

## Tourism and Socio-economics

**A socio-economic, tourism and recreation impact assessment of Blair Hill Wind Farm will be submitted as part of the planning application.**

### Tourism

All research to date indicates that onshore wind development has had no adverse impact on the tourism industry in Scotland. However, an assessment will be included within the application with specific regard to whether the Blair Hill project will have any effect on tourism behaviour and the tourism economy.

The assessment will consider the potential effects that the development could have on tourism following a focused approach on effects related to the UNESCO Biosphere and key tourist attractions and recreation assets.

The BIGGAR Economics report: Wind Farms and Tourism Trends in Scotland (2021<sup>7</sup>), found that while the capacity of wind farms had more than quadrupled over the study period, employment in tourism related sectors had increased by more than 20%. It found no relationship between tourism employment and wind farm development, at the level of the Scottish economy, across local authorities nor in the locality of wind farm sites.

### Supporting Local Businesses

Some of the most direct and meaningful benefits that can be delivered from a project like this are jobs and employment for local businesses and contractors, in addition to the use of local services and amenities, all of which can generate a significant amount of inward investment within the area.

RES is committed to ensuring that, wherever reasonably practical, local contractors are used in all aspects of wind farm development. In order to maximise the opportunities from the Blair Hill Wind Farm proposal we are looking to build our knowledge of the local skills and capabilities within the area.

The Blair Hill Wind Farm proposal is predicted to deliver approximately £4.1 million of inward investment to the area in the form of jobs, employment, and use of local services during the development, construction and first year of operation.



If you're a local business, or know one, interested in getting involved in onshore wind, please speak to a member of the project team.