## Key Issues
The specific issues relating to the proposed development from the EIA process were mainly related to the design. They key design objectives aimed to:

- achieve an appropriate scale in terms of number, height and distribution/layout of turbines in relation to the landform of the site, immediately surrounding area and skyline;
- achieve satisfactory visual relationship (balanced, coherent and clearly legible) between turbines at the proposed development, Ewe Hill Wind Farm, Craig Wind Farm and Crossdykes Wind Farm with appropriate height, ratio of turbine rotor to tower and overall appearance;
- achieve a satisfactory visual and setting relationship between the proposed development and cultural heritage assets and designations;
- produce a layout which is considered viable from a potential wind energy yield and has the maximum capacity available from the wind resource; and
- maximise use of existing infrastructure on site.

## Purpose of the project
Ramboll Environ was commissioned by 2020 Renewables, on behalf of Buccleuch, to input into the design, coordinate the EIA, and deliver the Environmental Statement (ES) in support of a planning application to Dumfries and Galloway Council for a 12 turbine wind farm. The proposed development would contribute to implementing the national climate change strategy and policy targets, which aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by supporting renewable energy. The proposed development would save approximately 54,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year (compared to a typical grid mix of electricity supply).

## Description of the project
The proposed development is located approximately 7.5 km north west of Langholm, situated west of the B709 road within the Eskdale and Liddesdale Estate, which is owned by and managed by Buccleuch. The nearest settlement is Bentpath, located approximately 1.4 km north of the site entrance on the B709 road.
Lessons learnt
A number of lessons were learnt during the course of the project, these are listed below.

- Understanding all key environmental constraints at an early stage allowed the design to be optimised;
- The consideration of alternatives in site layout and technologies was important to minimise environmental impacts;
- Early engagement with key stakeholders ensured the evolving design addressed concerns. This allowed a number of potential effects to be ‘mitigated by design’ and thus certain topics to be scoped out of EIA;
- By scoping the project tightly it was possible to produce a focussed and proportionate ES which was concise yet included all the information required by the planning authority;
- Timely checks of the status of the Crossdykes, Ewe Hill and Loganhead Wind Farms ensured the design and assessment responded to any relevant changes in their layout/status; and
- Regular check-ins with the wider EIA team ensured information and design changes were effectively communicated and deadlines met.

Contact details
Case Study Author: Rachael Martin, Consultant
Project Contact Details: Peter Bruce, Manager, Ramboll Environ
pbruce@ramboll.com
+44 131 297 2650

For access to more EIA case studies and hundreds of non-technical summaries of Environmental Statements visit: www.iema.net/qmark