



Piloting a Development Framework for onshore wind farms at the Hagshaw Energy Cluster

**Linking EIA with a place based approach and a just
transition to Net zero**

Scotland's EIA conference – Sept 2022

Outline

- 1) Why produce a Development Framework ?
- 2) Why at Hagshaw Hill ?
- 3) Who was involved ?
- 4) How we did it
- 5) The Development Framework
- 6) A developer's perspective
- 7) A planning authority perspective
- 8) Benefits to communities
- 9) What happens next ?
- 10) Rolling out the approach



Why a Development Framework ?



- Increased deployment of **onshore wind** and other technologies critical to net zero
- Increasing focus on **repowering** existing schemes (which could deliver ~ 5 GW by 2030)
- To reduce costs and length of time in planning and provide greater certainty
- Onshore wind policy statement (2017) encouraged more collaboration
- Opportunity to pilot a more **planned** and positive approach to repowering, with more benefits for nature

Why Hagshaw Hill ?



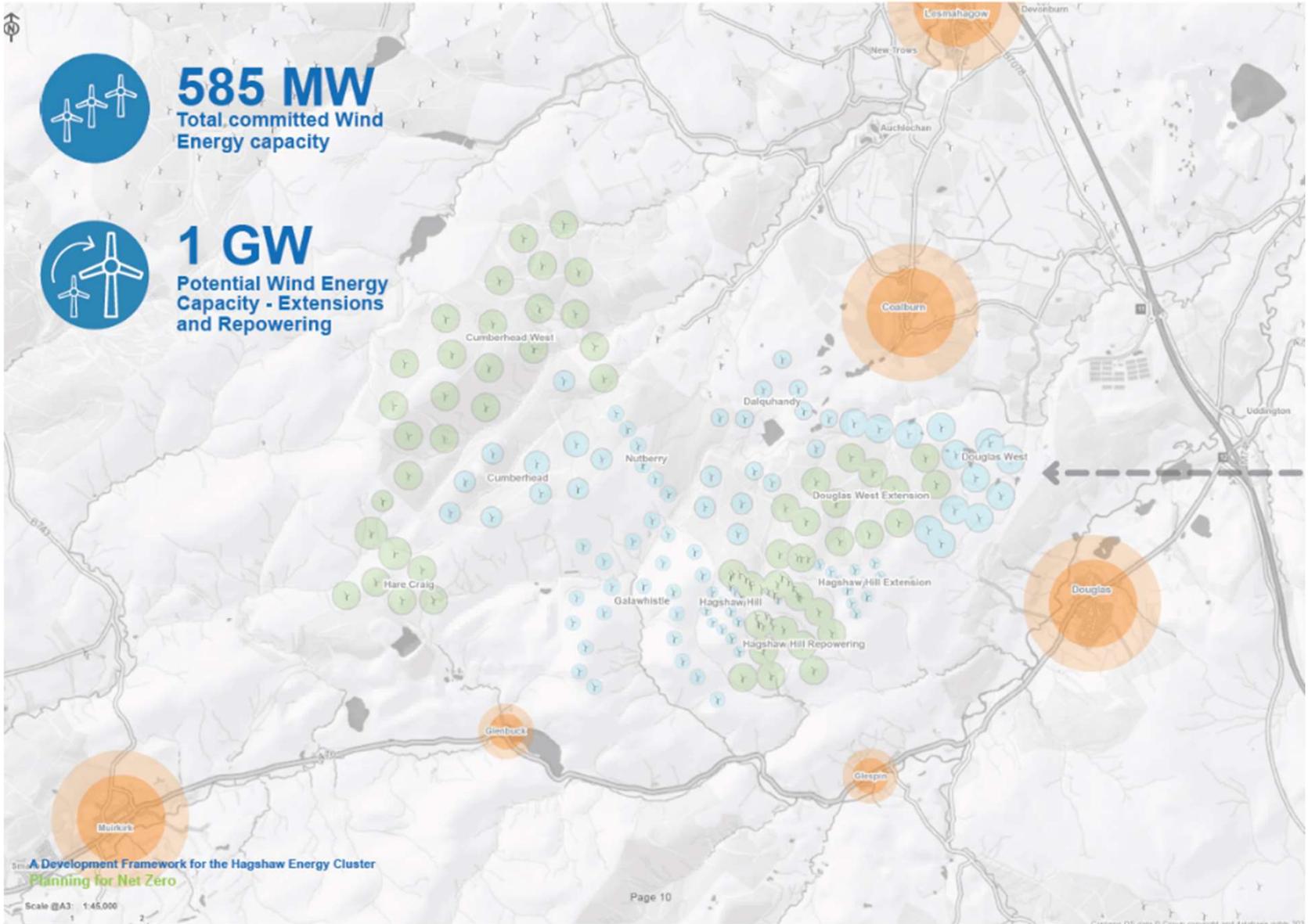
- One of Scotland's first wind farms, now going through the repowering process
- Mix of different schemes in the cluster (T&CPA, S36)
- Mix of turbine heights and layouts
- Ongoing development interest for extensions and new sites
- Appetite from S Lanarkshire and East Ayrshire Councils to try something different



585 MW
Total committed Wind
Energy capacity



1 GW
Potential Wind Energy
Capacity - Extensions
and Repowering



A Development Framework for the Hagshaw Energy Cluster
Planning for Net Zero

Scale @A3: 1:45,000

Who is involved ?



Architecture &
Design Scotland
Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA



How we did it....

- Created a multi developer, agency and planning authority working group in 2019
- Scoped out areas of possible collaboration and developed a shared vision
- Agreed to produce a **Development Framework** for the cluster and appointed LUC in June 2021 to take this forward
- Online consultation
- Engagement with community councils and land owners



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Sustainable Growth

Our vision for a sustainable future is one where we can meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This means we need to protect our environment, promote social justice and ensure economic growth.

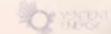
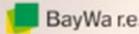
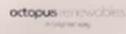
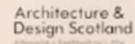
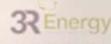
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Energy & Environment

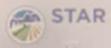
Our energy strategy is based on three pillars: security, sustainability and affordability. We will continue to invest in our infrastructure and promote energy efficiency across all sectors.

A Development Framework for the Hagshaw Energy Cluster Planning for Net Zero

Project Steering Group



Project Team



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Policy Content

Our policy content is based on a range of international best practice and local circumstances. It sets out our vision for a sustainable future and the actions we will take to achieve it.

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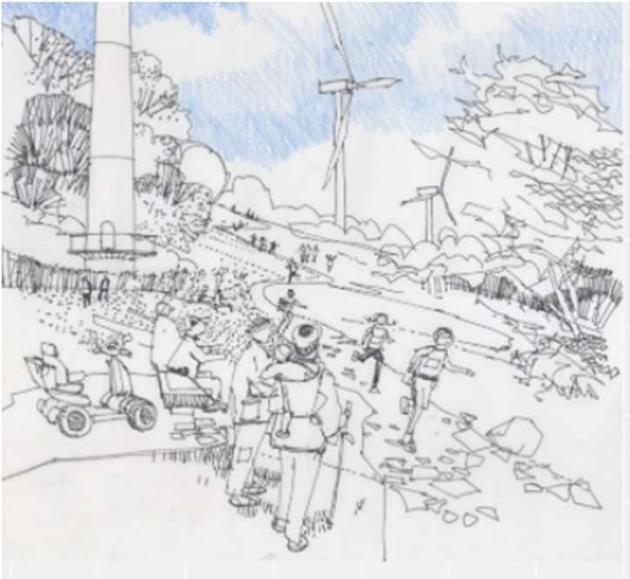
Get in touch

Have your say

The Development Framework – key aims



1. Support the **efficient delivery of the renewable energy potential of the cluster**, taking account of all appropriate technologies and the optimisation, extension and repowering of existing wind farms
2. **Maximise the social, economic and environment benefits** of renewable energy development within the cluster
3. Support the **Just Transition to a low carbon future** through a place-based approach
4. **Minimise adverse impacts of development** on the environment and local communities
5. Deliver **investment in nature** to enhance climate change and biodiversity resilience

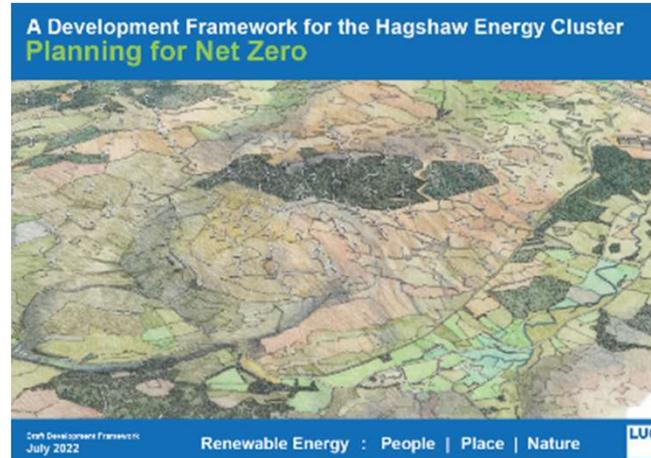


Planning and EIA
guidance

Local Place Plan

Nature
restoration plan

A more strategic
approach to onshore
wind



Just transition and net
zero plan

Place based approach

Investment plan for natural
capital and communities

Note: this schematic plan identifies indicative areas of opportunity where potential benefits could be delivered, subject to further detailed survey and development.

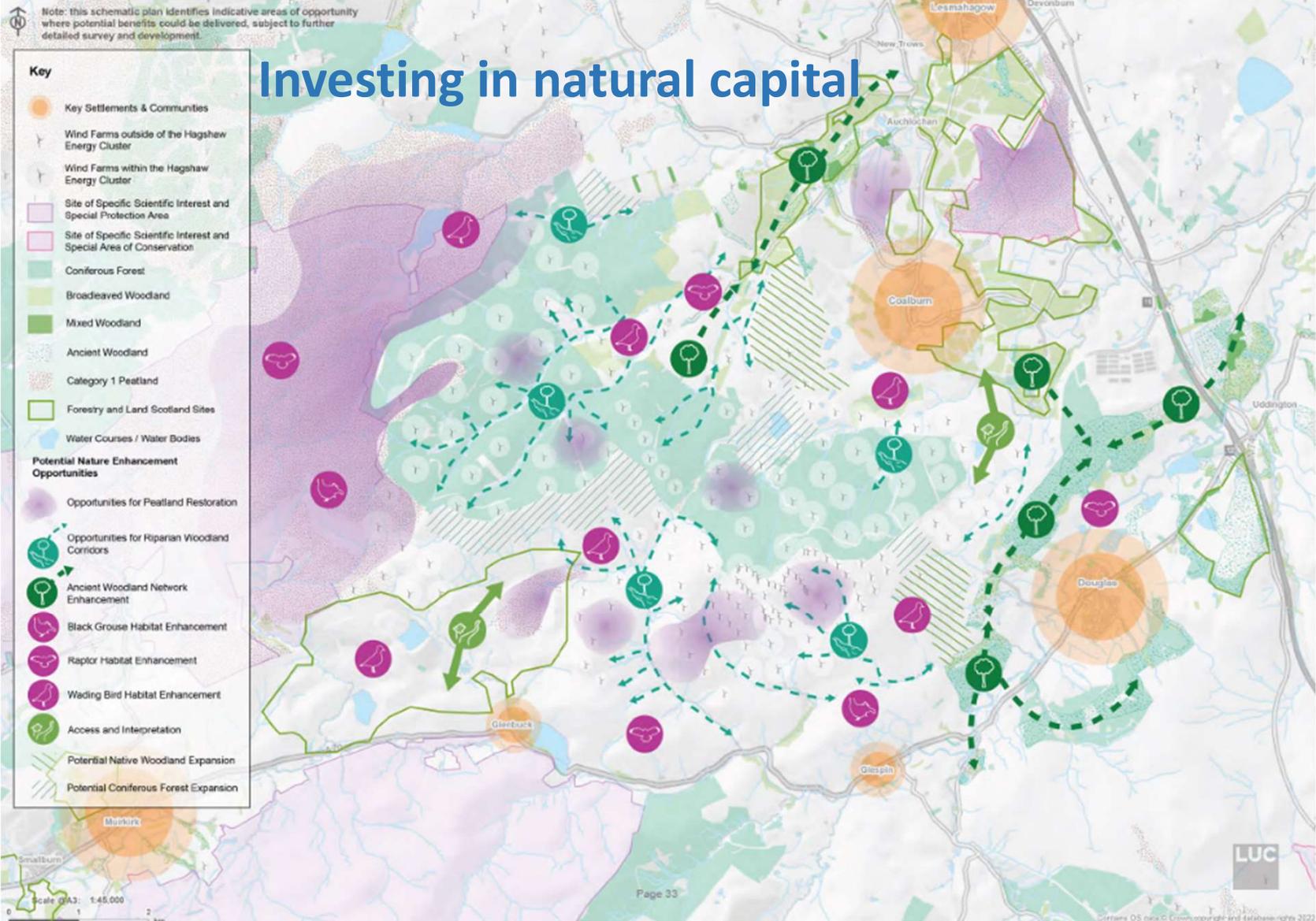
Investing in natural capital

Key

- Key Settlements & Communities
- Wind Farms outside of the Hagshaw Energy Cluster
- Wind Farms within the Hagshaw Energy Cluster
- Site of Specific Scientific Interest and Special Protection Area
- Site of Specific Scientific Interest and Special Area of Conservation
- Coniferous Forest
- Broadleaved Woodland
- Mixed Woodland
- Ancient Woodland
- Category 1 Peatland
- Forestry and Land Scotland Sites
- Water Courses / Water Bodies

Potential Nature Enhancement Opportunities

- Opportunities for Peatland Restoration
- Opportunities for Riparian Woodland Corridors
- Ancient Woodland Network Enhancement
- Black Grouse Habitat Enhancement
- Raptor Habitat Enhancement
- Wading Bird Habitat Enhancement
- Access and Interpretation
- Potential Native Woodland Expansion
- Potential Coniferous Forest Expansion



A developer's perspective:

1. What role does the Framework have in the development process?

- A framework not a masterplan
- Aims to guide and facilitate development - not to constrain it or set targets for type and scale
- Key objective of facilitating a quicker and more effective planning process
- Aims to deliver best outcomes for all stakeholders
- Tool to assist development



A developer's perspective:

2. The process of developing the Development Framework



- Shared approach to scoping and drafting (and budget!)
- Process beneficial in itself in terms of relationship building
- Opportunity to engage with stakeholders on a non project specific basis
- Enhanced understanding of wider local issues
- General consensus on approach and details (may not always be the case)





A developer's perspective:

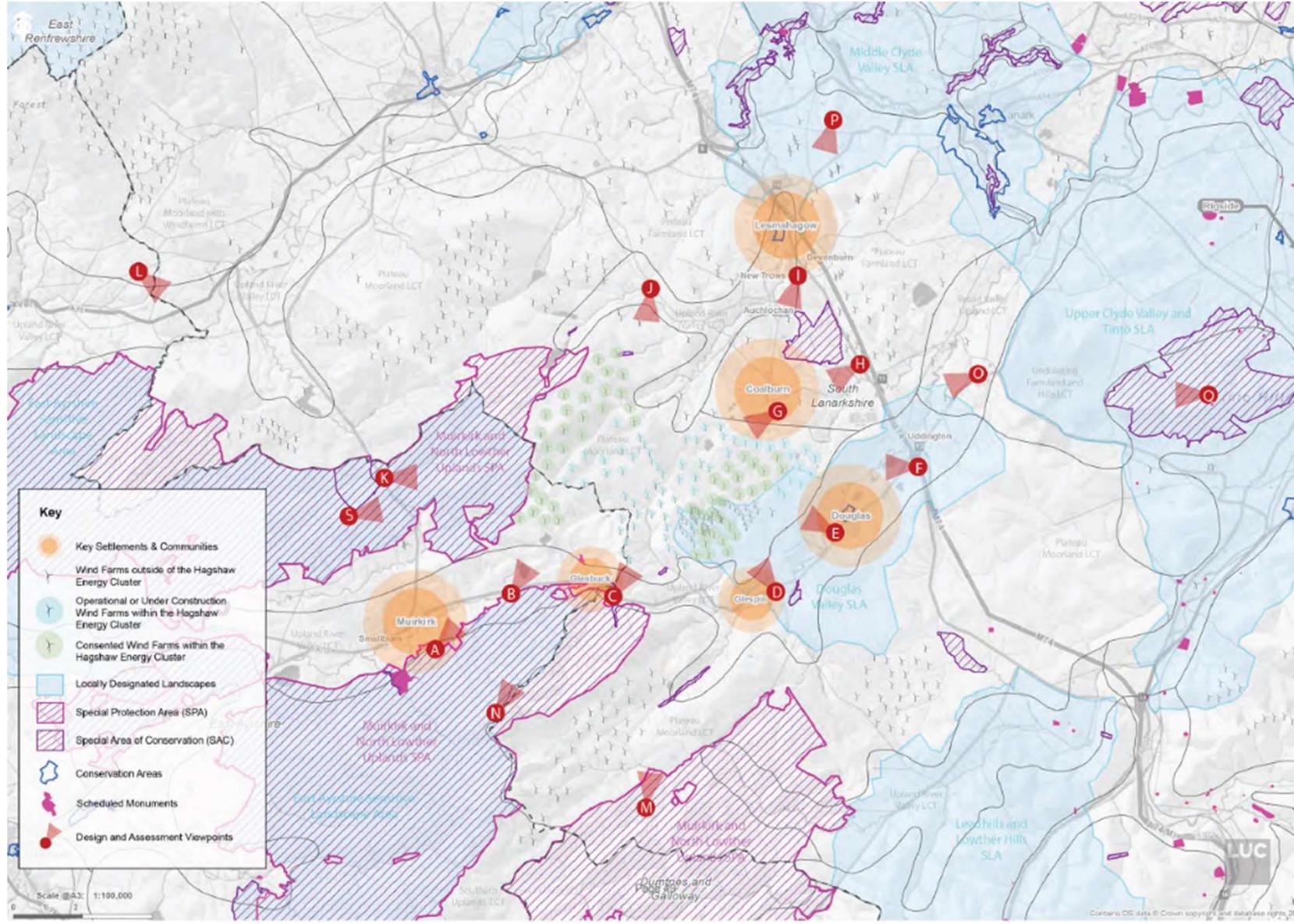
3. What are the anticipated benefits of the Framework?

- Increased prospect of positive planning outcomes
- Data sharing
- Reduced survey and EIA effort (and costs)
- Agreed objectives
- Shared infrastructure and procurement
- Maximising capacity

A developer's perspective

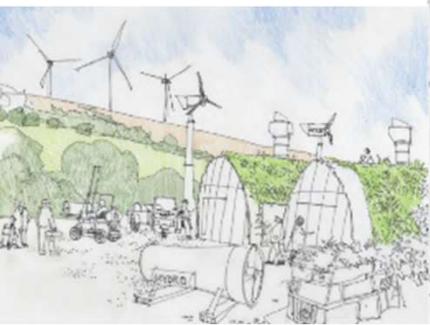
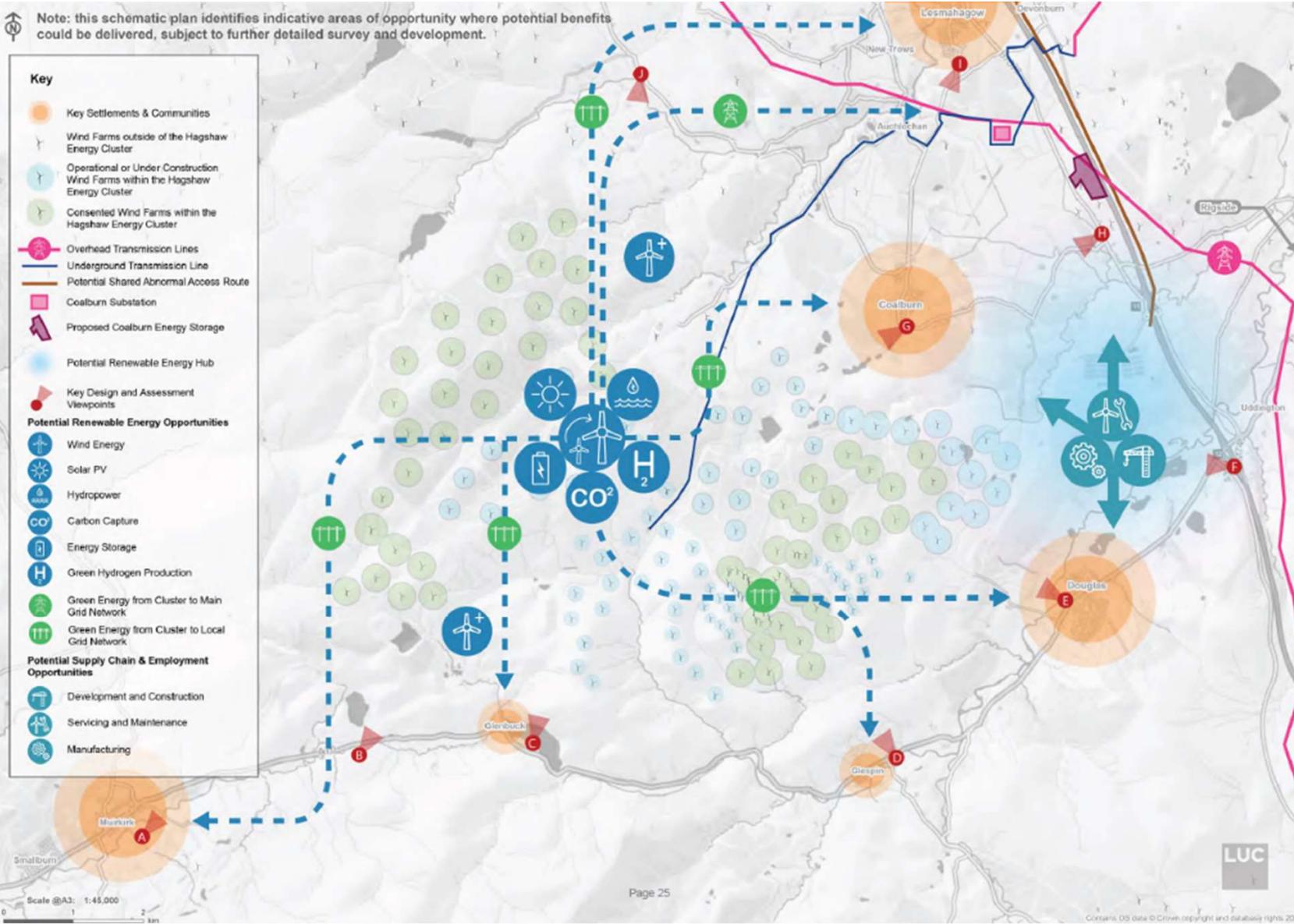
4. Key Design Principles include:

- Avoid visual coalescence with other nearby wind farms or clusters of wind farms beyond the cluster; and
- Promote greater consistency and cohesion in turbine composition and scale across the cluster e.g. turbine spacing, elevation, rotor diameter and/or blade tip height



A developer's perspective

5. Collaboration and economic opportunities



A developer's perspective:

6. What comes next?



Hagshaw Hill Repowering granted consent in February 2020 (200m to blade tip height). Replacing the original Hagshaw Hill, the fourteen 6MW turbines will deliver a fivefold increase in the green energy generated from the site.



Enhancement and creation of **local active travel routes** and networks to improving physical and mental wellbeing, and promote healthier lifestyles.



Construction of c.325 MW of consented development by 2028, including Hare Craig (230m) and Cumberhead West (200m) consolidating the existing cluster to almost 585 MW of green energy generation.



Long-term enhancements to nature and biodiversity, and establishment of the cluster as a destination for outdoor recreation and adventure.



2000



Further wind farm developments are constructed within the cluster in the early 21st century, including Nutberry (115m) and Galawhistle (110-121m), whilst Dalquhandy, Douglas West (149.9m) and Cumberhead (180m) Wind Farms are currently under construction.

2022



Adoption of the Development Framework in 2022 with a 10-year delivery and review period, in which updates will be made to respond to changing baseline context and policy

2030



Establishment of potential 'Renewable Energy Hub' delivering employment and other long term benefits to bring greater prosperity to the local and regional economy.

10 Year review

Extension, life extension and repowering of existing wind farms within the cluster delivering optimised generation and greater unity in wind farm design.

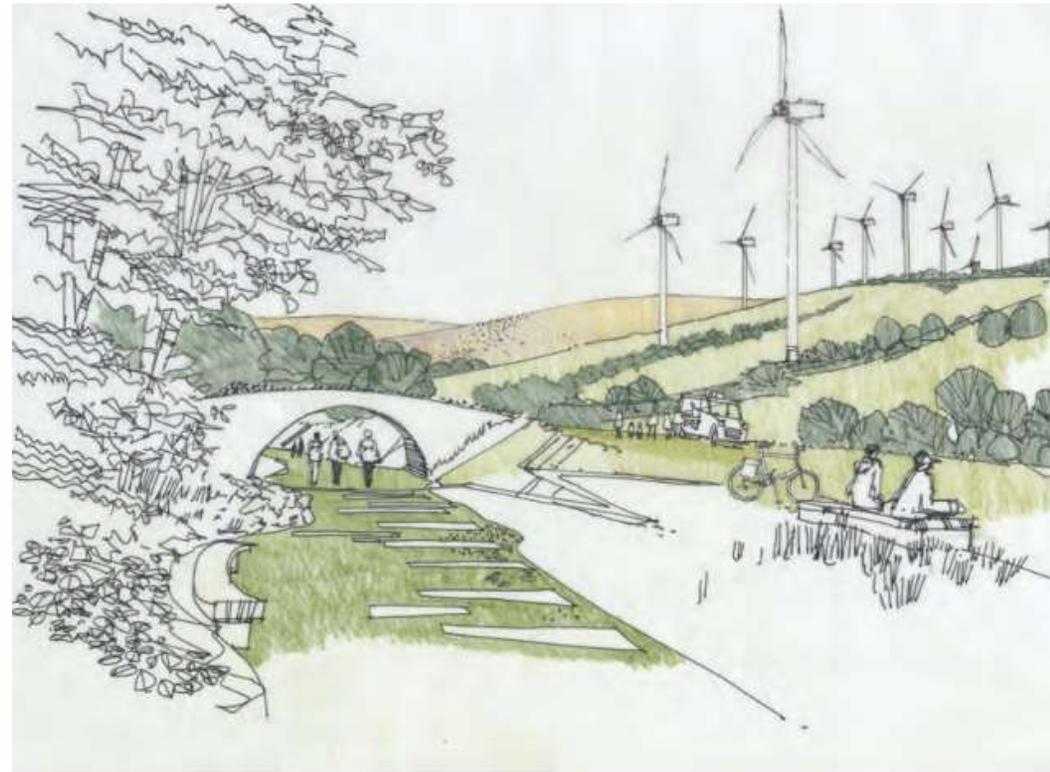
2045

Scotland to reach target of Net Zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045. Opportunity for the cluster to contribute over 1GW of renewable energy generation towards the target.

Benefits to planning authority:

1. Putting into practice a place based approach

- Aligns with national direction of travel
- Key driver of emerging NPF4
- A rural focus for placemaking



Benefits to planning authority:

2. Alignment with national and local policy

Themes and outcome tie into draft NPF4, emerging LDP2 and the Council's corporate priorities:



1. Realising the Renewable Energy Opportunity



2. Resilient and Connected Communities



3. Coordinated Enhancement of Nature



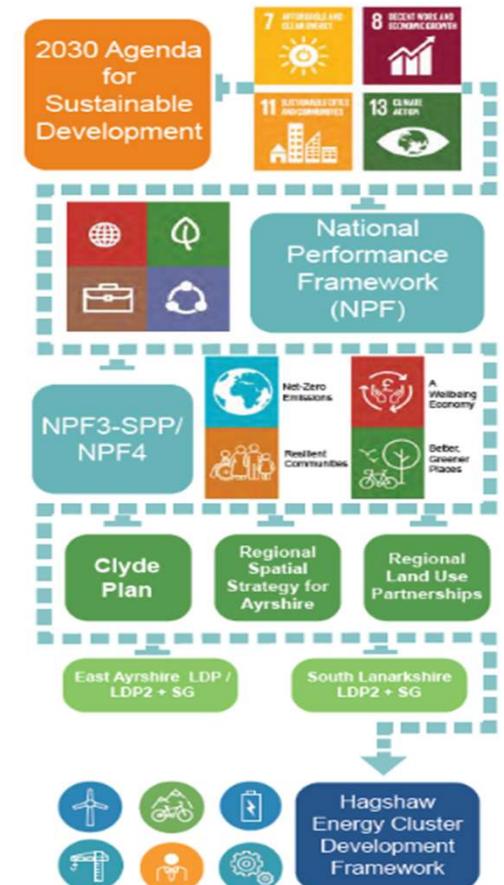
4. A Strong Identity, of Heritage, People and Place



5. Inclusive, Sustainable Growth



6. Outdoor Recreation to Support Health and Wellbeing



Benefits to planning authority:

3. Enhancing the planning process

- When adopted, the Framework will sit between the statutory Development Plan and the Development Management Process
 - Non-statutory planning guidance
 - Material consideration
 - Fills an important gap
- Increase consistency in considering development proposals
 - Including cross-boundary
- Sets the context for Environmental Impact Assessment

Benefits to planning authority: 4. Supporting our communities

- Links to far wider ambitions to rejuvenate our former coalfield communities
- Significant community engagement – helped shape the framework
- A focus on aspiration and vision – for the communities and their landscape
- A starting point for thinking strategically about community benefits
 - £2.7 million in investment per annum
- Enhance and streamline engagement with developers.





Note: this schematic plan identifies indicative areas of opportunity where potential benefits could be delivered, subject to further detailed survey and development.

Key

- Key Settlements & Communities
- Wind Farms outside of the Hagshaw Energy Cluster
- Wind Farms within the Hagshaw Energy Cluster
- National Cycle Network Route
- River Ayr Way
- Core Paths
- Motorway
- A Road
- B Road
- Potential Opportunities for Improved Community Connections**
- Wider Regional Active Travel Links
- Active Travel Links between Local Communities
- Public / Shared Transport
- Cycle Routes
- Community Ownership and Management of Land
- Electric Vehicle Charging
- 20 Minute Places

4. Supporting our communities



Regional Active Travel Links to connect with the Clyde Walkway

Regional Active Travel Links to connect with the River Ayr Way



Scale @A3: 1:4,000



The benefits for communities



- £2.7 million in investment per annum
- Long term vision for investment
- Resource – new economic development officer in post
- Opportunity to shape future development
- Streamlined engagement with developers

Next steps



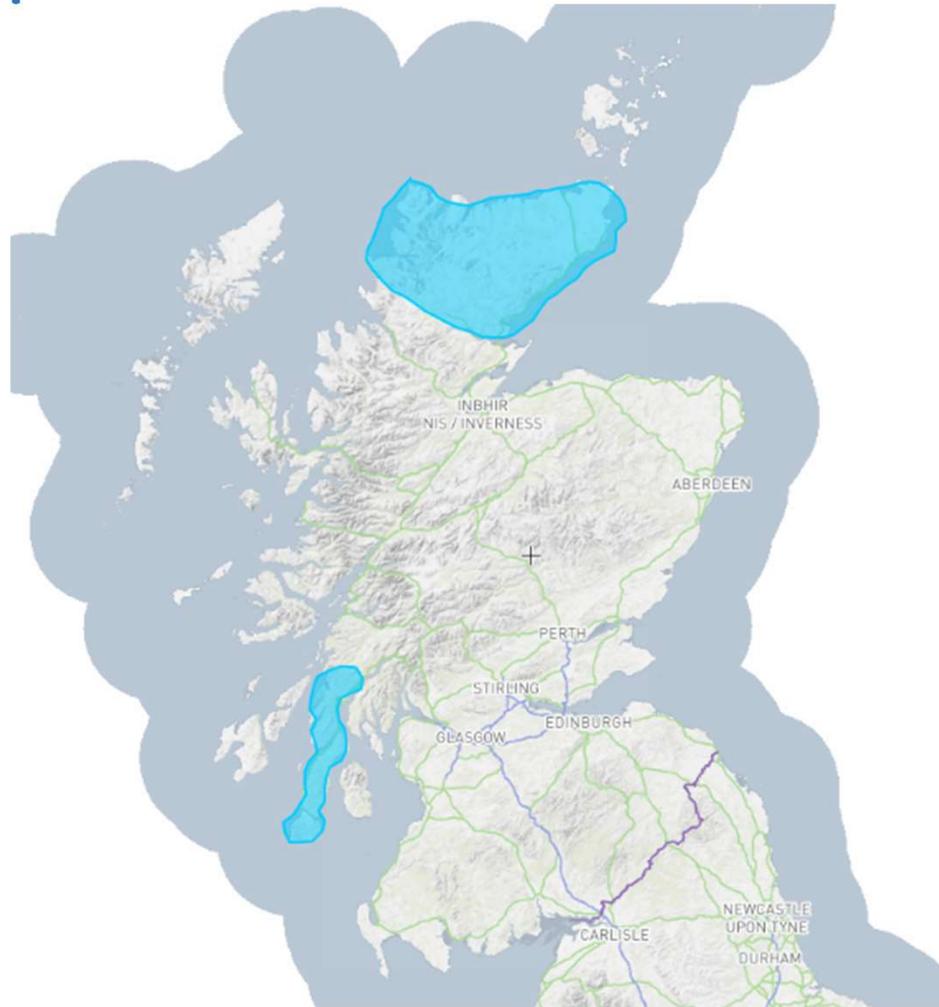
- Scoping the framework - completed
- Local stakeholder engagement – completed
- Draft framework – completed
- Consultation by Planning Authorities - Autumn 2022
- Adoption – December 2022

Lessons learned



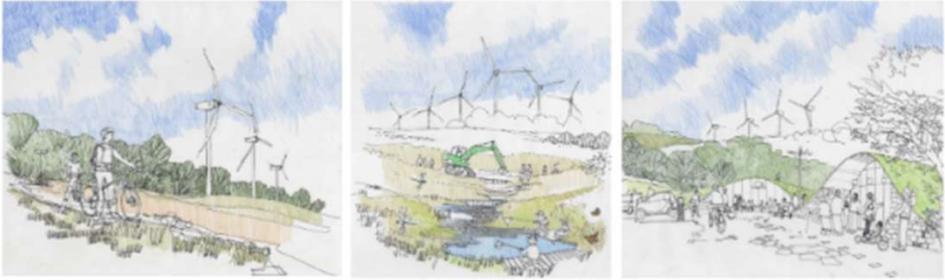
- Collaboration takes time, to build trust and relationships
- Resource required – 1 FTE
- Engage communities and land owners early
- Scale is key – too big an area becomes too complex – 20 x 20km just about feasible
- A long term ambitious vision is attractive to communities
- ...but need to be mindful of current priorities, post pandemic and cost of living

Where next ?



A Development Framework for the Hagshaw Energy Cluster

Planning for Net Zero



What stage are we at?

The Development Framework will identify opportunities to enhance and invest in the local environment, communities and place. LUC has led the development of the Framework and the stakeholder engagement process to shape the document.

During Winter 2021-2022 we sought views from landowners, communities, local businesses and other important stakeholders to help shape the Development Framework and help identify opportunities and priorities for investment. We listened to what people contributed and are now incorporating the ideas and feedback into the draft Development Framework.

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