

# Report

6

Report to:	<b>Community and Enterprise Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>8 August 2017</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Community Benefit Funds – New Contributions</b>
----------	--

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ seek approval for community benefit payments generated from the Couplaw, Eastertown, Westtown, High Dyke, Garelwood, Whitehill and Auchrobert wind turbine and wind farm sites to be managed through the Renewable Energy Fund (REF)

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the Council's REF incorporate provision for the receipt and disbursement of community benefit payments in respect of Couplaw, Eastertown, Westtown, High Dyke, Garelwood, Whitehill and Auchrobert wind turbine and wind farm sites; and
- (2) that the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) be authorised to conclude administrative matters in relation to the incorporation of the community benefit using the established REF mechanism.

## 3. Background

3.1. Through its Renewable Energy Community Benefits Policy, the Council has sought annual community benefit payments ranging from £1000 per MW, when the policy began in 2004, to £5000 per MW with regard to the most recent applications. This is aligned with the Scottish Government's Good Practice Principles for Onshore Energy Development recommendations published in 2015. These contribution rates are for guidance only as neither the Scottish Government nor the Council can oblige developers to provide community benefit contributions.

3.2. To encourage development and to maximise contributions, a flexible approach is taken particularly in the case of small developments where the use of capitalised one off payments in lieu of recurring annual contributions.

Details of the developments and the agreed contributions to the REF are provided in Appendix 1 of this report.

3.2. These agreements with developers places an obligation on the Council to administer community benefit funding received through the established REF processes. The REF currently manages community benefits from 22 windfarms including Blacklaw, Whitelee, Pates Hill, Stallashaw Moss, Millburn, Dykehead, Haspielaw, Upper Haywood, Tanhill, North Brackenridge, Blantyre Muir, Browncastle, Burnbrae, Calder Water, Lampits and Andershaw wind turbine sites.

- 4. Eligible Area for Distribution of REF Grants from the turbine sites**
- 4.1. The eligible area for the funds generated from each of the developments is identified in Appendix 1, Maps 1-5 and are generally within 10km of the application site boundary. Each maps identifies the geographical area covered by each of the windfarm community benefit funds.
- 5. Employee Implications**
- These additional REF contributions will be managed using existing Planning and Economic Development Services staff resources.
- 6. Financial Implications**
- There are no additional financial implications for the Council in managing the proposed new funds. Funding can only be dispersed to projects located within the eligible areas once they have been received from the developer.
- 7. Other Implications**
- 7.1. There is no risk to the Council in supporting this proposal. By not proceeding, the Council would not be acting consistently in support of its community benefit policy and there would be a risk that the funds would not be distributed timeously and equitably to eligible community organisations operating in the area.
- 7.2. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report. The underlying basis of Community Benefit Funds is to support local community groups and organisations become more sustainable.
- 8. Equality Impact Arrangements and Consultation Arrangements**
- 8.1. Community benefit will provide support to a wide range of voluntary, charitable and community groups/bodies across an extensive area of rural South Lanarkshire. Consultation has taken place with Planning Services and the Developers.
- 8.2. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore, no impact assessment is required.

**Michael McGlynn**  
**Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)**

11 July 2017

**Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values**

- ◆ Sustainable Development
- ◆ People focused

**Previous References**

- ◆ Executive Committee 3 March 2004, “Community Benefit: Establishment of a Renewable Energy Fund”.
- ◆ Executive Committee 1 December 2010, Renewable Energy Developments and Community Benefit.
- ◆ Enterprise Services Committee, 1 April 2014, Scottish Government Consultation on Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments

### **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Planning Consent for Couplaw, Eastertown, Westtown, High Dyke, Garelwood, Whitehill and Auchrobert wind turbine and wind farm sites.

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like further information, please contact:-

John Archibald, Project Development Officer

Ext: (Tel: 01698 455181)

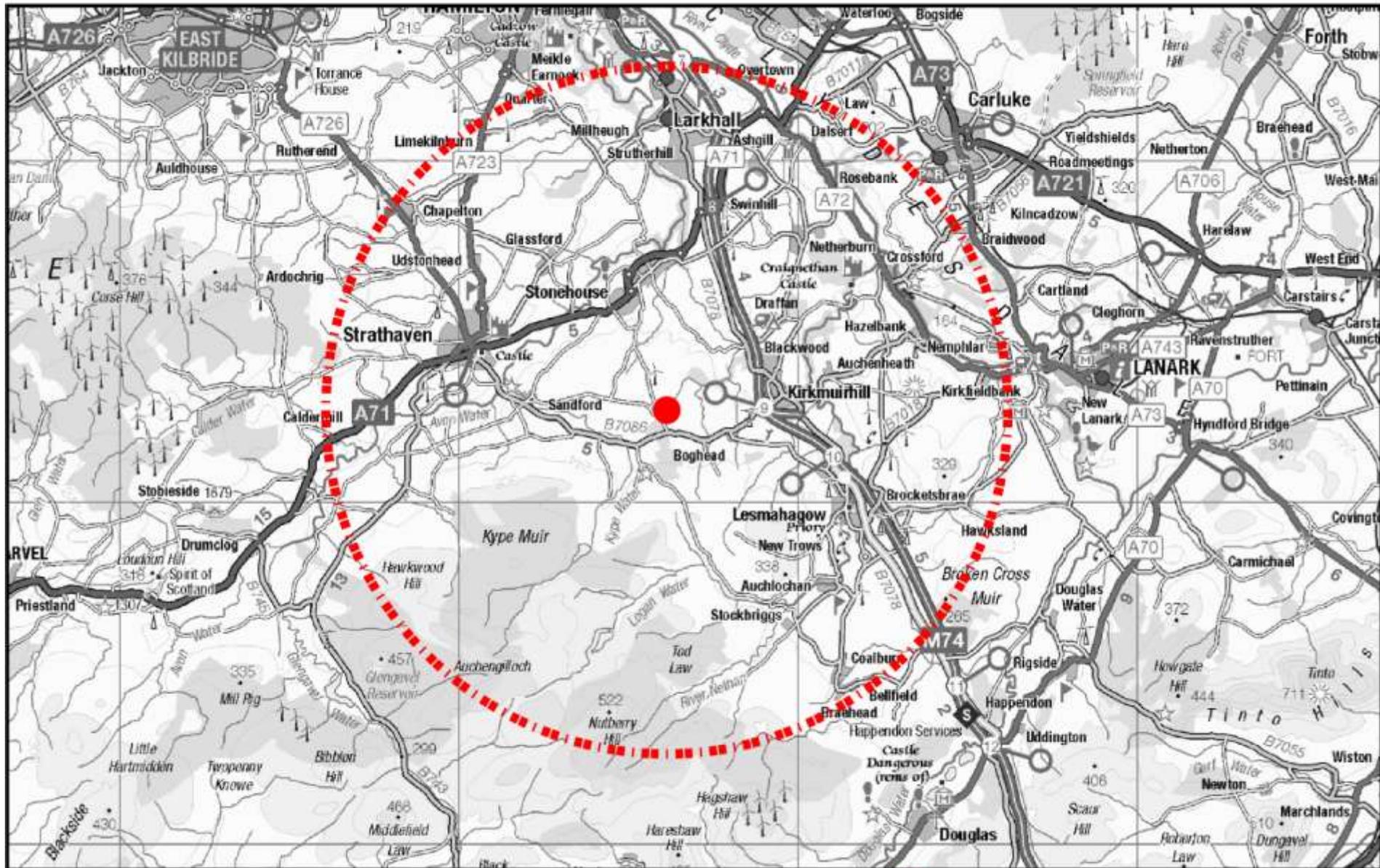
E-mail: [john.archibald@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:john.archibald@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1

Application Number	Site	Location	Operator	Consent Granted	Development	Contribution to REF	Contribution calculation	Area of benefit
HM/14/0398	Couplaw Wind Turbine	Couplaw Farm, Dykehead Road, Stonehouse, ML9 3PD	VG Energy Ltd	April 2015	1 x 500Kw turbine	£9000 in capitalised payments to the REF	2014 application when £5000 per mw was sought annually. Applicant agreed to provide a one of payment of £6000 with a further £3000 payable on commissioning.	Map 1
CL/12/0336	Eastertown Wind Turbine	Eastertown Farm Douglas Water Lanark	Dalestone Energy LLP	November 2013	1 x 500kw turbine	£14,982 in a capitalised payment to the REF	2012 application when £2,500 per mw was sought as a minimum annual contribution. Applicant agreed to provide a one of capitalised payment in lieu of the annual amount.	Map 2
HM/12/0303	Westtown Wind Turbine	Westtown Farm, Spittal Road, Stonehouse, ML9 3PS	ILI(Westtown) Ltd	November 2013	1 x 500Kw turbine	£45,000 in a capitalised payment to the REF	2012 application when £2,500 per mw was sought as a minimum annual contribution. Applicant agreed to provide a one of capitalised payment in lieu of the annual amount	Map 3
EK/12/0251	High Dyke Wind Turbine	High Dyke Farm, Sandford Strathaven	Green Cat Renewables Ltd	September 2014	1 x 800Kw turbine	£33,333 in a capitalised payment to the REF	2012 application when £2,500 per mw was sought as a minimum annual contribution. Applicant agreed to provide a one of capitalised payment in lieu of the annual amount	Map 4
CL/12/0556	Auchrobert Wind Farm	Auchrobert Farm, Lesmahagow ML11 0HP	Falck Renewables Ltd	December 2014	12 x 3.23Mw turbines	£96,900 per annum	2012 application when £2,500 per mw was sought as a minimum annual contribution. Applicant agreed to provide this and is also directly delivering a number of local benefits.	Map 5

CL/12/0286	Garelwood Wind Turbine	Garelwood Farm	ILI (Garelwood) Limited	December 2013	1 x 500Kw turbine	£2,500 per annum	2012 application when £2,500 per mw was sought as a minimum annual contribution. Applicant agreed to provide a contribution equating to £5,000 per mw.	Map 6
HM/14 /0283	Whitehill Wind Turbine	Whitehill farm, Stonehouse, Larkhall ML9 3PR	PRE Whitehill Limited	September 2014	1 x 500Kw turbine	£2,500 per annum	2014 application when £5,000 per mw was sought as an annual contribution.	Map 7

# Map 1 Community Benefit Funds Couplaw Wind Turbine

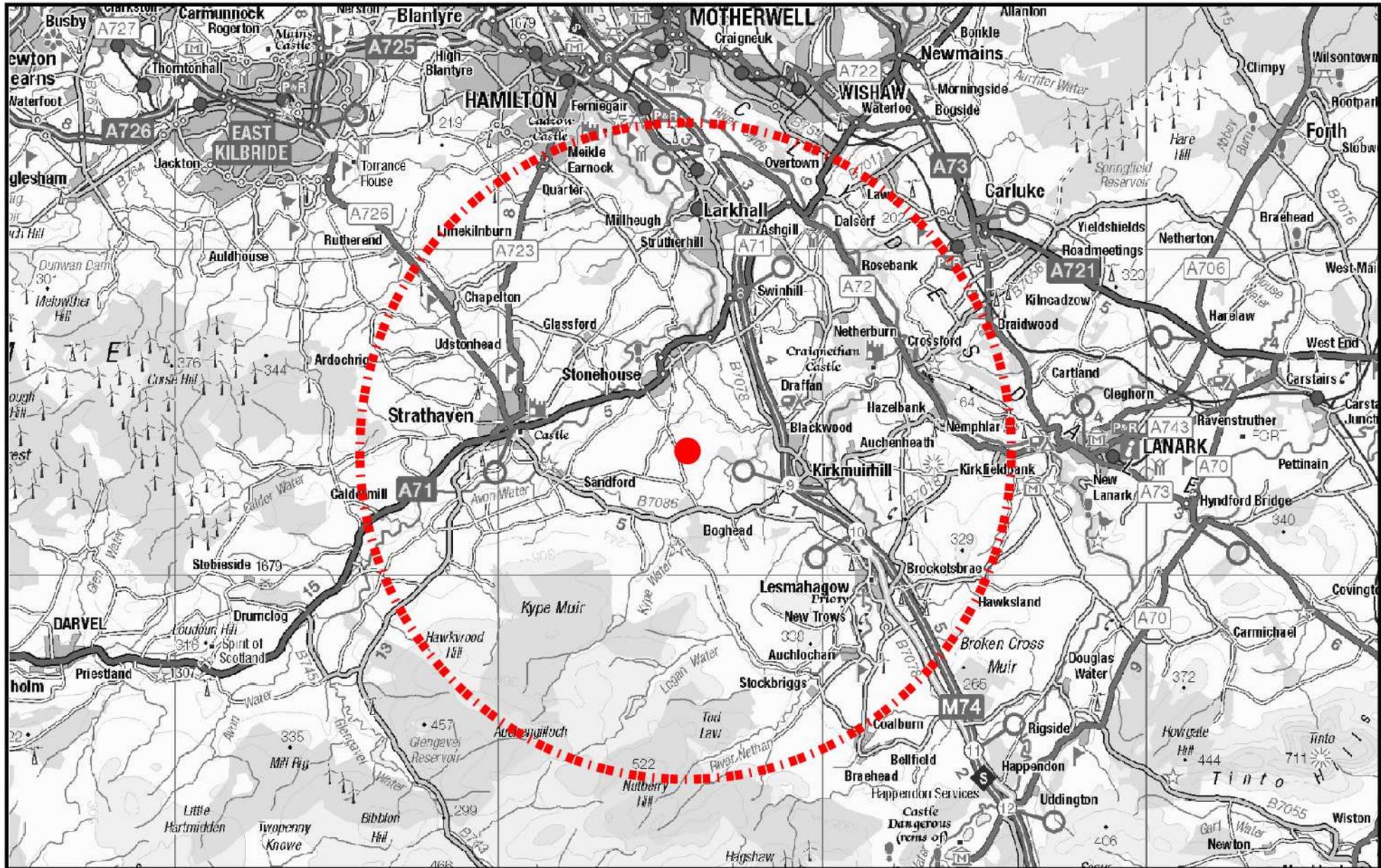


● Couplaw Wind Turbine  
- - - - - 10km boundary

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown Copyright and database right 2017. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100020730 2017. Not to scale/indicative only



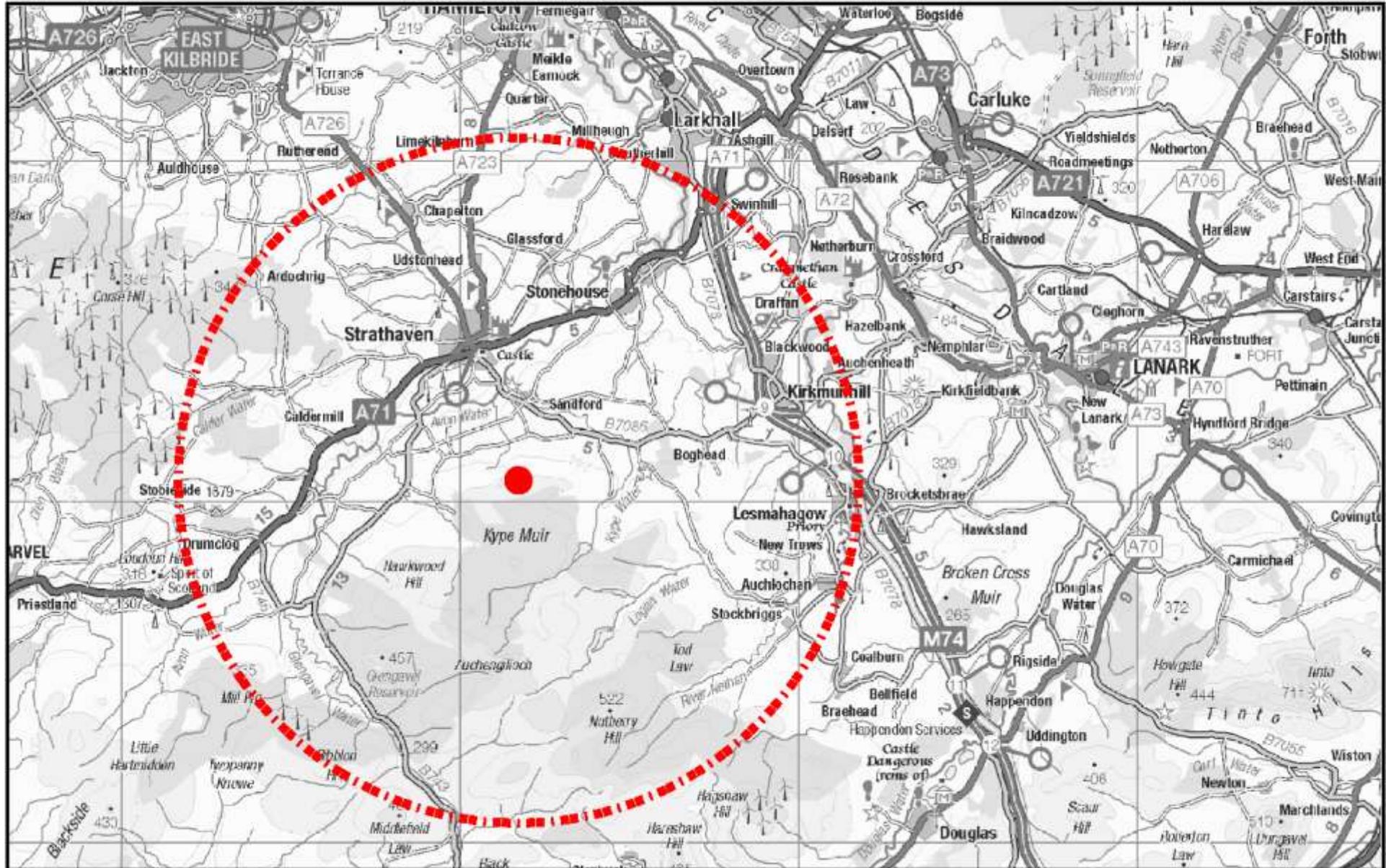
# Map 3 Community Benefit Funds Westtown Wind Turbine



● Westtown Wind Turbine  
- - - - - 10km boundary

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown Copyright and database right 2017. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100020730 2017. Not to scale/Indicative only

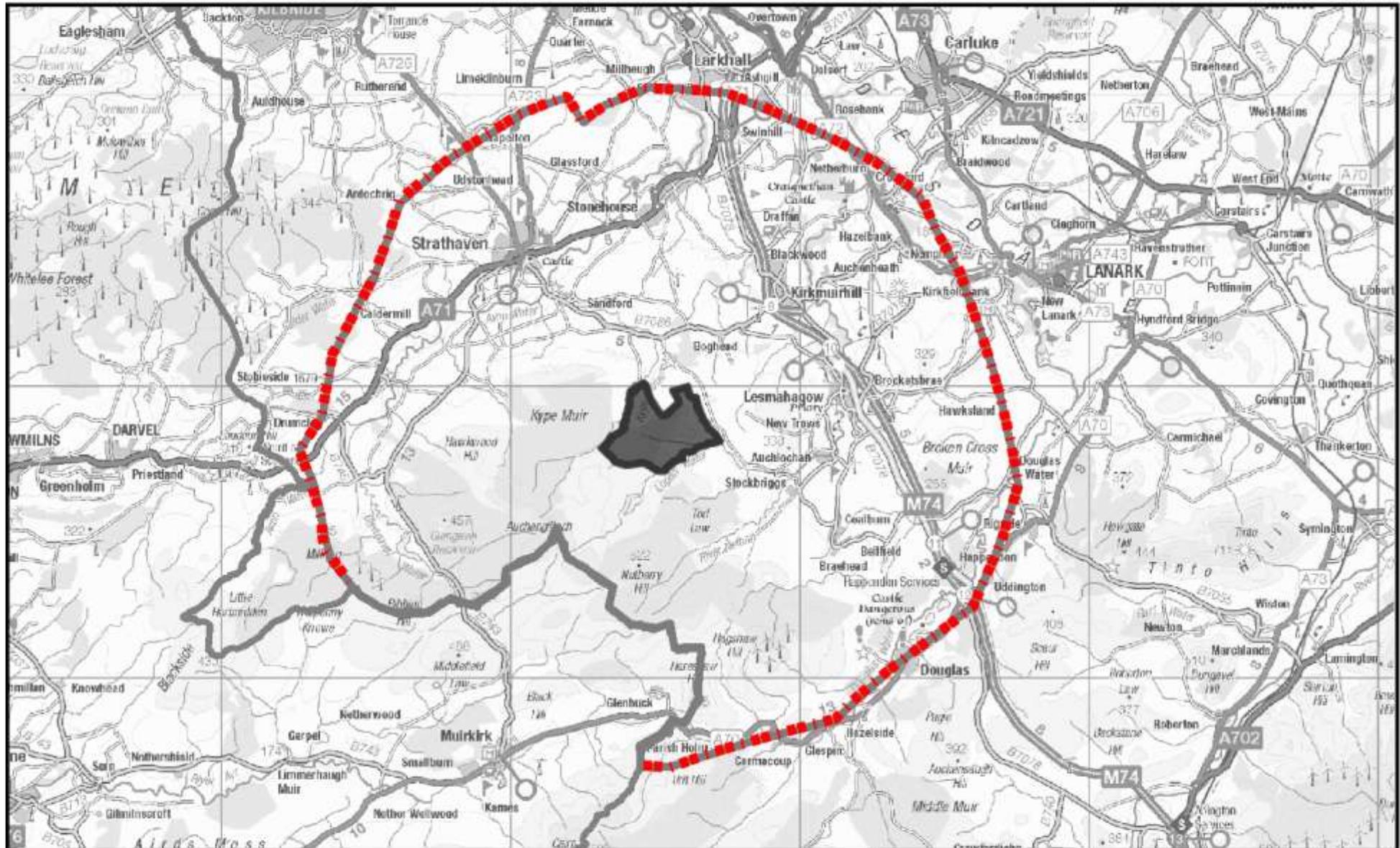
# Map 4 Community Benefit Funds High Dyke Wind Turbine



● High Dyke Wind Turbine  
- - - - - 10km boundary

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown Copyright and database right 2017. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100020730 2017. Not to scale/indicative only

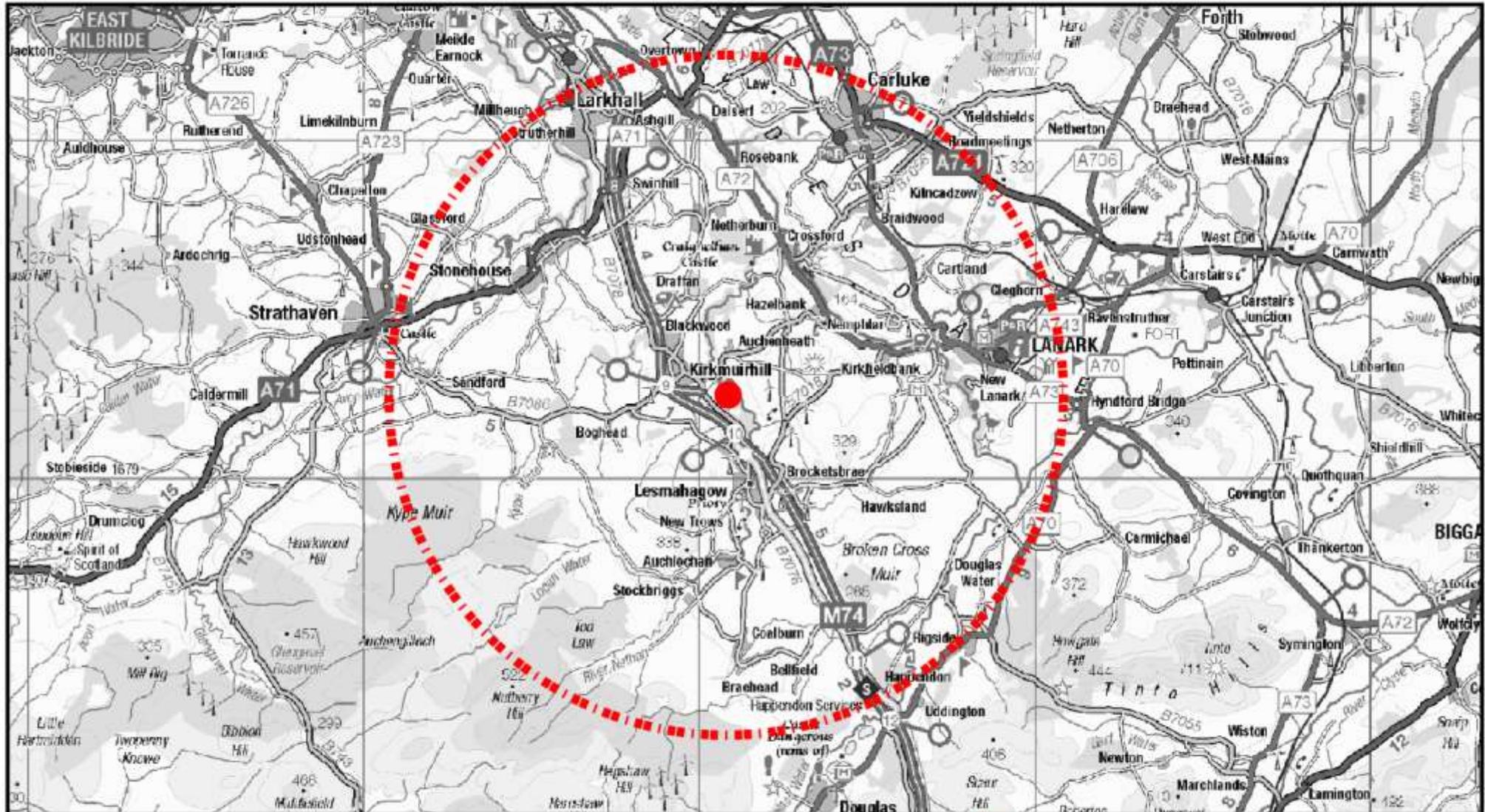
# Map 5 Community Benefit Funds Auchrobert Wind Farm



-  SLC Boundary
-  Auchrobert Wind Farm
-  10km boundary

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown Copyright and database right 2017. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100020730 2017. Not to scale/indicative only

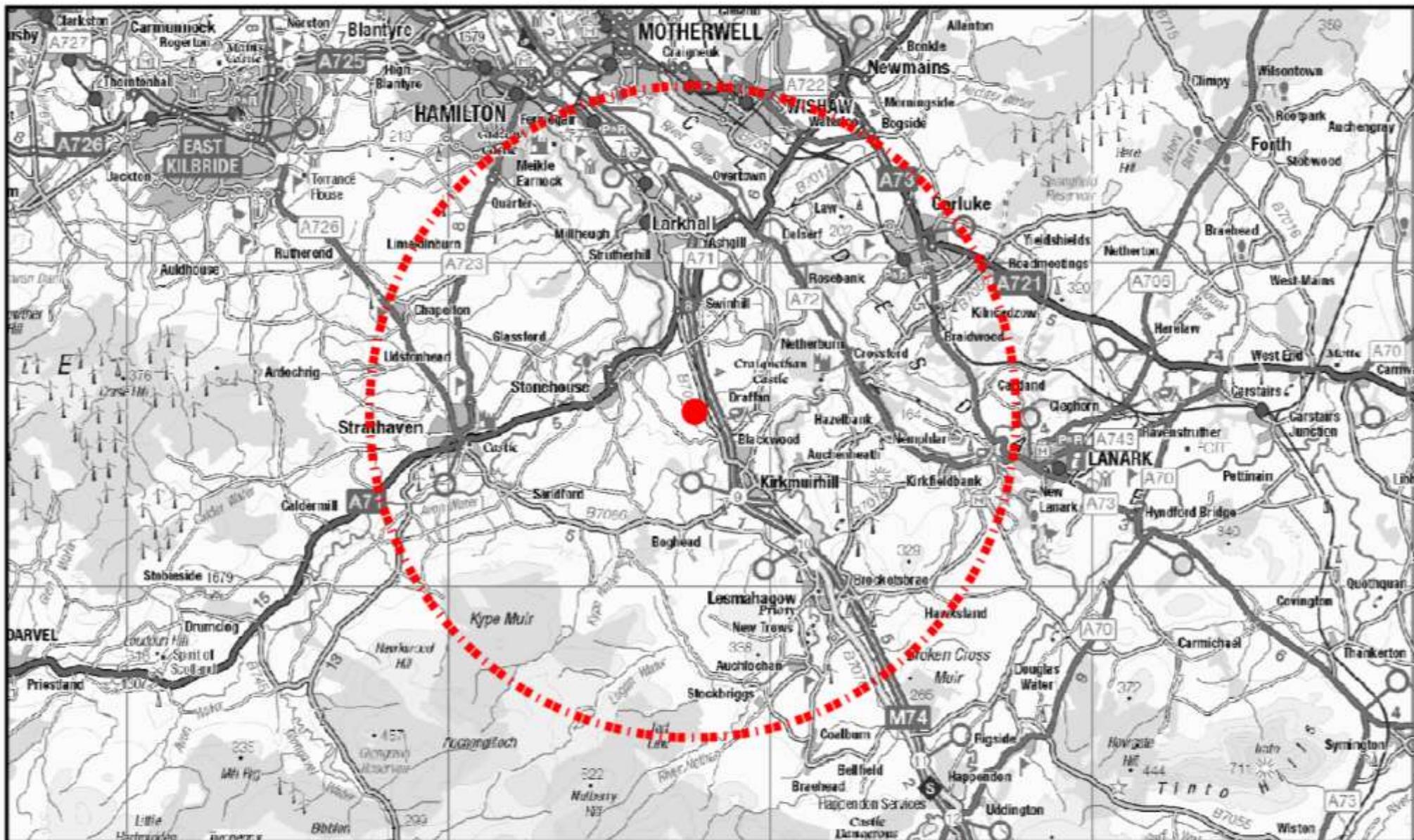
# Map 6 Community Benefit Funds Garlewood Wind Turbine



● Garlewood Wind Turbine  
- - - - - 10km boundary

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown Copyright and database right 2017. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100020730 2017. Not to scale/indicative only

# Map 7 Community Benefit Funds Whitehill Wind Turbine



● Whitehill Wind Turbine  
- - - - - 10km boundary

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown Copyright and database right 2017. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100020730 2017. Not to scale/indicative only