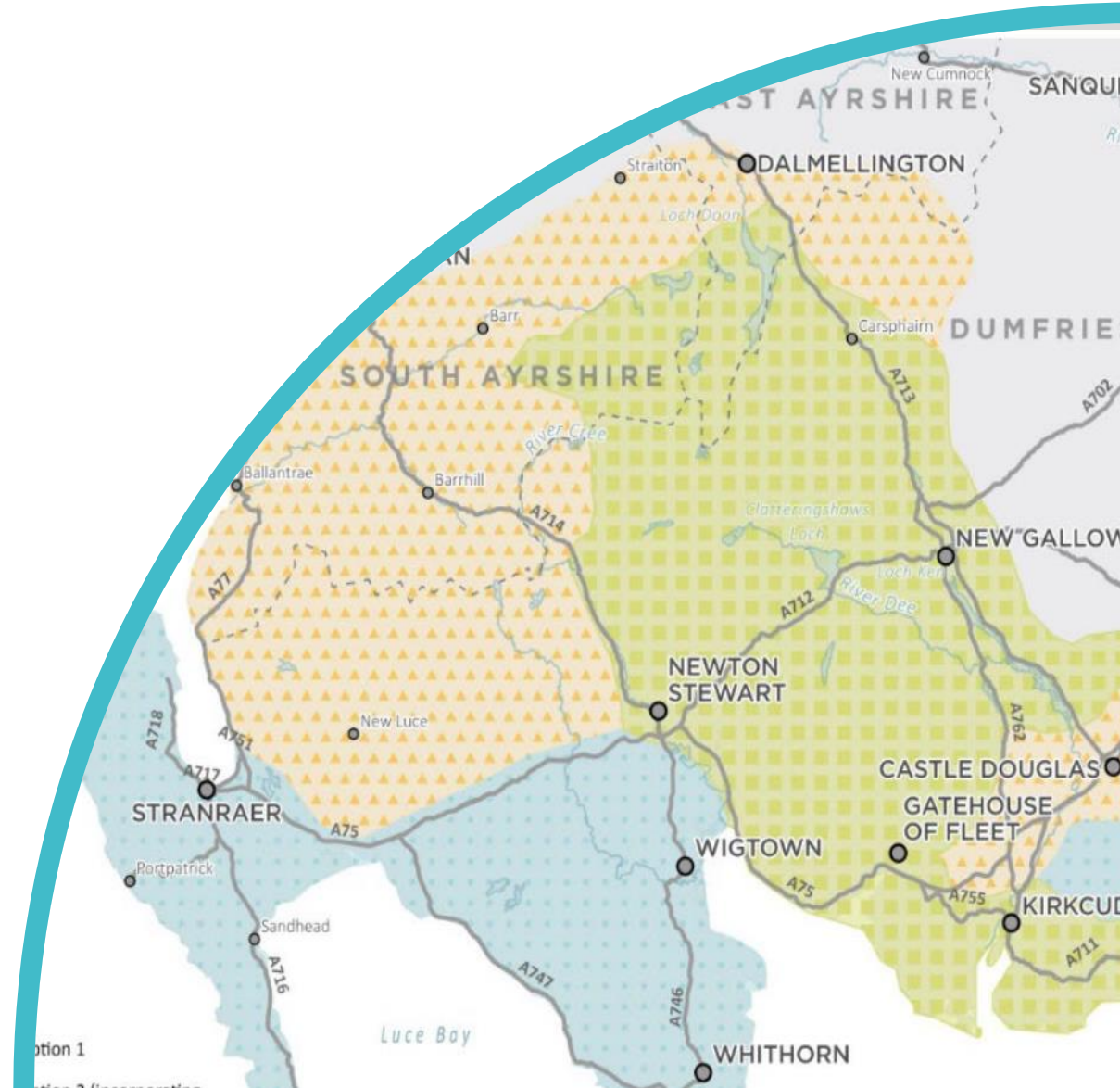
Megan Amundson
Head of Onshore Wind & Consenting
Scottish Renewables

Implications of the Proposed Galloway National Park on the Onshore Wind Sector

A Report to



January 2025





Executive Summary

If proposals to establish a new national park in Galloway proceed this will affect the deployment of onshore wind in the region and associated economic activity.

- The creation of **a new national park in Galloway would almost certainly reduce deployment of onshore farms in southwest Scotland** by making it more difficult for developers to secure planning permission for developments near the park. This would reduce the level of economic activity the sector could generate in the region and make it more difficult for Scotland to achieve national targets for the deployment of onshore wind by 2030. The extent of this impact will depend on the nature of the planning regime adopted at the new park.
- If a similar planning regime to Scotland's existing national parks were to be adopted the region could experience a cumulative loss of around **£543 million GVA by 2035**, around 470 fewer jobs/year might be supported at the peak of activity and the region could **miss out on around £64 million in community benefit funding**.
- Under a more lenient planning regime that supported the repowering of existing onshore wind farms the loss of economic activity is still likely to be substantial, amounting to around **£489 million GVA by 2035**. This equates to around 400 fewer jobs at the peak of activity and a loss of around **£62 million in community benefit funding**.
- Whilst this report focuses exclusively on effects on the onshore wind sector other parts of the renewable energy industry (such as grid connection projects) are also likely to be affected. This would further reduce the potential for local economic activity and the achievement of national targets.



Contents

- **Study Background**
 - Introduction
 - Policy context
- **Scenario Analysis**
 - Baseline: Business As Usual
 - Scenario 1: No Formal Support
 - Scenario 2: More Permissive Planning Regime
- **Summary**





Study Background

The Scottish Government is considering creating a new National Park in Galloway.





Introduction

A new National Park is proposed for Galloway. This is likely to affect onshore wind developments in the area.

The Scottish Government is considering creating a new National Park in Galloway. The boundary of the new park has not yet been confirmed but three options are being considered:

- Option 1 – hills and coast
- Option 2 – hills and extended coast
- Option 3 – hills, coast and countryside

The new park is expected to encompass a large part of Dumfries and Galloway and parts of south and east Ayrshire.

NatureScot is leading a consultation on the proposals, which is due to be submitted to the Scottish Government in the Q2 2025.

This analysis has been commissioned to inform SPR's submission to this consultation, highlighting potential impacts on the economy from changes to the consenting of onshore wind developments in the region.



This report assesses the economic impact that could be generated under the following scenarios:

- **Baseline: Business As Usual**
- **Scenario 1: No Formal Support**
 - A new planning regime is established that does not support the development of onshore wind farms.
- **Scenario 2: More Permissive Planning Regime**
 - A new planning regime is established that does not support the development of new onshore wind farms but does permit repowering of existing projects.

Impacts are presented in terms of the **Gross Value Added (GVA)** and **employment (jobs)** in **Dumfries and Galloway** under each scenario.



National Park Designation

National Parks have a formal role in the planning system. This can range from a full planning authority to a statutory consultee.

The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 grants the Scottish Parliament the power to create National Parks in any part of Scotland it deems appropriate to:

- conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area,
- promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area,
- promote understanding and enjoyment of the area by the public, and
- promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.

An important feature of the legislation is that it enables National Park Authorities to have a formal role in the planning system.

The legislation provides for a range of options from a full planning authority through to statutory consultee status.

Both of Scotland's existing park authorities are responsible for preparing the local development plan for their areas. Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority has responsibility for determining planning applications and the Cairngorms National Park Authority has the power to 'call in' key planning proposals so it can make the decision rather than the local authority.

It has not yet been determined what planning powers any new park would have.





National Planning Policy

National Park designation would almost certainly have a major effect on new wind farm development in the area.

Scotland's National Planning Framework (NPF4) is the strategic framework for planning decisions in Scotland. Policy 11(b) of NPF4 relates to energy developments. It states that proposals for wind farms in National Parks will not be supported.

Policy 4(c) of NPF4 relates to natural places and may also be relevant to potential wind farm developments in any new National Park.

This policy states that development in National Parks will only be acceptable where the objectives of the park designation will not be compromised, and any adverse effects are clearly outweighed by social, environmental and economic benefits of 'national importance'.

While the roll out of renewables is of critical importance to Scotland's economy, the socio-economic benefits of any individual wind farm are unlikely to be nationally important. This implies National Park designation would almost certainly have a major impact on new wind farm development in the area.

“Development proposals for wind farms in National Parks and National Scenic Areas will not be supported.”

NPF4, policy 11(b)



Scenario Analysis

The following slides present the economic impact from onshore wind developments in Galloway under three scenarios.





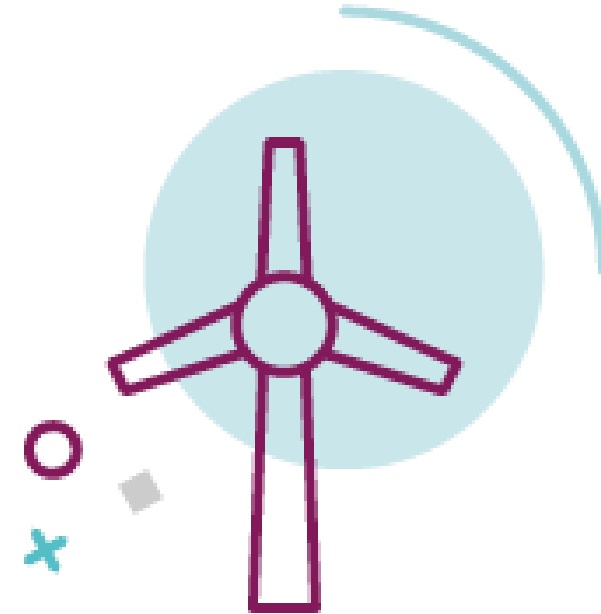
Scenarios

The economic impact generated by the onshore renewable energy sector depends on the number of developments that are approved or repowered.

This report assesses the economic impact that could be generated under the following scenarios:

- **Baseline: Business As Usual**
- **Scenario 1: No Formal Support**
 - A new planning regime is established that does not support the development of onshore wind farms.
- **Scenario 2: More Permissive Planning Regime**
 - A new planning regime is established that does not support the development of new onshore wind farms but does permit repowering of existing projects.

Each scenario depends on the number of new projects developed and existing projects repowered.





Methodology

The analysis in this report was based on BiGGAR Economics extensive experience of assessing the impacts of onshore wind developments in Scotland

The analysis is based on the total installed capacity deployed (MW) under in each scenario and includes impacts from:

- development;
- construction;
- repowering construction; and
- operation

Based on the level of deployment in each of the above categories, the **gross value added (GVA)** and **employment** that would be supported from the level of activity was assessed (inclusive of direct, indirect, and induced impacts).

The methodology was based on BiGGAR Economics' extensive experience assessing the economic impacts of onshore wind farms, including in Dumfries & Galloway supplemented with information from SPR on projects in the local area.

In addition to GVA and employment impacts, the analysis also considered the level of **community benefit funding** that could be generated in each scenario. Data on the levels of community benefit payments made by developers in the region was based on previous analysis by BiGGAR Economics for South of Scotland Enterprise and on the assumption that any new developments would contribute the recommended **£5,000 per MW in** community benefit.



Baseline: Business As Usual

If no new national park is created in Galloway, onshore wind developments in the region would continue as planned, with up to 3,232 MW of capacity by 2035.

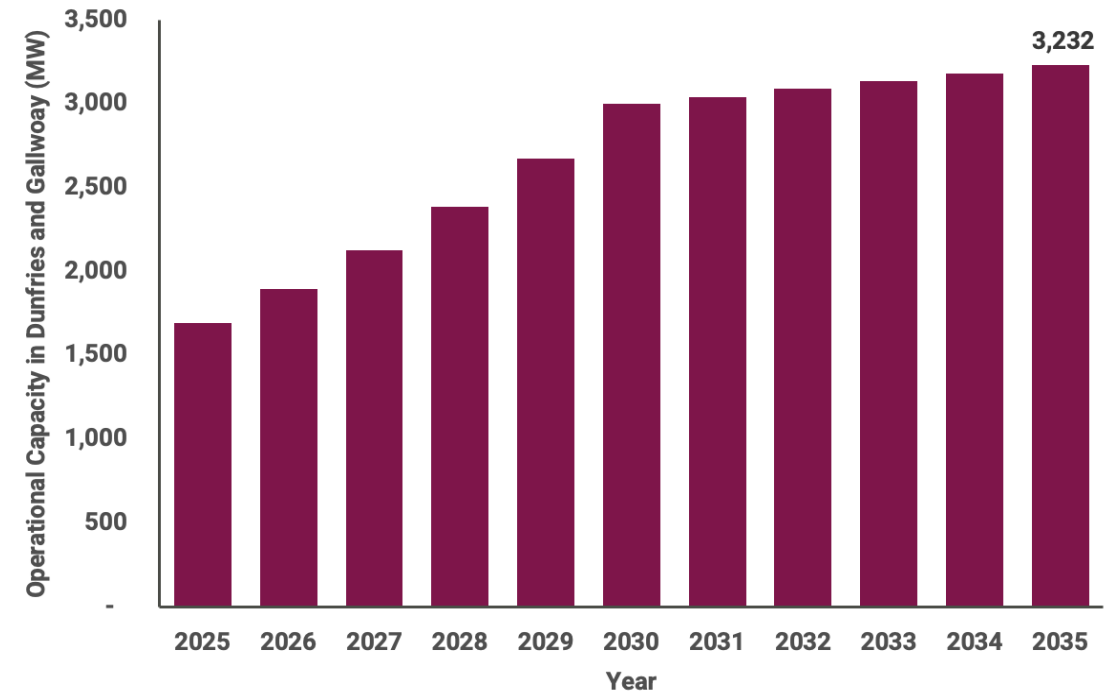
Based on projections produced by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, it is estimated that by 2035, Dumfries and Galloway could generate up to **3,232 MW** of energy from onshore wind.

This includes energy from wind farms that are already operational, are currently being planned and any that may be constructed or repowered over this period.

The operation of the developments would support further economic activity and social value in the region through the payment of community benefit funds.

If plans for the new national park were not to proceed, it is likely this would continue to be the case.

Deployment over time, MW (Baseline scenario)





Baseline: Business As Usual

Deployment will increase over coming years to reach 2030 renewable energy targets.

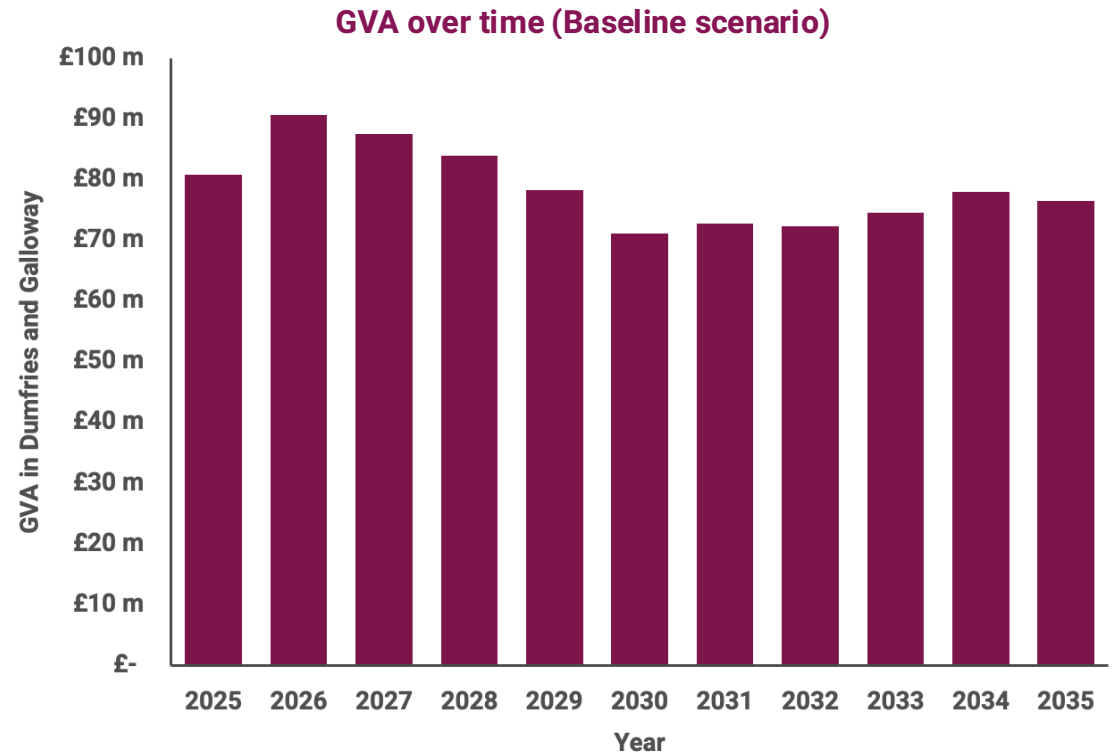
Under this scenario it is estimated that by 2035 onshore wind developments in Dumfries and Galloway would support a total economic impact in the region of:

- **£935 million GVA** (*cumulative impact between 2024 and 2035*)

At the height of activity this could support up to **624 jobs** per year.

As shown in the graph, the largest share of impact will occur over the next five years as there is a construction push towards achieving 2030 renewable energy targets. The impacts from operational activity following this is likely to be lower due to the nature of this day-to-day activity.

Based on the estimated project pipeline, **community benefit payments** in the region could amount to **£146 million by 2035**.





Scenario 1: No Formal Support

If no formal support is specified for new or existing onshore wind developments near the park, it is likely developers would face increased challenges in gaining planning approval.

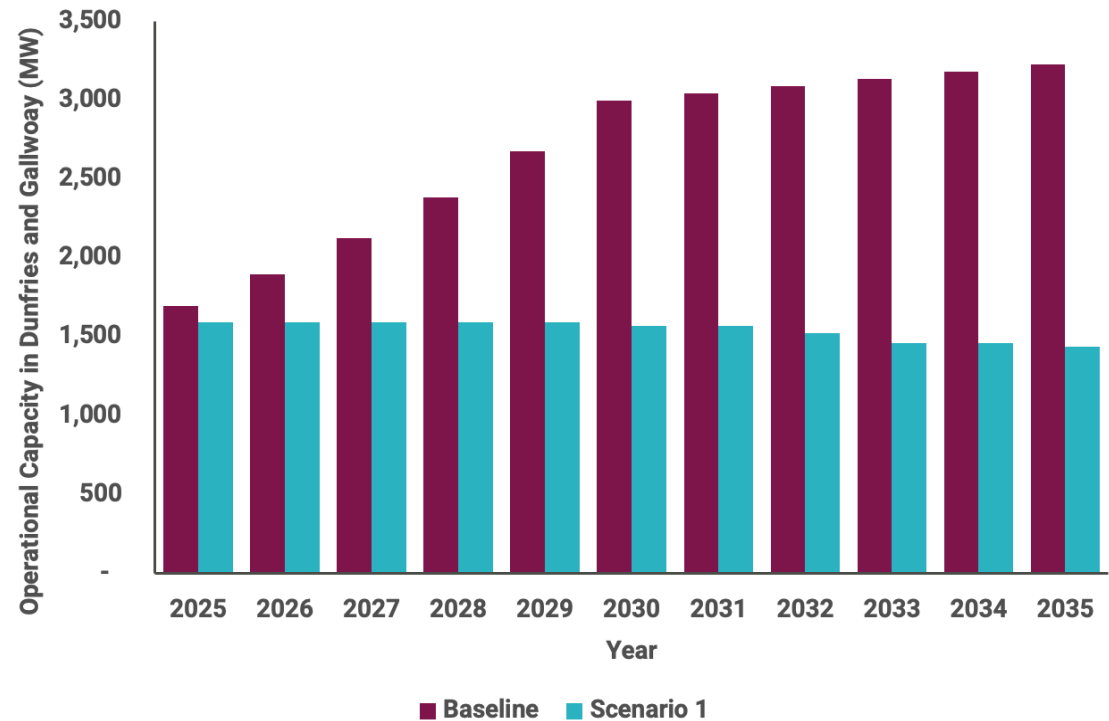
If no formal support is provided for onshore wind developments in the vicinity of the national park, developers would likely face increased challenges in the planning approval process, resulting in refusal of planning permission. This would affect the number of future developments and repowering and resulting economic activity.

This scenario has been modelled as including the:

- operational impact of existing developments
- no repowering of existing developments
- no new developments

Under this scenario, by 2035 deployment would be **1,438 MW**.

Deployment over time, MW (Scenario 1: No Formal Support)





Scenario 1: No Formal Support

Activity would be generated from existing operational wind farms only.

Under this scenario it is estimated that by 2035 onshore wind developments in Dumfries and Galloway would support a total economic impact in the region of:

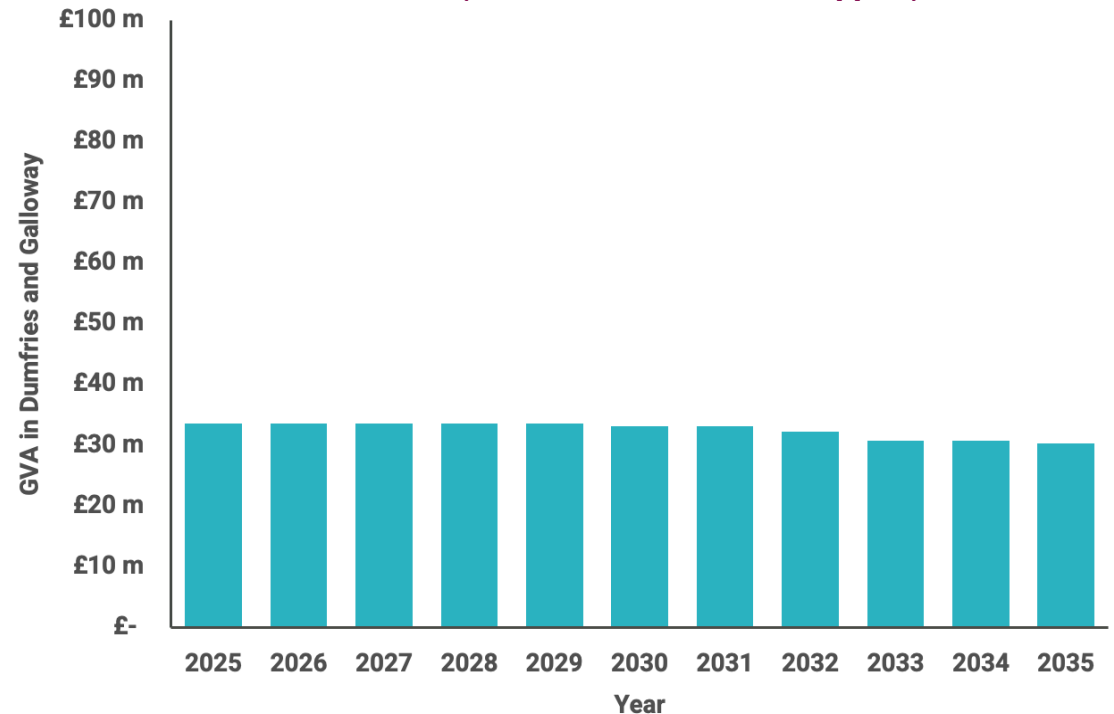
- **£392 million GVA** (*cumulative impact between 2024 and 2035*)

At the height of activity this could support up to **157 jobs** per year.

The impacts would be generated solely by existing operational developments, with the value of this decreasing over time as operational lifetimes are reached and developments are not repowered.

Based on the estimated project pipeline, **community benefit payments** in the region could amount to **£82 million by 2035**.

GVA over time (Scenario 1: No Formal Support)





Scenario 2: More Permissive Planning Regime

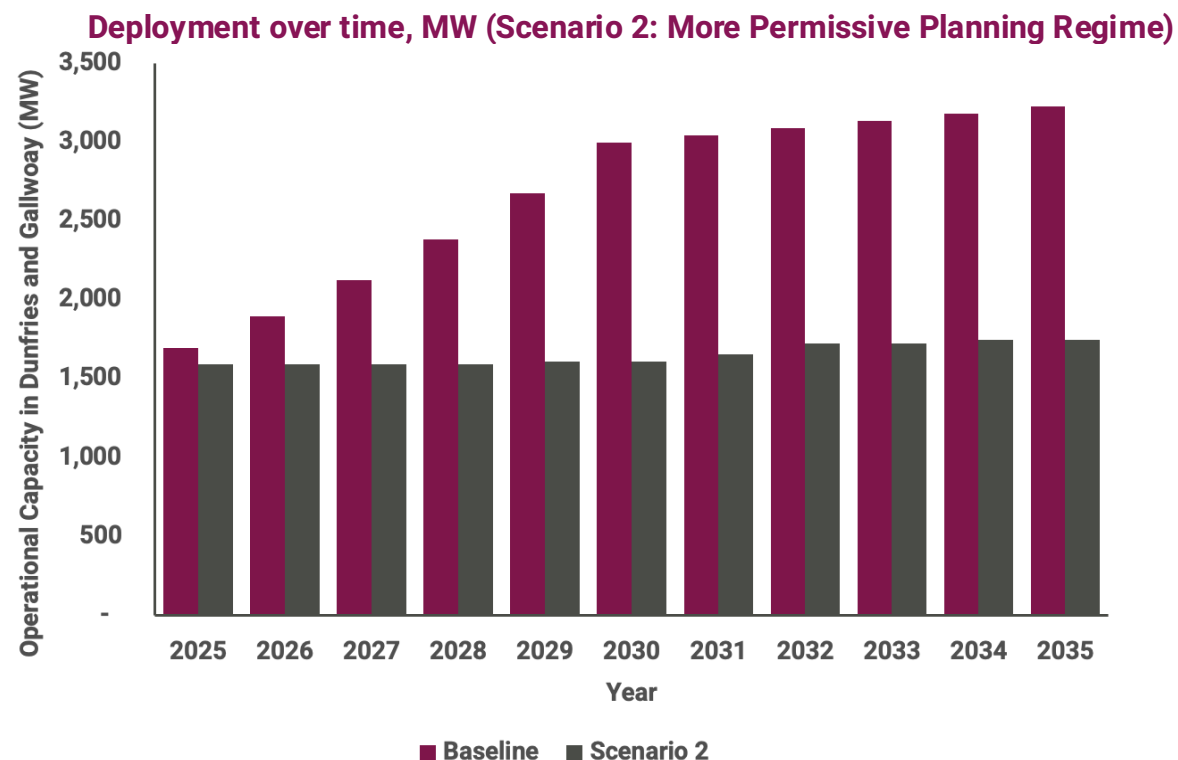
Existing renewable energy developments near the national park would have restrictions on repowering.

If a less restrictive planning regime were adopted that supported existing developments and permitted some repowering it is likely developers would still face greater opposition and more challenges securing planning permission. It is likely this would result in fewer existing projects being repowered after their 25-year lifetime.

This scenario was modelled by assuming that:

- **the operational impacts from existing developments would be maintained**
- **50% of operational projects would be repowered, with an increase in the installed capacity**
- **No new projects would proceed**

Under this scenario, by 2035 deployment would be **1,747 MW**.





Scenario 2: More Permissive Planning Regime

Activity would be generated from the operation and repowering of existing wind farms.

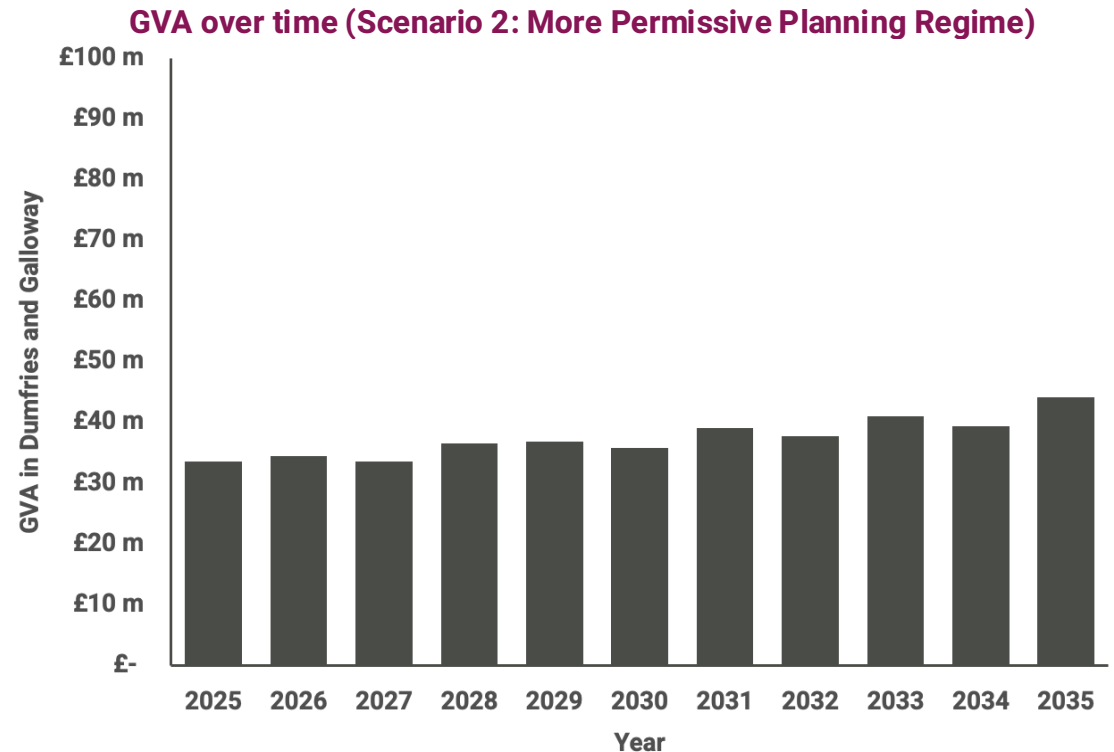
Under this scenario it was estimated that by 2035 onshore wind developments in Dumfries and Galloway would support a total economic impact in the region of:

- **£447 million GVA** (*cumulative impact between 2024 and 2035*)

At the height of activity, this could support up to **227 jobs** per year.

In this scenario impacts would be driven by the operation and repowering of existing developments only, with the impact rising over time as this activity occurs.

Based on the estimated project pipeline, **community benefit payments** in the region would amount to **£84 million by 2035**.





Summary

Under both future scenarios, the creation of a national park in Galloway would reduce the economic impact that is generated from onshore wind developments in the region, in comparison to the baseline position.





Summary

The table below presents the total impact generated by the onshore wind sector in Dumfries and Galloway by 2035 under each of the three scenarios.

	Deployment (by 2035)	GVA (£m) <i>(cumulative impact 2024 – 2035)</i>	Jobs <i>(maximum annual FTE jobs 2024 - 2035)</i>	Community Benefit Funding (£m)
Baseline: Business As Usual	3,232	935	624	146
Scenario 1: No Formal Support	1,438	392	157	82
<i>Reduction in activity under scenario 1</i>	<i>1,794</i>	<i>543</i>	<i>467</i>	<i>64</i>
Scenario 2: More Permissive Planning Regime	1,747	447	227	84
<i>Reduction in activity under scenario 2</i>	<i>1,485</i>	<i>489</i>	<i>397</i>	<i>62</i>



Summary

If proposals to establish a new national park in Galloway proceed this will affect the deployment of onshore wind in the region and associated economic activity.

- **Based on current projections, Dumfries and Galloway will be generating up to 3,232 MW from onshore wind by 2035.** This would generate around **£935 million GVA over the next ten years**, and support up to **624 jobs** per year at the height of activity.
- It is highly likely that **creating a new national park in Galloway would reduce this level of economic activity** as onshore wind developers would face increased challenge and opposition to developments in the vicinity of the park. This would likely be focussed on the premise that onshore wind development would have a detrimental effect on the landscape and visual amenity of the area.
- In the case of either no formal support for the sector being declared, or support in terms of the repowering of existing developments located in the area, deployment levels would be less than the baseline position. This would result in **reduced economic activity in the region, a reduction in the scale of community benefit payments paid to local communities, and challenges to meeting national targets for the deployment of the sector by 2030.**
- Whilst this report focuses on onshore wind specifically, **similar implications are likely to be felt across the wider renewables sector**, specifically on large-scale capital infrastructure projects such as grid connection in the area. This would further reduce the potential for local economic activity and the achievement of national targets.



BiGGAR Economics

energy@biggareconomics.co.uk

