

## **CHAPTER A1: INTRODUCTION**

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## **A.1. INTRODUCTION**

### **A.1.1 Background**

- A.1.1.1 Chapter 1: Introduction of the EIA Report (January 2019) provides background context to the Consented Development and introduces the changes proposed as part of the Proposed Varied Development (please refer to paragraphs 1.1.1 to 1.1.6, Figure 1.2: Consented Development and Figure 1.3: Proposed Variations of the EIA Report, January 2019).
- A.1.1.2 Following submission of the section 36C Application in January 2019, ground investigation works have been undertaken which has resulted in a further change to the application. This Addendum reports on these changes. The Addendum changes, referred to as 'Proposed Varied Development (Addendum)' comprise: relocation of Turbine 4 by approximately 113m (and renaming to T4b) and deletion of associated access track length; removal of one borrow pit search area; inclusion of one new borrow pit search area and associated construction access; relocation of the concrete batching plant; and construction of an additional circa 330m of access track.
- A.1.1.3 An amendment to the site boundary has also been made to accommodate the additional borrow pit search area (see Figure A1.4: Proposed Varied Development - Addendum).
- A.1.1.4 The proposed changes between the section 36C Application in January 2019 and the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) are set out in Table A1.1 of this Chapter (see Section A1.4: Proposed Variations). These changes are also shown on Figure A1.4: Proposed Varied Development - Addendum.
- A.1.1.5 Paragraph 1.1.8 and 1.1.9 of the EIA Report (January 2019) listed those Conditions attached to the deemed planning permission for Gordonbush Extension Wind Farm (hereinafter referred to as "Conditions of Consent") that are sought to be varied. All proposed variations to these Conditions remain as stated in Appendix 1.2 of the EIA Report (January 2019), which should be referred to.
- A.1.1.6 Furthermore, Paragraph 1.1.10 and Appendix 1.2 of the EIA Report (January 2019) refers to variations to Annex 1 and Annex 2 of the relevant s.36 consent that are sought in order to facilitate the changes proposed and/or resolve anomalies and/ or discrepancies. The Annex 1 Description of Development will be subject to a minor change to reflect the proposed changes as a result of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum). These minor changes will be discussed and agreed with the Energy Consents Unit.

### **A.1.2 Environmental Impact Assessment**

- A.1.2.1 Paragraph 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 of the EIA Report (January 2019) provides reference to the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (the "EIA Regulations"), as well as the approach of the EIA Report (January 2019) to assess the Proposed Varied Development in its own right, whilst also reflecting the changes in assessment findings compared with the Consented Development.
- A.1.2.2 The purpose of the Addendum is to identify the nature and extent of any change in the assessment of environmental impacts that would result from the proposed changes since submission of the EIA Report (January 2019), or, record where there is no change. This Addendum should be read in combination with the EIA Report (January 2019).
- A.1.2.3 Agreement on the proposed scope of the Addendum was reached with statutory consultees, including The Highland Council (THC), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Energy Consents Unit. Further details are provided in Chapter 6: Scope and Consultation.

**A.1.3 Needs Case**

A.1.3.1 Please refer to Section 1.3 of the EIA Report (January 2019).

**A.1.4 Proposed Variations**

A.1.4.1 Table A1.1 provides a comparison between the Consented Development, the Proposed Varied Development as set out in the EIA Report (January 2019), and the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) as now proposed in this Addendum (see also Figure A1.4).

**Table A1.1: Comparison between the Consented Development and the Proposed Varied Development EIA Report (January 2019) and Addendum (June 2019)**

Description	s.36 Consented Development	s.36C Proposed Varied Development (EIA Report, January 2019)	s.36C Proposed Varied Development (Addendum, June 2019)
<b>Number of turbines (WTG)</b>	15	11	11
<b>Maximum Tip Height (TH)</b>	115m x 3 (WTG)	N/A – These turbines are removed	N/A – These turbines are removed
	130m x 12(WTG)	Up to 19.9m increase @149.9m x 11 (WTG)	No change to section 36c Proposed Varied Development application
<b>Maximum Rotor Diameter (RD)</b>	Max RD 93m (3 WTG @ 115m TH)	N/A – These turbines are removed	N/A – These turbines are removed
	Max RD 105m (12 WTG @ 130m TH)	Up to Max 136m x 11 (WTG)	No change to section 36c Proposed Varied Development application
<b>Turbine Positions</b>	As per Consented layout	No change to remaining eleven turbines	Relocation of Turbine 4 by approximately 113m (renamed as T4b). All other turbine positions remain unchanged.
<b>Borrow Pits</b>	BP1 indicative extraction volume= 48,000m <sup>3</sup>  BP2 indicative extraction volume= 96,000m <sup>3</sup>  Net indicative extraction volume= 144,000m <sup>3</sup>	No change to BP search area.  Amend the indicative volume of extraction  BP1: increase from 48,000m <sup>3</sup> to 105,600m <sup>3</sup>  BP2: decrease from 96,000m <sup>3</sup> to 39,600m <sup>3</sup> .  Net indicative extraction volume increased to 145,200m <sup>3</sup>	Removal of BP search area 2.  Inclusion of one new BP search area.  Net indicative extraction volume decreased to 125,600m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Temporary Batching Plant</b>	North of BP2	New location	Revised location.
<b>New Access Tracks</b>	7.96km	5.33km	Construction of additional circa 330m of access track between T12 and lidar. Reduction of new access track to T4B by 0.1km increasing new access track

Description	s.36 Consented Development	s.36C Proposed Varied Development (EIA Report, January 2019)	s.36C Proposed Varied Development (Addendum, June 2019)
			length to circa 5.56km.
<b>Operations Building</b>	As per Consented Development layout	No longer required.	No longer required.
<b>Meteorological Mast</b>	Permanent and temporary met mast as per Consented Development layout. Removal of existing operational Gordonbush Wind Farm meteorological mast (southern).	LiDAR proposed, removing requirement for permanent and temporary met masts. Retention of existing operational Gordonbush Wind Farm meteorological mast (southern).	No change to section 36c Proposed Varied Development application

A.1.4.2 Further details of the Proposed Varied Development (Addendum) are included in Chapter A4: Description of Development.