

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) considerations

Cultural heritage

Whilst there are no designated heritage assets within the site boundary area there are many non-designated and designated heritage assets in the surrounding 5km study area. The updated layout design lessens the potential effect upon the setting of such assets.

In order to enhance the cultural heritage environment we are investigating the potential for a cultural heritage walking trail. Such a trail will enhance the ability to understand, appreciate and experience assets of national importance in the area.

Assets that could be linked in this trail include Barmekin of Echt (SM57) and Sunhoney (SM44). Provision of interpretation boards and creation of designated pathways to access monuments and limit foot erosion are potential elements of the trail which will enhance not just cultural heritage but also recreation in the area. If this interests you, please speak to our project team and submit any written feedback that you may have on the indicative walking trail on a comments form.

Indicative cultural heritage trail

Recreation

During construction of any infrastructure project, the developer has a responsibility to ensure that the public is kept safe from any construction activity on the site. This inevitably means that access to some parts of the wind farm site will be restricted in the interests of public safety during construction of the project. There is an eroded path from the site entrance to the top of Meikle Tap which may serve as a diversionary route away from the forest road during construction. There may be potential for upgrading this path as a result.

Once the wind farm is operational, the statutory Scottish 'right to roam' (Land Reform [Scotland] Act 2003) will apply and the public will have full access to the site via non-vehicular means.

The landowner has confirmed agreement in principle to car-parking facilities at the site entrance. We continue to explore other potential opportunities to support access and recreation across the site. We are also investigating the potential for renovating the old shooting lodge on the site for use as a place of shelter and visitor information.

Please speak to our project team in connection with any of these ideas. Feedback can also be provided in writing on a comments form.

