Scoping Matrix

Abbreviations

SM Scottish Ministers
BT British Telecom
DIO Defence Infrastructure Organisation
HIAL Highlands and Islands Airport
HES Historic Environment Scotland
KSF Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board
MS Mountaineering Scotland
MSS Marine Scotland Science
NATS NATS Safeguarding
NS NatureScot
RSPB Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SEPA Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
SF Scottish Forestry
SNH Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot)
SW Scottish Water
TS Transport Scotland
THC The Highland Council
VS Visit Scotland

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	2019 Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
1	Borrow Pit	The EIA Report should include search areas of the proposed locations for on-site borrow pits and present high level details on the borrow pit design including indicative borrow pit plans.	SM 01	2	Technical Appendix 11.1: Borrow Pit Report	A Borrow Pit Report is included in Technical Appendix 11.1.

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2	EIA Scope	Scottish Ministers are satisfied with the scope of the EIA set out in section 5 of the scoping report.	SM 02	4	N/A	Noted.
3	Drinking Water Protected Areas	The Company should contact SW to make further enquiries about whether there are any drinking water protected areas or Scottish Water assets which the Proposed Development could affect. Details should be presented in the EIA Report along with any relevant mitigation measures.	SM 03	4	Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology	The 2019 Scoping Opinion stated that records indicated there are no Scottish Water drinking water catchments or water abstraction sources, which are designated as Drinking Water Protected Areas under the Water Framework Directive, in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.
4	Private Water Supplies	Private water supplies within close proximity of the Proposed Development which may be impacted should be investigated. Details of the supplies should be included in the EIA Report along with an assessment of the potential impact, risks and any mitigation that would be provided.	SM04	4	Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology; Figure 10.2a-10.2c: Private Water Supplies.	Private Water Supplies (PWS) within close proximity to the Proposed Development are shown on Figure 10.2a-10.2c: Private Water Supplies. As illustrated on this figure, THC records and the hydrology site survey confirmed there are no PWS within 250m of the Site.
5	Fisheries	Advice provided by MSS and KSF in relation to guidelines on survey / monitoring programme should be taken on board.	SM05	5	Chapter 8: Ecology; Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline CEMP	Fish surveys have been carried out and freshwater ecology, aquatic habitats, fish and designated sites are considered within Chapter 8: Ecology. Engineering activities in the water environment are also considered in Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology. Baseline water quality monitoring would be carried out pre-construction and subsequent monitoring during construction and operation in line

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						with the CEMP to be adopted by the Applicant's appointed Principal Contractor. An Outline CEMP is included as Technical Appendix 3.1).
6	Peat	Peat depth and vegetation surveys along with a peat management plan will be required to be part of the EIA Report along with a Peatslide Hazard Risk Assessment.	SM06	5	Chapter 8: Ecology; Chapter 11: Geology and Carbon Balance; Technical Appendix 11.2: Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessment (PLHRA); and Technical Appendix 11.3: Peat Management Plan (PMP)	Peat depth and National Vegetation Classification (NVC) surveys, including peatland condition assessment surveys, have been carried out. The results of these surveys are contained in the noted chapters. A PLHRA is included in Technical Appendix 11.2, along with a Peat Management Plan in Technical Appendix 11.3.
7	Wild Land	Scope and methodology of wild land assessments should be decided in discussion with SNH (now NatureScot).	SM07	5	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual	In agreement with NatureScot, WLA Assessments were undertaken for WLA 34 (Reay – Cassley) and WLA 37 (Fionaven – Ben Hee in accordance with NatureScot's Wild Land Assessment Guidance: 'Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Areas – Technical Guidance' (NatureScot, 2020). Confirmation of the approach has been discussed with NatureScot.
8	Viewpoints	Viewpoints should be agreed with THC, SNH (now NatureScot)., HES and MS and presented in the EIA Report.	SM08	5	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual	Viewpoint locations have been determined following review of advice provided through the Scoping process, and through further consultation with THC and NatureScot. A

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						final viewpoint list was agreed with THC and NatureScot.
9	Aviation Lighting	Further advice on aviation lighting is available from SNH (now NatureScot). Depending on the scale and location of turbines, the LVIA should include a robust night time assessment.	SM09	5	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual	The selection of a turbine with tip height below 150m removes the requirement for visible aviation lighting.
10	Scheduled Monument	The EIA Report should consider the impacts on the scheduled monument Dail Langwell, broch and other heritage assets.	SM10	5	Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	Potential impacts on cultural heritage assets, including the scheduled monument Dail Langwell, broch, have been considered in the noted chapter.
11	Management Plans	The Company should take on board THC's comments regarding Habitat Management Plan, Deer Management Plans (if any are present within the site) and Biodiversity Action Plan.	SM11	5	Techncial Appendix 8.9: Deer Management Plan (DMP); and Technical Appendix 8.10: Outline Habitat Mnagement Plan (HMP); and	An outline HMP is provided within Technical Appendix 8.10. A DMP is presented in Technical Appendix 8.9.
12	Bird Survey	The Company should take note of RSPB's advice in respect to 'scoped in effects' to be assessed. The Company should discuss bird survey methodology with SNH (now NatureScot) and RSPB.	SM12	5, 6	Chapter 9: Ornithology; and Technical Appendix 9.1: Survey Methods and Results.	RSPB Scotland's consultation responses have been taken into account. Ornithology surveys (species, methods, viewsheds and duration) are summarised within Chapter 9: Ornithology and presented in Technical Appendix 9.1, and have taken account of feedback from NatureScot and RSPB Scotland, in tandem with guidance and professional judgement.

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13	Discussion	Scottish Ministers would like to be kept informed of relevant discussions.	SM13	6	Chapter 5: Scoping and Consultation	The Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government have been kept informed throughout the EIA stage through telephone, email and virtual meetings.
14	Schedule of Mitigation	Mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impact identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. A consolidated schedule, in tabular form, of all mitigation measures proposed, should be included in the EIA Report.	SM14	6	Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation Measures	Mitigation measures are identified within each Technical Chapter. A Schedule of Mitigation Measures is included in Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation.
15	Pre-application Advice	Applicants are encouraged to engage with the ECU at pre-application stage, before the proposal reaches design freeze.	SM15	6	Chapter 5: Scoping and Consultation	The Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government have been kept informed throughout the EIA stage through telephone, email and virtual meetings.
16	Scoping Matrix	The EIA Report should include a summary, in tabular form, of where within the EIA Report each of the specific matters raised in the scoping opinion have been addressed.	SM16	6	Technical Appendix 5.1: Scoping Matrix	This Technical Appendix summarises where each matter raised in the scoping opinion has been addressed.
17	File Size	The EIA Report and its associated documentation should be divided into appropriately named separate files of size no more than 10 MB. A separate disc containing the EIA Report in electronic format will be required.	SM17	7	N/A	A CD / USB will be provided containing the EIA Report and all associated documentation with maximum individual file sizes of 10MB.
18	Radio Protection Network	BT has studied the Proposed Development with respect to EMC and related problems to BT point-to-point microwave radio links. The	BT 01	43-44	Chapter 5: Scoping and Consultation	Noted.

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		Proposed Development, as indicated, should not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network.				
19	Military Aviation	The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has no objection to the Proposed Development.	DIO 01	31	Chapter 16: Aviation	Potential effects of the Proposed Development on MOD infrastructure are assessed within the noted chapter.
20		In the interests of air safety, the MOD will request that the Proposed Development be fitted with MOD accredited aviation safety lighting in accordance with the Civil Aviation Authority, Air Navigation Order 2016.	DIO 02	31	Chapter 16: Aviation	CAA aviation lighting requirements in accordance with Article 219 of the Air Navigation Order come into effect at a height of 150m. As the turbines would be less than 150m to blade tip the Applicant would instead agree a suitable aviation lighting scheme with the MOD in accordance with MOD obstruction lighting guidance.
21		Defence Infrastructure Organisation Safeguarding wishes to be consulted and notified of the progression of planning applications and submissions relating to this proposal to verify that it will not adversely affect defence interests.	DIO 03	31	Chapter 16: Aviation	The DIO will be kept updated and consulted on the progress of the application. Potential effects of the Proposed Development on MOD infrastructure are assessed within the noted chapter.
22		If permission is granted for the Proposed Development, MOD would like to be advised of the following:	DIO 04	32	Chapter 16: Aviation	The MOD will be kept updated and consulted on the progress of the application.

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		• The date construction starts and ends; • The maximum height of construction equipment; and • The latitude and longitude of every turbine.				
23		If the application is altered in any way, MOD must be consulted again as even slight changes to result in unacceptable effects.	DIO 05	32	Chapter 16: Aviation	The MOD will be kept updated and consulted on the progress of the application.
24	Cultural Heritage	There are some heritage assets within the surrounding area including one scheduled monument: Dail Langwell broch located 2 km south-west of the site. It is possible the Proposed Development would be visible from the broch, or important views towards it, and have an impact on its setting. Further consideration should be given to assessing impacts in the EIA. Visualisations are expected that assess the impact of the turbines on the setting of the broch.	HES 01	34-35	Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	Potential impacts on cultural heritage assets have been considered in the noted chapter. A visualisation from Dail Langwell Broch has also been provided (See Figures 12.3.1-12.3.3).
25		Where significant impacts are identified they should be reduced or avoided by amendments to the design.	HES 02	35	Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	Potential impacts on cultural heritage assets have been considered in the noted chapter.
26	EIA Policy	On 1 May 2019, HES adopted new Historic Environment Policy for Scotland.	HES 03	35	Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	Noted.
27	Aviation Safeguarding	HIAL carried out an assessment utilising a maximum ground height of 476m and a turbine height of 150m. The calculations showed that,	HIAL 01	33	Chapter 16: Aviation	No further action.

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		at the given position and height, the Proposed Development would not infringe the safeguarding surfaces for Wick or Inverness airport. Exact turbine locations and confirmed height are required to provide further comment.				
28	Fisheries	Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board would expect any environmental assessment to include: • Fish habitat data in any potentially affected watercourse both within and out with the physical boundary of the Proposed Development; • Fish presence, distribution and abundance data in all potentially affected watercourses; • Macro-invertebrate data in all potentially affected watercourses; • Freshwater pearl mussel (FWPM) abundance and distribution data in all potentially affected watercourses; • Hydrology data, including artificial drainage watercourses; • Water quality data (i.e. turbidity, pH, dissolved organic carbon, acid-neutralising capacity, etc.) in all potentially affected watercourses; and • Peat slide risk assessment.	KSF 01	36	Chapter 8: Ecology; Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology; Chapter 11: Geology and Carbon Balance (including Technical Appendix 11.2: PLHRA); and Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline CEMP;	Fish surveys have been carried out and freshwater ecology, aquatic habitats, fish and designated sites are considered within the noted chapter. An Aquatic Ecology and Fisheries Survey Report is presented in Technical Appendix 8.5.

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29	Fish Surveys and Pearl Mussel	KSF note that the Applicant highlights data obtained from targeted fish surveys undertaken as part of a previous application in the scoping report. KSF suggest that such information is likely to be outdated and new surveys should be undertaken. KSF believe that investigations into the status of pearl mussel populations within the Cassley catchment have been carried out subsequent to the original application and suggest that SNH (now NatureScot). be contacted to obtain any relevant information available from such surveys.	KSF 02	37	Chapter 8: Ecology; and Technical Appendix 8.5: Aquatic Ecology and Fisheries Survey Report	Updated fish surveys were undertaken in 2020 and the results are provided in Technical Appendix 8.5: Aquatic Ecology and Fisheries Survey Report and reference in Chapter 8 Ecology. Freshwater pearl mussel data were obtained from NatureScot and have informed the assessment.
30	Land Drainage	KSF has become increasingly aware of the extent of land drainage within the district. These artificial drainage features have the potential to act as vectors for the transfer of silt, pollutants, etc. to larger watercourses. KSF would therefore ask that, if present within the Proposed Development site, all drainage features are fully taken into account when undertaking any environmental impact assessment.	KSF 03	37	Chapter 8: Ecology; and Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology	This is noted and has been taken into account in the noted chapters.
31	LVIA	The impact of the experience of Ben More Assynt will be primary but there are many other hills that could be impacted, especially given the intrusions of Creag Riabhach into	MS 01	41	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual;	An assessment of Ben More Assynt is included as VP10 in Technical Appendix 7.9: Visual Assessment Tables and cumulative assessment with Creag

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		many angles of view previously without turbines in near proximity.			Technical Appendix 7.8: Cumulative Landscape Assessment Tables; and Technical Appendix 7.10: Cumulative Visual Assessment Tables.	Riabhach and other wind farms is included in Technical Appendices 7.8: Cumulative Landscape Assessment Tables and 7.10: Cumulative Visual Assessment Tables.
32	Need for the Development	An application would need to demonstrate that this site specifically is required to meet electricity generation needs.	MS 02	41	Chapter 1: Introduction.	Project need is set out in the noted chapter. The Proposed Development could contribute to legislated climate change targets and government policy objectives in helping Scotland to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2045 at the latest.
33	Visual Amenity	An application is likely to raise many of the same visual impact concerns as the previous application. An explicit comparison with the previous application is required to demonstrate what extent previous concerns (and reasons for refusal) remain applicable and to what extent they have been overcome.	MS 03	41	Chapter 2: Site Selection and Design Evolution; and Technical Appendix 2.1: Design Statement	Information on layout development and iterations is provided in Chapter 2: Scheme Alternatives and Technical Appendix 2.1: Design Statement.
34	LVIA Study Area	The proposed detailed study area of 15 – 20km is too small (Scoping Report, page 17). It could exclude Creag Riabhach, Ben Hee and Seana Bhraigh, all of which are likely to have clear views of the Proposed Development at distances of under 25 km. A detailed study	MS 04	41	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual (and associated Technical Appendices)	The extent of the detailed study area has been agreed in consultation with THC and NatureScot. Ben Hee and Seana Braigh are both included as VPs (VP5 and VP19) and therefore well accommodated within the visual assessment.

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		area radius of not less than 25 km is requested.				
35	Wild Land	While Mountaineering Scotland agree that the primary focus for wild land assessment requires to be the Reay-Cassley Wild Land Area (WLA), and are not unsympathetic to the idea that significant effects on other WLAs may be limited, this needs to be demonstrated and not simply asserted.	MS 05	41	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual (and associated Technical Appendices)	In agreement with NatureScot, a WLA assessment has been undertaken but limited to WLA34 and WLA37 as significant effects are considered unlikely for other WLAs.
36	Viewpoints	The proposed viewpoints set out in the scoping report are acceptable, with the exception of the omission of Viewpoint 18.	MS 06	41	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual (and associated Technical Appendices)	VP 18 was reinstated in the visual assessment for the Scoping Refresh
37	Wirelines and LVIA	Mountaineering Scotland note that the proposal to present only a wireline for Ben Hee is based on an assumption of lack of significant impact justified solely by distance without regard to context or scale of development. MS expect that the LVIA itself to be less simplistic in its approach.	MS 07	41	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual (and associated Technical Appendices)	Full visualisation material will be included for all VPs to NatureScot and THC standards, as detailed in the Scoping Refresh
38	River Oykel SAC	The Proposed Development is drained by watercourses within the River Cassley which forms part of the River Oykel Special Area of Conservation (SAC); salmon is a qualifying feature for this designation status. Both salmon and trout are listed as priority species	MSS 01	38	Chapter 8: Ecology;	A detailed fish habitat survey was carried out in 2020 and is presented in Technical Appendix 8.5. Fish surveys that identified the distribution and quality of fish habitat and fish species present were conducted in the streams draining the study area and

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		for conservation in the Scottish Biodiversity List and should be considered.			Technical Appendix 8.5: Aquatic Ecology and Fisheries Survey Report; Technical Appendix 8.6: EcIA Scoping Rational; Technical Appendix 8.8: Habitat Regulations Appraisal (HRA)	these identified the main existing obstacles to fish migration. The River Oykel SAC, salmon and trout are considered in this chapter and addressed in Technical Appendix 8.6. A HRA is provided in Technical Appendix 8.8.
39	Water Quality and Fish	MSS advise that the Applicant carries out the following in the EIA: • Consult the MSS generic scoping guidelines; • Site characterisation surveys of the water quality and fish populations within the watercourses which could potentially be impacted as a result of the Proposed Development. The results from the surveys should be presented in the EIA Report along with a detailed description of proposed mitigation measures and monitoring programmes; and • Consider the potential cumulative impacts on water quality and fish populations associated with adjacent (operational and consented) wind farms and hydro schemes, particularly in the selection of control sites in the monitoring programmes.	MSS 02	38-39	Chapter 8: Ecology; Technical Appendix 8.5: Aquatic Ecology and Fisheries Survey Report; Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology; and Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline CEMP	Fish surveys (including water quality sampling) have been undertaken, with results presented in Technical Appendix 8.5. Surveys follow MSS guidance and potential cumulative impacts are considered. Mitigation proposals follow best practice hierarchy of firstly avoiding impacts on water bodies, and secondly reducing impacts where they cannot be avoided. Detailed mitigation measures to protect waterbodies during construction, operation and decommissioning are considered in Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology and the Outline CEMP (Technical Appendix 3.1). Baseline water quality monitoring would also be carried out pre-construction and

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						subsequent monitoring during construction and operation in line with the CEMP adopted by the Applicant's appointed Principal Contractor. An Outline CEMP is included in the EIA Report (see Technical Appendix 3.1).
40	Aviation Safeguarding	The Proposed Development has been examined from a technical safeguarding aspect and does not conflict with NATS' safeguarding criteria. NATS has no safeguarding objection to the Proposed Development. If the Proposed Development is revised, amended or a further application for approval made, NATS must be further consulted.	NATS 01	42	Chapter 16: Aviation	No further action. Potential effects of the Proposed Development on aviation safeguarding are assessed within the noted chapter.
41	Wild Land Areas	SNH (now NatureScot) provided extensive advice on the previous wind farm development at the same general location as this new proposal, and are therefore surprised to see that the revised proposal remains within a Wild Land Area, as it is highly likely that these impacts will still occur.	NS 01	57-58	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual (and associated Technical Appendices)	Changes have been made to the turbine layout in comparison to the previous application in order to minimise landscape and visual effects, and in particular those effects on WLA 34, Reay Cassley, and the Assynt - Coigach National Scenic Area.
42	Pre-application Advice	Due to siting turbines, particularly of this height, within this sensitive location and the expected significant effects, NatureScot would be eager to meet SSE to help explore alternatives or discuss other solutions to	NS 02	58	Chapter 5: Scope and Consultation; and Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual (and	Contact with NatureScot has been maintained throughout the EIA process to provide project updates or seek clarification / advice on certain matters. A Wild Land Assessment is included for both WLA 34

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		reduce adverse impacts. If this scheme progresses at this location, NatureScot will be particularly looking to see how SSE addresses the impacts which we previously identified and any new impacts that are likely to arise. These include, but are not limited to: • The degree to which the proposal affects the wild qualities identified for Reay-Cassley WLA; • The degree to which turbine lighting (due to turbine height) is to be required, which is likely to affect the wild land qualities of two different Wild Land Areas (Reay-Cassley and Foinaven-Ben Hee); and • The cumulative effects from this and other wind farms on these Wild Land Areas.			associated Technical Appendices)	(Reay-Cassley) and WLA 37 (Foinaven-Ben Hee) within the noted chapter and associated Technical Appendices. There is no requirement for assessment of visible turbine lighting as the turbine height has been fixed at 149.9 m
43	Wild Land Areas	NatureScot recommend that the Applicant should undertake an assessment of effects on wild land using the 2017 consultative draft guidance as a starting point. Due to this evolving area of work, NatureScot strongly advise that the landscape consultant should discuss the scope of the wild land assessment with NatureScot at an early stage. In due course, NatureScot request hard copies of any visuals that may be contained within the wild	NS 03	58	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual (and associated Technical Appendices)	The Wild Land Assessment has been completed in accordance with NatureScot's Wild Land Assessment Guidance: 'Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Areas – Technical Guidance' (NatureScot, 2020). Confirmation of the approach has been discussed with NatureScot.

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		land assessment as part of the EIA submission.				
44		NatureScot acknowledge turbine lighting may be required for these large scale turbines. Turbine lighting has the potential to result in significant effects on the appreciation of key attributes of this WLA such as: remoteness, sense of sanctuary and solitude which under-pin how the qualities are experienced. Darkness is a key contributing characteristic to the appreciation of WLAs.	NS 04	58	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual	The selection of a turbine with tip height below 150m removes the requirement for visible aviation lighting.
45	Turbine Lighting assessment in LVIA	NatureScot recommend that the effects of lighting on both WLAs should be carefully assessed and that mitigation is employed to reduce impacts. NatureScot recommend that an LVIA-related lighting assessment should be incorporated within the EIA Report.	NS 05	58	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual	The selection of a turbine with tip height below 150m removes the requirement for visible aviation lighting.
46	Ornithology	As this proposal abuts a component part of the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA, Ramsar Site and SAC, protected for its upland birds, peatland habitats and otter, there is a high risk that the Proposed Development could impact on a range of upland birds connected to the SPA (within and outwith the site), such as: divers, golden plover and greenshank. Issues such as displacement, disturbance and	NS 06	59	Chapter 8: Ecology (and associated Technical Appendices) and Chapter 9: Ornithology (and associated Technical Appendices)	Potential impacts on these designated sites and their qualifying features are addressed in the noted chapters and their associated appendices.

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		collision risk should be assessed for all stages of the Proposed Development.				
47	Survey Methodology	NS note that part of the Proposed Development is not visible, as indicated in the vantage point (VP) and viewshed map (in proximity to VPs 3 and 5). Clarification of the turbine layout would help to determine whether bird survey coverage is going to be considered sufficient.	NS 07	59	Chapter 9: Ornithology	NatureScot guidance has been taken into account in the selection of vantage points and vantage point locations have been determined by a combination of factors, most notably topography. Justification of their selection is provided in the noted chapter and accompanying Technical Appendices.
48		As divers use some of the lochs close to the proposal, VP work should be undertaken at a time of day which will maximise flight data to gauge what level of impact, if any, that this proposal might have. If divers are found to be breeding on these lochs then focal diver observations may be required. Assessments should be carried out in context to the Conservation Objectives of the SPA.	NS 08	59	Chapter 9: Ornithology; and Technical Appendix 9.1: Survey Methods and Results	Potential impacts on divers and the qualifying features of the SPA are addressed in the noted chapter and Technical Appendix 9.1. No red or black-throated diver activity was recorded during specific diver or other surveys.
49	Policy and Legislation	Cumulative assessment should be carried out in accordance with Assessing the Cumulative Impacts of Onshore Wind Farms on Birds (SNH, August 2018).	NS 09	59	Chapter 9: Ornithology	A cumulative assessment on birds has been undertaken in accordance with this guidance.
50	Hydrology and Hydrogeology	The River Oykel SAC is a very sensitive receptor, and is hydrologically connected through multiple watercourses throughout the wind farm site. Therefore, it will be important	NS 10	59	Chapter 8: Ecology;	Potential impacts on the River Oykel SAC are addressed in the noted and addressed in Technical Appendix 8.6. Detailed mitigation measures to protect waterbodies

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		to show how effective pollution (including silt) control measures will be to ensure that good water quality conditions can be maintained during construction in all weather conditions. Impacts to this protected area should be assessed against the site's Conservation Objectives.			Technical Appendix 8.6: EcIA Scoping Rational; Technical Appendix 8.8: HRA; Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology; and Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline CEMP.	during construction, operation and decommissioning are considered in Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology and the outline CEMP (Technical Appendix 3.1), which also includes pollution control measures. An HRA is presented in Technical Appendix 8.8 and potential impacts to this protected area are assessed against the Site's Conservation Objectives.
51	EIA Scope	In context of the new development boundary, it may be possible to scope out Strath an Loin SSSI, which is 2 km to the north.	NS 11	59	Chapter 8: Ecology	Strath an Loin has been scoped out of further detailed assessment based on the distance from the Proposed Development. Scoping rationale is presented in Technical Appendix 8.6.
52	Terrestrial Ecology	The proposal abuts Grudie Peatlands SSSI, which is protected for its nationally important bog habitat and breeding populations of upland birds, including: golden plover, dunlin and greenshank. Impacts on all these features should be assessed within the EIA Report.	NS 12	59	Chapter 8: Ecology; Technical Appendix 8.6: EcIA Scoping Rational; and Chapter 9: Ornithology	The scoping of potential impacts on Grudie Peatlands SSSI is considered in Technical Appendix 8.6 and taken through for further assessment in Chapter 8: Ecology. Potential impacts on upland birds are considered in Chapter 9: Ornithology.
53	Policy and Legislation	Within the 2012 application for this development, all habitats recorded were considered of local importance. SPP (2014) indicates that this may no longer be the case.	NS 13	59	Chapter 2: Site Selection and Design Evolution; Chapter 6: Planning Policy; and Chapter 8: Ecology	The Proposed Development has evolved through an iterative design process to inform the layout and minimise placement of infrastructure on sensitive habitat (in particular near natural blanket bog) and

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						deeper areas of peat where possible (see Chapter 2). Planning policy is also set out within Chapter 6, and potential impacts on habitat assessed in Chapter 8, as noted.
54	Peat and Carbon Rich Soils	Carbon rich and peat soils, together with peatland habitats, extend over large areas of this site, including the area current proposed for development. NS therefore advise that SSE needs to demonstrate through the EIA Report and draft Construction Method Statement that a wind farm can be built on this site without significant loss and damage to these nationally important interests.	NS 14	60	Chapter 2: Site Selection and Design Evolution; Chapter 8: Ecology; and Chapter 11: Geology and Carbon Balance	The Proposed Development has evolved through an iterative design process to inform the layout and minimise placement of infrastructure on sensitive habitat (in particular near natural blanket bog) and deeper areas of peat where possible (see Chapter 2). This has been informed through NVC surveys, peatland condition and peat depth surveys, the results of which are provided in Chapters 8 and 11, as noted.
55	EIA Scope, Peat and Carbon Rich Soils	The EIA Report should consider both on-site and off-site impacts, particularly any potential effects on the adjacent Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC and the downstream River Oykel SAC. This should include consideration of areas of hydrological and peat mass connectivity between the development area and protected areas. A revised Peat Slide Hazard and Risk Assessment should also consider any potential risks and impacts to both SAC sites and how these can be mitigated.	NS 15	60	Chapter 8: Ecology; Technical Appendix 8.6: EcIA Scoping Rational; Chapter 11: Geology and Carbon Balance; and Technical Appendix 11.2 PLHRA	The scoping of potential impacts on the Caithness and Sutherlands SAC and the River Oykel SAC is presented in Technical Appendix 8.6 and Section 8.10 and 8.11 in the noted chapter. Mitigation measures are presented in the Section 8.8. Peat depth survey conducted and reported in Chapter 10: Geology and Carbon Balance. This was used to help develop the site layout and, where possible, avoid important blanket bog areas. A PLHRA is included in Technical Appendix 11.2.

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56	EIA Scope, Ecology	NS would welcome the inclusion of an outline Habitat Management Plan within the EIA Report, which could include measures to compensate for direct and / or indirect loss of peatland habitat and function.	NS 16	60	Technical Appendix 8.10: Outline HMP	An Outline HMP has been provided in Technical Appendix 8.10. The HMP sets out measures to compensate for the direct and indirect loss of blanket bog habitat.
57	Otters	NS acknowledge that a full protected species survey will be undertaken to facilitate a thorough and accurate assessment for the EIA Report. Impacts to otters and their resting places should be assessed in context to the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC in the first instance.	NS 17	60	Chapter 8: Ecology	Protected species surveys have been undertaken, the results of which are provided in Technical Appendix 8.4. Otters are considered in Technical 8.6 and assessed as a feature of Caithness & Sutherland SAC within the noted chapter (Section 8.12).
58	EIA Scope, Ecology	NS recommend that a Deer Assessment is included within the EIA Report. This will help show whether there will be any effect (e.g. on bog protected areas) from the local deer population during construction works, etc.	NS 18	60	Chapter 8: Ecology Technical Appendix 8.9: DMP	An assessment of the potential impact on Grudie Peatlands SSSI is provided in Section 8.11, which is informed by a DMP is provided in a Technical Appendix 8.9.
59	Survey Methodology	RSPB note that ornithological field surveys have already started and will continue until August 2019, with a possibility of extension until August 2020. As the original surveys are over five years old, RSPB advocate that the new surveys should continue until August 2020 to allow two new years of data collection as per NatureScot guidance. There is a risk that an inadequate amount of data will be collected if less than two years' data is used for the EIA.	RSPB 01	45	Chapter 9: Ornithology	Two years' new surveys have been carried out in total, running from August 2018 to August 2020 (inclusive). Therefore, as well as the original Glencassley survey data and the additional desk study results from surveys at Achany and Rosehall Wind Farms, two breeding seasons and two non-breeding season of new baseline data have been collected to cover the Site.

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60	Habitat and Protected Species Survey	RSPB would want to see updated habitat and protected species surveys as these were last undertaken in 2011.	RSPB 02	46	Chapter 8: Ecology (and associated Technical Appendices)	The results of habitat and protected species surveys which were undertaken in 2020 are provided in Technical Appendices 8.1 – 8.5.
61	Golden Eagle	RSPB note that the 2012 application found the site to be important for sub-adult golden eagles. RSPB would recommend specific surveys targeted for golden eagle within 6 km of the site.	RSPB 03	46	Chapter 9: Ornithology; Figure 9.8: Breeding Diver Survey Boundary	Surveys included suitable habitat within 6km for golden eagle and to 1km for red and black-throated divers. The extent of survey coverage is shown in Figure 9.8. All survey methodologies and results are provided in the noted chapter.
62	Red-throated and Black-throated diver	RSPB would recommend specific surveys targeted for red-throated and black-throated divers on all lochs and bog pools within 1 km of the site. Additional work to cover cryptic species such as wood sandpiper should also be included.	RSPB 04	46	Chapter 9: Ornithology; Figure 9.8: Breeding Diver Survey Boundary; and Figure 9.9: Black grouse, moorland and raptor Survey Boundary	Surveys included suitable habitat to 1km for red and black-throated divers. The extent of survey coverage is shown in Figure 9.8 for divers and Figure 9.9 for other species. Wood sandpiper were surveyed for using standard moorland breeding bird surveys as these are considered sufficient to record this species. All survey methodologies and results are provided in the noted chapter.
63	Vantage Points	RSPB note that the current Vantage Points (VPs) do not adequately cover the proposed access tracks and it is not clear from the Scoping Report that the new access track is included in the survey boundaries.	RSPB 05	46	Chapter 9: Ornithology; and Technical Appendix 9.1: Survey Methods and Results.	Vantage point surveys are not a relevant survey method for surveying access tracks, and would not accord with NatureScot guidance (since flight activity data are not needed to assess access track effects on

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						birds). The noted chapter and Technical Appendix 9.1 do however, provide details of the appropriate breeding bird surveys competed to determine baseline bird interests along the access track.
64		RSPB note that vantage points 3, 4 and 5 are inside the site boundary. This is contrary to NatureScot guidance. RPSB therefore recommend justifying the positions of the VPs chosen and that information is provided within the EIA Report to demonstrate that the survey data are adequate, robust and accurate.	RSPB 06	46	Chapter 9: Ornithology; and Technical Appendix 9.1: Survey Methods and Results	NatureScot guidance on vantage point location has been taken into account in the selection of vantage points and vantage point locations have been determined by a combination of factors, most notably topography. Justification of their selection is provided in the noted chapter and Technical Appendix 9.1.
65	EIA Scope	All direct and indirect impacts on birds and habitats should be scoped into the assessment. These include displacement, disturbance and collision risk for birds.	RSPB 07	46	Chapter 9: Ornithology	The scope of this assessment is set out in the noted chapter.
66	Peat and Carbon Rich Soils	Peat probing carried out as part of the 2012 application indicated that peat is not extensive across the site and is generally less than 0.5 m in depth. However, there are areas of 'Class 1 – Nationally important carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat' (over 0.5 m in depth) located within the site boundary. The EIA Report should show how damage to peat will be avoided and we recommend all infrastructure avoids areas of deep peat.	RSPB 08	46	Chapter 8: Ecology Chapter 11: Geology and Carbon Balance	Peat depth, peat condition assessment and NVC survey results are presented in the noted chapters and accompanying Technical Appendices. These survey results have been used during the iterative design process to inform the layout and minimise placement of infrastructure on sensitive habitat (in particular near natural blanket bog) and deeper areas of peat where possible.

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67		RSPB recommends that a carbon calculation in line with current best practice is undertaken to determine the 'carbon payback' period over the operational life of the Proposed Development.	RSPB 09	46-47	Chapter 11: Geology and Carbon Balance	The carbon balance calculation has been undertaken as reported in Technical Appendix 11.4.
68	Post-construction Monitoring	The EIA Report should include plans for post-construction monitoring for collision mortality and monitoring for priority species such as breeding raptors and waders.	RSPB 10	47	Chapter 9: Ornithology	Proposals for post-construction monitoring are set out in the noted chapter.
69	EIA Scope	RSPB would welcome positive management of land for wildlife, provided the mitigation hierarchy has been followed in the design of any proposal. RSPB request that a detailed Habitat Management Plan (HMP) is prepared as part of the EIA and submitted with any application. In the 2012 application, RSPB commended proposed drain blocking to improve habitat in the long term which could help reverse the unfavourable status of golden plover on the SPA.	RSPB 11	47	Technical Appendix 8.10: Outline HMP	An Outline HMP is provided in Technical Appendix 8.10. Proposals include drain-blocking within candidate areas outside the Site.
70	Pre-application Advice	SEPA would welcome the opportunity to provide early advice on the proposed layout and peat management and groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystem (GWDTE) sections of the EIA Report before they are formally submitted.	SEPA 01	48	Chapter 5: Scoping and Consultation	Whilst information was provided to SEPA (via the ECU) in March 2021, it was not possible to engage with SEPA at this time due to the cyber-attack that SEPA were victim to in December 2020. SEPA made contact with the Applicant during April 2021, following the submission of the Gate

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						Check Report, to confirm they were now operating in a limited capacity and to request the information to be resent. The Applicant resent the information on 04 May 2021. Further discussions were held with SEPA prior to submission.
71	EIA Scope	The following must be submitted in support of the application: a) Map and assessment of all engineering activities in or impacting on the water environment including proposed buffers; b) Map and assessment of impacts on GWDTEs and buffers; c) Peat depth survey and table detailing re-use proposals; d) Map and site layout of borrow pits; e) Schedule of mitigation including pollution prevention measures; and f) Decommissioning statement.	SEPA 02	48-49	Various (refer to comments section)	a) See Figure 10.1 and Technical Appendix 10.2: Watercourse Crossing Assessment; b) See Technical Appendix 10.2, Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems Assessment, ; c) Peat depths are indicated on Figure 11.3 (A-G) and a draft PMP is included in Technical Appendix 11.3; d) A Borrow Pit Report is included in Technical Appendix 11.1; e) A Schedule of Mitigation Measures is included in Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation; and f) Information on decommissioning is provided within Chapter 3: Description of Development.
72	Policy and Legislation	Policy, guidance and best practice design has moved on considerably since the previous application and it is important that any new application takes this fully into consideration at an early stage.	SEPA 03	49	Chapter 6: Planning	The noted chapter includes reference to current relevant planning policy and legislation.

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73	Development Design	SEPA provide the following early design advice: • SEPA would expect a layout design which minimises the length of access track required to support it; • If access is being taken through the existing Achany and Rosehill wind farms then it needs to be demonstrated that the environmental benefits of doing this outweigh the additional length of track required to do so. Previous laydown areas, construction compound sites and borrow pits should all be utilised and the proposed red line boundary amended to allow this; • There needs to be clear justification for two access points; • The northern access to the proposed wind farm, is now at the very edge of the Proposed Development Area. SEPA would expect the EIA Report to assess alternatives to this, including making use of the existing accesses from near Glencassley Castle; and • There is a clear pinch-point in the vicinity of the Allt an Rasail. The layout in this area needs to include the standard 50 m buffer to the watercourse and minimise the number of watercourse crossings required.	SEPA 04	49	Chapter 2: Site Selection and Design Evolution; Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology; and Technical Appendix 10.2: Watercourse Crossing Assessment	Chapter 2: Site Selection and Design Evolution describes how the Proposed Development has been designed to minimise environmental effects. The northern access track has been removed from the site layout. The standard 50 m buffer to watercourses was applied to all 'natural watercourses', including the Allt an Rasail, and design iterations for the Site layout of the Proposed Development have taken in to account the sensitivity of surface water resources.

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74	Peat and Carbon Rich Soils	Much, if not all, of the site is on peat, and SEPA would expect the application to be supported by a full site-specific Peat Management Plan. SEPA welcome the proposal for the previous peat probing work to be updated to inform the new layout. SEPA would be happy to provide further advice on this once an initial layout has been developed. SEPA also welcome the approach of avoiding deep peat.	SEPA 05	49	Chapter 2: Site Selection and Design Evolution; Chapter 11: Geology and Carbon Balance Figuref 11.3a-11.3g: Peat Depth Plan; and Technical Appendix 11.3: PMP	Peat probing has been carried out across the Site to inform the design iteration process. Peat depths are indicated on Figure 11.3a-11.3f and a stage 1 PMP is included in Technical Appendix 11.3.
75	Pre-application Advice	If the 2012 habitat survey information is provided, SEPA would be happy to provide advice on whether it is considered still fit for purpose and the specific scope of any further assessment in relation to GWDTE.	SEPA 06	49	Technical Appendix 8.2: NVC & GWDTE Report	Habitat survey information was updated in 2020 and is presented in Technical Appendix 8.2.
76	Development Design	SEPA would not consider an application with large search areas for potential borrow pits to be acceptable. Enough information needs to be collected at the application stage to demonstrate that any areas proposed could provide the required material without unacceptable impacts on the environment.	SEPA 07	49	Technical Appendix 11.1: Borrow Pit Report	A Borrow Pit Report is included in Technical Appendix 11.1.
77		If there is to be battery storage, an indicative layout plan should be included showing the design and scale of the facility, including any bunding requirements.	SEPA 08	50	N/A	No battery storage is proposed.

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78	EIA Scope	SEPA note the proposal to include an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan with the submission. SEPA now advocate a more streamlined approach to such submissions and ask that they take the form of a Schedule of Mitigation (already proposed as part of the EIA Report) and a series of detailed site specific plans which show all permanent and temporary infrastructure, local sensitivities, and proposed mitigation measures.	SEPA 09	50	Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline CEMP; and Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation	An outline CEMP is included in Technical Appendix 3.1. A schedule of mitigation is included in Chapter 18 of the EIA Report.
79		SEPA agree that forestry can be scoped out of the assessment.	SEPA 10	50	Chapter 5: Scope and Consultation	Noted.
80	Site Licencing	A Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) construction site licence will be required for management of surface water run-off from the construction site.	SEPA 11	50	N/A	It is noted the Proposed Development will require a construction site licence (under CAR regulations) for the management of surface water and groundwater discharge.
81		Management of surplus peat or soils may require an exemption under the Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Regulations 2011. Proposed crushing or screening will require a permit under The Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012.	SEPA 12	50	Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline CEMP; and Technical Appendix 11.3: PMP.	Waste management is addressed in the outline CEMP. It is not anticipated that any excavated waste materials would be generated during the works as all would be re-used on site.
82	EIA Scope	All maps must be based on an adequate scale with which to assess the information. All maps must detail all proposed upgraded, temporary and permanent site infrastructure.	SEPA 13	51	Throughout EIA Report	All figures accompanying the EIA Report are at appropriate map scales, and show temporary and permanent infrastructure, as appropriate.

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83	Development Design	Existing built infrastructure must be re-used or upgraded wherever possible. The layout should be designed to minimise the extent of new works on previously undisturbed ground. Cabling must be laid in ground already disturbed, such as verges. A comparison of the environmental effects of alternative locations of infrastructure elements, such as tracks, may be required.	SEPA 14	51	Chapter 2: Site Selection and Design Evolution; and Chapter 3: Description of Development	Existing infrastructure would be used as far as practicable. The infrastructure layout has evolved to minimise effects on sensitive habitat and deeper areas of peat, where possible. Cables would be laid directly in trenches (of varying width and approximately 1m in depth) with a sand surround and then backfilled with excavated sub-soil and peat topsoil. Cable trenches would be located alongside access tracks where suitable. Alternatively, cable ducts could be installed underground.
84	Hydrology and Hydrogeology	The site layout must be designed to avoid impacts on the water environment. Where activities such as watercourse crossings, watercourse diversions or other engineering activities in or impacting on the water environment cannot be avoided then the submission must include justification of this and a map showing: a) All proposed temporary or permanent infrastructure overlain with all lochs and watercourses; b) A minimum buffer of 50 m around each loch or watercourse. If this minimum buffer cannot be achieved each breach must be numbered on a plan with an associated photograph of	SEPA 15	51	Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology; Figures 10.1a-10.1c: Surface Water Features; and Technical Appendix: 10.2: Watercourse Crossing Assessment	The noted chapter assesses the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on watercourses and the water environment. a) Figures 10.1a-10.1c: Surface Water Features displays infrastructure overlain with all lochs and watercourses. b) With the exception of watercourse crossings, a minimum 50m buffer is maintained around natural watercourses, as displayed on Figure 10.1a-10.1c: Surface Water Features. Technical Appendix 10.2: Watercourse Crossing Assessment provides a plan (Annex 1: Figure 10.2.1) of all proposed watercourse crossings; photographs of watercourse survey

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		the location, dimensions of the loch or watercourse and drawings of what is proposed in terms of engineering works; and c) A detailed layout of all proposed mitigation including all cut off drains, location, number and size of settlement ponds.				locations (Annex 2) and watercourse dimensions and proposed crossing design. C) Mitigation measures are discussed in the noted chapter. Detailed layout of all proposed mitigation would be developed by the contractor in consultation with SEPA.
85		If water abstractions or dewatering are proposed, a table of volumes and timings groundwater abstractions and related mitigation measures must be provided.	SEPA 16	51	Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline CEMP	Please refer to Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline CEMP
85		Watercourse crossings must be designed to accommodate the 0.5 % Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flows, or information provided to justify smaller structures. If it is thought that the Proposed Development could result in an increased risk of flooding to a nearby receptor then a Flood Risk Assessment must be submitted in support of the planning application.	SEPA 17	51-52	Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology; and Technical Appendix 10.2. Watercourse Crossings Assessment	Watercourse crossings are considered in Technical Appendix 10.2. Watercourse Crossings Assessment would be designed to accommodate a 1 in 200 (0.5%) AEP plus climate change event. Detailed flow calculations would be carried out by a contractor at the detailed design stage.

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87	Peat and Carbon Rich Soils	The planning submission must demonstrate how the layout has been designed to minimise disturbance of peat and consequential release of CO_2 and outline the preventative / mitigation measures to avoid significant drying or oxidation of peat through, for example, the construction of access tracks, drainage channels, cable trenches, or the storage and re-use of excavated peat.	SEPA 18	52	Chapter 2: Site Selection and Design Evolution; Chapter 11: Geology and Carbon Balance; Technical Appendix 11.2: PLHRA; and Technical Appendix 11.3: PMP	Chapter 2: Site Selection and Design Evolution details how the Proposed Development has been designed to minimise disturbance of peat (see also Chapter 11: Geology and Carbon Balance). Construction methodologies and mitigation measures are described in the PLHRA in Technical Appendix 11.2 and a Peat Management Plan in Technical Appendix 11.3.
88	EIA Scope	The submission must include: • A detailed map of peat depths (this must be to full depth and follow the survey requirements of the Scottish Government's Guidance on Developments on Peatland – Peatland Survey (2017)) with all the built elements (including peat storage areas) overlain to demonstrate how the Proposed Development avoids areas of deep peat and other sensitive receptors such as GWDTEs; and • A table which details the quantities of acrotelmic, catotelmic and amorphous peat which will be excavated for each element and where it will be re-used during reinstatement. Details of the proposed widths and depths of peat to be re-used and how it will be kept wet permanently must be included.	SEPA 19	52	Chapter 8: Ecology; Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology Chapter 11: Geology and Carbon Balance; Figure 11.3a-11.3f: Peat Depth Plans; and Technical Appendix 11.3: PMP	Peat depths are indicated on Figure 11.3a-11.3f and a PMP is included in Technical Appendix 11.3. Impacts on GWDTEs are assessed in Chapter 8: Ecology and Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology.

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89	Policy and Legislation	The proposal must be in accordance with Guidance on the Assessment of Peat Volumes, Reuse of Excavated Peat and Minimisation of Waste, and SEPA's Developments on Peat and Off-Site uses of Waste Peat.	SEPA 20	52	Chapter 11: Geology and Carbon Balance	The information presented in the noted Chapter and its associated appendices is in accordance with the noted guidance.
90	EIA Scope	The submission must include: a) A map demonstrating that all GWDTE are outwith a 100 m radius of all excavations shallower than 1 m and outwith 250 m of all excavations deeper than 1 m and proposed groundwater abstractions. If micro-siting is to be considered as a mitigation measure the distance of survey needs to be extended by the proposed maximum extent of micro-siting. The survey needs to extend beyond the site boundary where the distances require it; and b) If the minimum buffers above cannot be achieved, a detailed site-specific qualitative and / or quantitative risk assessment will be required. SEPA are likely to seek conditions securing appropriate mitigation for all GWDTE affected.	SEPA 21	52-53	Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology; and Technical Appendix 10.1: Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem (GWDTE) Assessment	A map of all GWDTE in relation to proposed infrastructure is provided in Technical Appendix 10.1: Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem (GWDTE) Assessment (Figure 10.1.7). The layout of the Proposed Development has been designed to avoid interaction with GWDTE (See Chapter 2: Site Selection and Design Evolution).
91		The submission must include:	SEPA 22	53	Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology	A requirement for potential abstractions for water supplies has not, at this stage, been

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		• A map demonstrating that all groundwater abstractions are outwith a 100 m radius of all excavations shallower than 1 m and outwith 250 m of all excavations deeper than 1 m and proposed groundwater abstractions. If micro-siting is to be considered as a mitigation measure the distance of survey needs to be extended by the proposed maximum extent of micro-siting. The survey needs to extend beyond the site boundary where the distances require it; and • If the minimum buffers above cannot be achieved, a detailed site-specific qualitative and / or quantitative risk assessment will be required. SEPA are likely to seek conditions securing appropriate mitigation for all groundwater abstractions affected.				identified. Were a requirement for abstraction of water supplies identified at the detailed design stage, application for appropriate siting and permitting would be prepared by the appointed contractor in consultation with SEPA.
92	Forestry	In relation to forest removal and forest waste, key holing must be used wherever possible as large scale felling can result in large amounts of waste material and in a peak release of nutrients which can affect local water quality.	SEPA 23	53	Chapter 5: Scope and Consultation	No felling is proposed.
93		Clear felling may be acceptable only in cases where planting took place on deep peat and it is proposed through a Habitat Management Plan to reinstate peat-forming habitats.	SEPA 24	53	Chapter 5: Scope and Consultation	No felling is proposed.

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94	Development Design	Scottish Planning Policy states that: "Borrow pits should only be permitted if there are significant environmental or economic benefits compared to obtaining material from local quarries, they are time-limited; tied to a particular project and appropriate reclamation measures are in place." The submission must provide sufficient information to address this policy statement.	SEPA 25	53-54	Technical Appendix 11.1: Borrow Pit Report	A Borrow Pit Report is included in Technical Appendix 11.1.
95	EIA Scope	A Site Management Plan should be submitted in support of any application. The following information should also be submitted for each borrow pit: a) A map showing the location, size, depths and dimensions; b) A map showing any stocks of rock, overburden, soils and temporary and permanent infrastructure including tracks, buildings, oil storage, pipes and drainage, overlain with all lochs and watercourses to a distance of 250 m; c) The Applicant must provide justification for the proposed location of borrow pits and evidence of the suitability of the material to be excavated for the proposed use,	SEPA 26		Various (refer to comments section)	a) Maps are included as part of Technical Appendix 11.5. b) Please refer to the oultine CEMP in Technical Appendix 3.1. c) The suitability of borrow pits is discussed in Technical Appendix 11.1. d) A ground investigation will be undertaken post consent to inform borrow pit design. e) Please refer to the outline CEMP in Technical Appendix 3.1. f) Please refer to the outline outline CEMP in Technical Appendix 3.1. g) Please refer to the outline CEMP in Technical Appendix 3.1. h) Proposed peat storage areas and dimensions are presented in the PMP in Technical Appendix 11.3. Peat depths are

		including any risk of pollution caused by degradation of the rock; d) A ground investigation report giving existing seasonally highest water table including sections showing the maximum area, depth and profile of working in relation to the water table; e) A site map showing cut-off drains, silt management devices and settlement lagoons to manage surface water and dewatering discharge. Cut-off drains must be installed to maximise diversion of water from entering quarry works; f) A site map showing proposed water abstractions with details of the volumes and timings of abstractions; g) A site map showing the location of pollution prevention measures such as spill kits, oil interceptors, drainage associated with welfare facilities, recycling and bin storage and vehicle washing areas; h) A site map showing where soils and overburden will be stored including details of the heights and dimensions of each store, how long the material will be stored for and how soils will be kept fit for restoration purposes. Where the development will result in the disturbance of peat or other carbon rich soils then the submission must also include a detailed map of peat depths (this must be to full depth				indicated on Figure 11.2. Peat depths are indicated on Figure 11.3 (A to G). i and j) Indicative borrow pit restoration profiles are provided in the PMP in Technical Appendix 11.3. Further details of phasing and rock processing, etc., will be provided post-consent.

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		and follow the survey requirements set out in Scottish Government Guidance) with all the built elements and excavation areas overlain so it can clearly be seen how the development minimises disturbance of peat and the consequential release of CO_2; i) Sections and plans detailing how restoration will be progressed including the phasing, profiles, depths and types of materials to be used; and j) Details of how the rock will be processed in order to produce a grade of rock that will not cause siltation problems during its end use on tracks, trenches and other hardstanding.				
96		A Schedule of Mitigation supported by the aforementioned site specific maps and plans must be submitted. These must include reference to best practice pollution prevention and construction techniques and regulatory requirements. They should set out the daily responsibilities of the Environmental Clerk(s) of Works (ECoWs), how site inspections will be recorded and acted upon and proposals for a planning monitoring enforcement officer.	SEPA 27	55	Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology; Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation; and Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline CEMP	Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation includes all mitigation measures set out within the EIA Report. Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology includes site-specific information relating to the water environment. Please also refer to the Outline CEMP (Technical Appendix 3.1).

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97	Development Design	Proposals for life extension, repowering and / or decommissioning must demonstrate accordance with SEPA Guidance on the life extension and decommissioning of onshore wind farms.	SEPA 28	55	Chapter 3: Description of Development	Life extension and repowering proposals are not included within the EIA Report. Details on decommissioning are discussed in section 3.6 of Chapter 3.
98	Pollution and Waste	The submission needs to demonstrate that there will be no discarding of materials that are likely to be classified as waste as any such proposals would be unacceptable under waste management licensing.	SEPA 29	55	Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline CEMP	Waste management is addressed in the Outline CEMP. It is not anticipated that any excavated waste materials would be generated during the works as all would be re-used on site.
99	Forestry	If any tree felling is required to allow for improvements to the Achany Wind Farm access track, compensatory planting may be required as per the Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal.	SF 01	56	Chapter 5: Scope and Consultation	No felling is proposed.
100		Scottish Forestry agrees with the Applicant's proposal to exclude forestry from the EIA for the Proposed Development and has no further comments to make at this stage. However, Scottish Forestry would like to be included in further consultation.	SF 02	56	Chapter 5: Scope and Consultation	Noted.
101	Infrastructure	Scottish Water has no objection to the Proposed Development. The Applicant should be aware that this does not confirm that the Proposed Development can currently be serviced.	SW 01	61	N/A	Noted.

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102		Scottish Water records indicate that there are no Scottish Water drinking water catchments or water abstraction sources, which are designated as Drinking Water Protected Areas under the Water Framework Directive, in the area that may be affected by the proposed activity.	SW 02	62	Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Noted. A review of potential hydrological sensitivities has been carried out within the noted chapter.
103	Infrastructure, Development Design	Scottish Water will not accept any surface water connections into their combined sewer system, except in limited exceptional circumstances for brownfield sites only.	SW 03	62	N/A	Noted.
104	Infrastructure	The developer should be aware that Scottish Water requires land title to the area of land where a pumping station and / or SuDS proposed to vest in Scottish Water is constructed.	SW 04	63	N/A	Noted.
105	Pollution and Waste	Certain discharges from non-domestic premises may constitute a trade effluent in terms of the Sewerage (Scotland) Act 1968.	SW 05	63	Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline CEMP	Pollution control measures are set out in the Outline CEMP (Technical Appendix 3.1).
106	EIA Scope, Traffic and Transport	Transport Scotland would request that potential trunk road related environmental impacts such as driver delay, pedestrian amenity, severance, safety, etc. be considered and assessed where appropriate, i.e. where IEMA Guidelines for further assessment are breached.	TS 01	66	Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport	Impacts on the trunk road network have been assessed in line with IEMA guidelines, as detailed in the noted Chapter.

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107		In the case of the EIA Report, the methods adopted to assess the likely traffic and transportation impacts on traffic flows and transportation infrastructure should comprise: • Determination of the baseline traffic and transportation conditions, and the sensitivity of the site and existence of any receptors likely to be affected in proximity of the trunk road network; • Review of the development proposals to determine the predicted construction and operational requirements; and • Assessment of the significance of predicted impacts from these transport requirements, taking into account impact magnitude (before and after mitigation) and baseline environmental sensitivity.	TS 02	66	Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport	The noted chapter assesses the likely traffic and transport impacts of the Proposed Development, detailing the required information.
108		Where significant changes in traffic are not noted for any link, no further assessment needs to be undertaken.	TS 03	66	Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport	Significance of impacts on traffic and transport are detailed in the noted chapter.
109		It is note that any impacts associated with the operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development are to be scoped out of the EIA. Transport Scotland consider this acceptable in this instance.	TS 04	66	Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport	Noted.
110		Transport Scotland will require to be satisfied that the size of turbines proposed can negotiate the selected route and that their	TS 05	66	Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport; and	The noted Chapter is supported by Technical Appendix 13.2: Route Survey Report which details the abnormal load

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		transportation will not have any detrimental effect on structures within the trunk road route path. A full Abnormal Loads Assessment report should be provided with the EIA Report that identifies 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.			Technical Appendix 13.2: Route Survey Report	route, swept path analysis and associated mitigation.
111	Description of Development	The description of the Proposed Development set out in the EIA Report must include: • A description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and the full land-use requirements during the operational, construction and decommissioning phases; • A description of the main characteristics of the production processes, for instance, nature and quantity of the materials used; • The risk of accidents, having regard to substances or technologies used; • An estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light / flicker, heat, radiation, etc.)	THC 01	10	Chapter 3: Description of Development	Chapter 3: Description of Development details the specific elements of the Proposed Development. The assessment of the Proposed Development is undertaken throughout the EIA Report

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		resulting from the operation of the development; and • The estimated cumulative impact of the project with other consented or operational developments.				
112	Alternatives	The EIA Report should outline the main development alternatives studied and an indication of the main reasons for the final project choice.	THC 02	11	Chapter 2: Site Selection and Design Evolution	Chapter 2: Site Selection and Design Evolution details the alternatives studied by the Applicant.
113	Assessment	The EIA Report must provide a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected.	THC 03	11	Throughout the EIA Report	The assessment of the Proposed Development is undertaken throughout the EIA Report.
114	Land Use and Policy	The EIA Report should recognise the existing land uses affected by the Proposed Development having regard for THC's Development Plan and supplementary guidance, particularly the Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance. Scottish Government policy and guidance on renewable energy and wind energy should be considered in this section. It is expected that a Planning Statement will also support an application to explore compliance with the Development Plan and consider Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Notes which identify the issues that should be taken	THC 04	11	Chapter 6: Planning; and Planning Statement	These policy documents are referenced within the noted Chapter and the Planning Statement which accompanies the EIA Report.

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		into account when considering significant development.				
115	Landscape and Visual	THC expects the EIA Report to consider the landscape and visual impact of the Proposed Development.	THC 05	11	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual	Landscape and visual impacts are considered in the noted chapter.
116		While not mutually exclusive, landscape and visual elements require separate assessment and therefore presentation of visual material in different ways. Photomontages should follow the Council's Visualisation Standards.	THC 06	11	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity; EIA Report Volume 3B: THC Visualisations; Technical Appendix 7.1: Technical Methodologies for Visual Representation.	Visualisations produced to the THC 'Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Development' (2016) are included as Volume 3B of the EIA Report and images for the panoramic viewer have been supplied. Technical details of visualisation are included in Technical Appendix 7.1: Technical Methodologies for Visual Representations.
117	Visualisations	Separate volumes of visualisations should be prepared to both Highland Council (THC) Standards and NatureScot (previously SNH) guidance. These should be provided in hard copy. The use of monochrome for specific viewpoints is useful where there are a number of different wind farms in view.	THC 07	11	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity (and associated Technical Appendices); and EIA Report Volume 3B: THC Visualisations.	This has been undertaken. Volume 3A contains visualisations prepared to NatureScot Guidance. Volume 3B contains visualisations prepared to THC guidance.
118		All existing turbines should be re-rendered in visualisations even if they appear to be facing the viewer in the photograph to ensure consistency.	THC 08	11-12	Technical Appendix 7.1: Technical Methodologies for Visual Representations.	This has been undertaken. Please refer to Technical Appendix 7.1: Technical Methodologies for Visual Representations.
119	EIA Scope, LVIA	The LVIA should include the expected impact of on-site borrow pits and access roads.	THC 09	12	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity	These elements have been included in the assessment in the noted chapter.

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120	Cumulative Study Area	The cumulative assessment study area should be the same as the visual assessment.	THC 10	12	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity	A study area of 40km was agreed with THC for the landscape, visual and cumulative assessments, in accordance with best practice guidance (SNH 2017g), and is set out in the noted chapter.
121		To identify other schemes within the study area, the Applicant should use THC's Interactive Wind Turbine Map. Consultation should also be undertaken with ECU to understand which schemes are currently at scoping stage.	THC 11	12	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity	The Interactive Wind Turbine Map has been used to identify cumulative sites. The final list of cumulative sites to be included in the assessment has been agreed with THC and NatureScot.
122	Viewpoints	Viewpoints for the assessment of effects must be agreed in advance with THC once the size and scale of the turbines have been established.	THC 12	12	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity	The final list of VPs has been agreed with THC and NS.
123		Viewpoints should correspond with the viewpoints used for existing wind energy schemes in the area and those currently under consideration.	THC 13	12	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity	This has been considered in the selection of viewpoints. The final list of VPs has been agreed with THC and NatureScot.
124		Community councils may request additional viewpoints and any pre-application discussions with the local community should take this into account.	THC 14	12	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity	The final list of VPs has been agreed with THC and NatureScot. Recommendations for viewpoint locations noted during the scoping (and scoping refresh) process have been taken into account. There has not been any known VP requests from community councils.

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125		The final list of viewpoints should be agreed with the planning authority.	THC 15	12	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity	The final list of VPs has been agreed with THC and NS.
126		The purpose of the selected and agreed viewpoints shall be clearly identified and stated in the supporting information.	THC 16	12	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity (and associated Technical Appendices);	This is set out in the noted chapter and associated appendices.
127	Study Area and Wirelines	If the turbines proposed are greater than 150 m THC would encourage the study area to be a minimum of 45 km. THC are content with a 35 km study area for turbines less than 149.9 m in height.	THC 17	12	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity	Turbines are proposed up to 149.9m. The Study Area is 40 km in line with current best practice guidance (Visual Representation of Wind Farms, v2.2 (SNH / NatureScot, 2017) a detailed study area of 20 km is proposed for assessment of residential areas and landscape character types.
128	Recreational Routes	The assessment of impact on recreational routes should include all core paths, the national cycle network, long distance trails and the North Coast 500.	THC 18	12	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity; and Chapter 14: Socio-Economics and Tourism	This has been undertaken within the noted chapters.
129	Cumulative	The study area for cumulative impacts should extend to a minimum of 35 km.	THC 19	12-13	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity	Agreement on cumulative assessment study areas of 40km has occurred in consultation with THC and is set out in the noted chapter.
130		Given the cumulative impact of renewable energy in this area it is expected that the Applicant should present images for presentation with the Panoramic Digital Viewer deployed by THC.	THC 20	13	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity	Images for the panoramic viewer have been supplied.

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131	Landscape	The SNH 2019 landscape character assessment should be used.	THC 21	13	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity	The SNH 2019 Landscape Character Assessment has been referred to in the noted chapter.
132		An assessment on Wild Land Areas should be included within the EIA Report given the proximity to a number of wild land areas and theoretical visibility within these areas. SNH will provide further advice.	THC 22	13	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity (including associated Technical Appendices)	An assessment on Wild Land Areas 34 and 37 has been undertaken in agreement with NatureScot and is provided in the noted chapter and associated appendices.
133		The EIA Report should include an assessment of the proposal against the criterion set out in THC's Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (OWESG) to be included in the LVIA.	THC 23	13	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity	An assessment of the Proposed Development against relevant OWESG criterion is presented in Technical Appendix 7.11.
134		The landscape assessment should assess the impacts on any landscapes designated at a national and local scale including the impact on Special Landscape Areas (SLA) using the SLA citations available on the Council's website.	THC 24	13	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity; and Technical Appendix 7.4: Assessment of Designated and Protected Landscapes	The LVIA considers the effects on all nationally and locally designated landscapes as detailed in Chapter 7, Section 7.6 and Technical Appendix 7.4: Assessment of Designated and Protected Landscapes including review of citations
135	Aviation Lighting	Due to the scale of turbines being proposed, aviation lighting may be required which should be assessed. A Lighting Impact Assessment will be required and should be considered from all viewpoints and form part of the LVIA chapter and considered in the wild land assessment.	THC 25	13	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity	The selection of a turbine with tip height below 150m removes the requirement for visible aviation lighting.

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136	Baseline Ecology Surveys	The EIA Report should provide a baseline survey of the bird and animals (mammals, reptiles, amphibians etc.) and the habitats present on the site. Habitat enhancement and mitigation measures should be detailed, particularly in respect to blanket bog in the context of both biodiversity conservation and risk of peat slide.	THC 26	13	Chapter 8: Ecology (and associated Technical Appendices – see comments section)	Baseline surveys are presented in Technical Appendices 8.1 – 8.5. Mitigation measures are presented in Section 8.9 of the noted chapter; compensatory habitat enhancement measures with respect to blanket bog are presented in Section 8.17; and also within the HMP (Technical Appendix 8.10).
137		The EIA Report should provide a baseline survey of plants (and fungi) and trees present on the site.	THC 27	13	Chapter 8: Ecology (and associated Technical Appendices – see comments section)	Ecological baseline surveys are presented in Technical Appendices 8.1 – 8.5.
138	Designated ecological sites	The EIA Report should address the likely impacts on the nature conservation interested of all designated sites in the vicinity of the site and provide proposals for any mitigation to reduce any impacts to not significant.	THC 28	13	Chapter 8: Ecology; Technical Appendix 8.6: EcIA Scoping Rational; and Chapter 9: Ornithology (and associated Technical Appendices)	The scoping of potential impacts on sites designated for ecological features are presented in Technical Appendix 8.6. Mitigation measures and are presented in Section 8.8 of Chapter 8: Ecology. Potential impacts on the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SPA and Ramsar Site are considered in this Chapter 9: Ornithology and addressed in Technical Appendixes 9.1 and 9.2, including in relation to the SPA's Conservation Objectives. Potential impacts on the Grudie Peatlands SSSI are considered in this chapter and addressed in Technical

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						Appendix 9.1. Mitigation measures are presented in the Chapter 9, Section 9.8**.**
139	Wild Deer	If wild deer are present or use the site, an assessment of the potential impact on deer will be required.	THC 29	13	Chapter 8: Ecology; Technical Appendix 8.6: EcIA Scoping Rational; and Technical Appendix 8.9: DMP	An assessment of the potential impact on deer as a result of the Proposed Development is included in the noted chapter. The scoping of potential impacts on designated sites are presented in Technical Appendix 8.6. A DMP is also included as Technical Appendix 8.9.
140	Aquatic Interests	The EIA Report should address the aquatic interests within local watercourses or downstream, that may be impacted by the Proposed Development. The EIA Report should evidence consultation input from local fishery boards where relevant.	THC 30	13-14	Chapter 8: Ecology Technical Appendix 8.5*:* Aquatic Ecology & Fisheries Survey Report*;* Technical Appendix 8.6: EcIA Scoping Rational; and Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Freshwater ecology, aquatic habitats, fish and designated sites are considered within the ecology chapter. An Aquatic Ecology & Fisheries Survey Report is presented in Technical Appendix 8.5. The scoping of potential impacts on aquatic interest within local watercourses is presented in Technical Appendix 8.6. Engineering activities in the water environment are considered in Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology.
141	GWDTE	The EIA Report should include an assessment on Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems.	THC 31	14	Chapter 8: Ecology; and Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology.	Impacts on GWDTEs are assessed in Chapter 8: Ecology and Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology.
142	Ornithology	The presence of protected species such as Schedule 1 or European Protected Species	THC 32	14	Chapter 8: Ecology (including associated	An assessment of potential effects on such species is included in the noted chapters

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		must be considered as part of the planning application, not at a later stage.			Technical Appendices); and Chapter 9: Ornithology (including associated Technical Appendices)	(and associated appendices), informed by recent survey effort.
143		An assessment of the impacts to birds through collision, disturbance and displacement will be required for both the development site and cumulatively with other proposals. The EIA Report should clearly set out the survey methods.	THC 33	14	Chapter 9: Ornithology; and Technical Appendix 9.1: Survey Methods and Results.	An assessment of the potential impact of the Proposed Development, both in isolation and cumulatively, on birds through collision, disturbance and displacement is provided in the noted chapter. Collision risk modelling has been completed and is in Technical Appendix 9.1 and the noted chapter.
144	Survey Methodology, Noise	An operational noise assessment should be carried out in accordance with ETSI-R-97 "The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms" and the associated Good Practice Guide published by the Institute of Acoustics.	THC 34	14	Chapter 15: Noise	The assessment of operational noise has been carried out in accordance with the stated guidance, as described in the noted chapter.
145	Operational Noise	The target noise levels are either a simplified standard of 35 dB LA90 at wind speeds up to 10 m/s or a composite standard of 35 dB LA90 (daytime) and 38 dB LA90 (nigh time) or up to 5 dB above background noise levels up to 12 m/s. The night time lower limit of 43 dB LA90 as suggested in ETSU is not acceptable in many areas of the Highlands due to the very low background levels. These limits would	THC 35	14	Chapter 15: Noise	The noted chapter includes the required details.

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		apply to cumulative noise levels from more than one development.				
146	Cumulative Noise	The noise assessment must take into account the potential cumulative effect from any other existing or consented, or in some cases, proposed wind turbine developments. The noise assessment must take into account predicted and consented levels from such developments. A map should be included showing all wind farm development which may have a cumulative effect and all noise sensitive properties including any for which financial involvement relaxation is being claimed.	THC 36	14	Chapter 15: Noise; and Figure 15.1: Cumulative Noise Contour Plot	The noted chapter includes an assessment of cumulative noise effects A map showing all wind farm development which may have a cumulative effect and all noise sensitive properties, including those which financial involvement relaxation is being claimed, has been prepared as requested. See Figure 15.1.
147		The assessment should include a table of figures which includes: • The predicted levels from this development based at each noise sensitive location (NSL) at wind speeds up to 12 m/s. • The maximum levels based on consented limits for each existing or consented scheme at each NSL. • The predicted levels from each existing or consented wind farm development at each NSL.	THC 37	14-15	Chapter 15: Noise; and Technical Appendix 15.2: Sound Power Levels and Cumulative Noise	The noted chapter and Technical Appendix 15.2 include the required details.

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		• The cumulative levels based on consented and predicted levels at each NSL.				
148	Background Noise Measurements	Background Noise surveys should be undertaken in accordance with ETSU-R-97 and the Good Practice Guide. Monitoring locations should be agreed with the Councils Environmental Health Officer. Sites should avoid other noise sources.	THC 38	15	Chapter 15: Noise	The background noise survey was undertaken in accordance with the stated guidance, as described in the noted chapter. Monitoring locations were agreed with the THC EHO.
149	Construction Noise	Where there is potential for disturbance from construction noise, the application will need to include a noise assessment. Construction noise assessment should be carried out in accordance with BS 5228-1:2009 “Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites – Part 1: Noise”. Details of mitigation measures should be provided.	THC 39	15	Chapter 15: Noise	The potential for disturbance from construction noise, in accordance with the noted guidance, is assessed in the noted Chapter.
150		Regardless of whether a construction noise assessment is required, the best practicable means to reduce the impact of noise from construction activities should be employed.	THC 40	15	Chapter 15: Noise	Best Practicable Means to reduce the impact of noise from construction activities will be adopted as presented in the noted Chapter.
151	Noise Exposure	When assessing the cumulative impact from more than one wind farm, consideration must be given to any increase in exposure time.	THC 41	16	Chapter 15: Noise	An assessment of cumulative noise is included in the noted Chapter. As requested, consideration has been given to exposure time, as discussed in the noted chapter.

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152	Cultural Heritage	All designated sites which may be affected by the Proposed Development either directly or indirectly should be identified.	THC 42	16	Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	Potential for direct and indirect effects on cultural heritage assets have been addressed in the noted chapter.
153		An assessment should contain full appreciation of the setting of historic environment assets and the likely impact on their settings. If the assessment finds that significant impacts are likely, it would be helpful for appropriate visualisations to provided illustrating views both from the asset towards the Proposed Development and views towards the asset with the Proposed Development in the background.	THC 43	16	Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage; and Figures 12.3.1-12.3.3: Cultural Heritage Viewpoint 1: Dial Langwell	The setting of historic assets has been assessed in the noted chapter. A visualisation from Dail Broch SM has also been provided (see Figures 12.3.1-12.3.3).
154		There are a large number of heritage assets in the vicinity of the Proposed Development; these need to be assessed. HES have provided detailed advice on potential setting impacts.	THC 44	16	Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	Potential for direct and indirect effects on cultural heritage assets has been addressed in the noted chapter.
155		The Applicant should liaise with the Council's Historic Environment Team on the scope of archaeological assessments.	THC 45	16	Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	The scope of the cultural heritage assessment is provided in the noted chapter.
156	Water Environment	The EIA Report should address the nature of the hydrology and hydrogeology of the site and potential impacts on watercourses, water supplies (including PWS), water quality, and water quantity and on aquatic flora and fauna. Measures to prevent affects will be required	THC 46	16	Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology (including associated Technical Appendices); Chapter 8 Ecology; and	The nature of the hydrology and hydrogeology of the Site, and potential impacts on watercourses, water supplies (including PWS), water quality, and water quantity are addressed Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology and accompanying appendices.

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		along with monitoring proposals and contingency plans.			Technical Appendix 8.5: Aquatic Ecology & Fisheries Survey Report	Potential impacts on aquatic flora and fauna are addressed in Chapter 8: Ecology. An Aquatic Ecology & Fisheries Survey Report is included as Technical Appendix 8.5.
157	Watercourse Crossings	Schemes should be designed to avoid crossing watercourses and to bridge watercourses where this cannot be avoided. The EIA Report should identify all water crossings and include a systematic table of watercourse crossings or channelising with detailed justification for the need and design to minimise impact. The table should be accompanied by photography of each watercourse affected and dimensions.	THC 47	16-17	Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology; and Technical Appendix 10.1: Watercourse Crossings Assessment	Watercourse crossing information is provided in Technical Appendix 10.1: Watercourse Crossings Assessment
158	Abstractions	The EIA Report should identify whether a public or private source would be utilised for any abstraction of water supplies. If a private source is to be utilised, full details on the source and details of abstraction need to be provided.	THC 48	17	Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology	No groundwater abstractions for public water supply are located within 250m of the Proposed Development.
159	PWS	Any private water supplies should be investigated including pipework, which may be affected by the Proposed Development. Measures proposed to prevent contamination or physical disruption should be provided. THC has some information on known supplies but it	THC 49	17	Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology	THC records and the site survey confirmed there are no PWS within 250m of the Site as described in the noted chapter). Infrastructure within the upper catchment area of the Badintagairt PWS has been used to inform the sensitivity of

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		is not definitive. An on-site survey will be required.				watercourses in the study area but a separate detailed risk assessment for PWS is not required as water quality mitigation measures are considered in the noted chapter.
160	Peat	The EIA Report should consider the risks of engineering instability relating to the presence to peat on the site.	THC 50	17	Technical Appendix 11.2: PLHRA	A PLHRA is included in Technical Appendix 11.2.
161		A comprehensive peat slide risk assessment should be carried out in accordance with the Scottish Government Best Practice Guide for Developers. This should include a detailed map of peat depth and evidence that the scheme minimises impact on deep peat. The EIA Report should include site specific principles on which construction methods would be developed for engineering works on peat.	THC 51	17	Chapter 11: Geology and Carbon Balance; and Technical Appendix 11.2: PLHRA	A PLHRA is included in Technical Appendix 11.2.
162		The EIA Report should include a full assessment on the impact of the Proposed Development on peat. This must include peat probing for all areas where Proposed Development is proposed including areas subject to micrositing limits.	THC 52	17	Chapter 11: Geology and Carbon Balance (and associated Technical Appendices)	Peat depth probing has been carried out across the Site to inform the layout, and assessment of effects. Please refer to the noted chapter and associated appendices.
163	Carbon Balance	Carbon balance calculations should be undertaken and included in the EIA Report	THC 53	17	Chapter 11: Geology and Carbon Balance; and	A carbon balance calculation has been undertaken as reported in the noted chapter and Technical Appendix 11.4.

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		with a summary of the results focussing on the carbon payback period for the wind farm.			Technical Appendix 11.4: Carbon Calculation	
164	Geology and Borrow Pits	The EIA Report should describe the significant effects of the Proposed Development on local geology. Where borrow pits are proposed, the EIA Report should include information on the location, size and nature and on the depth of the borrow pit to the floor and reinstated profile.	THC 54	17	Chapter 11: Geology and Carbon Balance; and Technical Appendix 11.1: Borrow Pit Report	Potential effects on geology are provided in the noted chapter. A Borrow Pit Report is included in Technical Appendix 11.1.
165	Traffic and Transport	A Transport Assessment or section on traffic and transportation will be required in the EIA Report. Where necessary, measures to mitigate impact of the Proposed Development on the road network should be set out.	THC 55	17-18, 21	Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport; and Technical Appendix 13.1: Transport Assessment	The noted Chapter is supported by Technical Appendix 13.1: Transport Assessment which includes the required details.
166		The chosen Port of Entry and preferred route for the AIL shall be clearly demonstrated and include details of alternative routes considered. The proposed route for general construction traffic should also be identified and reviewed within the EIA Report.	THC 56	21	Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport (and associated Technical Appendices)	The noted Chapter is supported by Technical Appendix 13.1: Transport Assessment and Technical Appendix 13.2: Route Survey Report which include the required details.
167		Matters to be covered in the transport assessment include:	THC 57	18-19	Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport; and Technical Appendix 13.1: Transport Assessment	The noted Chapter is supported by Technical Appendix 13.1: Transport Assessment, which includes the required details.

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		Identify all public roads affected by the Proposed Development and routes used by suppliers; • Establish current condition of the roads and will involve and engineering appraisal of the routes; • Traffic resulting from the Proposed Development; • Current traffic flows; • Impacts of proposed traffic on roads, users, communities and a swept path analysis; • Cumulative impacts with other developments; and • Proposed mitigation measures to address impacts				
168		The EIA Report should consider implications on the Trunk Road network.	THC 58	19	Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport	Potential impacts on the trunk road network have been assessed in the noted chapter.
169		The EIA Report should include a framework traffic management plan aimed at minimising impact of the construction traffic.	THC 59	21	Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport; and Technical Appendix 13.1: Transport Assessment	Technical Appendix 13.1: Transport Assessment includes a Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP).
170	Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism	Socio-economic, recreation and tourism should have its own chapter in the EIA Report. The EIA Report should estimate who may be affected by the Proposed Development and should include relevant economic information connected with the project and set out the	THC 60	19	Chapter 14: Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism	The requested information is provided in the noted chapter.

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		impact on the regional and local economy, not just national.				
171	Recreation	A plan detailing the following should be submitted as part of the EIA Report: • Existing public non-motorised public access footpaths, bridleways, cycleways on the site and proposed access from the road infrastructure • Proposed public access provision both during construction and after completion of the Proposed Development, including links to existing path networks and to the surrounding areas, and access points to water; and • Impacts of the Proposed Development on the core paths and proposed mitigation, if any.	THC 61	19	Technical Appendix 14.2: Draft Outdoor Access Management Plan.	A Draft Outdoor Access Management Plan, which includes the requested information, is provided in Technical Appendix 14.2.
172	Access Management Plan	The application should be accompanied by an Access Management Plan.	THC 62	19	Technical Appendix 14.2: Draft Outdoor Access Management Plan.	A Draft Outdoor Access Management Plan is provided in Technical Appendix 14.2.
173	Existing Infrastructure	The EIA Report should consider impacts on existing infrastructure; TV radio, telecommunication links, aviation, radar, MOD safeguards. Any consultations with relevant authorities should be set out through the provision of written evidence.	THC 63	19	Chapter 16: Aviation; and Chapter 17: Other Issues	Potential impacts on aviation, radar, MOD safeguards are assessed in Chapter 16: Aviation. Potential impacts on TV radio, telecommunication links are considered in Chapter 17: Other Issues.

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174		There should be continued dialogue with HIAL over the impact on radar at airports in the area.	THC 64	19	Chapter 16: Aviation	Consultation responses from HIAL and potential effects on aviation are provided in the noted chapter.
175		If there are no effects on communication links this should still be explained in the EIA Report.	THC 65	19-20	Chapter 17: Other Issues	Potential impacts communication links are considered in the noted chapter.
176	Shadow Flicker	If there are no properties within 11 rotor diameters, shadow flicker will not require detailed assessment but should still be addressed in the EIA Report.	THC 66	20	Chapter 17: Other Issues	Noted. Shadow flicker is scoped out of the EIA Report, as described in the noted chapter.
177	Trees and Forestry	If any areas of woodland likely to be affected by the Proposed Development (including its access) the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland removal Policy must be addressed and compensatory planting calculations provided in the EIA Report.	THC 67	20	Chapter 5: Scope and Consultation	No felling is proposed.
178		The EIA Report should indicate all areas of woodland / trees that will be felled to accommodate the Proposed Development. Compensatory planting is an expectation for any felling.	THC 68	20	Chapter 5: Scope and Consultation	No felling is proposed.
179	Local Environment	Existing air quality and general qualities of the local environment including background noise, sunlight and prevailing wind should be considered in the EIA Report. Expected impacts of any development can be founded from this base data.	THC 69	20	Throughout the EIA Report, including Chapter 17: Other Issues.	Local environmental factors, including air quality, are considered in Chapter 17: Other Issues and have also been considered in Chapter throughout the EIA Report.

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180	Dust	Depending on the proximity of working areas to house, the Applicant may be required to submit a scheme for the suppression of dust during construction.	THC 70	20	Chapter 17: Other Issues; and Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline CEMP	Potential impacts arising from dust during construction are considered in Chapter 17: Other Issues and Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline CEMP
181	Climate	The EIA Report needs to address all relevant climatic factors which can greatly influence the impact range of many of the preceding factors on account of seasonal changes affecting, rainfall, sunlight, prevailing wind direction, etc.	THC 71		Throughout the EIA Report, including Chapter 17: Other Issues	Climate change is considered in Chapter 17: Other Issues and throughout other chapters of the EIA Report, where relevant.
182	CEMD	An outline CEMD should be included with the application.	THC 72	20	Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline CEMP	An Outline CEMP is included as Technical Appendix 3.1.
183	Significant Effects	The EIA Report needs to describe the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment; direct and indirect effects, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative, resulting from the existence of the Proposed Development; use of natural resources and emission of pollutants	THC 73	20-21	Throughout the EIA Report	The assessment of likely significant environmental effects is undertaken throughout the technical chapters of the EIA Report.
184	Mitigation	A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset significant adverse impacts on the environment must be set out in the EIA Report. A clear summary table of all mitigation measures associated with the Proposed Development	THC 75	21	Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation Measures	Mitigation measures are identified within each Technical Chapter. A Schedule of Mitigation Measures is included in Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	2019 Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		should be provided and entitled draft 'Schedule of Mitigation'.				
185	Tourism	It is suggested that full consideration be given to the Scottish Government's 2008 research on the impact of wind farms on tourism. The report highlights a request, as part of the planning process, to provide a tourism impact statement as part of the EIA.	VS 01	69	Chapter 14: Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism	Tourism and recreation effects have been considered in the noted chapter, with reference to the Scottish Government's 2008 research on the impact of wind farms on tourism.
186		VisitScotland strongly recommend any potential detrimental impact of the Proposed Development on tourism – whether visually, environmentally and economically – be identified and considered in full.	VS 02	69	Chapter 14: Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism	Potential effects on tourism and recreation have been considered in the noted chapter.
187		It is recommended that an independent tourism assessment should be carried out. This should be geographically sensitive and consider the potential impact on any tourism offerings in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. The impact of any perceived proliferation of developments may have on the local tourism industry, and the local economy, should also be considered.	VS 03	69	Chapter 14: Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism	A tourism assessment is included in the noted chapter.