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## Windfarm Position Statement

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The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere has no planning remit or regulatory function. However it does represent a broad partnership of public, private and community interests focused on supporting sustainable development that benefits local communities and the natural environment.

The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere recognises and supports the Scottish Governments ambitious targets on energy production through renewable technologies, and acknowledges that an integrated energy production framework is essential in achieving Scotland's ambitions.

Windfarms both onshore and offshore play a role within the energy generation framework and the South of Scotland has seen in recent times a proliferation of windfarm developments to support the national objective.

The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere supports a balanced approach to development locally ensuring that developments are sustainable and suitable for the local environment and communities. It also recognises that the Biosphere area has assets within it which require significant protection from the impacts of wind farm development these include, wild land, carbon rich soils, Natura sites/SSSI's, designed landscapes/historic battlefields.

It is the view of Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Partnership that any wind farm developments within the Core and Buffer zone of the Biosphere would not be suitable or supported due to their adverse impact on the regions natural environment and rural economy.

However it is the view of the Partnership that wind farm developments within the Biosphere could be acceptable in the transition zone, where substantial community engagement has demonstrated that the majority of communities are supportive of the proposed development and it can be shown that the environmental impact of the development is minimal and effective mitigation can be achieved.

Joan Mitchell

Chair of the Biosphere Partnership Board

December 2016