

Report

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Report to:	Enterprise Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	22 January 2013
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Renewable Energy Fund – New Contributions
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide an update in relation to renewable energy developments and seek approval for associated community benefit payments 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 the Millburn, Dykehead, Haspielaw, Upper Haywood, Tanhill and North Brackenridge wind turbines 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 The renewable energy developments at the Millburn, Dykehead, Haspielaw, Upper Haywood, Tanhill and North Brackenridge are all for 3 or less turbines.
- 3.2 Under the Renewable Energy Community Benefits Policy approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 1 December 2010 the Council seeks a minimum of £2,500 per MW, installed capacity, annually, but is happy to adopt a more flexible approach for small scale developments in order to maximise contributions without prejudicing development. With this in mind a number of developers have agreed to a one off contribution instead of small annual payments. The capitalised payments achieved are seen as appropriate bearing in mind the level of annual contribution that would have been achieved in each case. Details of the developments and the agreed contributions to the REF are provided in the following table.

Application Number	Site	Planning permission Granted	Development	Contribution to Renewable Energy Fund
HM/12/0029	Millburn Farm, Larkhall	13/07/12	1 x 100kw turbine	£5,500 one off capitalised payment
HM/11/0211	Dykehead Farm	20/01/12	1 x 500kw turbine	£45,000 one off capitalised payment
HM/11/0288	Haspielaw Farm Hamilton	22/05/12	1 x 500kw turbine	£22,500 one off capitalised payment
CL/11/0070	Upper Haywood	26/01/12	1 x 225kw turbine	£20,250 one off capitalised payment
CL/12/0276	Tanhill Stonehouse	13/08/12	1 x 500kw turbine	£45,000 one off capitalised payment
CL/12/0123	North Brackenridge	16/11/12	1 x 500kw turbine	£32,000 One off capitalised payment

- 3.3 The agreements reached in each case place an obligation on the Council to administer the community benefit received from the Windfarm.
- 3.4 The Council has already established a REF for the collection and distribution of 'community benefit' payments at the Blacklaw, Whitelees, Paites Hill and Stallashaw Moss Windfarms. The established REF model was also used when developing the Clyde Wind Farm Fund.
- 3.5 It is proposed that the arrangements in place for the distribution of funds through the REF be used also to administer the renewable energy developments at Millburn, Dykehead, Haspielaw, Upper Haywood, Tanhill and North Brackenridge.
- 4. Criteria for Distribution of REF Grants from Millburn, Dykehead, Haspielaw, Upper Haywood, Tanhill, North Brackenridge and other wind farm developments of 3 turbines or less**
- 4.1 The eligible area for the funds generated from the wind turbine developments at Millburn, Dykehead, Haspielaw, Upper Haywood, Tanhill and North Brackenridge are shown on Plans 1-6 and are broadly the areas within 10km of the wind turbine application boundaries. Projects located within 5km of the wind farm would be given priority when applications for funding are received.
- 4.2 It is proposed that the arrangements for the distribution of funds from these sites and other new application sites of 3 turbines or less, should be similar to those of the already developed Wind Farms as administered under the mechanism of the REF. This policy specifies that the contributions normally be split into two specific funding streams, South Lanarkshire's Rural Partnership's Developing Local Communities Fund (30%) and the Main Fund (70%). However, due to the scale of the amounts of funding received from developments of such a scale it is proposed that these funds should be administered centrally by Regeneration Services. This is in line with the management of similar sized funds received from Paites Hill Wind Farm and quarry developments. All other aspects of the Fund management will be as set out in the REF including the intervention rates and associated scoring matrix.

5. Employee Implications

The additional REF contributions will be managed using existing resources within Regeneration Services.

6. Financial Implications

There are no additional financial implications for the Council in managing the proposed new funds.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1 There is no risk to the Council in supporting this proposal and the work can be undertaken within existing resources. By not proceeding the Council would not be acting consistently in support of its adopted policy and there would be a risk that the funds would not be distributed timeously and equitably to appropriate, eligible community organisations.

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 Clydesdale. 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.

Colin McDowall

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

15 January 2013

Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values

- Sustainable development
- People focused

Previous References

- Planning Approvals – Millburn Farm, Dykehead Farm, Haspielaw Farm, Upper Haywood and Tanhill

List of Background Papers

- Executive Committee 3 March 2004 “Community Benefit: Establishment of a Renewable Energy Fund”.

Contact for Further Information

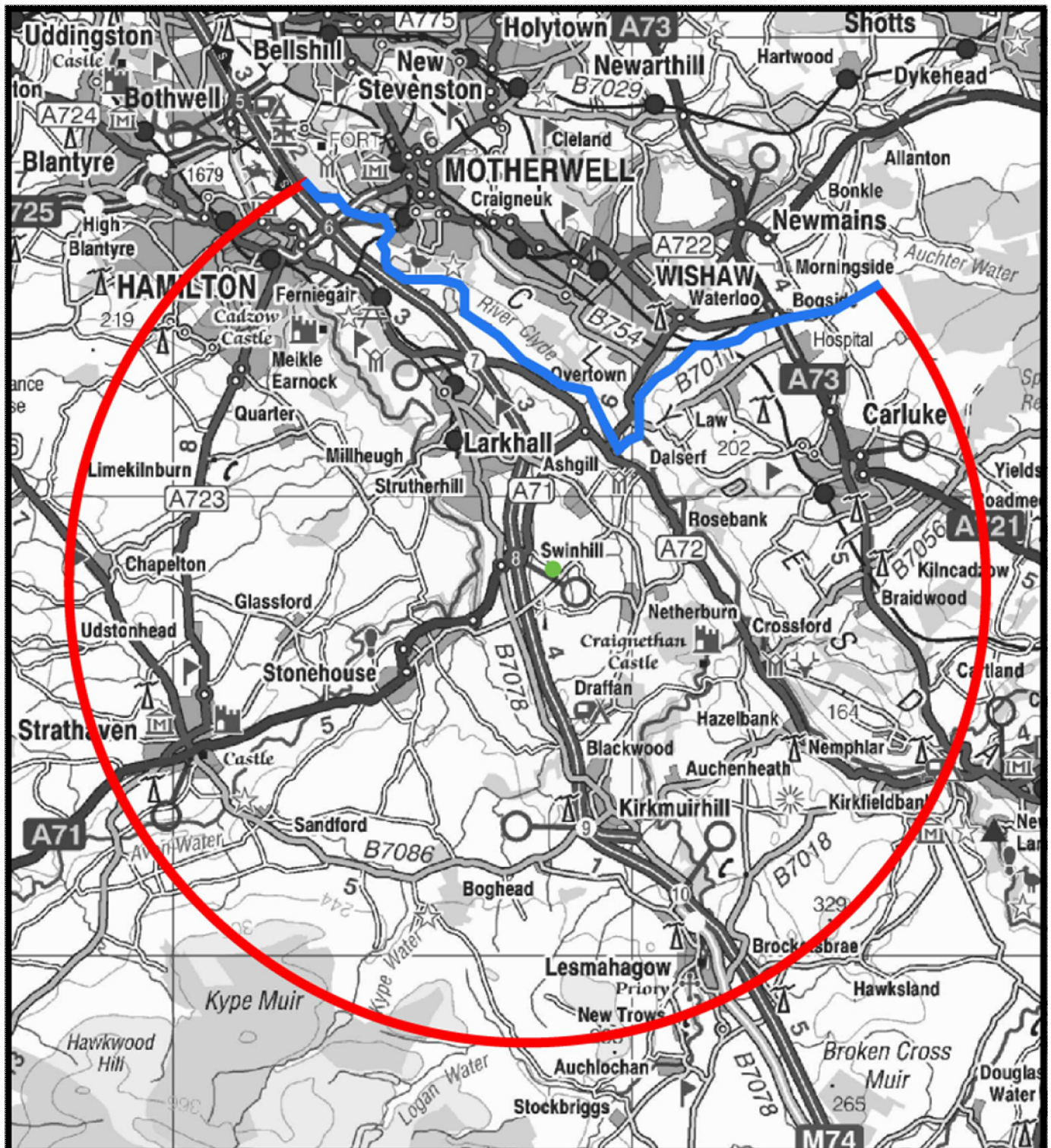
If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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Ext: 5181 (Tel: 01698 455139)

E-mail: john.archibald@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Millburn Farm, Larkhall

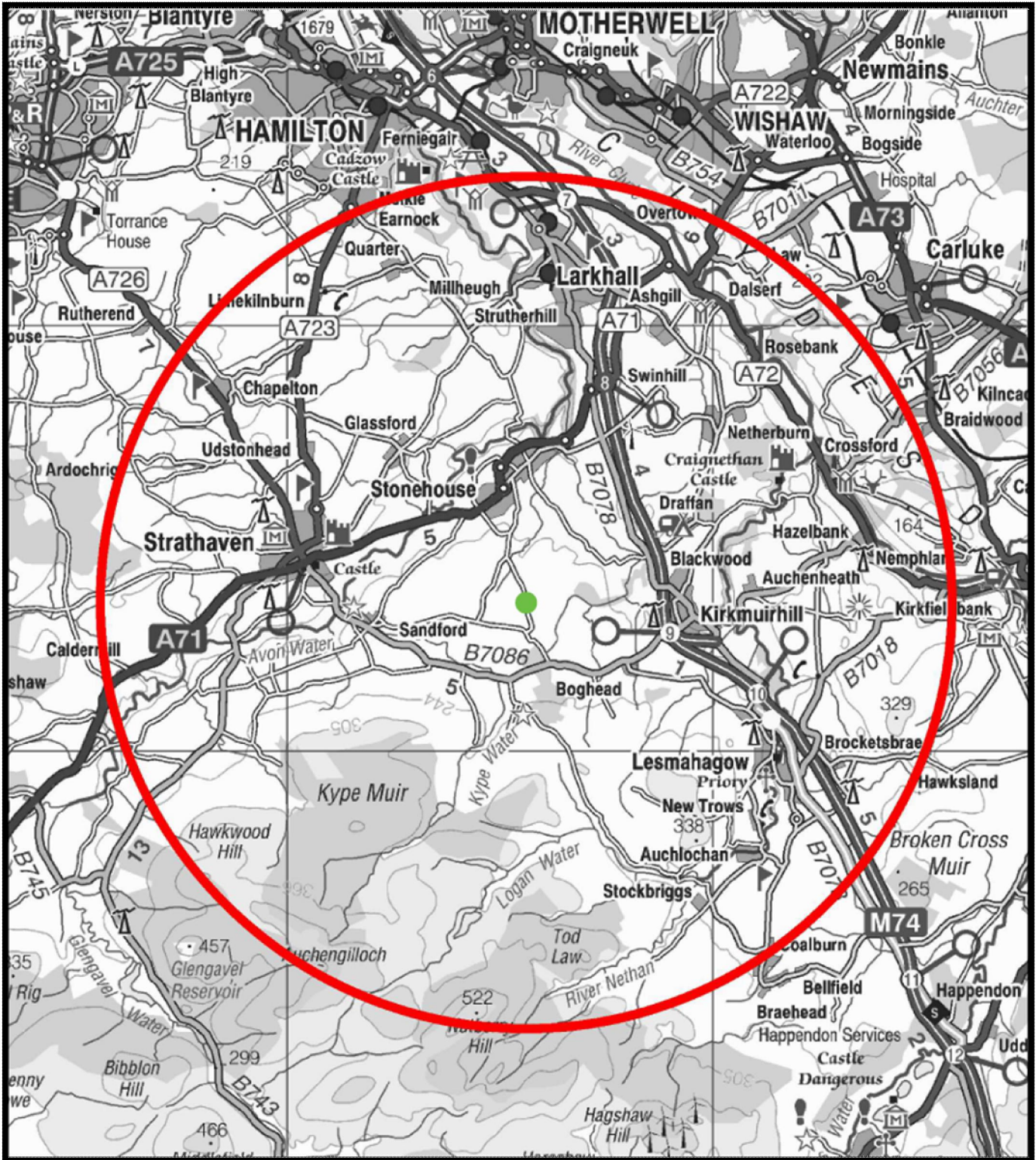


KEY

- 10km boundary
- South Lanarkshire boundary
- Windfarm location

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Dykehead Road, Stonehouse

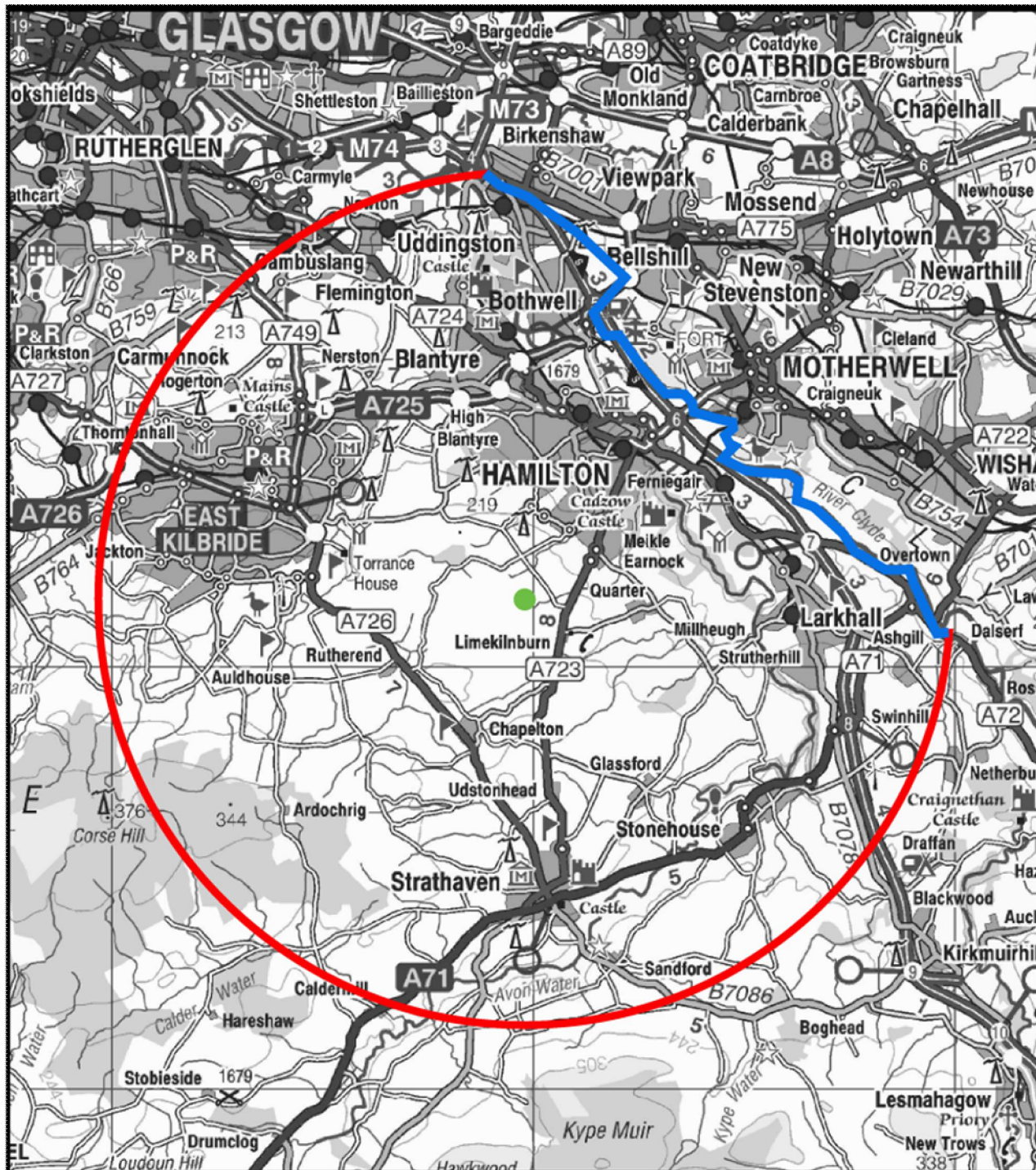


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Haspielaw Farm, Muttonhole Road, Hamilton

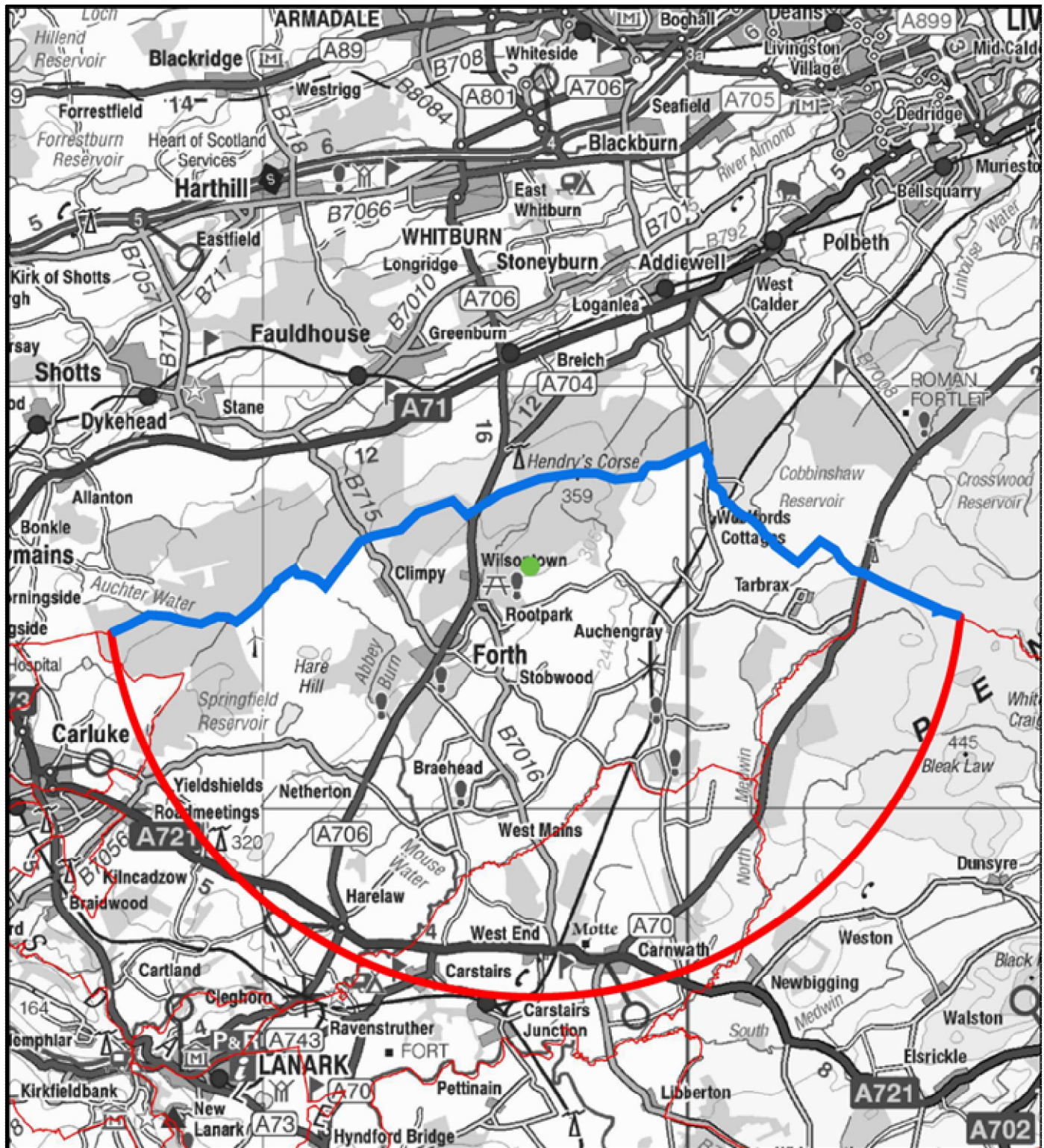


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Upper Haywood Farm

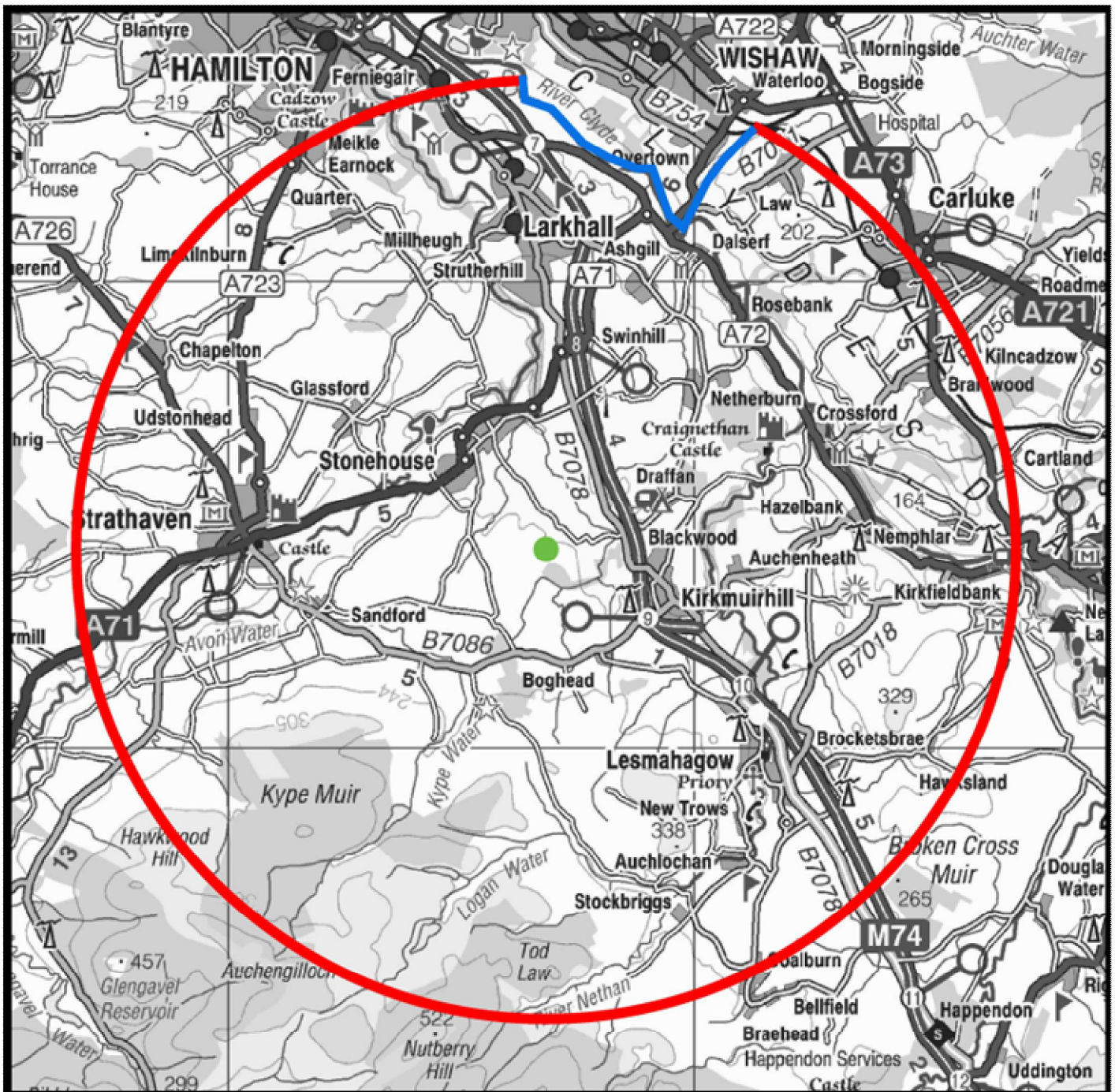


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Tanhill

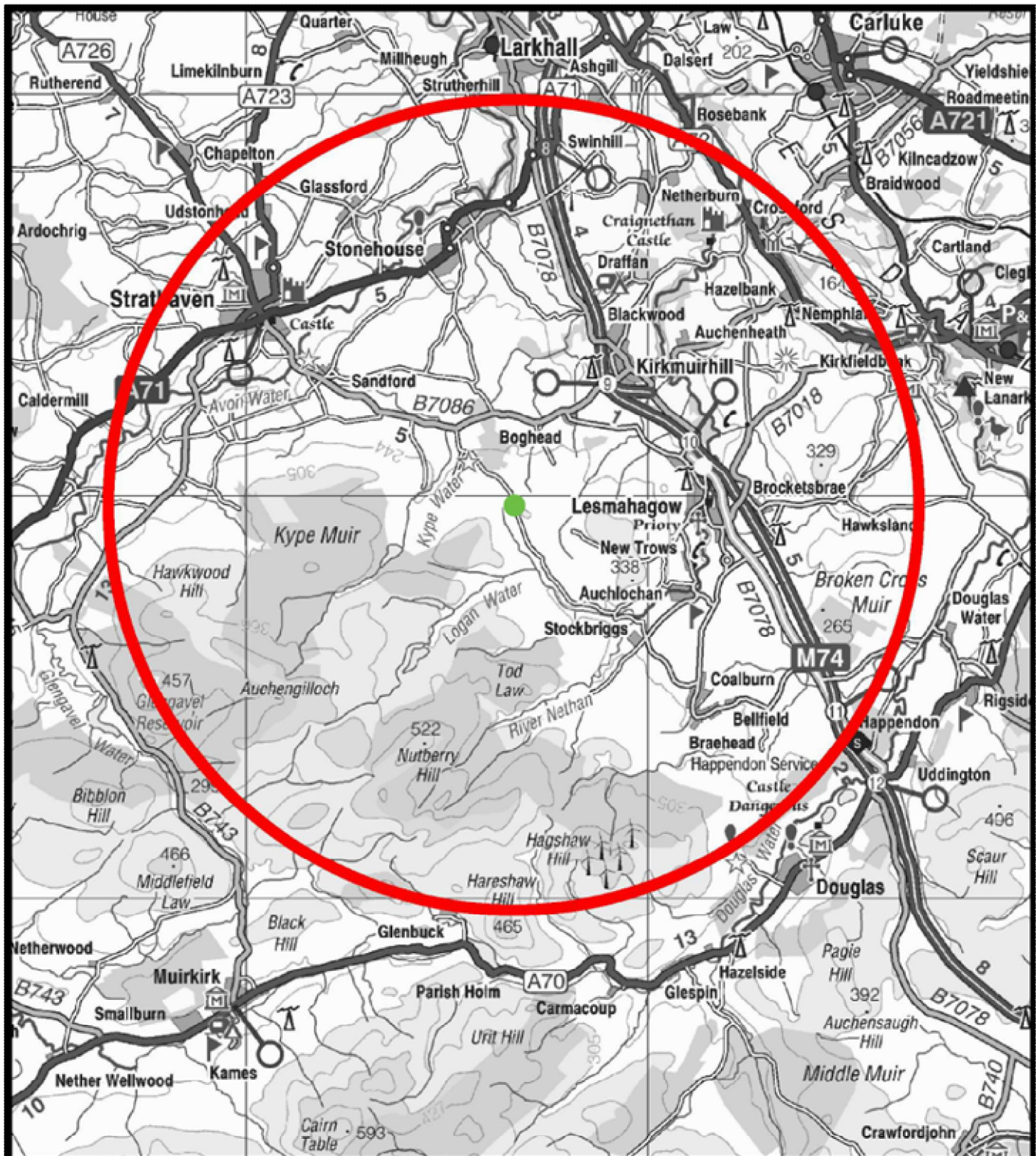


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North Brackenridge



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