



## Scottish Borders Council

### Public Survey on Attitudes towards Wind Energy

December 2012

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# Scottish Borders Council

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### Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	4
1. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY.....	7
1.1 Introduction.....	7
1.2 Background to the Research .....	7
1.3 Research Method .....	7
1.4 Interviewing and Quality Control .....	8
1.5 Survey Analysis and Reporting.....	8
1.6 Report Structure .....	8
2. SAMPLE PROFILE.....	9
2.1 Age and gender .....	9
2.2 Tenure .....	9
2.3 Length of stay in the property .....	10
2.4 Household composition.....	10
3. GENERAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS WIND ENERGY .....	11
3.1 Are you aware that the Scottish Government promotes and supports renewable energy? (Q1).....	11
3.2 Do you support or oppose the use of onshore wind power as a form of renewable energy in Scotland? (Q2) .....	11
3.3 How acceptable or unacceptable do you generally find the look of wind turbines on the landscape? (Q3) .....	12
3.4 What benefits, if any, do you think wind energy can bring in Scotland? (Q4) .....	13
3.5 What disadvantages, if any, do you think wind energy can bring in Scotland? (Q5). ..	14
3.6 Do you believe, on balance, that the benefits of wind energy outweigh any disadvantages? (Q6).....	15
4. SCOTTISH BORDERS AND WIND ENERGY .....	16
4.1 On the whole, how would you rate the Scottish Borders as a place to live? (Q7) .....	16
4.2 To what extent do you support or oppose the general principle of building wind turbines in the Scottish Borders? (Q8).....	16
4.3 Are you aware of any wind turbines currently operating in the Scottish Borders?(Q9) .....	17
4.4 Are you aware of any wind turbines under construction or being proposed in the Scottish Borders? (Q10) .....	17
4.5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about wind turbines and wind energy? (Q11).....	18

5.	LOCAL WIND TURBINES .....	20
5.1	Are there any wind farms or turbines currently operating locally to you? (Q12/13) ...	20
5.2	Is the wind farm or turbine visible from where you live? (Q14/15) .....	20
5.3	What impact, if any, does this have on your local area? (Q16).....	21
5.4	Would you support or oppose a wind farm being built locally to your home, by that I mean within 1 to 2 km (or within 1 mile) from your home? (Q17).....	21
5.5	Would you support or oppose a wind farm being built within your local area, by that I mean within 3-5 km (or up to 3 miles) from your home? (Q18).....	22
5.6	Would you support or oppose a wind farm being built within 6-10 km (or within 6 miles) of your home? (Q19) .....	23
5.7	What are main reasons behind your support? (Q20) .....	24
5.8	What are main reasons you have for not supporting? (Q21) .....	25
6.	DEVELOPMENT OF WIND TURBINES .....	26
6.1	When considering the development of wind farms or turbines across the Scottish Borders, which of the following strategies would you prefer the Council to adopt? (Q22a).....	26
6.2	When considering the development of wind farms or turbines across the Scottish Borders, which of the following strategies would you prefer the Council to adopt? (Q22b).....	27
6.3	Are there any areas of the Scottish Borders which you feel could support more wind turbines? (Q23).....	28
6.4	Are there any areas of the Scottish Borders where you feel the development of wind turbines has reached saturation point? (Q24) .....	29
6.5	Are there any areas of the Scottish Borders where you feel should be kept free of the development of wind turbines? (Q25) .....	30
6.6	Do you believe that the onshore wind sector represents an economic opportunity for the Scottish Borders and Scotland? (Q26) .....	31
6.7	If it could be shown that wind turbines had no negative impact on the Scottish Borders economy would you be more or less likely to support their development? (Q27).....	31
7.	CONCLUSIONS .....	32

APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE

APPENDIX 2: TECHNICAL REPORT SUMMARY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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### Key findings – General perception of wind energy

- 400 telephone interviews were carried out with a sample of Scottish Borders residents to understand community opinion on wind energy in the Borders.
- Generally, there was high awareness of both the Scottish Government's promotion of renewable energy (91% aware) and support of the use of onshore wind power as a form of renewable energy in Scotland (68% support).
- Seven out of ten (70%) of respondents stated that they found the look of wind turbines on the landscape acceptable.
- The main benefits of wind energy in Scotland were perceived to be:
  - Reducing reliance on fossil fuels (15%)
  - Helping to reduce carbon emissions (14%)
  - Providing an energy source that helps to protect customers from rises in energy bills created by fluctuating gas prices (14%)
  - 21% could not think of any benefits and 12% stated 'don't know'.
- The main disadvantages of wind energy in Scotland were perceived to be:
  - Making the landscape less attractive (26%)
  - Negative impact on views of the landscape (24%)
  - 36% could not think of any disadvantages and 7% stated 'don't know'.
- 66% of respondents believe, on balance, the benefits outweighed the disadvantages whereas 24% believe they did not. 12% did not know.

### Key findings – Attitudes to wind energy in the Borders

- Almost two thirds of respondents (64%) stated that they supported the general principle of building wind turbines in the Scottish Borders. 25% opposed, 6% did not know and 5% stated that it 'depends'.
- 94% were aware of wind turbines currently operating in the Scottish Borders and 55% were aware of turbines either under construction or proposed.
- When asked whether they agree or disagree with a range of positive and negative statements about wind turbines in the Scottish Borders, greater proportions of respondents tended to err towards being more positive about wind turbines. In general more respondents agreed with these statements than disagreed, with the exception of wind turbines not having an impact on the landscape where more respondents disagreed than agreed. A significant proportion of respondents also disagreed that there

should be more wind turbines built in the Scottish Borders. Responses to these positive statements were:

- Scottish Borders Council should take an active role in encouraging wind turbines (60% agreed, 31% disagreed)
  - There should be more wind turbines built in the Scottish Borders (48% agreed, 41% disagreed)
  - Wind turbines boost employment and bring money into the Scottish Borders (51% agreed, 23% disagreed)
  - Wind turbines benefit the communities of the Scottish Borders (53% agreed, 24% disagreed)
  - Wind turbines in the Scottish Borders do not have an impact on the landscape (42% agreed, 49% disagreed)
  - The most effective use of wind energy is through large scale commercially operated wind farms (42% agreed, 23% disagreed)
  - Wind energy should be mainly a small scale operation benefitting local operators and communities directly (63% agreed, 19% disagreed).
- Responses to negative statements were as follows. Respondents were most concerned about the negative impact on the environment and about a potential reduction in property values as a result of wind turbines being built in the Borders.
- I am concerned about the number of wind turbines in the Scottish Borders (34% agreed, 60% disagreed)
  - Wind turbines have a negative impact on the environment in the Scottish Borders (54% agreed, 33% disagreed)
  - Wind turbines reduce property values of homes in the Scottish Borders (42% agreed, 29% disagreed)
  - Wind turbines in the Scottish Borders have a negative impact on tourism (30% agreed, 57% disagreed).

## Key findings – Future planning of wind turbines

- Within 1 mile of their home, 48% would oppose a wind farm being built and 43% would support. Within 6 miles this changes to 65% support and 25% oppose.
- The greatest proportion of respondents stated that they believed that the Council should adopt a strategy that:
  - ‘wind turbines should be erected in smaller groups, scattered over a larger area’ (44%). (28% don’t know).
  - ‘wind energy schemes should be smaller scale (single or small groups of smaller turbines) to fit into the landscape (60%). (22% don’t know).

- If it could be shown that wind turbines had no negative impact on the Scottish Borders economy, 46% would be more likely to support their development, 30% said it would make no difference.
- If it could be shown that wind turbines had a positive impact on the Scottish Borders economy, 67% would be more likely to support their development, 23% said it would make no difference.

## Conclusions

- There are generally high levels of awareness of both Government policy relating to wind energy and the existence of wind turbines in the Scottish Borders.
- Whilst there are undoubtedly Borders residents who feel very strongly against wind turbines in the Borders, there are a greater number who either support the development of wind turbines or are fairly ambivalent to their development and more would agree than disagree that Scottish Borders Council should take an active role in encouraging wind turbines. However, those who were opposed to the building of wind farms were most likely to be 'strongly opposed' and in general this tended to be when it comes to the proposal of wind farms being built in the vicinity of their home.
- There is a need for education and information on wind turbines, with many respondents stating that they couldn't think of or did not know of any advantages or disadvantages of wind turbines.
- Allied with this, there was evidence that if it could be proven that either there was no negative impact or indeed positive impacts of wind turbines for the Scottish Borders then residents would be more likely to support their development.
- The preferred approach in the Scottish Borders is for smaller scale development of wind turbines which fit in with the landscape.
- Similar proportions would oppose (48%) and support (43%) a wind farm within 1 mile of their home whereas when this was expanded to within 6 miles of their home, this rose to 65% supporting. This indicates that the level of concern decreases as the distance from the respondent's home increases, with respondents being most likely to be opposed to the building of a wind farm when it is in close proximity to their home.

# 1. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

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## 1.1 Introduction

This report represents and discusses the findings to emerge from Scottish Borders Council's Public Survey on Attitudes towards Wind Energy.

## 1.2 Background to the Research

- Scottish Borders Council appointed consultants to carry out work to help inform the development of planning policy on wind turbines.
- Research Resource was commissioned as part of the consultancy team in order to carry out a statistically robust survey of community opinion on current and projected wind turbine provision in the Scottish Borders
- Other key elements of the commission were:
  - An assessment of the implications of further turbine development on the landscape (Ironsides Farrar).
  - Research into the economic impacts of wind turbines in the Scottish Borders (Biggar Economics).

## 1.3 Research Method

A quantitative survey questionnaire was developed by Research Resource, in partnership with Scottish Borders Council, Ironsides Farrar and Biggar Economics. The survey was completed by 400 Scottish Borders residents. The survey sample was designed in order to provide the views of residents who lived in the vicinity of areas where the cumulative impact of wind turbines are a concern (Lauder and Preston) in addition to a random sample of the general population of Scottish Borders residents. The following profile of interviews were achieved:

- 303 with general population of Scottish Borders
- 49 with respondents within a 10k radius of TD11 3QA (Preston)
- 48 with respondents within a 10k radius of TD2 6RS (Lauder)

Within these general geographic areas, the sample was also designed to provide coverage of the range of demographic criteria (age, gender and tenure) across the Borders.

## 1.4 Interviewing and Quality Control

All interviewing was undertaken by Research Resource's highly trained and experienced interviewers, operating to ISO20252 standards and in line with the Market Research Society Code of Conduct. Interviewing took place between 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2012 for the survey.

## 1.5 Survey Analysis and Reporting

400 interviews provides data accurate to  $\pm 5\%$  (based upon a 50% estimate at the 95% level of confidence. This size of sample is considered to be robust and Scottish Borders Council can be confident that it represents the views of Scottish Borders Residents. The level of accuracy,  $\pm 5\%$ , is what is referred to as a margin of error. This margin of error occurs due to the fact that a sample of residents have been surveyed and not every single Borders resident. This means that if we find that 50% of our sample agree with a statement we can be 95% certain that if we surveyed every single resident the actual result would be between 45% and 55%.

Analysis in the report at sub area level is less robust than this with 303 interviews undertaken with the general population accurate to  $\pm 5.6\%$  and interviews in the areas surrounding wind turbine developments accurate to  $\pm 12\%$ . These should therefore be seen as indicative results only and not statistically robust at that level.

Throughout our analysis it should also be noted that some percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding.

## 1.6 Report Structure

This document details the key finding to emerge from the survey, addressing the key findings of the survey for Scottish Borders Council.

Chapter 3: General attitudes towards wind energy

Chapter 4: Scottish Borders and wind energy

Chapter 5: Local wind turbines

Chapter 6: Development of wind turbines

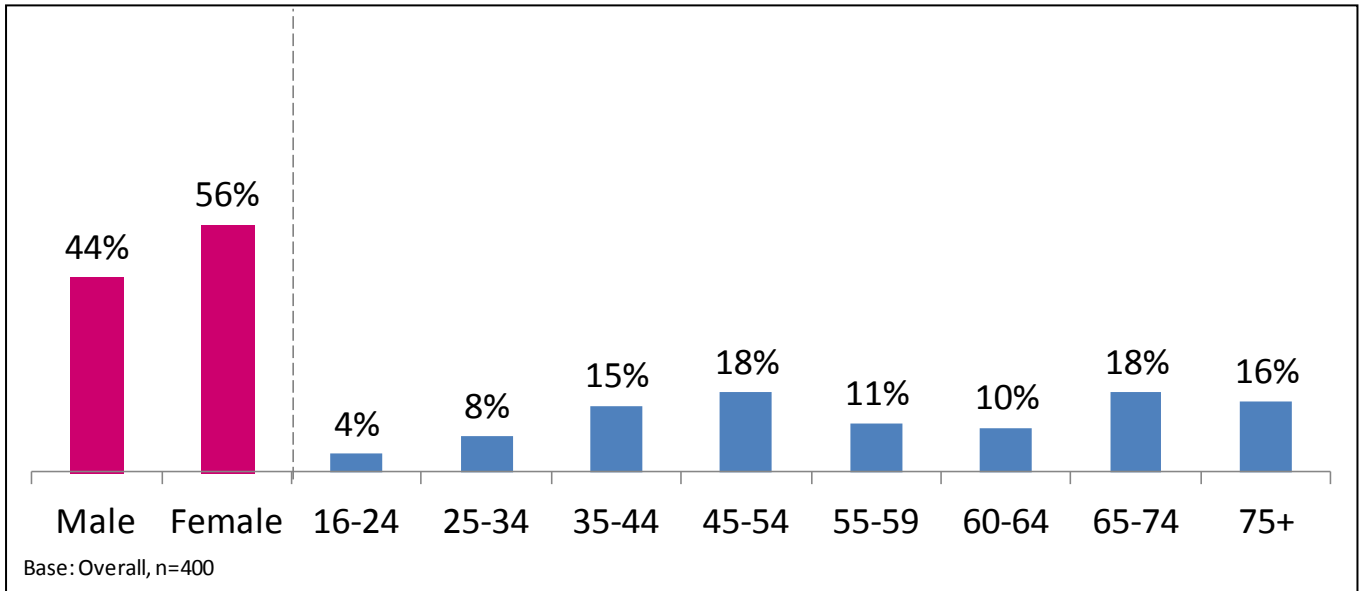
Chapter 7: Conclusions



## 2. SAMPLE PROFILE

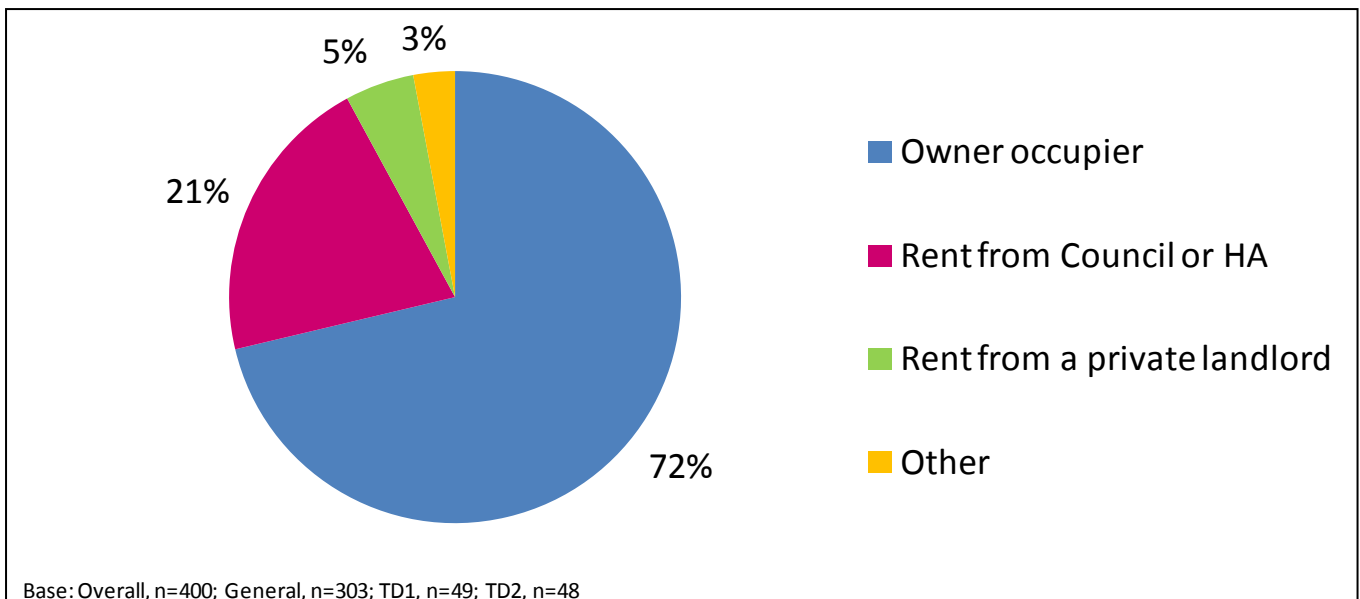
### 2.1 Age and gender

More females (56%) than males (44%) were interviewed over the course of the survey. 12% of respondents were aged 34 and under, 33% were aged 35 to 54, 21% were aged 55 to 64 and 34% were aged 65 and over.



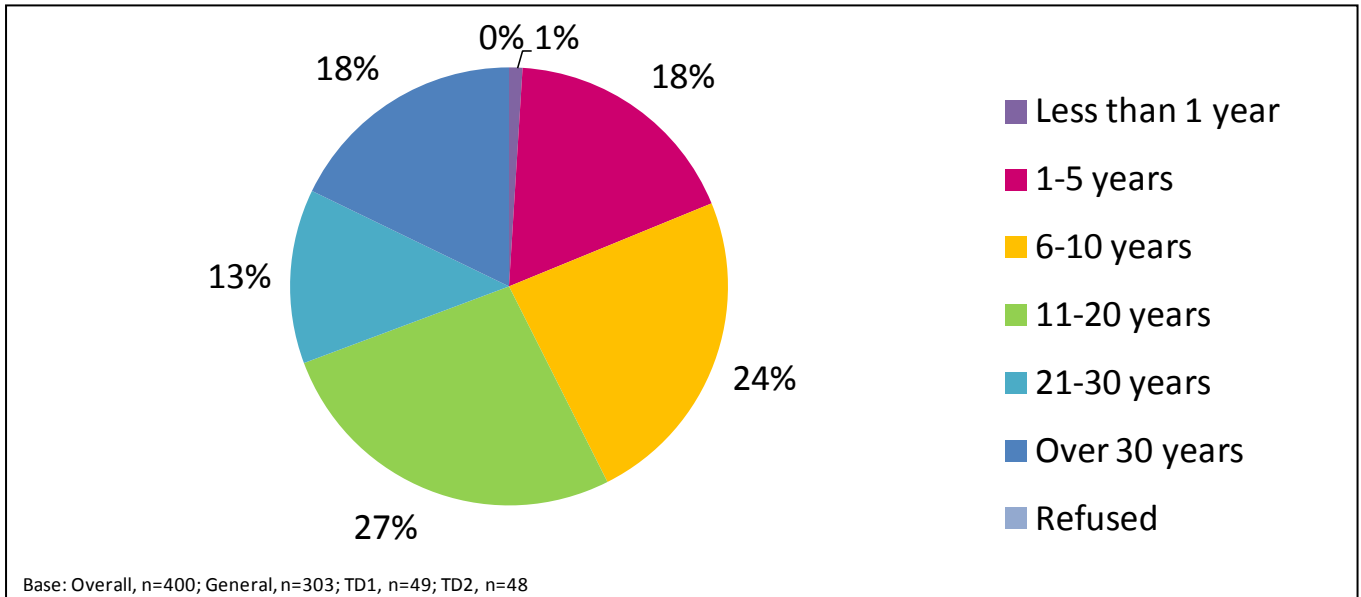
### 2.2 Tenure

The vast majority of respondents owned their home (72%), 21% lived in social rented accommodation and 5% lived in private lets. Only 1 respondent out of the 400 individuals interviewed over the course of the survey said that this property was a second home or holiday home.



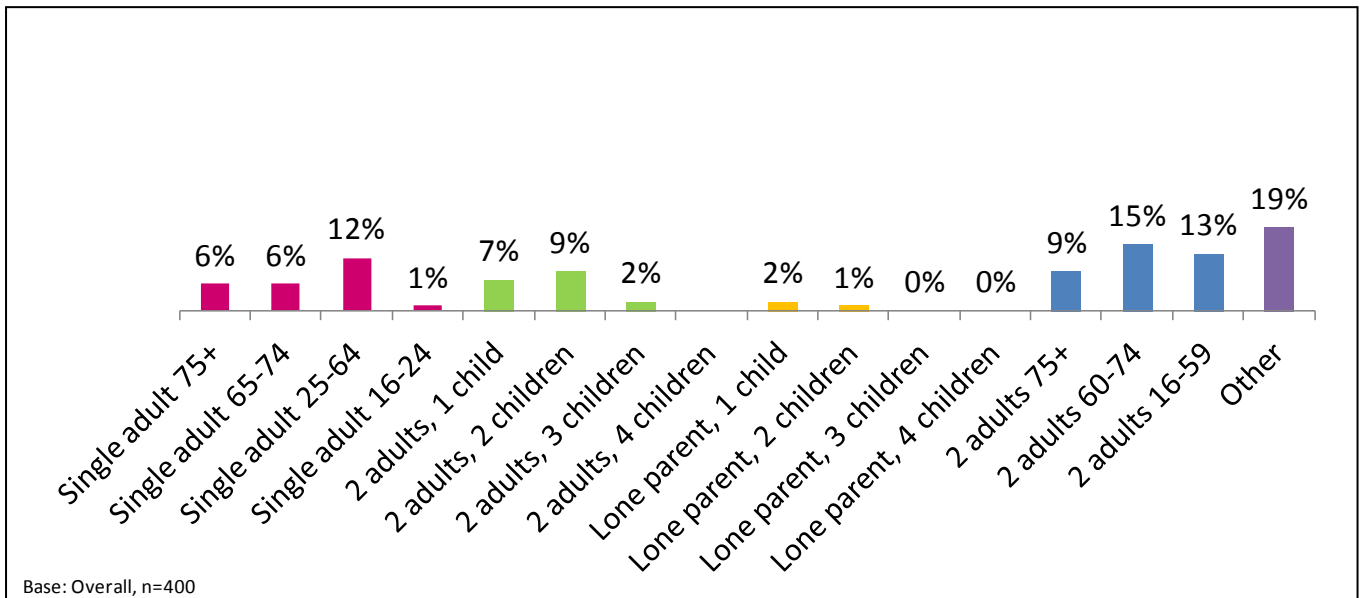
### 2.3 Length of stay in the property

19% of respondents had lived in their home for 5 years or less, 24% had lived in their home between 6 and 10 years, 27% had lived in their home between 11 and 20 years and 31% had lived in their home for more than 20 years.



### 2.4 Household composition

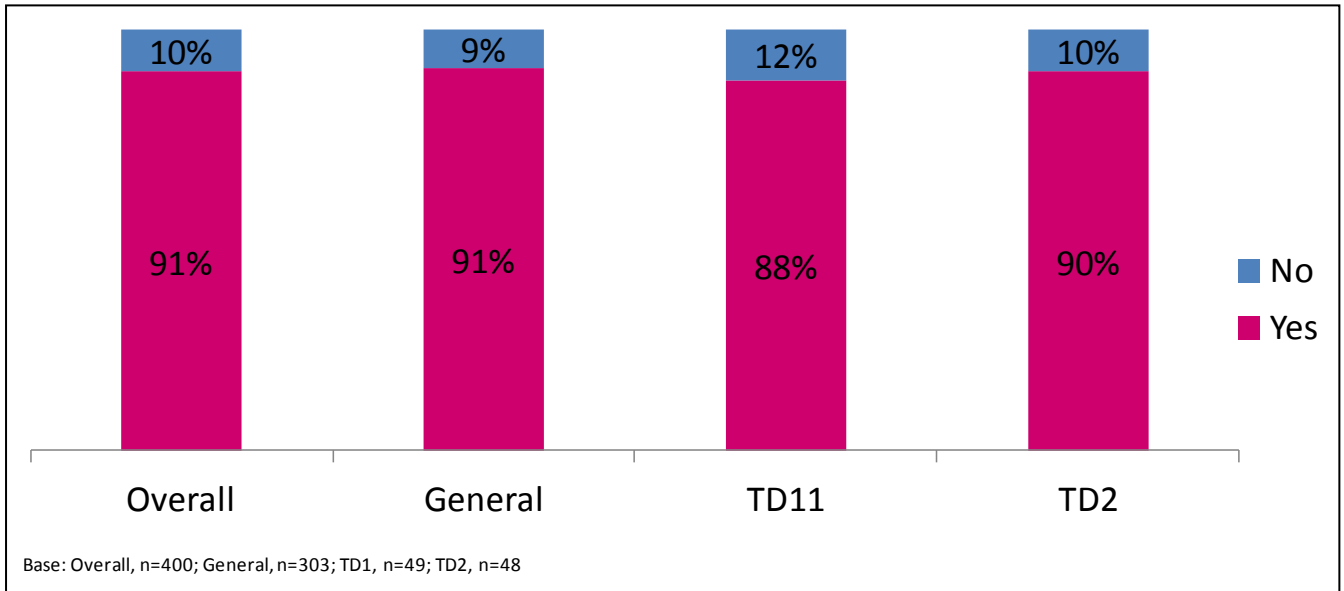
One quarter of respondents were single adults, 21% of respondents lived in households with children under 16 and 37% of respondents lived in 2 adult households with no children.



### 3. GENERAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS WIND ENERGY

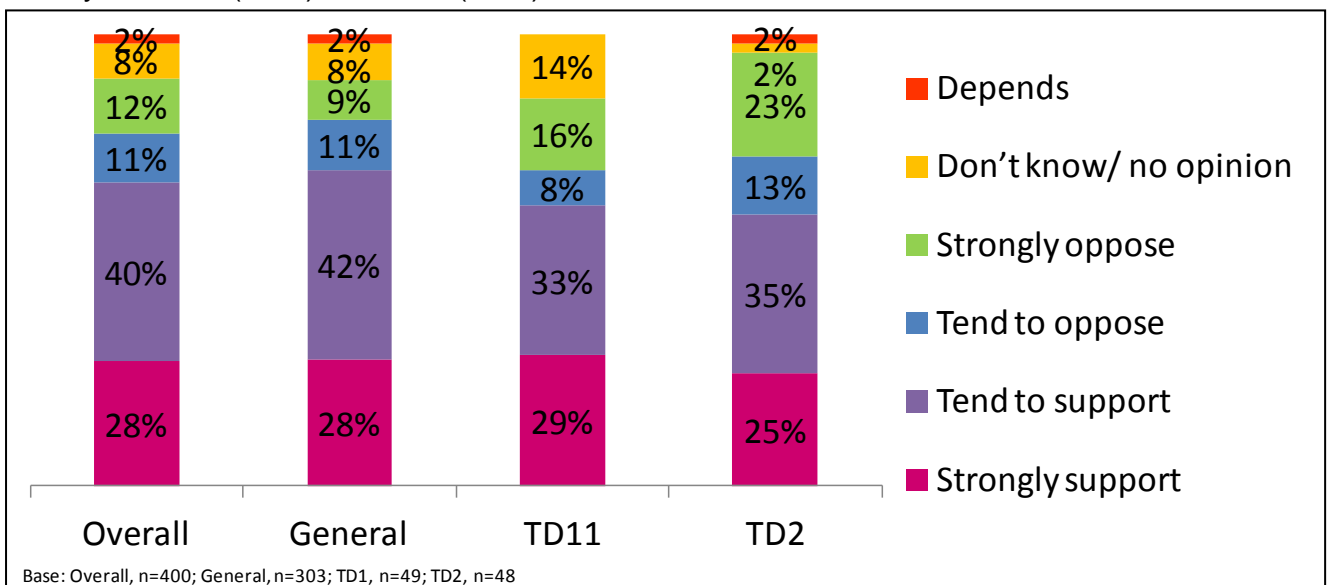
#### 3.1 Are you aware that the Scottish Government promotes and supports renewable energy? (Q1)

Over 9 in 10 tenants were aware that the Scottish Government promotes and supports renewable energy. Those who lived in the vicinity of Preston (TD11) were slightly less likely to be aware of this.



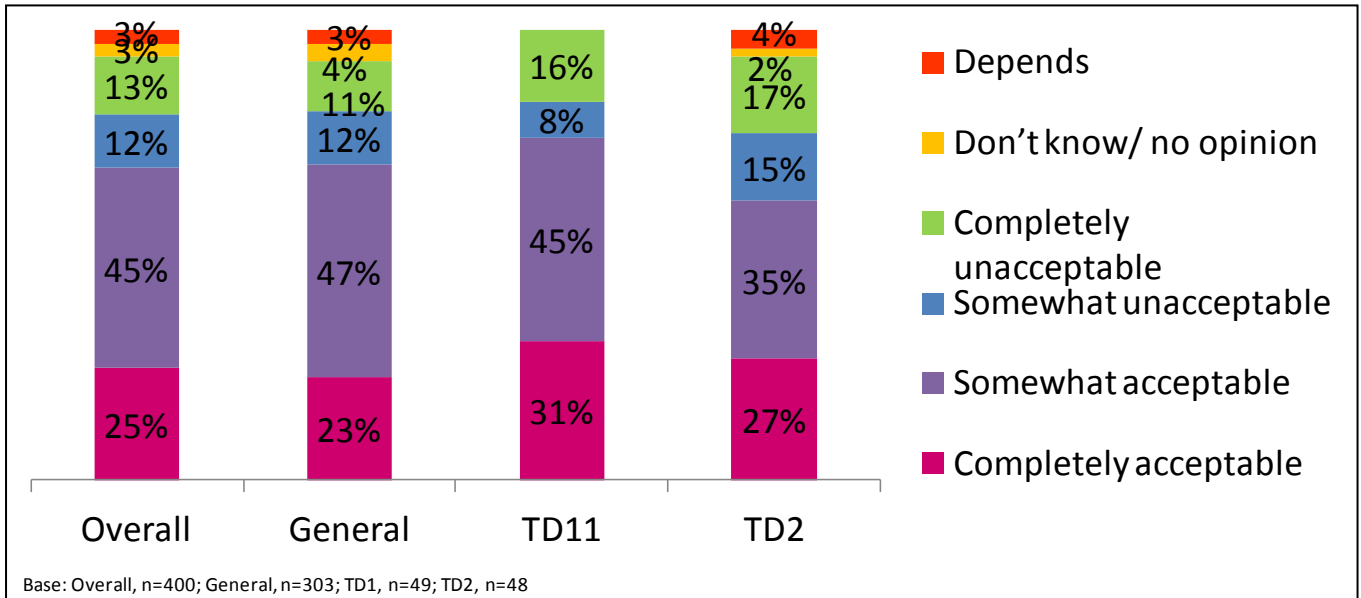
#### 3.2 Do you support or oppose the use of onshore wind power as a form of renewable energy in Scotland? (Q2)

68% of respondents overall strongly supported or tended to support the use of onshore power as a form of renewable energy, compared to 23% who strongly opposed or tended to oppose. Respondents who lived in the general Scottish Borders area, and away from the wind farms were more likely to support the use of onshore wind power (70%) than those who lived in the vicinity of TD11 (62%) and TD2 (60%) wind farms.



### 3.3 How acceptable or unacceptable do you generally find the look of wind turbines on the landscape? (Q3)

7 in 10 respondents overall said that the look of wind turbines on the landscape was completely or somewhat acceptable compared to 25% who said it was completely or somewhat unacceptable. Those who lived in the vicinity of a wind farm were significantly more likely to have said these were completely acceptable (31% for TD11 and 27% for TD2) than respondents who lived in all other areas within the Scottish Borders (23%).



### 3.4 What benefits, if any, do you think wind energy can bring in Scotland? (Q4)

In terms of the perceived benefits of wind farms, 15% said they reduced the reliance on fossil fuels, 14% said they helped reduce carbon emissions and 14% said they provided an energy source that helps to protect customers from rises in energy bills created by fluctuating gas prices. Respondents who lived in the vicinity of wind turbines were more likely to have said there were no benefits or have answered don't know to this statement.

Benefits of wind energy				
	Overall	General	TD11	TD2
Base	400	303	49	48
I can't think of any benefits	24%	23%	29%	25%
Reducing reliance on fossil fuels	15%	17%	12%	8%
Helping to reduce carbon emissions	14%	14%	12%	19%
Providing an energy source that helps to protect customers from rises in energy bills created by fluctuating gas prices	14%	14%	6%	19%
Don't know	12%	10%	18%	15%
Providing a secure supply of energy in Scotland	10%	11%	6%	8%
Helping to tackle climate change	6%	5%	4%	8%
Cheaper energy/ electricity	6%	5%	8%	6%
Renewable energy/ cleaner energy	6%	5%	4%	13%
Providing jobs in the wind energy sector and its supply chain	5%	5%	6%	4%
Economic/ community benefits	4%	3%	6%	2%
Get rid of nuclear power	4%	4%	2%	4%
Employment opportunities/ generate income	3%	3%	2%	2%
Reduced bills/ costs	2%	2%	-	2%
Community benefit funds	1%	1%	-	2%
Lower fuel costs	1%	1%	2%	-

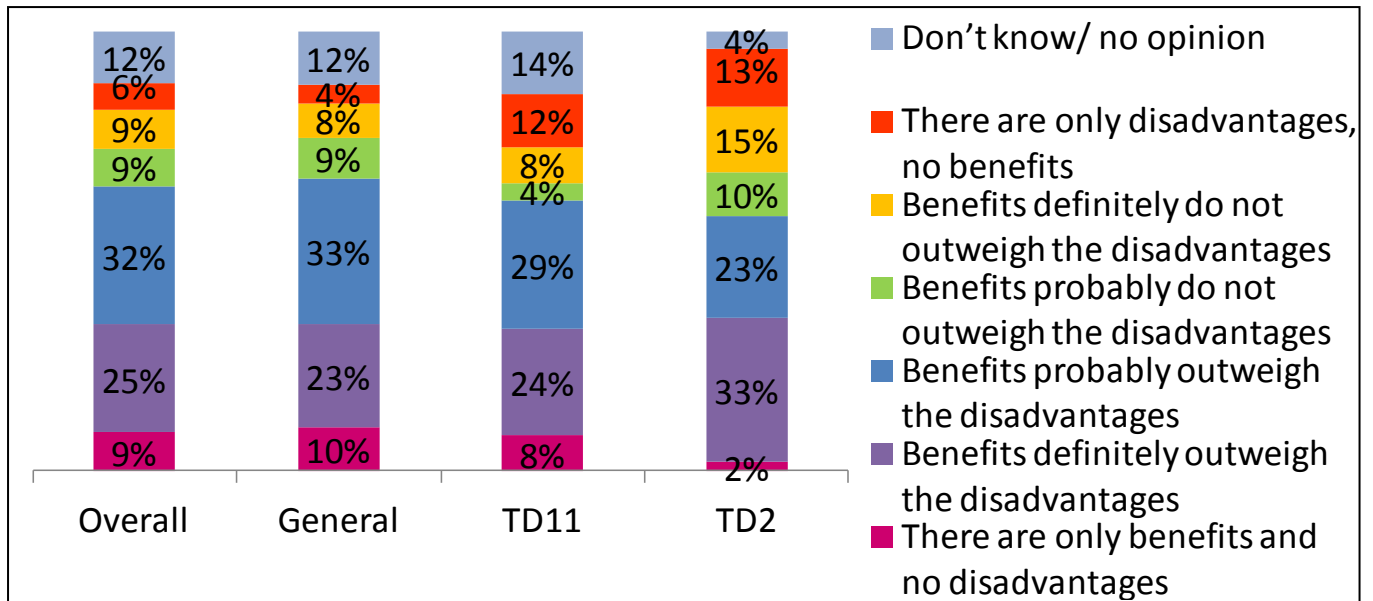
### 3.5 What disadvantages, if any, do you think wind energy can bring in Scotland? (Q5)

With regards to the disadvantages of wind energy, 26% said they made the landscape less attractive and 24% said they had a negative impact on views of the landscape. Respondents who lived in the vicinity of TD2 wind farm (27%) and the TD11 wind farm (33%) were less likely to have said they could not think of any disadvantages than respondents who lived in all other areas in the Scottish Borders (37%).

Q5 What disadvantages, if any, do you think wind energy can bring in Scotland?				
	Overall	General	TD11	TD2
<b>Base</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>48</b>
Make the landscape less attractive	26%	26%	27%	29%
Negative impact on views of the landscape	24%	23%	24%	29%
Unreliable source of energy requiring backup	8%	8%	6%	8%
Negative impact on residents (e.g. noise, visual, shadow flicker	7%	7%	10%	4%
Negative impact on nature/ wildlife	6%	6%	6%	6%
Reduction in tourism	5%	5%	8%	6%
High energy prices	4%	5%	-	4%
Negative impact on property prices	2%	1%	-	6%
Other	15%	15%	12%	17%
I can't think of any disadvantages	36%	37%	33%	27%
Don't know	7%	7%	10%	2%

### 3.6 Do you believe, on balance, that the benefits of wind energy outweigh any disadvantages? (Q6)

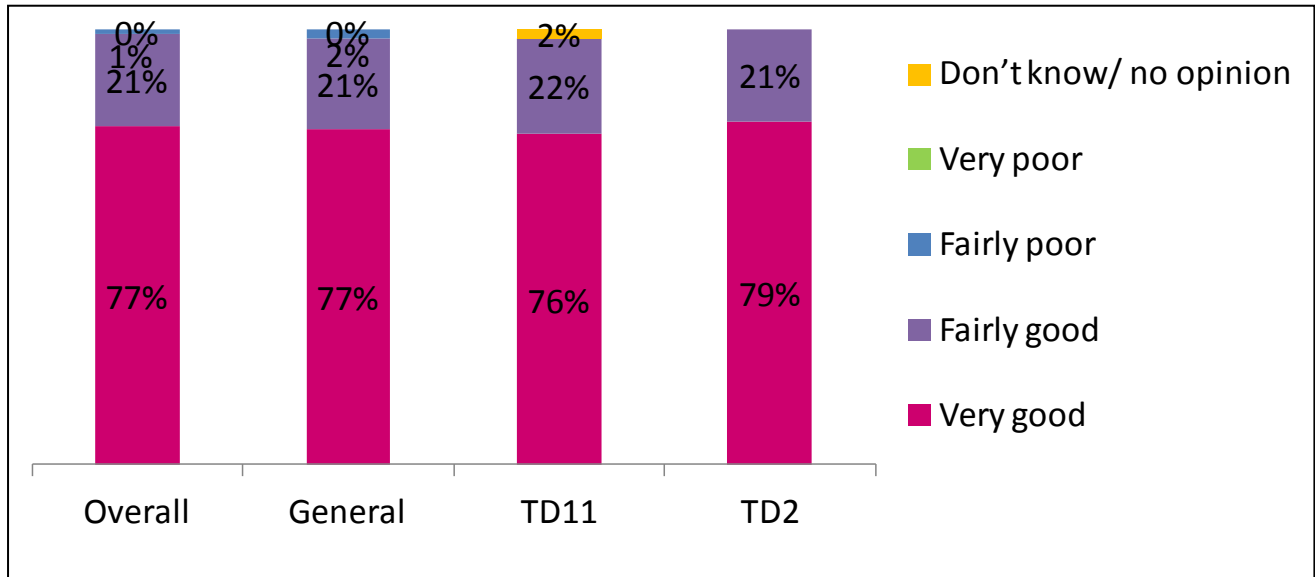
9% said that there were only benefits and no disadvantages of wind energy, 57% said the benefits outweighed the disadvantages, 18% said the disadvantages outweighed the advantages and 6% said there were only disadvantages. Respondents who lived in the vicinity of the TD2 wind farm or the TD11 wind farm (12%) were significantly more likely to have said there were only disadvantages than respondents who lived in all other areas of the Scottish Borders (4%).



## 4. SCOTTISH BORDERS AND WIND ENERGY

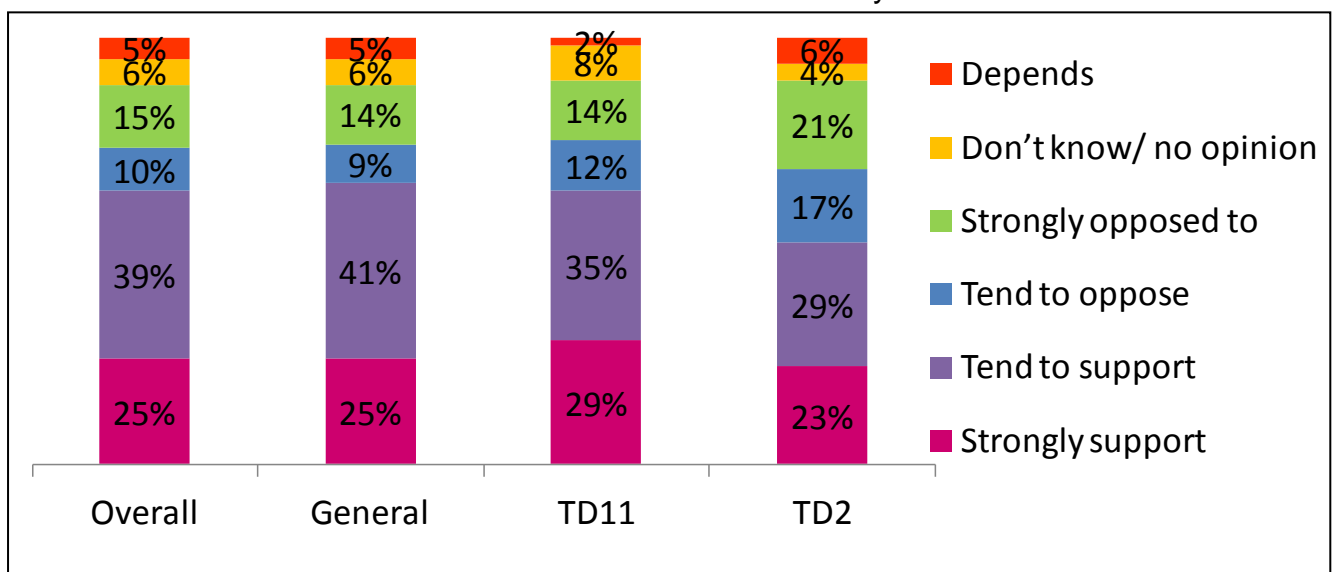
### 4.1 On the whole, how would you rate the Scottish Borders as a place to live? (Q7)

Respondents rated Scottish Borders highly with almost all respondents (98%) stating it was a very good or fairly good place to live compared to just 1% who said it was a poor place to live.



### 4.2 To what extent do you support or oppose the general principle of building wind turbines in the Scottish Borders? (Q8)

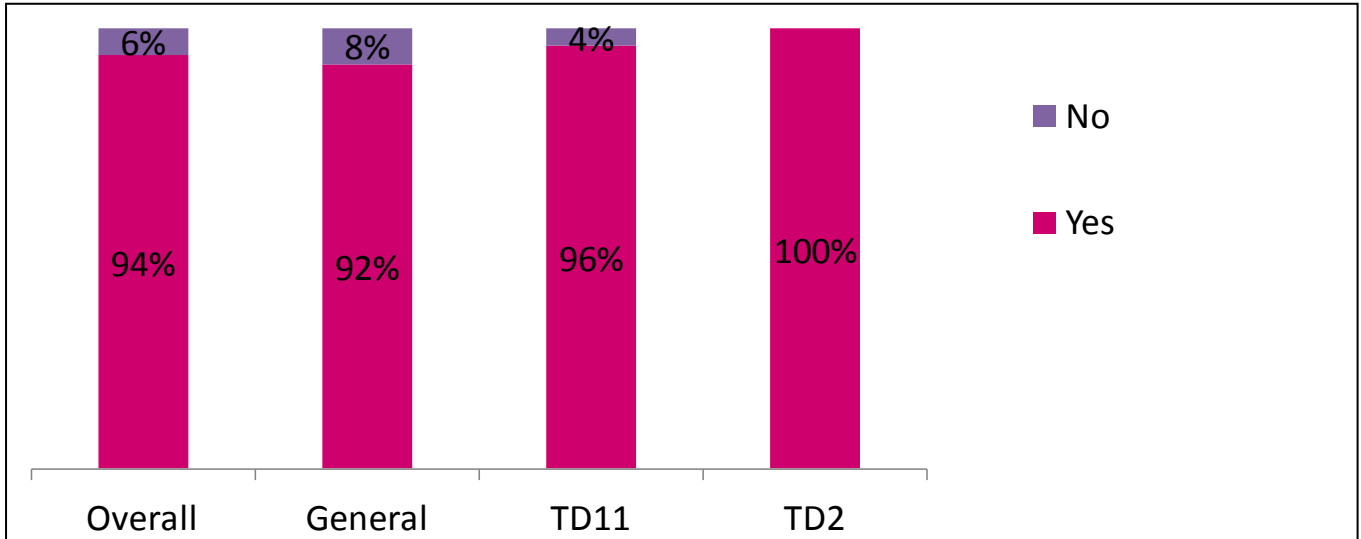
Over 6 in 10 respondents (64%) supported the general principle of building wind turbines in the Scottish Borders, 25% were opposed to this, 6% were unsure and 5% said it depended on where they were. Analysis by area reveals that the proportion of respondents who were in support of the building of wind turbines ranges from 52% for those who lived in the vicinity of TD2 to 66% for respondents who lived in the general Scottish Borders area. The proportion of respondents who were opposed to this ranged from 23% for those who lived in the general Scottish Borders area to 38% for those who lived in the vicinity of TD2.





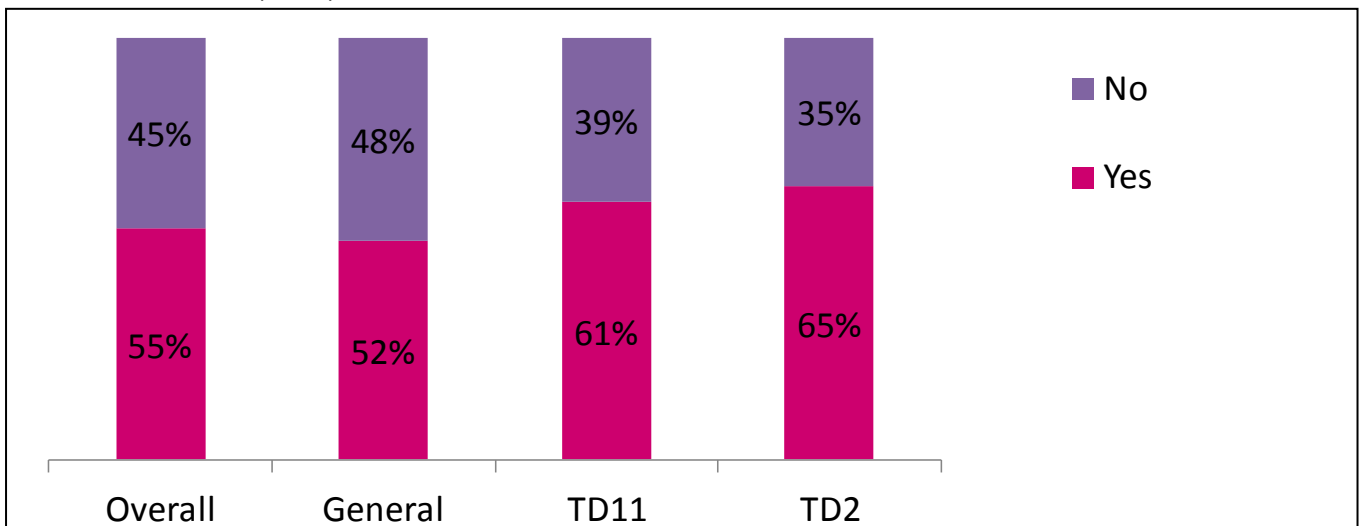
#### 4.3 Are you aware of any wind turbines currently operating in the Scottish Borders?(Q9)

94% of respondents overall were aware of wind turbines currently operating in the Scottish Borders. Those who lived in the vicinity of TD2 were the most likely to be aware of these (100%) and respondents living in the general Scottish Borders area were least aware (92%).



#### 4.4 Are you aware of any wind turbines under construction or being proposed in the Scottish Borders? (Q10)

Over half of respondents (55%) were aware of wind turbines under construction or being proposed in the Scottish Borders. Respondents who lived in the vicinity of the TD11 wind farm (61%) and the TD2 wind farm (65%) were most likely to be aware and all other respondents were least aware (52%).



#### 4.5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about wind turbines and wind energy? (Q11)

The majority of respondents agreed with the following statements:

- Wind energy should mainly be a small scale operation benefitting local operators and communities directly (62%)
- Scottish Borders Council should take an active role in encouraging wind turbines (60%)
- Wind turbines benefit the communities of the Scottish Borders (54%)

The majority of respondents disagreed with the following statements:

- I am concerned about the number of wind turbines in the Scottish Borders (60%)
- Wind turbines in the Scottish Borders have a negative impact on tourism (57%)
- Wind turbines have a negative impact on the environment in the Scottish Borders (54%)

Q11 I'd like you to tell me the extent to which you agree or disagree with each. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each statement			
Base: n=400	% agree	% disagree	% neither/ nor
SBC should take an active role in encouraging wind turbines	60%	31%	9%
There should be more wind turbines built in the SB	48%	41%	11%
I am concerned about the number of wind turbines in the SB	34%	60%	7%
Wind turbines boost employment and bring money into the SB	50%	23%	27%
Wind turbines have a negative impact on the environment in the SB	32%	54%	14%
Wind turbines benefit the communities of the SB	54%	25%	22%
Wind turbines reduce property values of homes in the SB	42%	29%	29%
Wind turbines in the SB has a negative impact on tourism	30%	57%	14%
Wind turbines in the SB do not have a negative impact on the landscape of the SB	42%	49%	9%
The most effective use of wind energy is through large scale commercially operated wind farms	41%	23%	36%
Wind energy should mainly be a small scale operation benefitting local operators and communities directly	62%	19%	19%

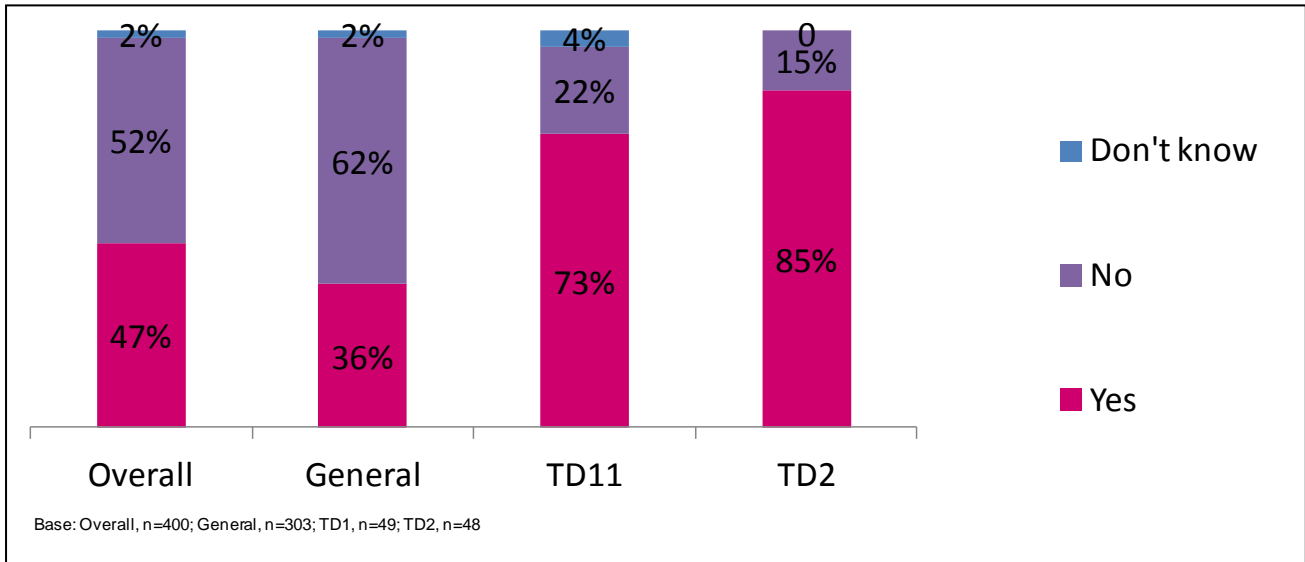
Analysis by area reveals that respondents who lived in the general areas of the Scottish Borders were significantly more likely to agree that there should be more wind turbines built in the Scottish Borders (54%) than those who lived in the vicinity of the TD11 wind farm. Furthermore, respondents who lived in TD2 were significantly more likely to agree that wind turbines reduce property value of homes (54%) than those who lived in the vicinity of the TD11 wind farm.

Level of agreement with statements			
	General	TD11	TD2
Scottish Borders Council should take an active role in encouraging wind turbines	62%	61%	48%
There should be more wind turbines built in the Scottish Borders	54%	31%	31%
I am concerned about the number of wind turbines in the Scottish Borders	30%	39%	48%
Wind turbines boost employment and bring money into the SB	49%	55%	52%
Wind turbines have a negative impact on the environment in the SB	30%	37%	42%
Wind turbines benefit the communities of the SB	53%	49%	60%
Wind turbines reduce property values of homes in the SB	42%	31%	54%
Wind turbines have a negative impact on tourism	29%	41%	27%
Wind turbines in the SB do not have a negative impact on the landscape of the SB	42%	35%	46%
The most effective use of wind energy is through large scale commercially operated wind farms	43%	29%	42%
Wind energy should mainly be a small scale operation benefiting local operators and communities directly	61%	69%	63%

## 5. LOCAL WIND TURBINES

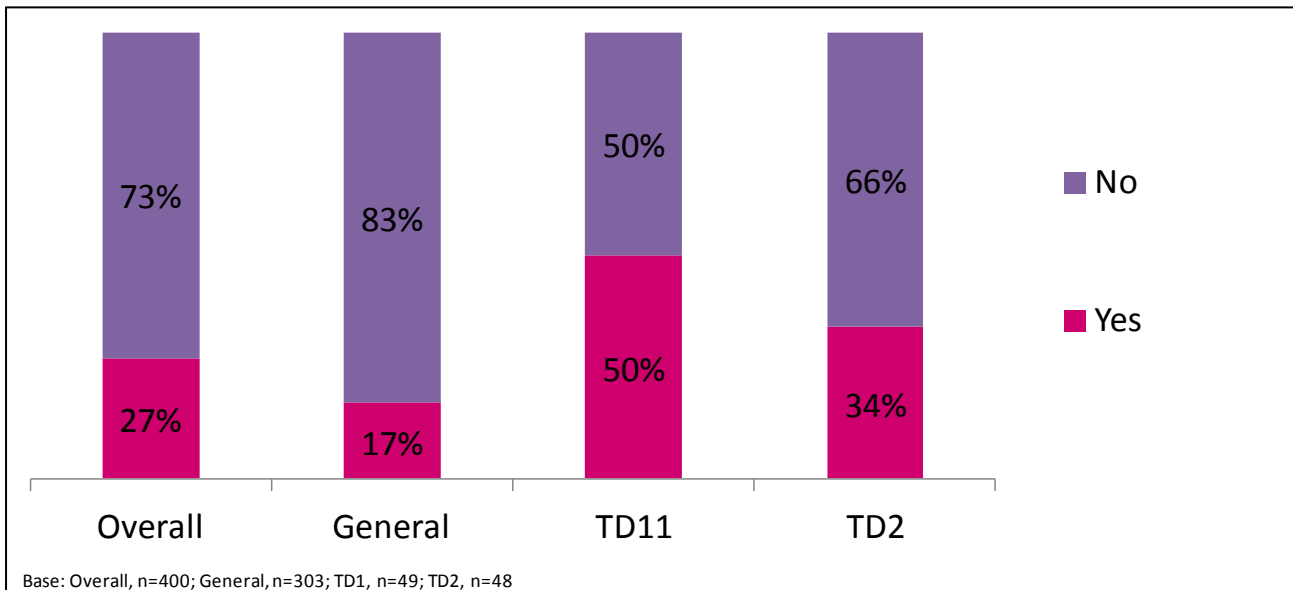
### 5.1 Are there any wind farms or turbines currently operating locally to you? (Q12/13)

Respondents who lived in the vicinity of the TD11 and TD2 wind farms were unsurprisingly more likely to have said they had wind farms or turbines currently operating locally to them than respondents who lived in other areas. Of those who said yes, 14% mentioned Stow, 12% mentioned Soutra Hill (12%) and 10% mentioned Lauder (10%).



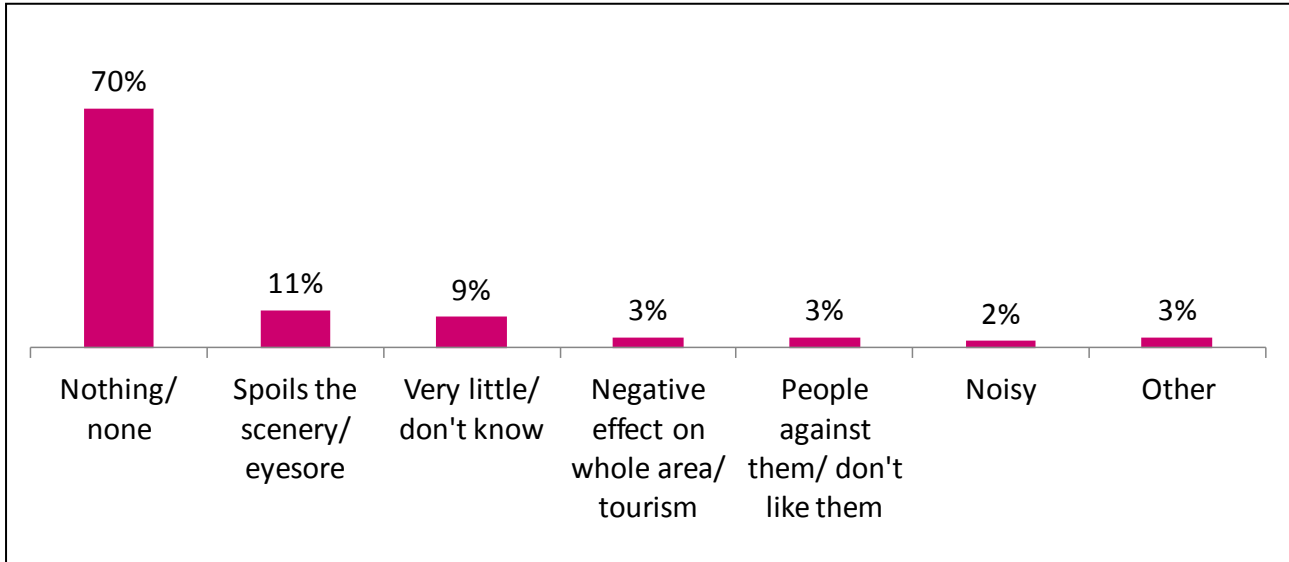
### 5.2 Is the wind farm or turbine visible from where you live? (Q14/15)

Over 1 in 4 respondents (27%) said there was a wind farm or wind turbine visible from where they lived. Respondents who lived in the vicinity of the TD11 wind farm were most likely to have said there was a wind farm or turbine visible from where they lived (50%). Respondents were asked what impact this has on them/ their household. 94% said it has no impact and 2% were unsure. 8 respondents said it did have an impact on them with the majority saying that they spoil the attractiveness of the area.



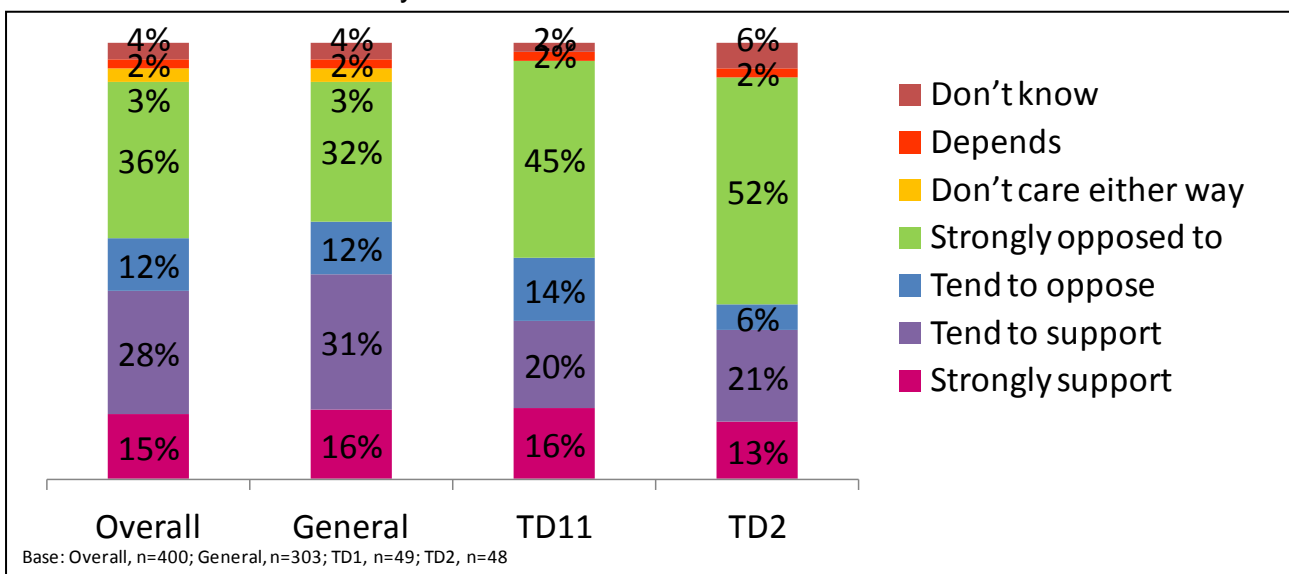
### 5.3 What impact, if any, does this have on your local area? (Q16)

The majority of respondents who said they had wind farms operating locally to them said that this does not have an impact on them. On the other hand, 11% said it spoils the scenery, 3% said they have a negative impact on the whole area or on tourism and 3% said they were generally against them.



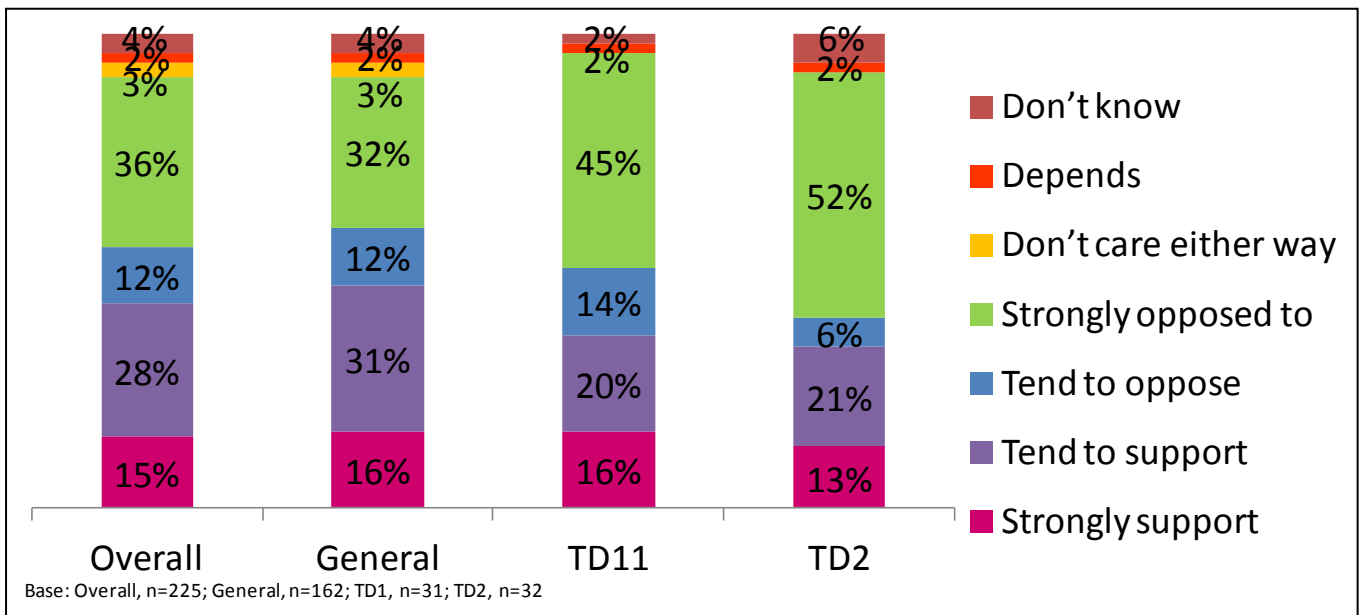
### 5.4 Would you support or oppose a wind farm being built locally to your home, by that I mean within 1 to 2 km (or within 1 mile) from your home? (Q17)

Just under half of respondents were opposed to wind farms being built locally to their home (48%), with the majority of these individuals being strongly opposed (36%). On the other hand, 43% of respondents overall said they were in support of this. Analysis by area reveals that the proportion of respondents who were in support of this, ranged from 34% for respondents who lived in the vicinity of TD2 to 47% for respondents who lived in the general Scottish Borders area. The proportion of respondents who were opposed ranged from 44% for those who lived in the general Borders area to 59% for those who lived in the vicinity of TD11 and 58% for those who lived in the vicinity of TD2.



### 5.5 Would you support or oppose a wind farm being built within your local area, by that I mean within 3-5 km (or up to 3 miles) from your home? (Q18)

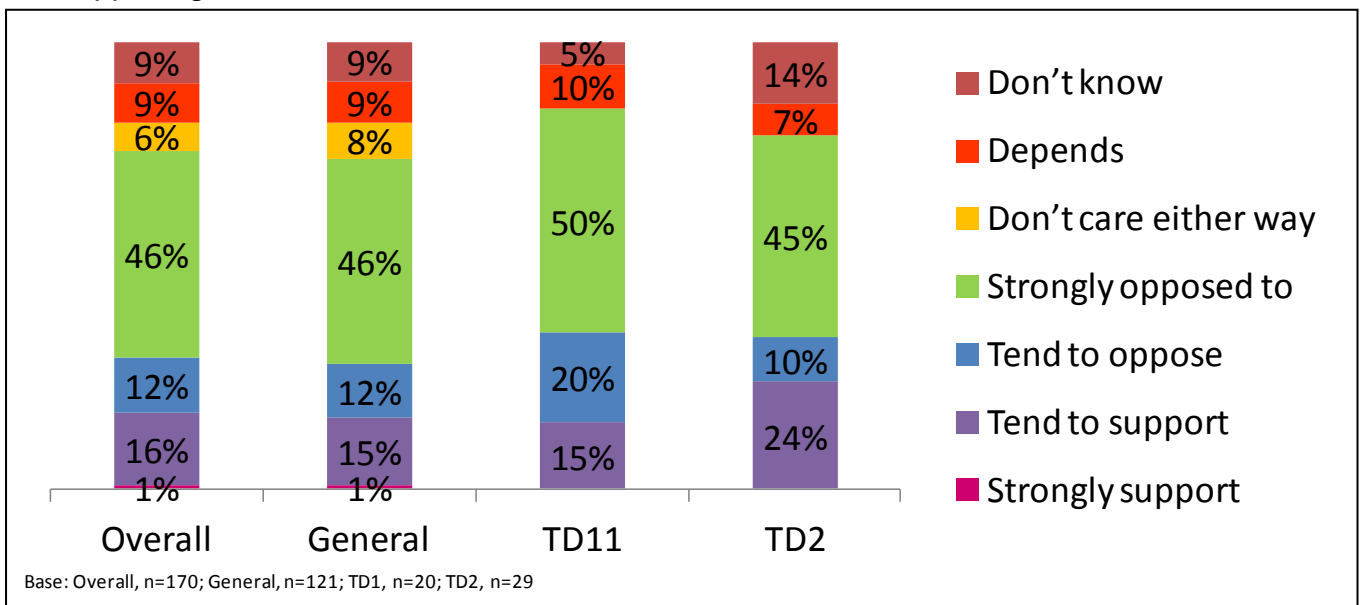
Those who were opposed to the building of a wind farm 1-2 km from their home or were unsure, were asked if they would support or oppose a wind farm being built between 3 and 5 km from their home. 48% were opposed to this, the majority who were strongly opposed. On the other hand, 43% of respondents were in support of this. The proportion of respondents who strongly supported or tended to support ranged from 34% for those who lived in the vicinity of TD2 to 47% for respondents who lived in the general Scottish Borders area. The proportion of respondents who opposed or strongly opposed ranged from 44% for respondents who lived in the general Scottish Borders area to 59% for respondents who lived in the vicinity of TD11 and 58% of respondents who lived in the vicinity of TD2.



## 5.6 Would you support or oppose a wind farm being built within 6-10 km (or within 6 miles) of your home? (Q19)

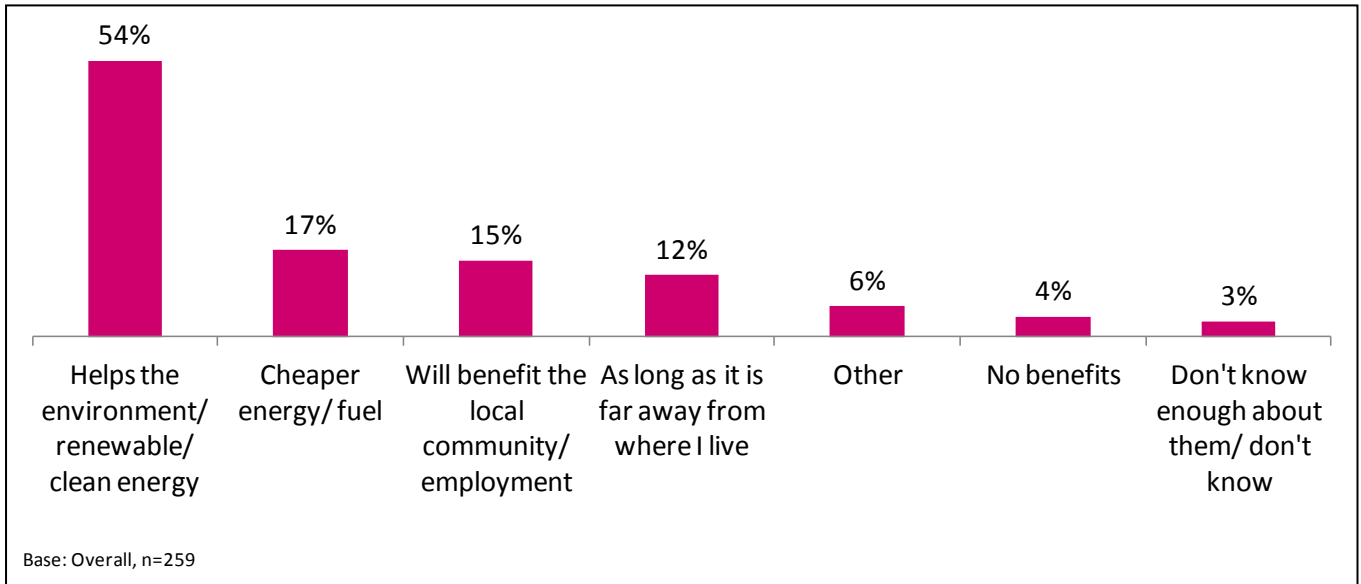
Those who were opposed to the building of a wind farm 3-5 km from their home or were unsure, were asked if they would support or oppose a wind farm being built between 6 and 10 km from their home. 58% were opposed to this (with the majority being strongly opposed) compared to 17% who were in support of this. Analysis by area indicates that the proportion of respondents who were in support of this ranged from 15% in the vicinity of TD11 and 16% for respondents who lived in the general Scottish Borders area compared to 24% for respondents who lived in the vicinity of TD2. On the other hand, the proportion of respondents who were opposed to this ranged from 55% for those who lived in the vicinity of TD2 to 70% for respondents who lived in the vicinity of TD11.

This equates to 65% of the sample overall supporting a wind farm being built in this radius and 25% opposing.



## 5.7 What are main reasons behind your support? (Q20)

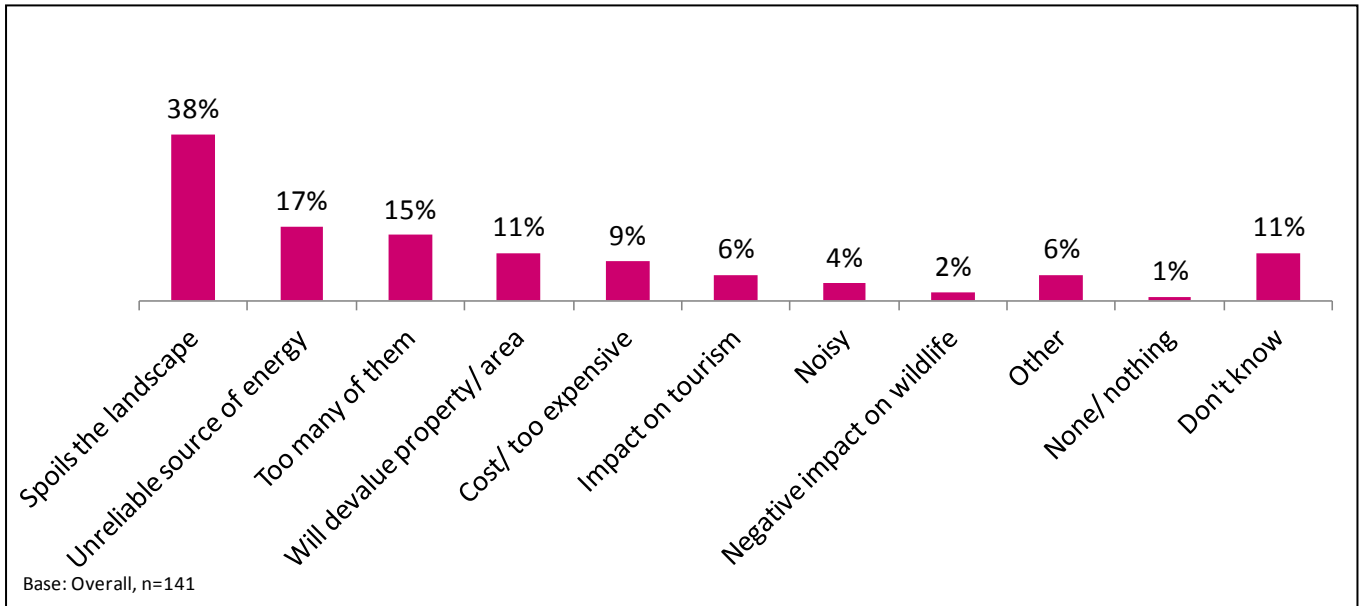
Those who were in support of the wind farms being built were asked for their reasons behind their support. Over half (54%) said that wind power helps the environment, 17% said it would result in cheaper fuel and 15% said it will benefit the local community or employment (15%).





## 5.8 What are main reasons you have for not supporting? (Q21)

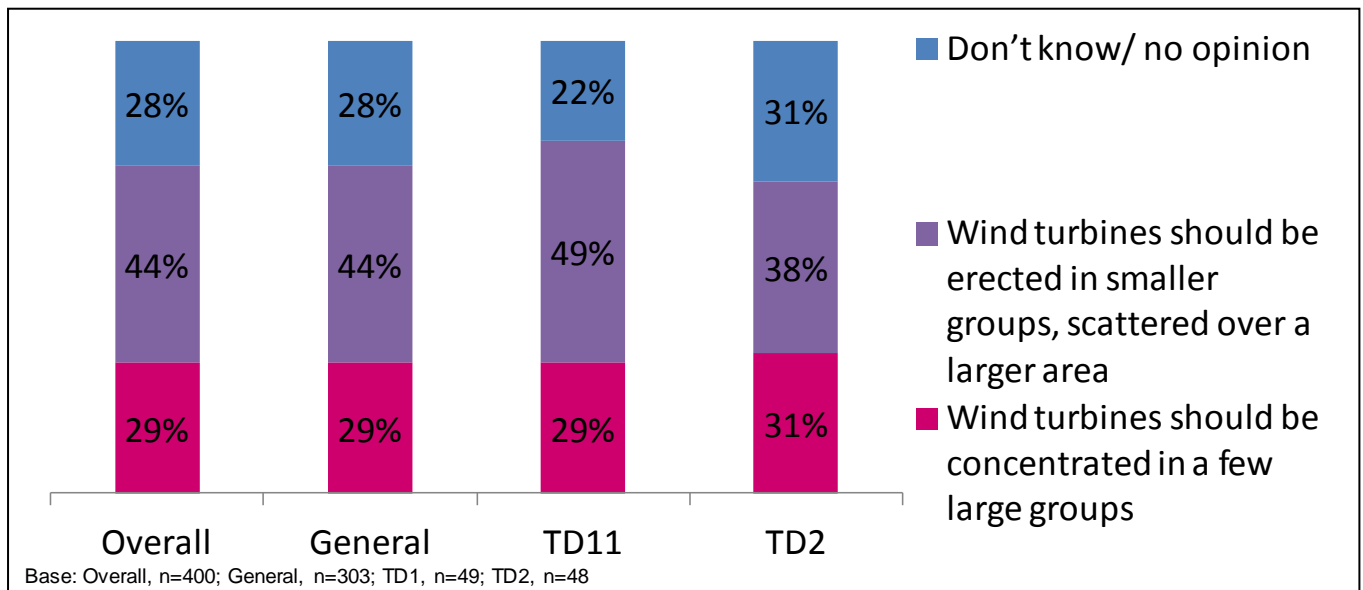
Those who were not in support of the wind farms being built were asked why they opposed to this. The main reasons were where respondents felt the wind turbines spoil the landscape (38%) or that it is an unreliable source of energy (17%).



## 6. DEVELOPMENT OF WIND TURBINES

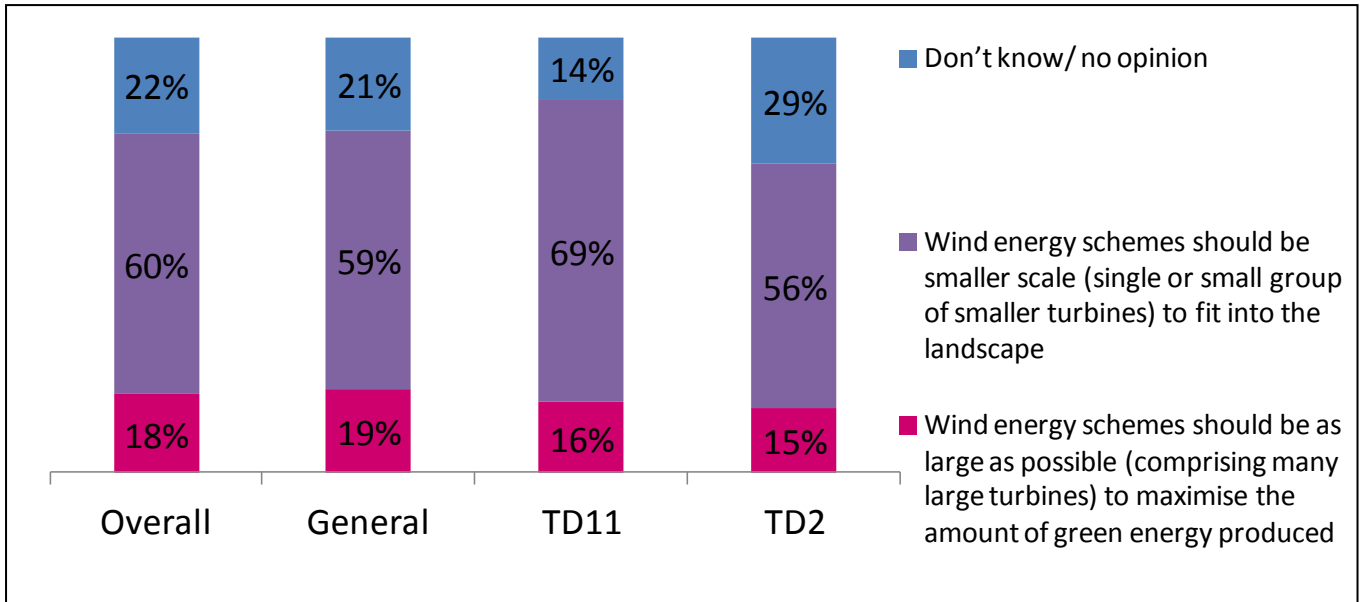
### 6.1 When considering the development of wind farms or turbines across the Scottish Borders, which of the following strategies would you prefer the Council to adopt? (Q22a)

44% of respondents were of the opinion that wind turbines should be erected in smaller groups, scattered over a larger area, 29% said wind turbines should be concentrated in a few large groups and the remaining 28% were unsure. Respondents who lived in the vicinity of the TD11 wind farm were most likely to have said that wind farms should be erected in smaller, scattered groups over a larger area.



## 6.2 When considering the development of wind farms or turbines across the Scottish Borders, which of the following strategies would you prefer the Council to adopt? (Q22b)

The majority of respondents (60%) were of the opinion that the Council should adopt wind energy schemes on a smaller scale to fit into the landscape. Respondents who lived in the vicinity of the TD11 wind farm were most likely to agree with this option (69%).



### 6.3 Are there any areas of the Scottish Borders which you feel could support more wind turbines? (Q23)

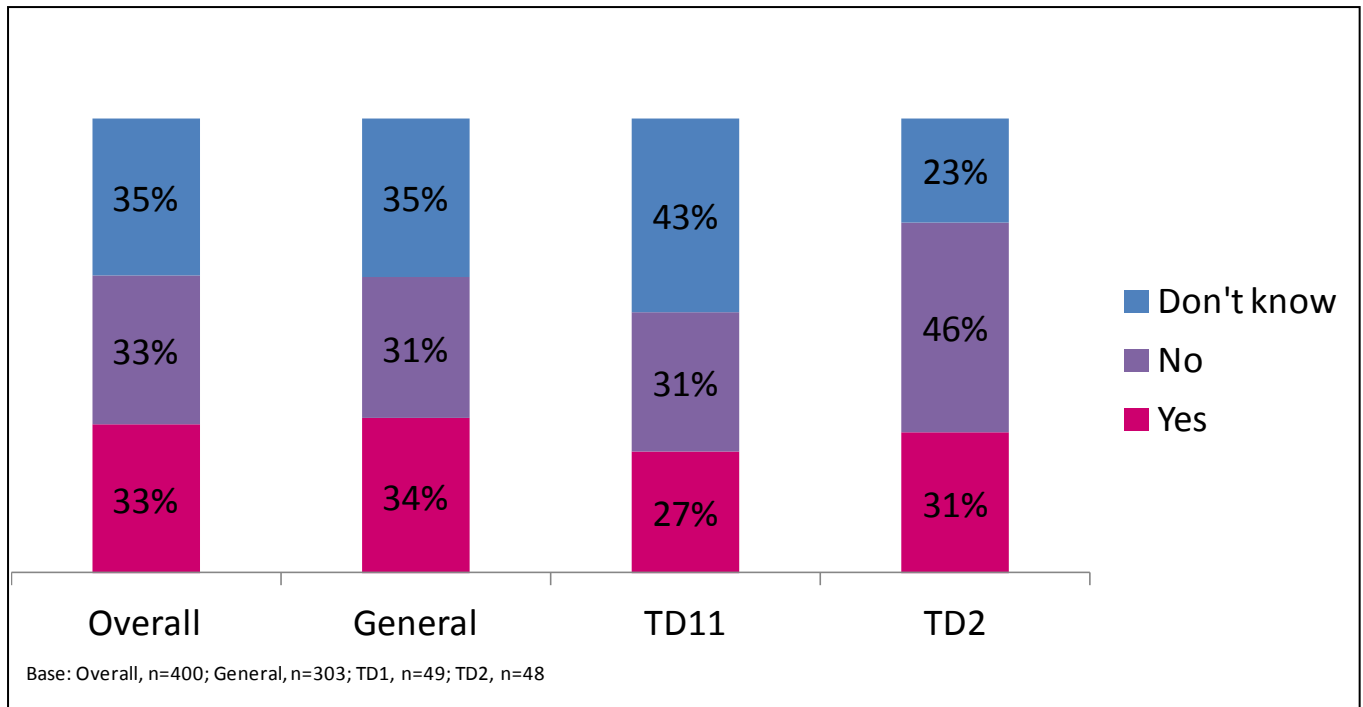
Opinion was split in terms of whether there were any areas in the Scottish Borders which could support more wind turbines with 33% answering yes to this question, 33% answering no and the remaining 35% of respondents being unsure.

Of those who said yes:

- 63% said gave specific locations such as Lammermuir Hills, Soutra and Galashiels;
- 23% gave a general location such as hills or countryside etc;
- 15% were unsure.

The main reasons for answering no to this question were:

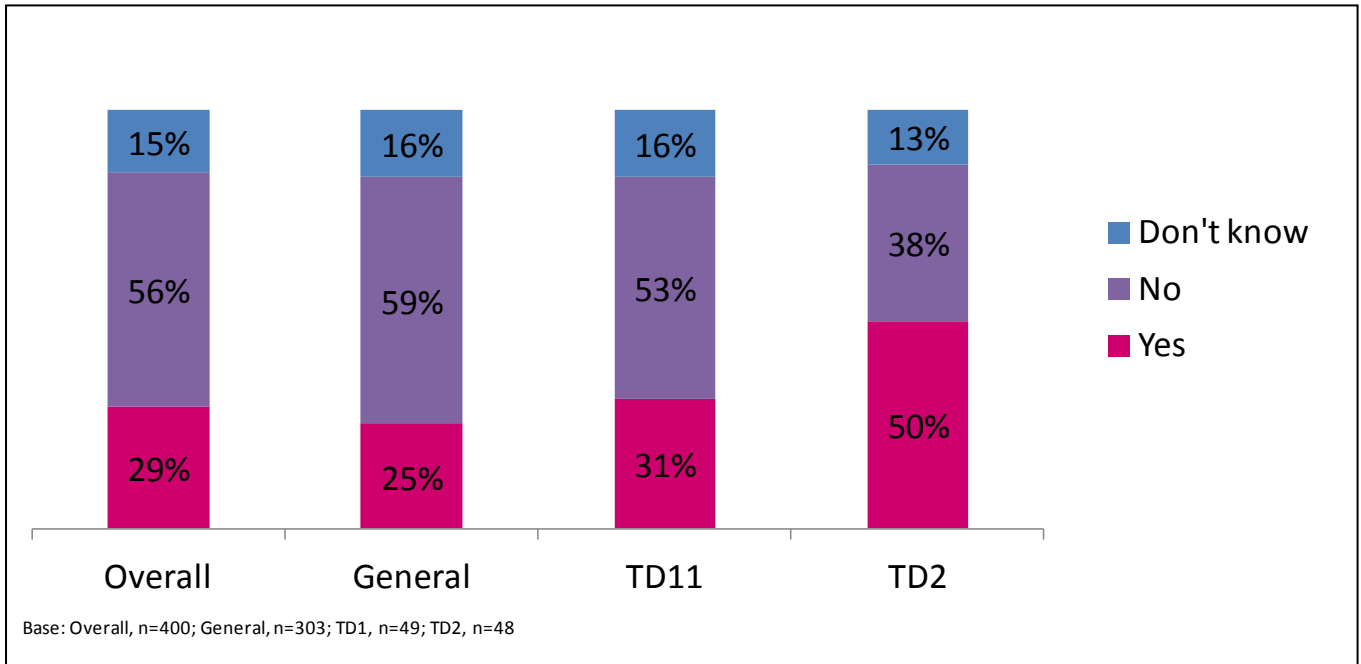
- Too many/ enough already (24%);
- They ruin the landscape/ unsightly (8%);
- I don't agree with them at all (6%)



#### 6.4 Are there any areas of the Scottish Borders where you feel the development of wind turbines has reached saturation point? (Q24)

29% of respondents said there were areas of the Scottish Borders where they felt the development of wind turbines has reached saturation point. Of those who said yes:

- 67% gave specific locations such as Lammermuir Hills, Soutra Hills etc;
- 20% gave a general location such as the whole of the Borders, or on the hills;
- 13% were unsure



## 6.5 Are there any areas of the Scottish Borders where you feel should be kept free of the development of wind turbines? (Q25)

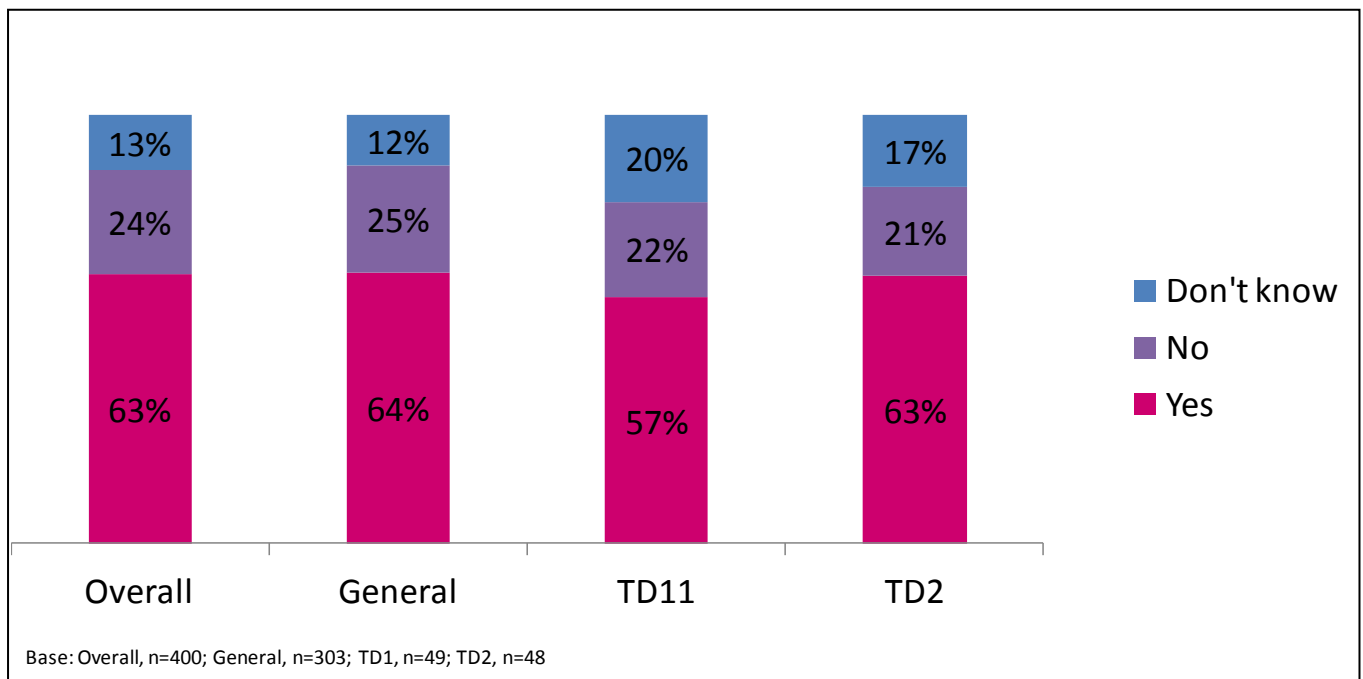
Over 6 in 10 respondents felt that there were areas of the Scottish Borders that should be kept free of the development of wind turbines.

Of those who said yes:

- 26% gave a specific location such as the Lammermuir Hills, Galashiels etc;
- 68% gave a general location such as parks, countryside etc;
- 6% were unsure.

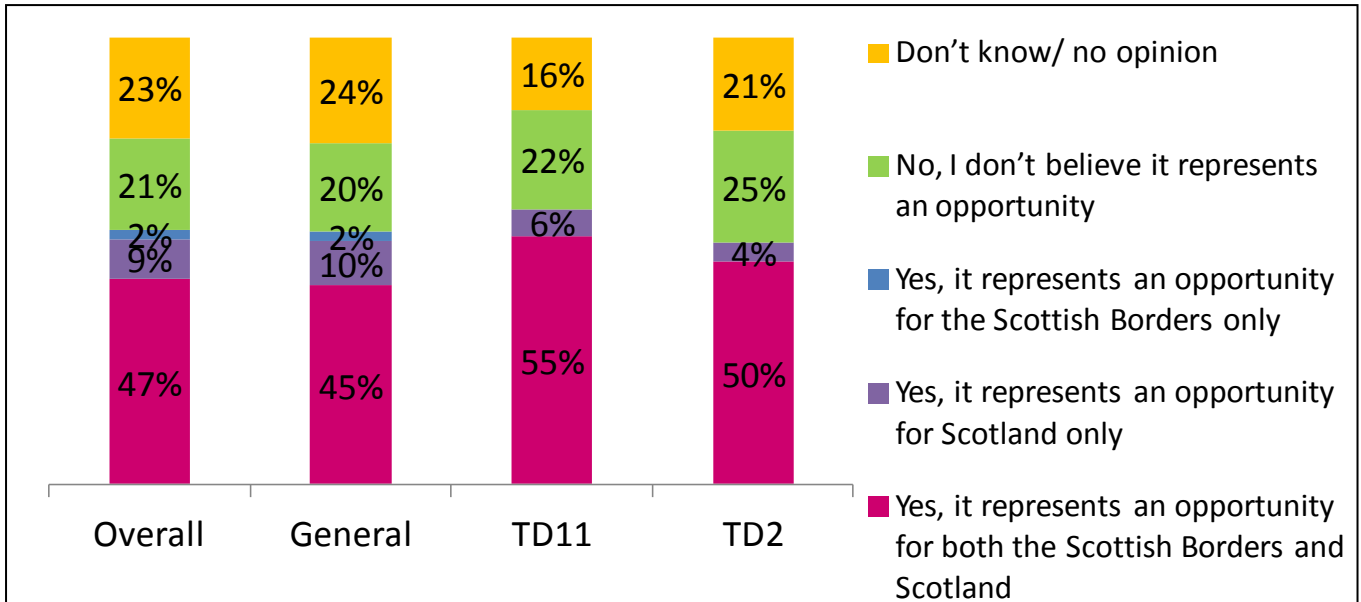
The main reasons for answering no to this question were:

- Everywhere should have them/ there is plenty of room (27%)
- I like the look of them/ benefits of them (7%)



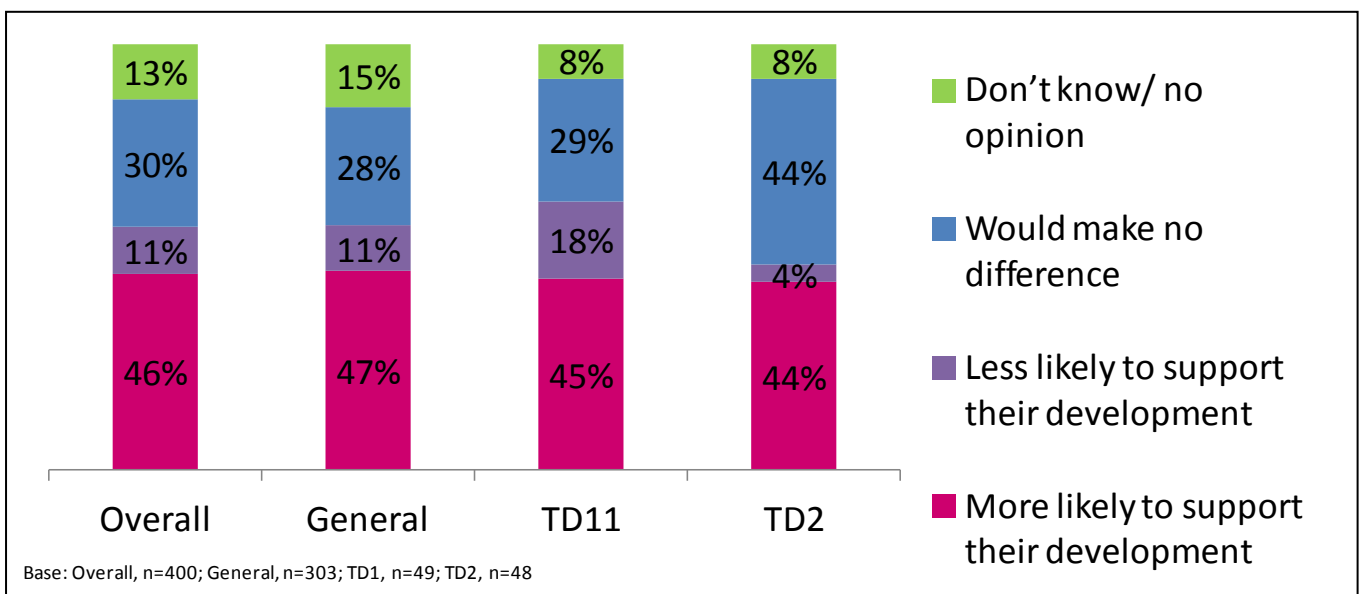
## 6.6 Do you believe that the onshore wind sector represents an economic opportunity for the Scottish Borders and Scotland? (Q26)

Just under half of respondents were of the opinion that the onshore wind sector represented an economic opportunity for the Scottish Borders and Scotland (47%), 9% said it represented an opportunity for Scotland only, 2% said it represented an opportunity for the Scottish Borders only and 21% did not believe it represented an opportunity.



## 6.7 If it could be shown that wind turbines had no negative impact on the Scottish Borders economy would you be more or less likely to support their development? (Q27)

If it could be shown the wind turbines had no negative impact on the Scottish Borders economy, 46% of respondents said they would be more likely to support their development, 30% said it would make no difference.



## 7. CONCLUSIONS

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There are generally high levels of awareness of both Government policy relating to wind energy and the existence of wind turbines in the Scottish Borders.

Whilst there are undoubtedly Borders residents who feel very strongly against wind turbines in the Borders, there are a greater number who either support the development of wind turbines or are fairly ambivalent to their development and more would agree than disagree that Scottish Borders Council should take an active role in encouraging wind turbines. Those who were opposed to the building of wind farms were most likely to be 'strongly opposed' and in general this tended to be when it comes to the proposal of wind farms being built in the vicinity of their home.

There is a need for education and information on wind turbines, with many respondents stating that they couldn't think of or did not know of any advantages *or* disadvantages of wind turbines.

Allied with this, there was evidence that if it could be proven that either there was no negative impact or indeed positive impacts of wind turbines for the Scottish Borders then residents would be more likely to support their development.

The preferred approach in the Scottish Borders is for smaller scale development of wind turbines which fit in with the landscape.

Similar proportions would support (43%) and oppose (48%) a wind farm within 1 mile of their home whereas when this was expanded to within 6 miles of their home, this rose to 65% supporting.



## **Appendix 1**

### **Survey Questionnaire**



Project number	P514
Project name	Scottish Borders Wind Energy Survey

Respondent name										
<u>Record in capitals</u>										
Address										
<u>Record in capitals</u>										
Postcode										
<u>Record in capitals</u>										
Telephone Number										

[INTERVIEWER: CLOSE INTERVIEW BY READING OUT STATEMENT]

“Thank you very much for your help. Can I assure you once again that the information you have given will be treated as absolutely confidential and will only be used for the purposes of genuine market research.”

**INTERVIEWER DECLARATION:**

I declare that this interview was carried out according to instructions, within the Market Research Society’s Code of Conduct, and that the respondent was not previously known to me.

Interviewer No:		Name:	
Questionnaire No		Signature:	
On quota:		Date:	
Edited by:		Duration	
Backchecked by:			

**INTRODUCTION (Read out)** ‘Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am undertaking a survey for Scottish Borders Council to find out about public attitudes of Scottish Borders residents to wind energy. The interview will take no more than 10 minutes of your time. All your answers will be strictly confidential. No one will see your individual responses and no information will be generated that would enable any individual to be identified. Is now a good time?’

## GENERAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS WIND ENERGY

The first few questions I have are about your general views towards wind energy.

1. Are you aware that the Scottish Government promotes and supports renewable energy?

Yes	1	Go to Q2
No	2	

2. To what extent do you support or oppose the use of onshore wind power as a form of renewable energy in Scotland? Do you...

Strongly support	1	Go to Q3
Tend to support	2	
Tend to oppose	3	
Strongly oppose	4	
Don't know/ no opinion	5	
Depends (please specify what depends upon..)	6	

3. How acceptable or unacceptable do you generally find the look of wind turbines on the landscape?

Completely acceptable	1	Go to Q4
Somewhat acceptable	2	
Somewhat unacceptable	3	
Completely unacceptable	4	
Don't know/ no opinion	5	
Depends (please specify what depends upon..)	6	

4. What benefits, if any, do you think wind energy can bring in Scotland?  
[INTERVIEWER: DO NOT PROMPT, TICK ALL THAT APPLY]

Helping to reduce carbon emissions	1	Go to Q5
Helping to tackle climate change	2	
Providing jobs in the wind energy sector and its supply chain	3	
Providing a secure supply of energy in Scotland	4	
Reducing reliance on fossil fuels	5	
Providing an energy source that helps to protect customers from rises in energy bills created by fluctuating gas prices	6	
Community benefit funds	7	
Other (please specify)	8	
I can't think of any benefits	9	
Don't know	10	

5. What disadvantages, if any, do you think wind energy can bring in Scotland?  
[INTERVIEWER: DO NOT PROMPT, TICK ALL THAT APPLY]

Reduction in tourism	1	Go to Q6
Make the landscape less attractive	2	
Negative impact on views of the landscape	3	
Negative impact on nature/ wildlife	4	
Negative impact on residents (e.g. noise, visual, shadow flicker)	5	
High energy prices	6	
Unreliable source of energy requiring backup	7	
Negative impact on property prices	8	
Other (please specify)	9	
I can't think of any disadvantages	10	
Don't know	11	

6. Which of the following statements meets your view most closely in relation to whether you believe, on balance, that the benefits of wind energy outweigh any disadvantages?  
[INTERVIEWER: READ OUT STATEMENTS]

There are only benefits and no disadvantages	1	Go to Q7
Benefits definitely outweigh the disadvantages	2	
Benefits probably outweigh the disadvantages	3	
Benefits probably do not outweigh the disadvantages	4	
Benefits definitely do not outweigh the disadvantages	5	
There are only disadvantages, no benefits	6	
Don't know/ no opinion	7	

## SCOTTISH BORDERS AND WIND ENERGY

7. On the whole, how would you rate the Scottish Borders as a place to live?

Very good	1	Go to Q8
Fairly good	2	
Fairly poor	3	
Very poor	4	
Don't know/ no opinion	5	

8. To what extent do you support or oppose the general principle of building wind turbines in the Scottish Borders?

Strongly support	1	Go to Q9
Tend to support	2	
Tend to oppose	3	
Strongly opposed to	4	
Don't know/ no opinion	5	
Depends (please specify what depends upon..)	6	

9. Are you aware of any wind turbines currently operating in the Scottish Borders?

Yes	1	Go to Q10
No	2	

10. Are you aware of any wind turbines under construction or being proposed in the Scottish Borders?

Yes	1	Go to Q11
No	2	

11. I'm now going to read out a range of statements about wind turbines in the Scottish Borders and I'd like you to tell me the extent to which you agree or disagree with each. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each statement.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know/ no opinion
Scottish Borders Council should take an active role in encouraging wind turbines	1	2	3	4	5
There should be more wind turbines built in the Scottish Borders	1	2	3	4	5
I am concerned about the number of wind turbines in the Scottish Borders	1	2	3	4	5
Wind turbines boost employment and bring money into the Scottish Borders	1	2	3	4	5
Wind turbines have a negative impact on the environment in the Scottish Borders	1	2	3	4	5
Wind turbines benefit the communities of the Scottish Borders	1	2	3	4	5
Wind turbines reduce property values of homes in the Scottish Borders	1	2	3	4	5
Wind turbines in the Scottish Borders has a negative impact on tourism	1	2	3	4	5
Wind turbines in the Scottish Borders do not have a negative impact on the landscape of the Scottish Borders	1	2	3	4	5
The most effective use of wind energy is through large scale commercially operated windfarms	1	2	3	4	5
Wind energy should mainly be a small scale operation benefitting local operators and communities directly	1	2	3	4	5

## LOCAL WIND TURBINES

12. Are there any wind farms or turbines currently operating locally to you?

Yes	1	Go to Q13
No	2	Go to Q17
Don't know	3	

13. If yes, what is the name or location of the wind farm or turbine which is closest to you?

	Go to Q14
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14. Is the wind farm or turbine visible from where you live?

Yes	1	Go to Q15
No	2	

15. What impact, if any, does the wind farm/ turbines close to you have on you/ your household?

	Go to Q16
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16. What impact, if any, does this have on your local area?

	Go to Q17
--	-----------

17. Would you support or oppose a wind farm being built locally to your home, by that I mean within 1 to 2 km (or within 1 mile) from your home? Would you...?

Strongly support	1	Go to Q20
Tend to support	2	
Tend to oppose	3	Go to Q18
Strongly opposed to	4	
Don't care either way	5	
Depends (please specify what depends upon..)	6	
Don't know	7	

18. Would you support or oppose a wind farm being built within your local area, by that I mean within 3-5 km (or up to 3 miles) from your home? Would you...?

Strongly support	1	Go to Q20
Tend to support	2	
Tend to oppose	3	Go to Q19
Strongly opposed to	4	
Don't care either way	5	
Depends (please specify what depends upon..)	6	
Don't know	7	

19. Would you support or oppose a wind farm being built within 6-10 km (or within 6 miles) of your home? Would you...?

Strongly support	1	Go to Q20
Tend to support	2	
Tend to oppose	3	Go to Q21
Strongly opposed to	4	
Don't care either way	5	
Depends (please specify what depends upon..)	6	
Don't know	7	

20. IF SUPPORT: What are the main reasons behind your support? [INTERVIEWER: PROBE FULLY]

	Go to Q22
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21. IF OTHER: What are the main reasons you have for not supporting? [INTERVIEWER: PROBE FULLY]

	Go to Q22
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## DEVELOPMENT OF WIND TURBINES

22. When considering the development of wind farms or turbines across the Scottish Borders, which of the following strategies would you prefer the Council to adopt?  
[INTERVIEWER: READ OUT STATEMENTS AND CODE ONE ONLY]

a)

Wind turbines should be concentrated in a few large groups	1	Go to Q22b
Wind turbines should be erected in smaller groups, scattered over a larger area	2	
Don't know/ no opinion [SPONTANEOUS RESPONSE ONLY, DO NOT READ OUT]	3	

B)

Wind energy schemes should be as large as possible (comprising many large turbines) to maximise the amount of green energy produced	1	Go to Q23
Wind energy schemes should be smaller scale (single or small group of smaller turbines) to fit into the landscape	2	
Don't know/ no opinion [SPONTANEOUS RESPONSE ONLY, DO NOT READ OUT]	3	

23. Are there any areas of the Scottish Borders which you feel could support more wind turbines?

Yes (If so, where?)	1	Go to Q24
No (why not?)	2	

24. Are there any areas of the Scottish Borders where you feel the development of wind turbines has reached saturation point?

Yes (If so, where?)	1	Go to Q25
No	2	

25. Are there any areas of the Scottish Borders where you feel should be kept free of the development of wind turbines?

Yes (If so, where?)	1	Go to Q26
No (why not?)	2	



26. Do you believe that the onshore wind sector represents an economic opportunity for the Scottish Borders and Scotland?

Yes, it represents an opportunity for both the Scottish Borders and Scotland	1	Go to Q27
Yes, it represents an opportunity for Scotland only	2	
Yes, it represents an opportunity for the Scottish Borders only	3	
No, I don't believe it represents an opportunity	4	
Don't know/ no opinion	5	

27. If it could be shown that wind turbines had no negative impact (in other words no economic impact either positive or negative) on the Scottish Borders economy would you be more or less likely to support their development?

More likely to support their development	1	Go to Q28
Less likely to support their development	2	
Would make no difference	3	
Don't know/ no opinion	4	

28. If it could be shown that wind turbines had a positive impact on the Scottish Borders economy would you be more or less likely to support their development?

More likely to support their development	1	Go to Q29
Less likely to support their development	2	
Would make no difference	3	
Don't know/ no opinion	4	

#### ABOUT YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD

**[INTERVIEWER: READ OUT]** This final section of the questionnaire is only to allow us to understand who has responded to our questionnaire and will be used only for statistical and analysis purposes only.

29. Is this your only or main residence or it is a second or holiday home?

Only/ main residence	1	Go to Q30
Second or holiday home	2	

30. Does your household own or rent this property?

Owner occupier	1	Go to Q31
Rent from Council or Housing Association	2	
Rent from a private landlord	3	
Other (please specify)	4	

31. How long have you or your family had this property?

Less than 1 year	1	Go to Q32
1-5 years	2	
6-10 years	3	
11-20 years	4	
21-30 years	5	
Over 30 years	6	

32. What age are you?

16-24	1	Go to Q33
25-34	2	
35-44	3	
45-54	4	
55-59	5	
60-64	6	
65-74	7	
75+	8	

33. Gender?

Male	1	Go to Q34
Female	2	

34. How many people usually live in this house?

	Go to Q35
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35. Which of these best describes your household composition?

Single adult 75+	1	Go to Q36
Single adult 65-74	2	
Single adult 25-64	3	
Single adult 16-24	4	
2 adults, 1 child under 16	5	
2 adults, 2 children under 16	6	
2 adults, 3 children under 16	7	
2 adults, 4 children under 16	8	
Lone parent, 1 child under 16	9	
Lone parent, 2 children under 16	10	
Lone parent, 3 children under 16	11	
Lone parent, 4 children under 16	12	
2 adults 75+	13	
2 adults 60-74	14	
2 adults 16-59	15	
Other (please specify)	16	

36. What is your full postcode?

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37. Do you have any further comments you wish to make about wind energy and turbines in the Borders?

**[THANK AND CLOSE]**

## **Appendix 2**

### **Technical Report Summary**



## TECHNICAL REPORT SHEET – QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

<b>Project number</b>	<b>P514</b>
<b>Project name</b>	<b>Scottish Borders Council Wind Energy Survey</b>
<b>Objectives of the research</b>	To understand community opinion on wind energy in the Scottish Borders.
<b>Target group</b>	The general population of the Scottish Borders, respondents within a 10k radius of Preston and respondents within a 10k radius of Lauder.
<b>Target sample size</b>	<p>The survey sample was designed in order to provide the views of residents who live in the vicinity of areas where the cumulative impact of wind turbines are a concern (Lauder and Preston) in addition to a random sample of the general population of Scottish Borders residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 303 with general population of Scottish Borders</li> <li>▪ 49 with respondents within a 10k radius of TD11 3QA (Preston)</li> <li>▪ 48 with respondents within a 10k radius of TD2 6RS (Lauder)</li> </ul>
<b>Achieved sample size</b>	400 interviews achieved.
<b>Date of fieldwork</b>	19/11/2012 -07/12/2012
<b>Sampling method</b>	General random sample of the general population of 300 and sample of 50 within a 10k radius of two different wind farm developments where there was belief of concern.
<b>Data collection method</b>	Telephone interviewing
<b>Response rate</b>	N/A
<b>Any incentives?</b>	No
<b>Number of interviewers</b>	7
<b>Interview validation methods</b>	10% of each interviewers work was back checked to ensure that interviews have been completed accurately and in line with ISO 20252 standards.
<b>Showcards used?</b>	N/A
<b>Weighting procedures</b>	Not applicable
<b>Estimating and imputation procedures (if applicable)</b>	Not applicable
<b>Reliability of findings</b>	Data accurate to +5% based on a 95% level of confidence and a 50% estimate)