Langhope Rig Wind Farm

Map of Langhope Rig wind farm

**Project overview**

SSE Renewables (SSER) secured consent to construct the 10 turbine Langhope Rig wind farm in May 2008. The site is located approximately 5km west of Ashkirk and 4km south east of Ettrickbridge. Our proposed site layout (subject to final approval from Scottish Borders Council) can be found above.

Access is by a forestry track exiting from the B711 via Hyndhope/Alemoor Forest.

Langhope Rig will consist of ten 1.6MW turbines giving a total installed capacity of 16MW and a maximum tip height of up to 121.2m. The original development consent allowed for a 23MW site but following wind data results a smaller turbine was chosen to better reflect the wind resource.

Langhope Rig will generate renewable electricity to help meet regional and national demand and will contribute to the renewable energy targets set by the Scottish and UK Governments. The electricity will be transferred to the National Grid electricity transmission network for onward distribution and use by consumers. Once complete, Langhope Rig will generate enough renewable electricity to power around 15,000 homes*.

* Based on household consumption of 3,300 kWh a year.
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Construction
We hope to begin construction at Langhope Rig in Spring 2013, with construction expected to last 12-14 months.

At the moment we are still finalising the pre construction works, however once we have a confirmed construction schedule we will communicate this back to local residents. We are keen to create an open dialogue with the local community and will provide more detailed information over the coming months as it becomes available.

The main construction elements will be:

- 10 wind turbines;
- one wind monitoring mast;
- approximately 13km of access tracks;
- overhead & underground grid connection;
- landscaping enhancement;
- biodiversity enhancement;
- drainage works;
- 7 temporary borrow pits;
- a temporary construction compound;
- felling of around 20 hectares of timber;
- a welfare building; and
- associated works.
Grid connection: We expect to connect Langhope Rig to the Grid via an overhead and underground cable connecting to the existing Hawick substation. Most of the connection will be undergrounded (for a distance of 8km) as per the community’s wishes however some of the connection had to be connected via overhead wooden poles (for a distance of 6km) for environmental reasons; to limit any contamination in nearby watercourses at the site.

Principal contractors: Although an SSE Renewables project, the site will be managed by a ‘Principal Contractor’ whose role is to deliver the wind farm safely and within an agreed timescale. The tender process is currently underway to hire a Principal Contractor in accordance with UK and International standards in respect of health, safety, quality and environmental conservation.

Offsite works: There will be some work required for road repairs /strengthening and tree trimming in order to transport the turbines to the site. We will keep the community updated on the schedule for these works to minimise any disruption caused.
Construction Traffic

The construction phase requires that materials, plant and personnel are transported to site by road. Construction traffic will generally consist of HGV’s (heavy goods vehicles) and abnormal load deliveries (turbines, blades and hubs etc). Only authorised vehicles will be permitted on site both during and post construction.

• **Route:** The construction route will run from the B711 from Martins Bridge to the site.

• **Abnormal Loads:** Abnormal loads will take the A68 onto the A698 to Hawick via the town centre, then onto the A7 to Martins Bridge, following the B711 to the site.

• **Volume:** Due to the size of the site, the majority of the construction work will be complete prior to turbine components arriving on site.

• **Site Tracks:** The site tracks are required to enable the turbine components and construction materials to be taken to their locations, and to enable ongoing access for maintenance during the operational life of the wind farm. A new bellmouth will be created where the site tracks join the B711 to allow the turbine components to access the site tracks.

• **Forestry:** There will be some forestry removal from site, where timber has been cleared from the sides of the access tracks and around the temporary compound and borrow pit. This equates to around 20 hectares of timber. We hope to remove the felled timber ahead of construction beginning on site.

• **Driver ‘Code of Conduct’:** All staff at Langhope Rig will receive an initial site induction which includes information on safe and responsible driving. We expect all staff to drive according to national regulations (e.g not exceeding the speed limit) and with consideration to the road and prevailing conditions. Regular ‘toolbox’ talks are held throughout the construction phase to reinforce site safety and will include discussion on safe driving. All staff will be expected to sign up to a ‘drivers code of conduct’. Where staff are proven to drive other than in accordance with how we expect they may face disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from site.

• **Vehicle identification:** Vehicles servicing the Langhope Rig site regularly will, where reasonably practical to do so, be required to display site identification markers. An example of an identification label is shown here.

If we receive reports of inappropriate driving, accompanied by the identification number (or the registration number of the vehicle) we will investigate the matter and take whatever action is required based on our findings.

Reports should be made to the project liaison manager or to the Police as necessary.
Community

In addition to generating clean, renewable energy our wind farms are bringing a range of community benefits both during and after construction, including increased job opportunities and improvements to the built and natural environment. In addition we have, for a number of years, established local funds as our way of saying thank you to the communities which host our wind farms.

Community investment fund

At the end of last year we announced that we wanted to do even more to ensure that specific benefits from our renewable energy development program are delivered to the people and economy of Scotland.

Communities neighbouring the Langhope Rig wind farm will be among the first to benefit from our new investment fund arrangement which is:

£2,500 per MW for local community projects

And an additional £2,500 per MW for a regional fund

For Langhope Rig, this means a total fund value of £80,000 per annum (for the lifespan of the wind farm or 25 years whichever is the sooner), split equally between the local community and the regional funds.

Local community fund: Communities have been benefiting from SSE’s community investment since we launched our first fund in 2002, and many more will be eligible to apply for funding as new wind farms come on stream. We have set aside a sizeable fund for communities local to our wind farms, for existing and new sites.

It is for these communities to decide what’s important to them and to support projects which are best for their area. It might be job creation, keeping the local shop open or improving community transport.

The Langhope Rig Panel, made up of volunteers representing the community council boundaries of Ettrick & Yarrow, Upper Teviotdale & Borthwick Water and Lilliesleaf, Ashkirk & Midlem, will meet again in September to discuss the fund and the application process.

Regional fund: We believe this has the potential to make significant and sustainable differences to the people of Scotland and is for use in:

- skills development – focussing on training people, and job creation and retention;
- community energy schemes – unlocking the potential for communities to develop their own renewable energy schemes; and
- projects to improve the built and natural environment.

We will manage the regional fund with selected partner organisations and identify strategic areas of need within the Scottish Borders boundary area. Our plans are at a very early stage and more information will be published once it is available.
It is company policy for SSE Renewables to use local businesses and contractors wherever possible during the construction and operational phases of the wind farm. We also aim to build strong relationships with local business organisations such as the Scottish Borders Chamber of Commerce.

**During construction at our Toddleburn and Carcant projects in the Scottish Borders:**

- A significant amount was spent with local and regional companies (Examples: Ground works, archaeology, steel fixers, cleaning, fencing, vehicle services, legal services, site civil works, forestry...)

- This was in addition to local spend on local accommodation, food, fuel and sundries totalled by our staff.

If you are interested in working with SSE and would like to provide us with further details of your business or services please fill in one of our local business forms (or speak to a member of staff). This will allow us to keep a record of your expertise and contact you directly, or share your details with our contractors, should any relevant opportunities arise.

All of SSE’s Tier One suppliers (direct suppliers) are required to be verified via Achilles to achieve our high standards of quality, efficiency and safety – for further information on the Achilles scheme, please visit the Achilles website at: [http://www.achilles.com/en/](http://www.achilles.com/en/).
Communication:

We will provide regular updates on progress at Langhope Rig so that you see what is happening on site, but also be informed of when there are certain events such as turbine deliveries which may affect your day to day activities.

- **Community Update**: We will produce a newsletter which is sent to homes along the primary transport route. This is supplemented with letters where something needs to be communicated between newsletters. Electronic copies are also sent to people who have signed up to receive their newsletter by email.

- **Project website**: The project website:  
  
  www.sse.com/langhoperig

The website will be updated regularly with the latest project information and copies of the latest community updates for download.

- **Email**: We have an email distribution list which local residents can join so that they receive the latest information as quickly as possible. This also helps us get information about unexpected last minute changes (such as delayed or postponed turbine deliveries) to residents without delay.

If you would like to join the email distribution list, please either speak to a project team member today or email the project liaison manager, Kirstanne McDowall, whose contact details are below.

- **One to one contact**: Alternatively, please feel free to contact Kirstanne directly to discuss the project or any concerns you may have.

![Example of newsletter](example_newsletter.png)