

# Crossdykes Wind Farm

## Community Investment Success Story

### Support for Local Businesses

The construction of the wind farm started in September 2019 and continued throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, with appropriate safety measures in place. Throughout this period, government restrictions to avoid the spread of the virus led to lower volumes of economic activity. In a similar context, through our spending on the construction and development of Crossdykes Wind Farm, we provided several businesses with a reliable stream of work and supported their cashflows. This was particularly important for two hospitality businesses in Dumfries and Galloway (the Eskdale Hotel and the Townhead Hotel) which were able to remain open to provide accommodation for construction workers.

A number of local businesses were involved in the construction of Crossdykes Wind Farm. For instance, the Grange Quarry supplied, mixed and poured the concrete for the foundations of the ten turbines.

Similarly, works on Crossdykes Wind Farm provided an opportunity for local company, Nairn Construction Ltd., to further develop its expertise in delivering renewable energy contracts, which will underpin its future growth strategy.

### Shared Ownership

Like the proposals for Teviot Wind Farm, local communities have been offered the chance to purchase up to 10% shared ownership. A community investment fund of £7,000 per MW has also been established and will provide local communities with an annual fund of £322,000 per year (£8 million over the wind farm’s operational life).

<b>Tier 1 Contractors</b>	Nordex A E Yates
<b>Tier 2 Contractors</b>	Nairn Construction Limited
<b>Local Supply Chain</b>	Grange Quarry Dumfries Timber D&W Ironmongery Dumfries Building Supplies Local Joiners Roofers, rendering & plasterers
<b>Local Supply Chain</b>	Drainwise McDermaid Supplies Hire and Supplies Dumfries A Thomson Blacksmiths T McKi Surfacing Contractors Oakbank plant hire

### Initial Investment Fund

As with Teviot Wind Farm, an initial investment fund (IIF) of £100,000 was offered to community groups in the local area. The IIF was announced in September 2019 and attracted over £400,000 worth of applications from over 50 community groups. By March 2020, a total of £100,557 had been committed across 32 local community projects. Examples of recipients and their intended use of the funding include:

**Lockerbie Ice Rink:** for new equipment and all children’s coaching sessions for the 2019/20 season;

**Langholm Playcare:** to upgrade their outdoor play area and purchase a CCTV system for the premises;

**Langholm Pipe Band:** to purchase new equipment and clothing for its members; and

**Waterbeck Church:** with the investment money contributing to refurbishment costs.

### Superfast Broadband

We identified an initial 58 properties in the vicinity of Crossdykes Wind Farm that previously were classified as ‘not spot’<sup>1</sup> areas which would benefit from the installation of high-speed fibre broadband but which were unlikely to be connected by normal providers. Crossdykes Wind Farm has been able to provide a broadband connection for these 58 properties in the local area, which include a school, churches and village halls. It is anticipated that this broadband service could, if desired, be extended to a further 300 properties in the wider community that currently have a limited or no broadband connection. We are currently exploring similar opportunities for the communities and properties nearest to the proposed Teviot Wind Farm and would like to hear your thoughts on what would work best here.

<sup>1</sup>The Scottish Government’s Reaching 100% (R100) plan is a commitment by the Government to ensure all homes and businesses across Scotland have access to superfast broadband. It is an attempt to target areas where normally this level of broadband service wouldn’t be reached or where providers wouldn’t ordinarily locate. Muirhall identified 58 properties in the vicinity of the Crossdykes development that previously were classified as ‘not spot’ areas in the Government’s R100 plan and would therefore benefit from access to high-speed fibre broadband.

