

Hill of Fare Wind Farm

Technical Appendix 4.3

ECU Gatecheck Report

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Date	April 2023
Ref	

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Table of Contents

1 Introduction	3
Introduction	3
The Applicant	3
2 Design Iterations	3
Design Iterations to Date	3
Future Design Iterations	4
3 Scoping Responses	4
Planning and Energy Policy Context.....	5
EIA Report Requirements.....	5
Landscape and Visual.....	5
Cultural Heritage.....	8
Ornithology	9
Ecology	10
Hydrology, Geology & Hydrogeology.....	11
Acoustic.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Traffic and Transport	14
Aviation & Infrastructure	15
Socio-Economics	17
Forestry	17
Other Issues	17
4 Programme to Submission	18
Figures	19
Appendix 1 LVIA Viewpoints	20
Appendix 2 Consultee List.....	21

1 Introduction

Introduction

- 1.1 Renewable Energy Systems Ltd. (RES) (hereafter referred to as “the Applicant”), a subsidiary of Renewable Energy Systems Holdings Ltd., intends to apply to the Scottish Ministers for consent to construct and operate the Hill of Fare Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as the “Proposed Development”). The Proposed Development is located on the Hill of Fare, approximately 6 km north of Banchory, Aberdeenshire, with central co-ordinates being E 369535, N 803040 (refer to **Figure 1.1**).
- 1.2 The total generating capacity of the Proposed Development will be greater than 50 MW, therefore the Applicant intends to submit an application to the Scottish Ministers via the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989.
- 1.3 The Applicant submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report in August 2022 to the ECU. The Applicant received an EIA Scoping Opinion in October 2022.
- 1.4 This Section 36 Gate Check Report provides the ECU with an update on the status of the Proposed Development and progress with the EIA Report. It summarises the design iteration process which the Applicant has undertaken to date (refer to **Section 2**), ongoing consultation, and how the Applicant intends to respond to the points raised within the EIA Scoping Opinion (refer to **Section 3**).
- 1.5 The Applicant intends to submit an EIA Report for the Proposed Development to the ECU later in 2023. Section 4 provides further details on the intended programme.

The Applicant

- 1.6 RES is the world’s largest independent renewable energy company. At the forefront of the industry for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 23GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and supports an operational asset portfolio exceeding 12GW worldwide for a large client base. RES employs more than 2,500 people and is active in 14 countries working across onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage and transmission and distribution.
- 1.7 Drawing on decades of experience in the renewable energy and construction industries, RES has the expertise to develop, construct and operate projects which contribute to a low carbon future by providing a secure supply of sustainable, low cost, clean green energy. RES is committed to finding effective and appropriate ways of engaging with all its stakeholders, including local residents and businesses, and believes that the opinions of local people are an integral part of the development process. RES is also committed to developing long-term relationships with the communities around its projects, proactively seeking ways in which it can support and encourage community involvement in social and environmental projects near its developments.

2 Design Iterations

Design Iterations to Date

- 2.1 The initial design and layout of the Proposed Development has been an iterative process which has avoided known potential impacts as far as possible. The layout will continue to be refined during the EIA process and through further consultation.
- 2.2 In August 2022, as part of the EIA Scoping Report, the Applicant submitted a turbine layout for the Proposed Development of 17 turbines.
- 2.3 Since the submission of the EIA Scoping Report and the receipt of the EIA Scoping Opinion the Applicant has undertaken design iterations to maximise the capacity of the Proposed Development while minimising the environmental impacts.
- 2.4 Since the EIA Scoping stage, the site boundary has changed to accommodate the routing of access from the public road on to site. Altering the site boundary has not changed the nature or scale of the Proposed Development nor has required it to be re-scoped. Additionally, turbine tip heights have been reduced in order to mitigate potential landscape and visual, aviation and cultural heritage setting impacts.
- 2.5 The main iterations are described below within Table 2.1 and shown on **Figures 2.1-2.3**.

Table 2.1- Design Iterations to Date

Design Iteration	No. Turbines	Date	Description
A (Figure 2.1)	17	August 2022	<p>Layout A was used to inform the EIA Scoping Report.</p> <p>Following the results of initial desk studies, an indicative 'developable area' for wind turbines was created on the western side of the site. The Scoping layout was developed within this area and survey work based on this. Given the surrounding landscape features, turbines were scoped at 250 m in tip height.</p> <p>The Proposed Development presented at the scoping stage comprised the largest extent of land and greatest number of turbines expected to be submitted for planning permission. It therefore represented what is likely to provide the most benefit and be the ‘worst case’ regarding potential adverse environmental effects. The site boundary was predicted to change at the time to accommodate the final routing of access from the public road on to site, which was then expected to be from the east. The specific turbine model was not yet selected</p>

Design Iteration	No. Turbines	Date	Description
			but it was expected to be a horizontal axis machine with three rotor blades.
B (Figure 2.2)	15	December 2022	Following feedback through the EIA Scoping process and public consultations, the separation distance from settlements and residential properties was increased to minimise potential impacts. A layout was developed of 15 turbines at 242.5m tip height.
C (Figure 2.3)	16	February 2023	Following further consultation, the tip heights considered were reduced to a maximum of 200 m, primarily to mitigate potential aviation impacts (on NATS radars and Aberdeen Airport's operational flight procedures), landscape and visual impacts on local residences, and cultural heritage setting impacts. A 'design chill' layout was produced with 11 turbines at 180 m tip height and 5 turbines at 200 m tip. The site boundary was also extended to include the access route from the east and an area to the south of the site for location of an onsite substation. This layout will inform further peat probing and additional habitat surveys.

Future Design Iterations

2.6 The Applicant, together with the EIA team, has gathered environmental baseline information for the site across the various technical disciplines, to identify a design layout that considers the environmental constraints identified. Details of the design iterations leading to a finalised design will be provided within Chapter 2 of the EIA Report. Figure 2.4 shows the local environmental and engineering constraints which are mappable and which were considered within the design process to date for the Proposed Development.

3 Scoping Responses

3.1 Scoping responses were received from the organisations detailed within Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 - EIA Scoping Responses Received

Consultee	
Aberdeenshire Council	Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
Aberdeen International Airport	Highlands and Islands Airports Limited
British Telecommunications plc (BT)	Joint Radio Company
Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council	Marine Scotland Science (MSS)
Crown Estate Scotland (no comments to make)	NATS Safeguarding
Dee District Salmon Fishery Board	NatureScot
Defence Infrastructure Organisation	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland
Echt & Skene Community Council	Scottish Water
Edinburgh Airport	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
Glasgow Airport	Torphins Community Council
Glasgow Prestwick Airport	Transport Scotland

3.2 No responses to the EIA Scoping request were received from the consultees detailed within Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 - No Scoping Responses Received

Consultee	
British Horse Society	Oban Airport
Civil Aviation Authority	Scottish Forestry
Crathes, Drumoak & Durriss Community Council	Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)
Fisheries Management Scotland	Scottish Wildland Group
John Muir Trust	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Mountaineering Scotland	VisitScotland
North East Raptor Study Group	

3.3 The following sections describe the responses received in relation to each of the technical assessments, how the EIA Report will address these matters and any details of further consultation undertaken or in progress.

Planning and Energy Policy Context

3.4 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on planning policy.

Table 3.3 - EIA Scoping Opinion - Planning Policy

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
Aberdeenshire Council	Note that the Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2022 was formally in place in late 2022 and therefore the EIA should refer to this plan as opposed to the 2017 plan (unless otherwise agreed).	The EIA Report will refer to the 2022 Local Development Plan (LDP) as the most recent LDP.	N/A

EIA Report Requirements

3.5 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on EIA Requirements.

Table 3.4 - EIA Scoping Opinion - EIA Requirements

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
ECU	Request that the EIA Report includes full details of battery storage i.e. what it will entail (scale, dimensions, etc.), its location, MW capacity, and a full assessment of its impacts and effects and all proposed mitigation.	Full details of the battery storage will be included within the Project Description chapter of the EIA Report and will be assessed as part of the development.	N/A
	Advise that the description of the Proposed Development clearly includes all elements of the Proposed Development for which consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 is applied for.	Full details of the Proposed Development will be provided within the EIA Report Project Description chapter.	N/A
	Request that the EIA Report and application covering letter include reference to duration of consent applied for.	Duration of consent will be included in the EIA Report and application covering letter.	N/A
	Request that the EIA Report includes details of proposed borrow pits: their location, size, layout and nature. The impact of all borrow pits should be assessed. Refer to the requirements set out in 'PAN 50: Controlling the Environmental Effects of Surface Mineral Workings'.	Outline information on the proposed borrow pits will be provided in the EIA Report. This will include delineation of borrow pit search areas, information on bedrock geology from British Geological Survey (BGS) mapping, information on superficial geology, and peat cover from site survey work. Estimated depth of excavation will be provided as no detailed ground investigations works will have yet been carried out to confirm rock characteristics. The information will make	N/A

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
		reference to the requirements set out in PAN 50.	
	Cumulative developments to be assessed should be discussed and agreed with Aberdeenshire Council.	The final list of cumulative developments to be assessed will be agreed with Aberdeenshire Council, NatureScot, and the ECU no later than 12 weeks prior to the submission of the EIA.	Yes - consultation will be undertaken with Aberdeenshire Council, NatureScot, and the ECU.
	Recommend that Aberdeenshire Council, HES, NatureScot, RSPB Scotland and the Dee District Salmon Fishery Board are consulted regarding the designated sites, protected areas and protected species to be included in the EIA Report.	These parties have been consulted as part of the EIA Scoping process. Their responses will be taken into consideration with the scope of the EIA.	N/A
Torphins Community Council	Request explanation of how the developer arrived at the size and number of turbines to be located at the top of Hill of Fare.	Full details of the site selection process will be provided within the EIA Report Site Selection & Design Evolution Chapter,	N/A

Landscape and Visual

3.6 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on the landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA).

Table 3.5 - EIA Scoping Opinion - Landscape and Visual

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
ECU	The study area should be agreed with Aberdeenshire Council and NatureScot.	As per the EIA Scoping Report, the study area for the LVIA will consider an initial 35km radius, with a detailed assessment of a 20km radius. Aberdeenshire Council and NatureScot were consulted through the Scoping process and are understood to be in agreement of this approach.	N/A
	Recommended that the final list of viewpoints and visualisations be agreed in consultation with Aberdeenshire Council, Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council, Echt & Skene Community Council, HES, NatureScot and Torphins Community Council.	Feedback has been considered and a final list of Viewpoints prepared - see Appendix 1	Yes - further consultation has been undertaken with Inchmarlo, Brathens and Glassel Community Council regarding the final viewpoints since Scoping.
	Photography and visualisations submitted in the EIA Report should reflect the most up-to-date cumulative position.	Photomontages and visualisations will reflect the final cumulative situation, as agreed with relevant consultees.	N/A
Aberdeenshire Council	Agree with the proposed Study Areas and broadly	Feedback has been considered and a final list of	

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	<p>agree with the proposed scope.</p> <p>Request the inclusion of viewpoints to represent the likely impact upon towns such as Banchory, Inverurie, Kintore, Kemnay, Alford and Aboyne. Also request viewpoints from Bennachie and Cairn O'Mount. Any investigation which may discount the need for viewpoints from these locations, should be documented. Welcome further discussion around viewpoints.</p>	Viewpoints prepared - see Appendix 1.	
	<p>Request that details of any borrow pits must be provided (including maximum extraction depth, sections, indicative restoration), and be reflected in any viewpoints.</p> <p>Note the following cumulative schemes: - Glendye Wind Farm - in planning with a PLI held in August 2022. - Fetteresso Wind Farm consented September 2022.</p>	<p>Details of borrow pit search areas will be provided within the Project Description chapter of the EIA Report and will be shown as relevant on figures and visualisations.</p> <p>Glendye Wind Farm and Fetteresso Wind Farm will be considered within the cumulative assessment.</p> <p>We note that Fetteresso Wind Farm has now changed from 'In Planning' stage to 'Consented/Under Construction Stage' stage.</p>	N/A
Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council	<p>Disagree that the Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment relevant in Aberdeenshire may be out of date. Do not expect the sensitivity of the Hill of Fare site to have changed within the new Local Development Plan. Due to its prominence from all sides it has a high visual sensitivity.</p> <p>Note that the principles of best practice according to which the LVIA will be carried out are dated from 2013 and query whether these are still fit for purpose.</p> <p>Disagree with the distinction between landscape and visual effects due to the scale of the intended turbines.</p>	The Landscape and Visual chapter of the EIA Report will provide details of all relevant guidance and policies referred to within the assessment, which will be undertaken in accordance with current best practice.	N/A
	Request viewpoints from Mither Tap (NJ 682 224), Westhill (NJ 814 073), North Monymusk (NJ 682 177), and Clachnaben (NJ 616 865).	Feedback has been considered and a final list of Viewpoints prepared - see Appendix 1.	•Mither Tap (NJ 682 224) - over 15km from the site; wireline only in light of

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	<p>Disagree that there will be no significant effects on landscape character and request visuals of a high quality to demonstrate this from all directions.</p> <p>Request that the 4 turbines in Midmar (under 50m in height) be included in the cumulative impact assessment.</p>	<p>The cumulative impact assessment is based primarily on schemes within ca.20km of the Proposed Development. Further sites will be added to the cumulative list where necessary until a final design freeze has been reached. Therefore, the information provided in Table 3.2 of the Scoping Report and its accompanying Figure 3.3 continue to apply (with the exception of Fetteresso Wind Farm which has now changed from 'In Planning' stage to 'Consented/Under Construction' stage).</p>	<p>reduction in scale of the scheme (as per the same request from Aberdeenshire Council) •Westhill (NJ 814 073) - New VP 20 now included •North Monymusk (NJ 682 177) - over 10km from the site; wireline only in light of reduction in scale of the scheme •Clachnaben (NJ 616 865) - over 15km from the site; wireline only in light of reduction in scale of the scheme</p>
	Consider that the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) for all properties within 2 km of all proposed turbines and the screening discussed within this, does not negate the sound elements to the turbine effects, even if flicker can be reduced or ruled out.	The RVAA study area of 2km is for consideration of visual impacts. Acoustic impacts on identified receptors will be assessed within the Acoustic chapter of the EIA Report. The Synergistic Effects chapter of the EIA Report will consider synergistic impacts (those which are a result of the combination of independent impacts) on population and human health in terms of visual, acoustic and shadow flicker.	N/A
	Note concerns regarding impacts of visual aviation lighting and request visual illustrations should take into account the size of these turbines.	A night time assessment will be undertaken to consider the impacts on visible aviation lighting. This will be supported by visualisations.	N/A
	Request visuals of the intended infrastructure required to transport the energy created into the local or national grid. Understand that the application for access to the Grid, is separate to the planning application, however they are both very much a part of the eventual physical changes which will be felt by the local communities and must be factored into the project.	Indicative details of the anticipated route of the grid connection for the project will be included within the Project Description chapter of the EIA Report. However as the grid connection is subject to a separate application outwith the Applicant's control, full details are not known at this time.	N/A
Echt & Skene Community Council	<p>Disagree that the Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Aberdeenshire (SLCA) may be out of date. The SLCA's conclusions remain as valid today as they were in 2014 in respect of the very high visual sensitivity of the Hill of Fare.</p> <p>Request additional viewpoints be included in the assessment:</p>	<p>The Landscape and Visual chapter of the EIA Report will provide details of all relevant guidance and policies referred to within the assessment, which will be undertaken in accordance with current best practice.</p> <p>Feedback has been considered and a final list of</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>•Junction of Old Skene Road and Strawberryfield Road,</p>

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Junction of Old Skene Road and Strawberryfield Road, Westhill; - Lyne of Skene Playpark; - Millstone Hill or Mither Tap; - A944 west of junction with B9126 	Viewpoints prepared - see Appendix 1	<p>Westhill (NJ 814 073) - New VP 20 now included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Lyne of Skene Playpark (NJ 762 107) - New VP 21 now included •Millstone Hill or Mither Tap (NJ 677 202 or NJ 682 224) over 15km from the site; wireline only in light of reduction in scale of the scheme (as per the same request from Aberdeenshire Council) •A944 west of junction with B9126 (NJ 790 079) - very close to location of New VP 20, not included.
	Disagree that the cumulative assessment should not include wind turbines less than 50 m in height. The cumulative impact of the Hill of Fare Wind Farm should be assessed with all existing turbines within 10 km of the Hill of Fare site, and this should therefore include two 49 m turbines at Auchmore Farm and two 46 m turbines at Auchorie Farm.	The cumulative impact assessment is based primarily on schemes within ca.20km of the Proposed Development. Further sites will be added to the cumulative list where necessary until a final design freeze has been reached. Therefore, the information provided in Table 3.2 of the Scoping Report and its accompanying Figure 3.3 continue to apply (with the exception of Fetteresso Wind Farm which has now changed from 'In Planning' stage to 'Consented/Under Construction' stage).	
NatureScot	<p>Consider that the prominent, elevated position will result in likely significant adverse landscape and visual effects across an area of Aberdeenshire with a number of sensitivities.</p> <p>Key issue is scale. Current scale is contrary to NatureScot wind farm siting and design guidance due to the size and scale of the turbines in relation to the Underlying Hill of Fare - a relatively small hill but a prominent landmark. Turbines at the size and scale proposed could dominate the area resulting in a range of significant adverse effects.</p> <p>The LVIA should include assessment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hill of Fare as a landscape feature in its own right in this part of Aberdeenshire. • The effects on the setting of a number of settlements 	Further design work has been undertaken since Scoping to review the layout and the scale of the turbines being proposed, which has reduced the maximum tip height being considered to 200m. This is considered to minimise the landscape and visual impacts of the scheme.	List of VP agreed with NatureScot with the inclusion of VP19 for night time assessment.

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	<p>surrounding the Hill of Fare.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The A93 as a popular tourist route and a gateway to the Cairngorms National Park. • Effects on the Special Landscape Qualities of the Cairngorms National Park including the effects on lighting on Dark Skies. <p>Request a high resolution version of the ZTV with an OS 1:50k basemap, to be able to comment on viewpoints.</p> <p>Strongly encourage further design work is undertaken to address the potential effects.</p>		
	A full lighting assessment is required (refer to relevant guidance). The lighting assessment should include lowlight photomontages.	A night time lighting assessment will be undertaken and will be detailed within the Landscape and Visual chapter of the EIA Report.	N/A
Torphins Community Council	<p>Request the following viewpoint locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torphins Golf Course E 361951 N 802463. • Torphins Public Park E 362289 N 802010. • Easter Beltie river restoration site and access to Mains of Easter Beltie E 363911 N 800097. • Layby/Viewpoint on minor road south of Pitmurchie House E 359767 N 801921. • Area of The Cowshed on A980 E 369913 N 797262. • View from A980 heading west from Raemoir E 368634 N 799321. <p>Request that photomontages include a visualisation of a well-known tall landmark to promote understanding, for example by incorporating a scale image of a Queensferry crossing tower.</p> <p>Request explanations and visualisations of the turbine lighting to understand the impact during darkness.</p> <p>Request details of the location of the proposed batteries</p>	<p>Feedback has been considered and a final list of Viewpoints prepared - see Appendix 1.</p> <p>All visualisations including photomontages will be produced following NatureScot guidance. These will depict the turbines within the current baseline landscape from agreed viewpoints to represent the proposed future scenario. Where there are existing landmarks these will be included within the baseline photography, however landmarks from other locations will not be included within visualisations as this would present an unrealistic scenario which is not being proposed.</p> <p>A night time assessment supported by night time visualisations will be provided within the Landscape and Visual chapter of the EIA Report.</p> <p>Details of the proposed battery storage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Torphins Golf Course (E 361951 N 802463) - close to New VP 16 now included •Torphins Public Park (E 362289 N 802010) - New VP 16 now included •Easter Beltie river restoration site and access to Mains of Easter Beltie (E 363911 N 800097) - New VP 17 now included •Layby/Viewpoint on minor road south of Pitmurchie House (E 359767 N 801921) - New VP 18 now included •Area of The Cowshed on A980 (E 369913 N 797262) New VP 19 now included •View from A980 heading west from Raemoir (E 368634 N 799321) very close to existing VP 4, not included.

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	including visibility and any associated lighting. Note that the power export transmission lines may be a separate application, however request information on these is included.	infrastructure will be included within the Project Description chapter of the EIA Report. Indicative details of the associated grid connection will be included within the Project Description chapter of the EIA Report. However, as this is a separate application not within the control of the Applicant, full details of this will not be available at the time of submission.	

Cultural Heritage

3.7 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on cultural heritage.

Table 3.6 - EIA Scoping Opinion - Cultural Heritage

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
ECU	Recommended to consult with Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service and HES to agree all historic environment assets to be assessed.	Aberdeenshire Council and HES have been consulted through the Scoping process and their responses taken into account within the EIA.	N/A
Aberdeenshire Council	Agree with the methodology proposed. Request that reference be made to the Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record (HER) in order to ensure all assets are identified. Scoping Report missing reference to HER Site NJ60SE0004 i(remains of two longhouses and an hexagonal enclosure) and this site, including visual impact upon it, should be considered within the detailed setting assessment. Assessment must consider the wider landscape effect and the impact that this has on the understanding of the historic environment.	The HER will be referred to within the assessment as relevant and identified assets considered. The cultural heritage assessment will consider the impacts to the settings of the identified regionally important asset. Broader landscape effects will be considered within the Landscape and Visual chapter of the EIA Report.	N/A
HES	Note some concerns at this stage about a wind farm development in this location due to potential to be highly	Further consultation has been ongoing with HES. However, assets agreed to date are:	Yes - further consultation with HES is ongoing.

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	prominent in views looking both from, and towards, a number of nationally important heritage assets. Welcome further consultation as the development progresses and to comment on any provisional cultural heritage assessment in advance of a submission. Refer to standard guidance, noting that any mitigation measures must be in line with this. As well as investigating the ZTV for potential visibility of the proposed turbines, the assessment should also consider whether any turbines might appear in views looking towards heritage assets. Request detailed setting assessments are provided for the following assets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunhoney, stone circle 240m NW of (SM44) Barmekin of Echt, fort, Barmekin Hill (SM57) Christchurch, stone circle and standing stone, Midmar (SM32) Midmar, Church, settlement and (Cunningar) motte (SM100) Cothill, symbol stone 600m NE of Craigmyle House (SM68) Glassel, stone circle, Bogarn Wood (SM978) Category A-listed building Midmar Castle. Request wirelines for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LB2959 Tyllicairn Castle LB38 Tilquhillie Castle to understand views from the buildings, and view of the buildings with the backdrop of the windfarm.	Photomontages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barmekin of Echt (SM57) Sunhoney (SM44) Midmar Castle (LB16262) - Publicly available location. Cullerie Stone Circle (SM90088) Wirelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christchurch Stone Circle (SM32) Tamnagon Stone Circle (SM49) Cothill Symbol Stone (SM68) The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIA Report will include details of all guidance considered within the assessment, which will be referred to in proposed mitigation measures.	
	Noted that the Battle of Corrichie is being considered for designation as it has been proposed by a member of the public.	The Cultural Heritage assessment will consider assets in terms of their current designation status and will provide justification for associated sensitivity within the assessment.	Ongoing consultation with HES on the status of the application is being

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
		monitored. However, at this time HES confirm that the asset is still going through preliminary assessment and it is still to be determined whether it will be considered against the Designation Policy and Guidance.	
Torphins Community Council	Request assessment supported by visualisations from Learney House, associated assets and estate.	Learney House and associated assets will be a consideration throughout the EIA process. A site visit by the assessor shall determine whether any visualisations would be appropriate.	N/A

Ornithology

3.8 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on ornithology.

Table 3.7 - EIA Scoping Opinion - Ornithology

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
ECU	Recommended that decisions on bird surveys - species, methodology, vantage points, viewsheds and duration - site specific and cumulative - should be made in consultation with NatureScot and RSPB Scotland.	NatureScot and RSPB Scotland have been consulted through the Scoping process and comments received will be taken into account through the EIA.	N/A
	The EIA Report should provide a baseline survey of the animals (mammals, reptiles, amphibians, etc.) and bird interests on site, with details of where they are present.	The Ornithology chapter of the EIA Report will provide a summary of all baseline bird surveys undertaken and their results. Full details of the baseline surveys will be provided in a supporting technical appendix.	N/A
Aberdeenshire Council	Refer to the emerging Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (2023 onwards) and associated draft guidance. Recommended that a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment be undertaken in order to identify, inform and secure enhancement measures.	The Applicant is committed to provision of a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) which will set out mitigation and enhancement measures. An outline HMP will be submitted with the EIA Report.	N/A

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	The Habitat Management Plan should include mitigation and enhancement measures (informed by BNG assessment) for important ornithological features. The Habitat Management Plan must consider construction, operation and decommissioning phases, and must include the long-term management of any biodiversity enhancement features which are to be created. Consideration should be given to responses from NatureScot and RSPB.	NatureScot and RSPB have been consulted through the Scoping process and their responses will be taken into account within the EIA.	
Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council	Request that Curlew are scoped into the assessment.	The Ornithology chapter of the EIA Report will contain details of the baseline surveys undertaken, the species identified, and justification of those taken forward for assessment.	N/A
NatureScot	Lack of details of the surveys to be undertaken and if a second breeding season was undertaken in 2022. All surveys should be in accordance with relevant NatureScot Guidance. Note the vantage point watches do not cover all of the required study area and only just include many of the turbines. Advise that any changes to the wind farm layout may require additional areas to be surveyed. Agree there is no connectivity with the Cairngorms Massif and Glen Tannor Special Protection Areas (SPA) and there are unlikely to be significant adverse effects on the integrity of the Loch Skeen SPA. Recommend consulting the local raptor study group.	A full two years of baseline surveys have been undertaken (October 2020 to August 2022) in accordance with relevant guidance (including SNH 2017 ¹). The Ornithology chapter of the EIA Report will provide a summary of all baseline surveys undertaken and their results. Full details of the baseline surveys will be provided in a supporting technical appendix. Any deviation from guidance will be justified within the methodology. Noted regarding NatureScot's agreement of the SPAs within 20km of the Proposed Development. The local raptor study group will be contacted to request relevant breeding records to inform the assessment.	N/A
RSPB Scotland	Generally content with scope of surveys.	The North East Scotland Biological Records Centre	N/A

¹ Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Recommended bird survey methods to inform impact assessment of onshore windfarms.

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	<p>Recommend consulting with the North East Scotland Biological Records Centre for additional records to inform the baseline.</p> <p>Note that three turbines (T2, T4, T11) are outwith the viewshed area. If these turbines remain in the final design collision risk must be accurately assessed in the EIA Report.</p> <p>Note that the turbines proposed are 250 m in height, expect that observers are fully trained in recording and assessing the flying height of birds in order to accurately assess collision risk.</p>	<p>will be contacted to request relevant records to inform the assessment.</p> <p>The methodology and any limitations to the collision risk modelling will be detailed within the Ornithology chapter of the EIA Report.</p> <p>Ornithology surveys have been undertaken by suitably experienced individuals, in accordance with relevant guidance.</p>	
	Agree that cumulative impacts must be fully considered.	Cumulative impacts will be assessed within the Ornithology Chapter of the EIA Report.	N/A

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	<p>The EIA Report should include information regarding Habitats Regulation Appraisals (HRA), noting that a HRA will be required in respect of the River Dee Special Area of Conservation.</p>	An HRA Stage 1 screening process will be undertaken with regards to the River Dee SAC and details provided within the EIA Report.	
	<p>The EIA Report should provide details of the following habitats on site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rare and threatened habitats; - those protected by European or UK legislation; and - those identified in national or local Biodiversity Action Plans. 	The Ecology chapter of the EIA Report will provide details of all baseline protected species and habitat surveys undertaken and their results.	N/A
Aberdeenshire Council	<p>Largely agree with scope of assessment. Refer to commentary in ornithology section above in relation to BNG Assessment and Habitat Management Plan.</p> <p>Disagree that it is appropriate to scope out HRA as the development site lies almost entirely within River Dee SAC catchment area. Recommend that discussion should be undertaken with NatureScot in respect of HRA.</p>	<p>The Applicant is committed to provision of a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) which will set out mitigation and enhancement measures. An outline HMP will be submitted with the EIA Report.</p> <p>NatureScot have been consulted as part of the Scoping process and their comments will be taken into consideration within the EIA. An HRA Stage 1 screening process will be undertaken with regards to the River Dee SAC and details provided within the EIA Report.</p>	N/A
Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council	Advise that the EIA should include an assessment of impacts on fish and therefore a Habitats Regulation Assessment, with respect to the River Dee SAC.	An HRA Stage 1 screening process will be undertaken with regards to the River Dee SAC and details provided within the EIA Report.	N/A
Dee District Salmon Fishery Board	<p>Disagree with the intention to scope out the HRA assessment and refer to those receptors scoped in to the hydrology assessment.</p> <p>Refer to the sensitivity of the Burn of Corrichie and the Gormack Burn to sedimentation, habitat fragmentation and disturbance with the potential negative impact upon Atlantic salmon populations.</p>	<p>An HRA Stage 1 screening process will be undertaken with regards to the River Dee SAC and details provided within the EIA Report.</p> <p>Appropriate mitigation measures to protect watercourses and fish populations will be detailed</p>	N/A

Ecology

3.9 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on ecology.

Table 3.8 - EIA Scoping Opinion - Ecology

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
ECU	Refer to Fisheries Management Scotland advice for consideration of impacts on fish populations, in relation to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries.	The Ecology chapter of the EIA Report will detail all relevant guidance considered within the assessment, including reference where relevant to the Fisheries Management Scotland advice.	N/A
	Recommend that the fish surveys to be undertaken should be discussed and agreed with Marine Science Scotland and the Dee District Salmon Fishery Board.	Dee District Salmon Fishery Board have been consulted through the Scoping process and their responses will be considered within the EIA.	N/A
	Recommended to consult with the Dee District Salmon Fishery Board with regards to protection of the Burn of Corrichie and the Gormack Burn.	The Dee District Salmon Fishery Board have been consulted as part of the Scoping process and their comments will be taken on board within the EIA.	N/A

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	<p>Four key concerns with regards to the Atlantic Salmon populations of River Dee SAC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sediment and pollution, - Fish Habitat Degradation or Removal, - Altered hydrological pathways, - Clear felling. 	within the Ecology chapter of the EIA Report.	
	<p>Request that a suite of baseline monitoring is undertaken for fish, water quality and macroinvertebrates. Refer to MSS guidance and request further consultation.</p> <p>Depending upon survey results, require fish rescues prior to the installation and removal of any watercourse crossings or diversions. Any such rescues must comply with relevant legislation.</p>	Baseline monitoring of water quality, macroinvertebrates, and fish will be undertaken prior to the commencement of construction, with further surveys undertaken through construction and post construction. These will be in accordance with relevant guidance. It is anticipated that these would be secured via a suitably worded condition and the scope of these surveys will be agreed with relevant consultees.	N/A
Marine Scotland Science (MSS)	<p>MSS generic advice provided in relation to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries.</p> <p>This standing advice outlines how fish populations can be impacted and informs developers as to what should be considered, in relation to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, during the EIA process.</p> <p>Recommended that developers should identify and consider any areas of Special Areas of Conservation where fish are a qualifying feature and proposed felling operations particularly in acid sensitive areas.</p>	The Ecology chapter of the EIA Report will detail all relevant guidance considered within the assessment, including reference where relevant to the MSS Guidance.	N/A
NatureScot	<p>Note that the development site is within the catchment of, and therefore may impact upon, the River Dee which along with its tributaries are designated as a SAC for Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussels, and otter.</p> <p>The EIA should include details of any mitigation measures which are anticipated to be secured via condition to ensure there will not be adverse effects on the integrity SAC.</p>	<p>An HRA Stage 1 screening process will be undertaken with regards to the River Dee SAC and details provided within the EIA Report.</p> <p>Appropriate mitigation measures to protect watercourses and fish populations will be detailed within the Ecology chapter of the EIA Report.</p>	N/A

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	Agree with the extent of mammal surveys proposed. Refer to general pre-application guidance with regards to surveys of peatlands and habitats.	Baseline surveys will be undertaken in accordance with relevant guidance and details provided within the Ecology chapter of the EIA Report.	N/A

Hydrology, Geology & Hydrogeology

3.10 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on hydrology, geology and hydrogeology.

Table 3.9 - EIA Scoping Opinion - Hydrology, Geology & Hydrogeology

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
ECU	<p>A full assessment on the impact on peat should be included in the EIA Report and should include peat probing for all areas where development is proposed, including micro-siting limits.</p> <p>A Peat Management Plan should be prepared, as well as an Outline Habitat Management Plan.</p>	The Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology chapter of the EIA Report will include an assessment of impacts on peat. This will be supported by a Peat Management Plan and an outline Habitat Management Plan.	N/A
	Where required, a peat landslide hazard and risk assessment ("PLHRA") should be undertaken in accordance with relevant best practice guidance and should contain details of mitigation measures.	A PLHRA will be undertaken as part of the EIA process, in line with the Scottish Government best practice guide as noted, and will be included as an appendix to the EIA Report.	N/A
	Request investigation of the presence of any private water supplies which may be impacted. The EIA Report should include details of any supplies identified, an assessment of the potential impacts, risks, and any mitigation.	Private water supplies which may be impacted by the Proposed Development will be identified and assessed in the Hydrology, Geology & Hydrogeology chapter of the EIA Report.	N/A
	Please ensure that the checklist contained in the MSS standing advice is adhered to with regards to the appropriate chapters of the EIA Report and is submitted as part of the application documentation.	The EIA Report will consider the information provided within the MSS standing advice.	N/A
Aberdeenshire Council	The intention to include a Drainage Impact Assessment is welcome.	The Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology chapter of the EIA Report will consider hydrological impact. A	N/A

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	<p>Surface Water Drainage must be considered within the application.</p> <p>The presence of peat should be investigated, with disturbance of peat avoided wherever possible.</p>	<p>standalone DIA is not proposed. The EIA Report will include indicative details of surface water drainage. These will be confirmed at detailed design stage prior to the commencement of construction.</p> <p>Peat depth surveys have been undertaken in accordance with SEPA guidance, and the results will inform the design process and impact assessment.</p>	
Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council	Due to the large number of private water supplies to the north of the Hill of Fare, some of which may run further than 2 km from the Hill itself, request that the scope of monitoring to be out with the 2 km described.	The assessment will consider all private water supply sources with hydrological connectivity to the Proposed Development and which have the potential to be impacted.	N/A
Dee District Salmon Fishery Board	Agree with those receptors scoped into the EIA.	Noted	N/A
Echt & Skene Community Council	<p>Disagree with 2 km study area for Private Water Supplies.</p> <p>Consider that the potential effects and the scope of monitoring before, during and after construction should include all private water supplies derived directly from run-off and/or ground water/springs from the Hill of Fare, and should include all properties on the slopes of the Hill of Fare, and which receive water piped from the Hill of Fare. Would expect there to be PWS on all sides of the hill.</p>	The assessment will consider all private water supply sources with hydrological connectivity to the Proposed Development and which have the potential to be impacted, including any sourced from the Hill of Fare itself.	N/A
Scottish Water	<p>No objection to this planning application.</p> <p>Written permission must be obtained before any works are started within the area of Scottish Water apparatus.</p> <p>The proposed activity falls within a drinking water catchment where a Scottish Water abstraction is located - the River Dee (Inchgarth) supplies Mannofield Water Treatment Works (WTW).</p> <p>Note that the site has peat</p>	<p>Scottish Water will be kept informed ahead of any construction works occurring on site and will be consulted through the planning condition discharge process to agree pollution prevention measures set out within a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP).</p> <p>The Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology chapter of the EIA Report will include details of appropriate mitigation measures to</p>	N/A

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	<p>soils which if pollutant to a watercourse, can affect WTW processes and water supply. Advise that SNH (NatureScot) undertook some peatland restoration within proximity to turbine T13. Advised to consult with NatureScot with regards to this area of restored peat.</p> <p>Noted that the underground cable is located close to the Burn of Lythebauds, and this also appears to go through an area of deep peat.</p> <p>Refer to Scottish Water guidance which details protection measures to be taken within a DWPA.</p> <p>The drinking water catchment should be noted in future documentation and anyone working on site should be made aware of this during site inductions.</p> <p>Request consultation at the more detailed design stages, to agree appropriate mitigation.</p> <p>Request that 3 months in advance of any works commencing on site, Scottish Water is notified.</p> <p>Will not accept any surface water connections into Scottish Water combined sewer system.</p>	<p>protect water quality and the DWPA.</p> <p>Peat depth surveys have been undertaken across the site and will inform the design process. Details of all measures to minimise impacts on peat will be provided within the EIA Report.</p>	
SEPA	<p>Request the following information within the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map and site layout including borrow pits with environmental constraints mapping. A plan of all infrastructure (existing and proposed) in relation to the detailed peat probing and NVC assessment. Peat depth survey and peat management plan including table detailing re-use proposals. 	<p>The Hydrology, Geology, and Hydrogeology chapter of the EIA Report will contain information on the peat and NVC surveys undertaken and the results of these. Details of how these have informed the design process will be included within the Site Selection and Design Evolution chapter of the EIA Report. Initial results will be shared with SEPA for comment ahead of the EIA submission.</p> <p>An outline Peat Management Plan (PMP) and outline</p>	<p>Yes - further consultation will be undertaken with SEPA to provide initial peat probing and NVC data, and to request information on groundwater abstractions.</p>

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details on how the layout has been designed to avoid deeper peat and priority peatland habitats. <p>Advise that infrastructure should avoid areas of peat and particularly deeper (> 1 m) peat. Access tracks that cannot avoid areas of deeper peat (>1m) should be designed as floating tracks. Peat greater than 1m in depth is considered deep peat. Existing tracks must be utilised wherever possible, and any tracks no longer required suitably restored.</p> <p>Welcome the opportunity to review proposed layouts and peat probing/NVC data in advance of the finalised EIA Report.</p> <p>The peat survey results should be used to inform the preparation of a peat management plan. The peat management plan should follow relevant guidance and identify potential excavation volumes of peat. Detailed calculations of excavation and reuse of acrotelmic and catotelmic peat should be undertaken using the design freeze layout and opportunities to reuse peat explored based on infrastructure and site conditions. This may include integration of peat reuse measures with habitat management proposals.</p> <p>Where possible, a 50 m buffer for the location of any infrastructure should be applied to all watercourses and water features identified on 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey mapping. It should also be demonstrated that smaller watercourses and waterbodies are avoided in so far as possible and the number of watercourse crossings has been minimised. If the buffer of 50m cannot be achieved, details of proposed engineering works must be provided.</p>	<p>Habitat Management Plan will be provided as supporting appendices to the EIA Report.</p> <p>The PMP will include details of volumes of peat excavated and restored, and proposed reuse measures.</p>	
	<p>Where possible, a 50 m buffer for the location of any infrastructure should be applied to all watercourses and water features identified on 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey mapping. It</p>	<p>Details of watercourse crossings and indicative crossing designs will be provided within a Watercourse Crossing</p>	N/A

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	<p>should also be demonstrated that smaller watercourses and waterbodies are avoided in so far as possible and the number of watercourse crossings has been minimised. If the buffer of 50m cannot be achieved, details of proposed engineering works must be provided.</p> <p>All components of the Proposed Development should be kept outwith the estimated 1 in 200-year fluvial flood extent.</p> <p>Watercourse crossings should be designed to accommodate the 1 in 200-year flow plus climate change.</p> <p>The Developer should visit Access to Information SEPA in order to establish information on groundwater abstractions directly available and to request any additional information from SEPA.</p> <p>Proposed engineering works within the water environment will require authorisation under The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (as amended).</p> <p>Management of surplus peat or soils may require an exemption under The Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Regulations 2011.</p> <p>Proposed crushing or screening will require a permit under The Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>Refer to SEPA website for further advice on relevant regulations.</p>	<p>Schedule as an appendix to support the EIA Report. All crossings will be suitably designed to accommodate future flows and will be in accordance with relevant regulations.</p> <p>SEPA will be consulted directly as required for further information on any groundwater abstractions within the study area.</p>	

Acoustics

3.11 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on noise.

Table 3.10 - EIA Scoping Opinion - Noise

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
ECU	Recommended that the final list of receptors in respect of noise assessment should be agreed in	Aberdeenshire Council Environmental Health have been consulted as part of the Scoping process and	N/A

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	consultation with Aberdeenshire Council. The noise assessment report should be formatted as per Table 6.1 of the IOA "A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise".	their response taken into consideration within the EIA. The acoustic assessment will follow the requirements of the IOA Good Practice Guide.	
	Assessment of operational noise associated with battery storage should also be completed and included in the EIA Report.	The assessment will be completed and included in the EIA Report.	N/A
Aberdeenshire Council	In general agreement with the proposed noise impact assessment methodology. The operational noise assessment predictions should be based on octave band frequency data as per the advice provided in Chapter 4 of the IOA Good Practice Guide. Agree with proposed background noise monitoring locations. Note that Environmental Health would be willing to assist in dialogue with any resident if required. Note that Aberdeenshire Council take an "Apportionment" approach to noise limits for all new wind farm development, applying "a portion" of the theoretical ETSU-R-97 noise limit based on the predicted noise level (generally rounded up plus 1dB). Also note that for existing wind turbine development where full ETSU-R-97 noise limits have been applied, for the purposes of cumulative assessment it should be assumed that the full ETSU-R-97 noise limit is used by that wind turbine development, and is therefore unavailable for use by new development.	Noted that there is agreement on proposed monitoring locations. Should there be any change to those proposed at Scoping, this will be agreed with Aberdeenshire Council Environmental Health. The acoustic assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the IOA Good Practice Guide.	N/A
Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council	Note concern that the best practice guidelines are from 2013 and 2011. Note concerns related to low frequency noise, and suggest that this be included in the assessment. Suggest that the Planned Acoustic Assessment, including background noise surveys, must take into account the turbines already located in Midmar.	The Acoustic assessment will follow the most up to date guidance, including the IOA Good Practice Guide, which was published in 2013 and is still the industry accepted guidance. Low frequency acoustic levels produced by turbines are generally significantly below thresholds perceived by humans, and is similar to	N/A

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	Assessment of cumulative noise impacts should also take into account areas already impacted by turbine noise, such as at grid points NJ 666 059 and NJ 664 064.	levels produced by other natural and manmade sources within the environment. There is no scientific proven evidence of adverse effects as a result of low frequency acoustics from turbines, therefore this will not be considered further within the EIA. The assessment will take into account the cumulative impacts of existing and proposed turbines, including those at Midmar.	
Echt & Skene Community Council	Note that one of the proposed noise monitoring locations, lies 900 m away from two existing wind turbines at Auchmore Farm. Assessment of cumulative noise impacts must consider cumulative noise on residential properties that lie in proximity to the Auchorie Farm and Auchmore Farm turbines. Expect the detailed noise assessment to take account of topographic effects.	The assessment will take into account the cumulative impacts of existing and proposed turbines, including those at Midmar, and will take into account the effect of topography.	N/A
Torphins Community Council	Note that Scoping Report Figure 1.2 Combined Constraints and Turbine Layout does not include houses on the western side of the hill.	The acoustic assessment will consider all residential properties within the study area which have the potential to be impacted. Full details of all those considered will be provided within the Acoustic chapter of the EIA Report.	

Traffic and Transport

3.12 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on traffic and transport.

Table 3.11 - EIA Scoping Opinion - Traffic and Transport

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
ECU	Recommend the scope of the Abnormal Loads Assessment is agreed in consultation with Transport Scotland prior to it being undertaken. Recommend that the scope of the construction traffic management plan is agreed in	Transport Scotland have been consulted as part of the Scoping process and they will continue to be consulted during the preparation of key aspects of the proposals including the abnormal loads	N/A

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	consultation with Aberdeenshire Council (Infrastructure Services - Roads Department), Transport Scotland, and Local communities which will be impacted by the Proposed Development's construction traffic.	assessment and the Construction Traffic Management Plan. An outline CTMP will be provided in support of the EIA. It is anticipated that the final CTMP will ultimately be secured by a suitably worded condition and will be agreed with relevant parties prior to the commencement of construction. This will take into account responses received through the EIA and consultation process.	
Aberdeenshire Council	Advise that visibility Splays must be included within the site boundary. A S56 agreement would be required if works to public road in excess of £20k are to be undertaken. A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) would be required.	The site boundary will include any area required for visibility splays at the public road junction. An outline CTMP will be provided in support of the EIA. It is anticipated that the final CTMP will be secured via a suitably worded planning condition. It is noted that, should a S56 agreement be required, this will be secured prior to the commencement of construction.	N/A
Transport Scotland	Consider the proposed approach acceptable. Require the thresholds as indicated within the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Road Traffic to be used as a screening process for the assessment. Potential trunk road related environmental impacts such as driver delay, pedestrian amenity, severance, safety etc. will require to be considered and assessed where appropriate. Road links should be taken forward for assessment if: - Traffic flows will increase by more than 30%, or	Noted. The transport assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the IEMA guidelines and associated thresholds. A swept path analysis will be undertaken as part of the Abnormal Load Assessment and will contain the requested information. Structural surveys will be undertaken, if necessary, through a conditioned requirement, pre-construction.	N/A

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number of HGVs will increase by more than 30%; or - Traffic flows will increase by 10% or more in sensitive areas. <p>Transport Scotland will require to be satisfied that the size of turbines proposed can negotiate the selected trunk road route and that their transportation will not have any detrimental effect on structures within the trunk road route path. The Abnormal Load Assessment should identify key pinch points on the trunk road network. Swept path analysis should be undertaken and details provided with regard to any required changes to street furniture or structures along the route.</p>		

Aviation & Infrastructure

3.13 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on aviation and infrastructure.

Table 3.12 - EIA Scoping Opinion - Aviation & Infrastructure

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
ECU	<p>Recommended to consult with NATS Safeguarding to agree a mitigation scheme regarding impacts on Allanshill Radar and Perwinnes Radar. Also recommended to consult with Aberdeen Airport regarding impacts and mitigation in respect of their primary surveillance radars-and instrument flight procedures.</p> <p>Recommended to consult with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to discuss and agree their night-time aviation lighting requirements. Recommended to consult with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)</p>	<p>Further consultation is ongoing with relevant consultees to identify suitable mitigation measures to address identified impacts on radars and operating procedures.</p> <p>The scope of a night time visual assessment and relevant viewpoints will be agreed with Aberdeenshire Council and NatureScot.</p> <p>Full details will be provided within the Aviation chapter of the EIA Report.</p>	Yes - further consultation ongoing with NATS Safeguarding, Aberdeen Airport, the CAA and DIO.

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
	to discuss and agree their safety-related lighting requirements especially in relation to low flying aircraft concerns. Recommended to consult with Aberdeenshire Council and NatureScot on the scope of night-time assessments. EIA Report should include details of the scope, methodology, findings and recommendations of such assessments, and full details of all mitigation.		
Aberdeenshire Council	Advise that the following stakeholders are considered: Ministry of Defence, Civil Aviation Authority, NATS and Aberdeen International Airport, amongst others.	Noted. These parties have been consulted as part of the Scoping process and their responses taken into consideration.	N/A
Aberdeen International Airport	The proposed site is located within the wind farm consultation zone for Aberdeen Airport and as such aviation impacts should be considered as part of the EIA. It is likely visible to primary surveillance radars used by Aberdeen Airport and mitigation would be required. It is also likely to impact upon instrument flight procedures. Detailed assessments will be required. Position with regard to this proposal will only be confirmed on receipt of a full planning application, at which time a full safeguarding impact assessment will be undertaken.	Consultation is ongoing with Aberdeen International Airport to address the impacts identified and agree on appropriate mitigation strategies where required.	Yes - consultation is ongoing with relevant aviation stakeholders.
Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)	The development falls within Low Flying Area 14 (LFA 14), turbines in this location have the potential to introduce a physical obstruction to low flying aircraft. Require that the development be fitted with MOD accredited aviation safety lighting in accordance with the Air Navigation Order 2016.+ The MOD should be consulted as the development progresses.	Aviation lighting will be implemented to mitigate impacts to military low flying. Details of these will be included in the Aviation and Infrastructure chapter of the EIA Report. The DIO will be consulted ahead of the lighting scheme being submitted to the CAA.	Yes - further consultation will be undertaken with the DIO.
Edinburgh Airport	The location of this development falls out with Aerodrome Safeguarding zone for Edinburgh Airport, therefore no objection/comment.	Noted.	N/A
Glasgow Airport	This proposal is located outside the consultation area for Glasgow Airport therefore no comment to make and need not be consulted further.	Noted.	N/A

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
Glasgow Prestwick Airport	The proposed development lies outside the Glasgow Prestwick Airport (GPA)'s safeguarding area and as such no comment to make.	Noted.	N/A
Highlands and Islands Airports Limited	This development would not infringe the safeguarding criteria for Inverness Airport therefore, no objection.	Noted.	N/A
NATS Safeguarding	The Proposed Development conflicts with safeguarding criteria, therefore objects to the proposal. Indicated that there will be an unacceptable technical impact on Allanshill Radar, Perwinnes Radar and subsequently on Prestwick Centre and Aberdeen Air Traffic Control.	Further consultation is ongoing with NATS to address the impacts identified and agree suitable mitigation measures where required.	Yes - consultation is ongoing with NATS.
Torphins Community Council	Note that the western end of Hill of Fare is a very popular walking and cycling area with access from an existing informal parking area on B993 at the disused Quarry E 365058 N 804738. From there the existing forest tracks and paths provide a network of walking and cycling routes around the western end of the hill and traversing to the summit and to the northern side of the hill. A proposed woodland development in the area includes protection of these paths and provides viewpoint access, including to the viewpoint near the summit of Hill of Fare. Public access must be maintained from these locations.	The Proposed Development design will consider opportunities to enhance the current recreational access facilities on the site to ensure that public access is maintained where possible. Any temporary restrictions required during construction for health and safety means will be managed by an Access Management Plan and temporary diversions of any known routes will be in place.	N/A
BT	The proposed turbine locations should not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network. BT requires 100m minimum clearance from any structure to the radio link path.	Noted.	
JRC	Although initially objected on the primary basis that it affects a link operated by S&S Scottish Hydro, a more detailed examination confirmed no significant degradation anticipated and therefore no objection. Any deviation from the Scoping information may require further analysis.	Noted.	

Socio-Economics

3.14 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on socio-economics.

Table 3.13 - EIA Scoping Opinion - Socio-Economics

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
Torphins Community Council	Aberdeenshire objectives to develop Tourism and Active Tourism should not be negatively impacted.	Aberdeenshire Council Tourism objectives will be considered as relevant within the Socio-economic assessment.	N/A

Forestry

3.15 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on forestry.

Table 3.14 - EIA Scoping Opinion - Forestry

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
ECU	Recommend consultation with Scottish Forestry. All tree felling and restocking proposals should be given full consideration in assessments of landscape and visual impacts.	Scottish Forestry provided no response to the Scoping process. They will be consulted directly to confirm the scope of the assessment of impacts on forestry. The LVIA will take into account associated felling where relevant, although it is noted that turbines are not located within the forested areas.	Yes - consultation will be undertaken with Scottish Forestry.
Aberdeenshire Council	Where tree loss does occur, this should be addressed through compensatory planting. A sequential approach to compensatory planting should be utilised, favouring on site replacement, site adjacent, within Aberdeenshire and (only then) external to Aberdeenshire. This approach would be consistent with the use of BNG Assessment and seeks to ensure the enhancement of not only woodland cover, but also biodiversity within Aberdeenshire.	The Applicant is committed to provide compensatory planting if required by Scottish Forestry to account for any forestry felling needed to facilitate the proposed development. Such replanting will be agreed with Scottish Forestry. If feasible, suitable areas on site will be identified.	N/A
Torphins Community Council	The proposed native woodland development to the west of the proposed wind farm site must not be impacted, and other woodland areas should be protected.	Noted. Impacts on the woodland development to the west will be avoided.	N/A

Other Issues

3.16 The following comments were received as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion on Other Issues.

Table 3.15 - EIA Scoping Opinion - Other Issues

Consultee	Scoping Comment	Response to Consultee	Further EIA Consultation
Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council	Note concerns regarding ice build-up on blades in winter months, following on from which ice throw has great implications from such large turbines.	The potential for ice forming conditions on turbines is considered to be very small within Scotland, with risk further reduced by turbines being fitted with sensors which shut the turbines down should any imbalance which may be caused by icing be detected. In addition, monitoring systems and safety protocols will be in place to ensure that turbines which have been stationary during potential ice forming conditions are restarted in a controlled manner to ensure public safety. Therefore it is considered that there is no significant risk from ice throw, and it is not considered within the EIA.	N/A

4 Programme to Submission

4.1 The anticipated timeline for the submission of the application is as follows:



- 3.17 A suggested consultee list for the application is provided in **Appendix 2**.
- 3.18 Hard copies of the EIA Report will be made available for inspection at public locations at the time of submission. Electronic copies of the EIA Report will be available to view online from the project website and on the Scottish Government ECU website.
- 3.19 Adverts will be placed in the following local papers for two consecutive weeks and in the national papers for one week at the time of application:
- Deeside Piper or other local newspaper to be agreed (two weeks);
 - The Scotsman, or other national paper (one week); and
 - Edinburgh Gazette (one week).
- 3.20 The above advertisements will be confirmed with the ECU and Aberdeenshire Council at Gate Check Stage, at least two weeks prior to the submission of the application. The Applicant will inform the ECU of any changes to the proposed programme and submission of the application at the earliest opportunity.

Figures

Appendix 1 LVIA Viewpoints

The final list of viewpoints proposed to be included in the LVIA is:

Viewpoint Number	Location	Justification for Addition of a Viewpoint
1	B9119 - junction with minor road to Midmar	Proposed in Scoping Report
2	B9119 - Echt	Proposed in Scoping Report
3	B9125 - layby west of Westerton	Proposed in Scoping Report
4	A980 - near Brockton	Proposed in Scoping Report
5	Torphins - Woodside Road	Proposed in Scoping Report
6	B993 - near Hillend	Proposed in Scoping Report
7	Minor Road near Pitcullen	Proposed in Scoping Report
8	Minor Road near The Neuk	Proposed in Scoping Report
9	Minor Road north of Drumoak	Proposed in Scoping Report
10	Meikle Tap	Proposed in Scoping Report
11	Barmekin Hill	Proposed in Scoping Report
12	Sauchen - Main Street	Proposed in Scoping Report
13	Benaquhallie	Proposed in Scoping Report
14	Tom's Cairn	Proposed in Scoping Report
15	Brimmond Hill	Proposed in Scoping Report
16	Torphins Public Park	As requested by Torphins Community Council
17	Easter Beltie river restoration site and access to Mains of Easter Beltie	As requested by Torphins Community Council
18	Layby/Viewpoint on minor road south of Pitmurchie House	As requested by Torphins Community Council
19	Area of The Cowshed on A980	As requested by Aberdeenshire Council and Torphins Community Council
20	Junction of Old Skene Road and Strawberryfield Road, Westhill	As requested by Echt & Skene Community Council and Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council
21	Lyne of Skene Playpark	As requested by Echt & Skene Community Council
22	Minor road adjacent to Glassel Community Hall	As requested by Inchmarlo Brathens and Glassel Community Council

The following represents a list of further 6 locations where a wireline only would be produced:

Viewpoint Number	Location	Justification for Addition of a Viewpoint
1	Kintore	As requested by Aberdeenshire Council
2	Kemnay	As requested by Aberdeenshire Council
3	Aboyne	As requested by Aberdeenshire Council
4	Bennachie (Mither Tap)	As requested by Aberdeenshire Council, Echt & Skene Community Council and Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council
5	North Monymusk	As requested by Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council
6	Clachnaben	As requested by Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council

Appendix 2 Consultee List

Aberdeenshire Council
Banchory Community Council
British Telecommunications plc (BT)
Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council
Crathes, Drumoak and Durriss Community Council
Dee District Salmon Fishery Board
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Echt & Skene Community Council
Edinburgh Airport
Fisheries Trust Scotland
Glasgow Airport
Glasgow Prestwick Airport
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
Highlands and Islands Airports Limited
Inchmarlo, Brathens and Glassel Community Council
Joint Radio Company
Marine Scotland Science (MSS)
NATS Safeguarding
NatureScot
RSPB Scotland
Scottish Water
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
ScotWays
Torphins Community Council
Transport Scotland