



Cloiche Wind Farm

Gate Check Report

December 2019



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1. Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Gate Check Report has been prepared by ASH design + assessment Limited (ASH) on behalf of SSE Generation Ltd (SSEG), hereafter referred to as ‘the Applicant’. This report is submitted to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) of the Scottish Government in advance of an application to the Scottish Ministers under Section 36 of The Electricity Act 1989 for consent to construct a new onshore wind farm to generate renewable electricity from wind power. Deemed planning permission under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1997, as amended, will also be sought.
- 1.1.2 The wind farm would be located on Glendoe and Garrogie Estates, adjacent to the operational Stronelaig Wind Farm and Glendoe Hydroelectric Scheme, and approximately 11km to the south-east of Fort Augustus. The wind farm is referred to hereafter as ‘the Proposed Development’.
- 1.1.3 The location of the Proposed Development is shown on Figure 1.
- 1.1.4 The application for consent will be supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. A Scoping Report for the Proposed Development setting out the proposed scope of the EIA Report was submitted to the Scottish Ministers on 27th August 2018 with a request for a formal Scoping Opinion. A Scoping Opinion was subsequently issued by the Scottish Ministers on 18th December 2018.
- 1.1.5 The Scoping Opinion is deemed to be valid for 12 months, beyond which point it is recommended that Scottish Ministers are asked to advise on additional scoping requirements. It is currently anticipated that submission of the application would be in Spring 2020, beyond the 12 month period. However, it is considered that the project remains largely similar to that presented at scoping albeit the reduction in turbine height to below 150m removes any requirement to assess turbine lighting from the EIA Report. **As part of this gate check process, consultees and the ECU are requested to confirm validation of the Scoping Opinion to Spring 2020** (i.e. the intended submission timeframe).

1.2 Purpose of this Report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this Gate Check Report is to satisfy the requirements of the gate checking procedures for Applications under Section 36 of The Electricity Act 1989, namely to outline consultations with statutory and non-statutory consultees, engagement with the local community and how matters raised during the scoping process have been dealt with in the EIA Report. This report also outlines the key considerations that have been taken into account during the design evolution of the Proposed Development.

2. The Proposed Development

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The layout of the Proposed Development has been subject to an iterative and detailed engineering and operational design process. Detailed collaborative design (including high resolution phase two peat probing) has been enabled by the use of AutoDesk InfraWorks infrastructure design software, enabling a mature design to be presented with the application, and assessed as part of the EIA Report. The aim of this exercise is to provide more certainty on the layout of the Proposed Development at application stage, thus minimising further iterations during the detailed design and construction phases.

2.2 Main Components

2.2.1 The Proposed Development would consist of 36 wind turbine generators (WTG) with a tip height of 149.9m. The Proposed Development would be split into two parts, one to the west of Stronelairg Wind Farm comprising 28 turbines, and one to the east of Stronelairg Wind Farm comprising 8 turbines. It is intended that both parts of the Proposed Development would be designed, permitted, constructed and operated as a single project. The Proposed Development is illustrated on Figure 1.

2.2.2 Section 36 consent is therefore being sought for:

- Thirty six wind turbines of 149.9m tip height with internal transformers;
- Crane hardstanding area at each wind turbine location;
- LiDAR units to collect wind and weather data;
- On site access tracks;
- A new on-site substation; and
- A network of underground cabling to connect each wind turbine to the on-site substation.

2.2.3 Ancillary works required to facilitate the construction and operation of the Proposed Development would include:

- Site establishment area at the wind farm site;
- A further site establishment area close to the B862 to house site cabins and welfare facilities;
- a temporary concrete batching plant;
- temporary telecommunications infrastructure;
- a temporary construction compound and storage area; and
- borrow pits.

2.2.4 The Proposed Development would utilise existing infrastructure and access tracks for the Glendoe Hydroelectric scheme and Stronelairg Wind Farm where possible, including the main access off the B862.

2.3 Design Evolution

2.3.1 The scale and design of the Proposed Development has evolved through a number of design iterations.

- 2.3.2 Two search areas were initially established, as referred to above (see also Figure 1). All technical and environmental studies focussed on these areas to determine where turbines could be located to maximise energy yield and minimise significant environmental effects.

Alternative Layouts

- 2.3.3 A brief description of the key design iterations are detailed below. Further information on these iterations will be provided within the Consideration of Alternatives chapter in the EIA Report, as well as a Design Statement that will form an appendix to the EIA Report.
- 2.3.4 Following a high level landscape appraisal of the land available for development to the north, south, east and west of the Stronelairg Wind Farm site, an initial layout of 40 turbines was identified. This layout took into account the findings of the high level landscape and visual appraisal, as well as initial environmental constraints data such as Stage 1 peat probing results and watercourse buffers. Turbines were proposed to have a tip height of 175m at this stage.
- 2.3.5 This initial layout was subject to an iterative review process that has given due consideration to the following potential constraints and opportunities for the site:
- Landscape and visual effects from key viewpoints and sensitive receptors, and design considerations in order to achieve an appropriate distribution and pattern of turbines (in combination with the operational Stronelairg Wind Farm);
 - Minimising development in areas of deeper peat;
 - Minimising potential effects on sensitive habitats, including Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE) where identified;
 - Minimising potential effects on protected species, including birds;
 - Application of an approximate 100m buffer from infrastructure and the Monadhliath Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); and
 - Transportation of turbine components to site.
- 2.3.6 As a result of this initial review process, it was decided that the maximum tip height of turbines for the Proposed Development would be set at 149.9m. Furthermore, a small number of turbines were removed or relocated from the initial layout due to visual prominence and / or proximity to protected birds. A number of other turbine locations were adjusted slightly in order to achieve an improved distribution and pattern of turbines when viewed from particular viewpoints where possible.
- 2.3.7 A refined layout of 36 turbines was then identified. This was subjected to further review as part of the InfraWorks infrastructure design software, and further peat probing data as part of a Stage 2 Peat Probing exercise. The layout is presented in Figure 1.

3. Consultation

3.1 Scoping

3.1.1 A Scoping Report was submitted to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) on 27th August 2018 to determine the environmental information to be provided in the EIA Report. A Scoping Opinion was subsequently issued by the Scottish Ministers on 18th December 2018. The responses, contained within the Scoping Opinion, were considered in detail during the EIA process. Appendix 1 of this Report includes a matrix summarising the key issues that were raised in the Scoping Opinion and how and where they will be addressed in the EIA Report. A detailed scoping matrix will be included as an appendix to the EIA Report.

3.2 Key Scoping Issues

3.2.1 The Scoping Opinion made reference to site specific issues of interest to the Scottish Ministers, to be considered and addressed in addition to those laid out in responses from consultees. The issues raised were as follows.

Consultee Responses

In addition to specific comments from key consultees below, the Scottish Ministers expect the EIA report which will accompany any application for the proposed development to include full details showing that all the advice, guidance, concerns and requirements raised by each consultee in the correspondence attached at Annex A to this opinion, have been addressed.

3.2.2 The EIA Report will include a Scoping Matrix as an appendix outlining the key points raised within each Scoping consultee response, how these have been addressed or responded to, and where within the EIA Report the information can be found. A summary of this Scoping Matrix is included within Appendix 1 of this report.

Private Water Supplies

Scottish Ministers also request that the Developer investigates the presence of any private water supplies which may be impacted by the development. The EIA Report should include details of any supplies identified by this investigation, and if any supplies are identified, the Company should provide an assessment of the potential impacts, risks, and any mitigation which would be provided.

3.2.3 Data requests have been made to SEPA / THC with regard to private water supplies confirming no supplies are located within the site boundary. A site walkover has been carried out and an assessment will be included within the Hydrology and Hydrogeology chapter of the EIA Report.

EIA Directive

The application will be assessed against the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations. These include a requirement to consider impacts on biodiversity and on population and human health. Scottish Ministers would ask that you address these matters in your environmental impact assessment. One area that you may wish to consider is how traffic and transport impacts (for example noise and vibration) might impact upon human receptors.

- 3.2.4 Potential impacts from the Proposed Development in relation to biodiversity and on population and human health will be discussed within the EIA Report. Where these are not considered as part of wider assessments (such as effects on biodiversity being considered alongside effects on ecology) they will be grouped and discussed within an individual chapter.
- 3.2.5 Impacts arising from traffic and transport, inclusive of noise and vibration, will be addressed within the Traffic and Transport chapter.

Peat

It is important to ensure any energy generation proposal on peat does not result in an unacceptable degradation of peat stability or increase peat landslide risk, and does not give rise to any pollution effect on nearby watercourses. Furthermore Ministers will require to understand the potential for risk to population, human health and public safety where paths, roadways or properties could be impacted by landslides. Scottish Ministers consider that on sites such as Cloiche where there is a demonstrable requirement for peat landslide hazard and risk assessment, the assessment should be undertaken as part of the EIA process to provide Ministers with a clear understanding of whether the risks are acceptable and capable of being controlled by mitigation measures. The Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments (Second Edition)...should be followed in the preparation of the EIA Report, which should contain such an assessment and details of mitigation measures.

- 3.2.6 Potential impacts upon peat will be assessed within Chapter 11: Geology and Carbon Balance. This will include a Peat Landslide and Hazard Risk Assessment to ensure understanding of the risks of peat slide and that measures are taken, where required, to avoid any risks to population, human health and public safety. The assessment will be in accordance with current guidance.

Mitigation Measures

The Scottish Ministers are required to make a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the development on the environment as identified in the environmental impact assessment. The mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impacts identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. Applicants are also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures proposed in the environmental assessment report, provided in tabular form, where that mitigation is relied upon in relation to reported conclusions of likelihood or significance of impacts.

- 3.2.7 Each technical chapter of the EIA Report will detail the mitigation measures proposed to avoid, limit or reduce likely environmental impacts, where required. A consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures proposed throughout the EIA Report will be included.

Further Consultee Engagement

It is acknowledged that the environmental impact assessment process is iterative and should inform the final layout and design of proposed developments. Scottish Ministers note that further engagement between relevant parties in relation to the refinement of the design of this proposed development will be required, and would request that they are kept informed of on-going discussions in relation to this.

- 3.2.8 Following the scoping stage, further consultation with relevant statutory and non-statutory consultees has been undertaken where appropriate. This consultation is summarised below.

The Highland Council

- 3.2.9 The Applicant attended a pre-application meeting with The Highland Council, SNH, SEPA and CNPA as part of the Highland Council's pre-application service for major applications. The meeting was held on the 27th November 2019.
- 3.2.10 Prior to this, the Applicant met with The Highland Council's planning department on 31st October 2019 to discuss the project more generally.
- 3.2.11 Consultation has been undertaken with the Council's Transport Planning Team during August and September 2019 with regards to the detailed scope of the transport assessment. Transport Scotland were also included in this consultation.
- 3.2.12 The final list of viewpoints for the purposes of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), as agreed with SNH (see below), has been provided to The Highland Council.
- 3.2.13 Further engagement with the Council will be undertaken to share results of preliminary noise modelling.

Scottish Natural Heritage

- 3.2.14 Preliminary Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) diagrams and wirelines have been issued to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to assist in agreeing the viewpoint locations for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). Further comments have been provided by SNH which have informed the final selection of viewpoints.

Marine Scotland

- 3.2.15 Clarification was sought from Marine Scotland in August 2019 in relation to the requirement to undertake further electrofishing and hydrochemical sampling given the availability of existing data. Marine Scotland responded to confirm that assuming a precautionary approach was taken to the assessment, no further survey work would be required to inform the EIA Report.

Pre-Application Consultation

- 3.2.16 The Applicant is open to further pre-application discussions with the ECU, The Highland Council, SNH, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Cairngorms National Park Authority as required.

3.3 Community Engagement

- 3.3.1 In parallel with the statutory consultation process, consultation with the local community has been undertaken in the form of meetings with local residents and Community Councils. To date, this has included:
- Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council: Arranged a site visit to Stronelairg Wind Farm on 10th May 2019, and presentation to the Community Council regarding the Proposed Development on 30th May 2019;
 - Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council: Presentation to the Community Council regarding the Proposed Development on 29th May 2019; and

- Open public displays at Fort August Community Hall on 30th and 31st May 2019.

Public Exhibition

- 3.3.2 A public exhibition event will be held prior to the application being submitted in January or February 2020 to provide information on the project and gain feedback from local communities.
- 3.3.3 The exhibition will likely be held in Fort Augustus, Foyers and Laggan. The event will be advertised in the local area and in local newspapers, and the Applicant will contact the community council and local councillors directly to inform them of the upcoming event. Information about the exhibition will also be advertised on the project webpage.
- 3.3.4 Exhibition boards, and a digital model of the development will be on display at the event to introduce the project, explain the proposal and illustrate the preferred layout. A leaflet will be made available to provide key information about the project and contact details for attendees.
- 3.3.5 Comments from the public will be sought either directly or via forms to be returned to the exhibitors.

4. Submission Information

4.1 Submission

4.1.1 It is the intention to submit a Section 36 application for the Proposed Development during Spring 2020.

4.2 Advertisement

4.2.1 The application will be advertised in the Edinburgh Gazette, the Herald and the Inverness Courier newspapers. The advert will describe the application, state where copies of the EIA Report are located, state a date by which any persons can make representations to the Scottish Ministers in relation to the application, and the address to where representations are to be sent. A draft version of the advert will be provided to the ECU for comment and approval ahead of arranging the publications.

4.3 Public Viewing of EIA Report

4.3.1 The EIA Report prepared to support the Section 36 application for the Proposed Development will be available for public viewing at publicly accessible locations to be confirmed with The Highland Council and the ECU. The EIA Report will also be available at the Scottish Government Library at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ, or at www.energyconsents.scot.

4.4 Consultee Lists

4.4.1 The list of consultees to be sent a copy of the submitted EIA Report will be agreed with the ECU. It is anticipated to include those consultees in receipt of the Scoping Report, as noted in Table 1.

Table 1: Consultees to be issued the EIA Report

Statutory Consultees	
The Highland Council (THC)	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
Non Statutory Consultees	
BAA Aerodrome Safeguarding (Aberdeen)	National Air Traffic Services (NATS) Safeguarding
British Telecom (BT)	Ness and Beaully Fisheries Trust
Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA)	Ness District Salmon Fisheries Board
Civil Aviation Authority (Airspace)	Nuclear Safety Directorate (HSE)
Defence Infrastructure Organisation (MOD)	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland
Fisheries Management Scotland	Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) (Highlands)

Statutory Consultees	
Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) ¹	Scottish Water
Friends of the Earth Scotland	Scottish Wildland Group
Highlands and Islands Airports	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Ironside Farrar (as advisors to Scottish Government on peat)	Scotways
Inverness Chamber of Commerce	The Crown Estate Scotland
John Muir Trust	Transport Scotland
Joint Radio Company (JRC)	Visit Scotland
Marine Scotland	World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Scotland
Mountaineering Scotland	
Community Councils	
Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston	Stratherrick and Foyers
Laggan	

¹ As of April 2019, FCS became an agency of the Scottish Government known as *Scottish Forestry*.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1.1 SSE Generation Ltd welcomes any comments that the ECU or any of the statutory consultees may have in relation to this Gate Check Report.

Key

- Site Boundary
- Turbine
- LiDAR
- Track
- Hardstanding
- Substation

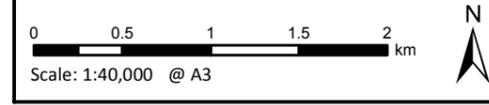
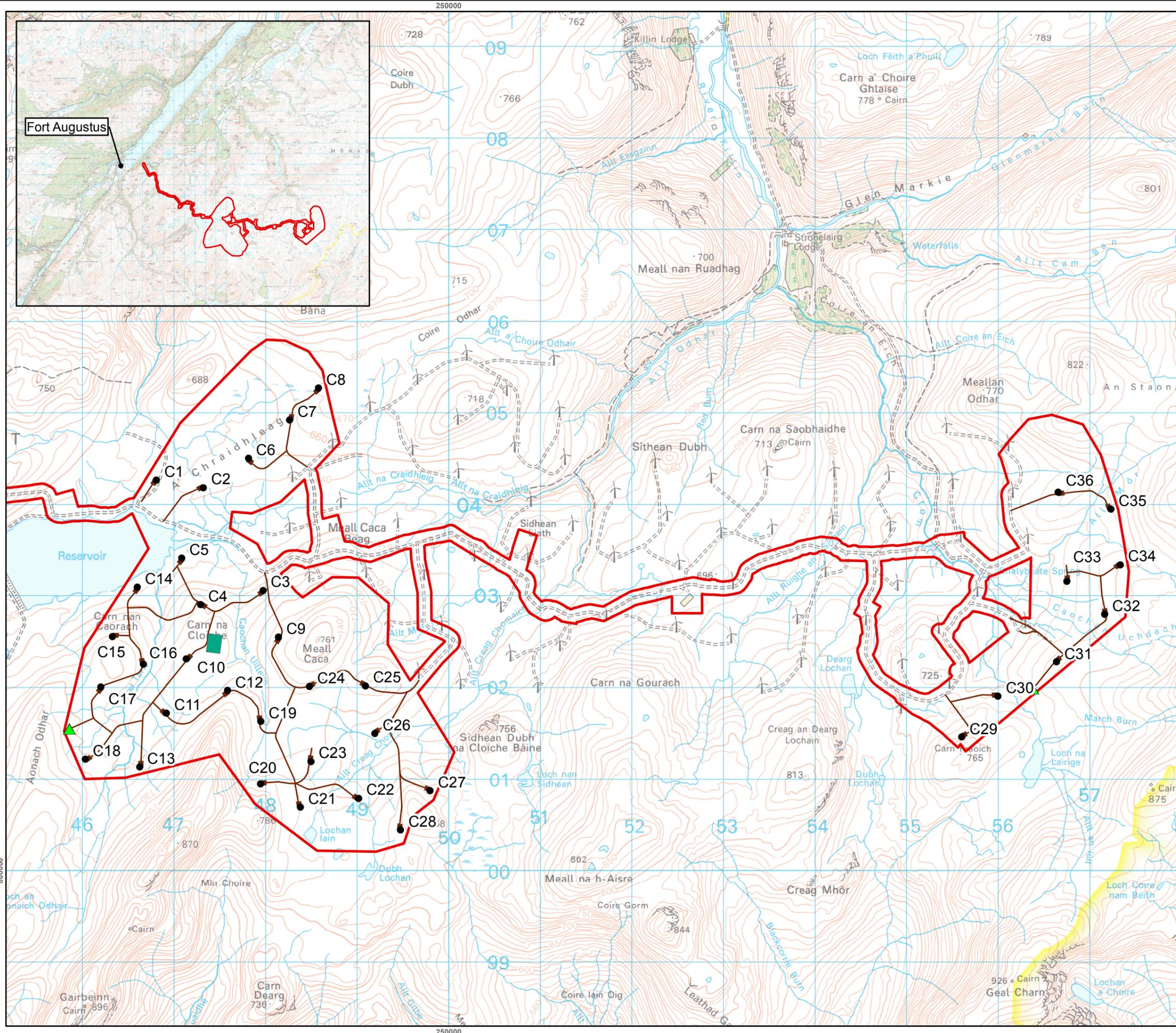


Figure 1

Site Layout

APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF EIA SCOPING RESPONSES AND ACTION TAKEN

Abbreviations

BT	British Telecommunication	NHZ	Natural Heritage Zone
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority Airspace	NPF3	National Planning Framework 3
CEMP	Construction Environment Management Plan	NSA	National Scenic Area
DIO	Defence Infrastructure Organisation	OS	Ordnance Survey
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	PMP	Peat Management Plan
FAGCC	Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council	RoW	Right of Way
FCS	Forestry Commission Scotland	RSPBS	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
FishC	Fisheries Committee	SAC	Special Area of Conservation
GWDTE	Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem	SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
HIAL	Highlands & Islands Airport Limited	SG	Scottish Government
THC	The Highland Council	SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
HES	Historic Environment Scotland	SLA	Special Landscape Area
HMP	Habitat Management Plan	SM	Scheduled Monument
HS	Historic Scotland	SPA	Special Protection Area
JMT	John Muir Trust	SPP	Scottish Planning Policy
JRC	Joint Radio Company Ltd	SW	Scottish Water
MOD	Ministry of Defence	TS	Transport Scotland
MouS	Mountaineering Scotland	VS	Visit Scotland
MS	Marine Scotland	WFD	Water Framework Directive
NATS	National Air Traffic Services	WLA	Wild Land Area
NERL	NATS En Route Plc		

No.	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Ref.	Comments
SCOPING OPINION				
1	The EIA Report will include full details showing that all the advice, guidance, concerns and requirements raised by each consultee in the correspondence Annex A of the Scoping Opinion have been addressed.	SG	SO pg 4	A scoping matrix will be included in the EIA Report which will detail all consultation responses received during the scoping and EIA process, with a reference to where these responses have been addressed in the EIA Report.
2	The Applicant shall consider all referenced viewpoints mentioned within consultee responses and agree the final list of viewpoints with the Highland Council and Scottish Natural Heritage.	SG	SO pg 5	Consideration has been given to all referenced viewpoints mentioned in the Scoping Opinion, and further consultation has been undertaken with SNH and THC to determine the final list of viewpoints.
3	The Developer will investigate the presence of any private water supplies which may be impacted by the development. The EIA Report should include details of any supplies identified by this investigation and if any supplies are identified the Company should provide an assessment of the potential impacts, risks and any mitigation which would be provided.	SG	SO pg 5	Data requests have been made to SEPA / THC with regard to private water supplies confirming no supplies are located within the site boundary. A site walkover has been carried out and an assessment will be included within the Hydrology and Hydrogeology chapter of the EIA Report.
4	Matters of impacts on biodiversity, population and human health should be addressed in the environmental impact assessment.	SG	SO pg 5	The EIA Report will consider these matters, although it should be noted that potential effects upon human health would generally be related to noise, or shadow flicker. Neither of these topics are considered likely to result in significant effects, and are therefore scoped out of detailed assessment within the EIA Report.
5	The impact of traffic and transport impacts (for example noise and vibration) upon human receptors shall be addressed.	SG	SO pg 5	Impacts arising from traffic and transport will be addressed within the Traffic and Transport chapter.

No.	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Ref.	Comments
6	An assessment of peat landslide risks and details of mitigation measures should be included in the EIA Report.	SG	SO pg 5	The Geology and Carbon Balance chapter of the EIA Report will include a Peat Landslide and Hazard Risk Assessment to determine the risks of peat landslide, and propose appropriate, site-specific mitigation measures to control identified risks.
7	A consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures proposed in the environmental assessment report should be provided in tabular form where that mitigation is relied upon in relation to reported conclusions of likelihood or significance of impacts.	SG	SO pg 5	Each technical chapter of the EIA Report will detail the mitigation measures proposed to avoid, limit or reduce likely environmental impacts, where required. A consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures proposed throughout the EIA Report will be included as a summary chapter to the EIA Report.
SCOPING REPOSESES				
8	THC welcome the proposed pre-application consultation following Town and Country Planning practices as opposed to strict adherence to Section 36 procedures.	THC	THC Response 18/04606/ SCOP pg 1	A Pre-Application meeting with THC and other consultees was held on 27 th November 2019.
9	In relation to issues scoped out: Noise: Information should be provided to the EHO on what the predicted noise levels of the selected turbines are and what the predicted cumulative levels are - including which projects are being taken into account.	THC	THC Response 18/04606/ SCOP pg 2	This information will be provided to the EHO prior to submission of the EIA Report.
10	In relation to issues scoped out: Recreation: Providing/accommodating public access on the tracks up and into the hills as a benefit of the Proposed Development should be addressed. The draft access management plan included in the EIA Report should include consideration of the Corbetts of Carn a' Chuilinn and Gairbeinn, Creag Meagaidh Munros, the Corrieyairack Pass and the public right of way through the site's eastern extremity which is sometimes used by those undertaking the TGO challenge.	THC	THC Response 18/04606/ SCOP pg 2	A Land Use and Recreation chapter will form part of the EIA Report, together with a draft Outdoor Access Plan (OAP). This will follow the principles of the agreed OAP for Stronelaig Wind Farm.

No.	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Ref.	Comments
11	The planning policy section should include reference to the SG Onshore Wind Energy Policy Statement 2017 and THC adopted Supplementary Guidance 'Onshore Wind (November 2016)'	THC	THC Response 18/04606/ SCOP pg 3	This will be referenced in the Planning Chapter of the EIA Report, and the accompanying Planning Statement.
12	The following policy documents to be referenced in the EIA and Planning Statement:- Highland wide Local Development Plan 2012 (HwLDP);- Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance 2016 (OWESG); and- Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan 2015 (IMFLDP).	THC	THC Response 18/04606/ SCOP pg 3	As above.
13	Adherence should be made to THC 'Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Development' (2016). THC encourages use of their "single frame panoramic viewer" and animation.	THC	THC Response 18/04606/ SCOP pg 3	Visualisations will be prepared in accordance with THC and SNH guidance.
14	The LVIA should consider sensitivities identified in the OWESG for area LN6 Monadhliath ridge and tops and in particular the recommendations that turbines should: - not breach skyline when viewed from north side of Loch Ness; - Be set back from Key Routes; - Preserve mitigation established by current schemes; - Maintain the landscape setting of each existing scheme; - Avoid coalescence with current positioning; and - respect spacing and scale of existing development pattern.	THC	THC Response 18/04606/ SCOP pg 4	These sensitivities have been considered during the design evolution of the Proposed Development. This will be discussed within the alternatives chapter of the EIA Report, and the Design Statement. The LVIA will also take these sensitivities into consideration.
15	The Transport Assessment should identify all Council maintained roads likely to be affected by the various stages of the development, consider in detail the impact of development traffic, including abnormal load movements, on these roads and propose mitigation measures.	THC	THC Response 18/04606/ SCOP pg 5	Noted. This will be included in the Traffic and Transport chapter of the EIA Report.
16	Justification for the chosen Port of Entry and the preferred route for AILs shall be clearly demonstrated. This shall include details of alternative routes that have been considered and an explanation as to	THC	THC Response 18/04606/	Justification will be given within the Traffic and Transport chapter and accompanying appendices of the EIA Report for the chosen Port of Entry and preferred

No.	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Ref.	Comments
	why these were discounted in favour of the preferred route.		SCOP pg 5	route for AILs, alongside details of the alternative routes considered and the reasons for discounting them.
17	A detailed review of the preferred access route, to include swept path assessment and consideration of any structures along the route, shall be undertaken. It is likely that a trial run to demonstrate the suitability of the route will be required.	THC	THC Response 18/04606/ SCOP pg 5	The Traffic and Transport chapter and accompanying appendices of the EIA Report will include a detailed review of the access route, including a swept path analysis.
18	Prior to preparation of the transport assessment the developer should first carry out a detailed scoping exercise in consultation with the Council, as local roads authority, and Transport Scotland, as the trunk roads authority.	THC	THC Response 18/04606/ SCOP pg 6	A detailed scoping exercise was carried out with the Council's Transport Planning department, and Transport Scotland in August / September 2019.
19	The transport assessment should include a framework Construction Traffic Management Plan aimed at minimising the impact of the construction traffic, to include measures to ensure development traffic adheres to the approved routes and establish protocols for the movement of construction traffic on public roads.	THC	THC Response 18/04606/ SCOP pg 7	A framework Construction Traffic Management Plan will be appended to the Traffic and Transport chapter of the EIA Report.
20	The archaeology chapter of the EIA Report will need to follow Highland Council Standards for Archaeological Work.	THC	THC Response 18/04606/ SCOP pg 7	The assessment of cultural heritage impacts will be in accordance with the noted standards.
21	In view of the joined up approach between EPA, SNH and THC requiring submission of a Construction Environmental Management Document following approval of the Proposed Development, this approach should be undertaken at the outset (i.e. within the EIA Report) to effectively present all expected project mitigation (i.e. a draft CEMP)	THC	THC Response 18/04606/ SCOP pg 8	A draft CEMP will be included as an appendix to the EIA Report.
22	The Proposed Development application needs to take into account the position and commitments of the Stronelaig wind farm including land management, deer culling, ornithological works etc., and highlight how such programmes if relevant can be extended. Given	THC	THC Response 18/04606/ SCOP pg 7	The Proposed Development will take into account the position and noted commitments of Stronelaig Wind Farm, and detail where these can be effectively extended.

No.	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Ref.	Comments
	the existing commitments at Stronelaig there is no great need to over-explain the approach to be deployed on this site if it has already been demonstrated.			
23	The following information should be addressed in the EIA in support of the Proposed Development: a) Map and assessment of all engineering activities in or impacting on the water environment including propose buffers, details of any flood risk assessment and details of any related CAR applications; b) Map and assessment of impacts upon Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems and buffers; c) Map and assessment of impacts upon groundwater abstractions and buffers; d) Peat depth survey and table detailing re-use proposals; e) Map and site layout of borrow pits; f) Schedule of mitigation including pollution prevention measures.	SEPA	SEPA Response PCS/16144 7 pg 1	Noted. This information will be provided in the EIA Report.
24	Further engagement with the project once initial habitat and peat information has been collected and an initial layout has been determined would be welcomed by SEPA.	SEPA	SEPA Response PCS/16144 7 para 1.1	Further consultation has been carried out with SEPA on GWDTE and peat depth data. This dialogue will continue as further and more detailed information becomes available prior to submission of the application.
25	The Proposed Development should be demonstrated to make as much use as possible of recently constructed or consented infrastructure including temporary development areas, such laydown areas and site compounds, and borrow pits if further use can be made to well-located existing pits before they are restored.	SEPA	SEPA Response PCS/16144 7 para 1.2	The Proposed Development will make as much use of consented and existing infrastructure as possible. The Description of Development chapter of the EIA Report will describe the use of this infrastructure, alongside details of new infrastructure required.

No.	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Ref.	Comments
26	<p>The site layout must be designed to avoid impacts upon 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 relevant information.</p> <p>However, If a commitment is provided that all watercourse crossings will be achieved by way of bottomless culverts or traditional style bridges then apart from location, no other information on watercourse crossings would be required at the application stage.</p>	SEPA	SEPA Response PCS/16144 7 para 1.3 and Appendix 1 - 2.1	The Proposed Development has been designed to minimise impacts upon the water environment. Watercourse crossings will be detailed within the EIA Report.
27	<p>The submission must include: a) A detailed map of peat depths to full depth and in accordance with 'Guidance on Developments on Peatland - Peatland Survey' (SG 2017) with all the built elements (including peat storage areas) overlain to demonstrate how the development avoids areas of deep peat and other sensitive receptors such as GWDTE. b) 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.</p>	SEPA	SEPA Response PCS/16144 7 Appendix 1 - 3.3	The Proposed Development has avoided areas of deeper peat as far as practicable, and this will be illustrated within the EIA Report. Peat probing results will be presented and a draft Peat Management Plan produced as part of the EIA Report.
28	<p>The information must be in accordance with SEPA's 'Guidance on the Assessment of Peat Volumes, Reuse of Excavated Peat and Minimisation of Waste' and 'Developments on Peat and Off-Site uses of Waste Peat'.</p>	SEPA	SEPA Response PCS/16144 7 Appendix 1 - 3.4	The information presented within the EIA Report relating to peat will be in accordance with the noted guidance documents.
29	<p>Dependent upon the volumes of peat likely to be encountered and the scale of the Proposed Development it must be considered whether a full Peat Management Plan (as detailed in the above guidance) is required or whether the above information would be best submitted</p>	SEPA	SEPA Response PCS/16144 7 Appendix	A draft Peat Management Plan will be included as part of the EIA Report.

No.	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Ref.	Comments
	as part of the schedule of mitigation.		1 - 3.5	
30	Any local peatland restoration work opportunities which could help compensate for the new disturbance of peat caused by the Proposed Development should be outlined.	SEPA	SEPA Response PCS/16144 7 para 1.4	This will be considered as part of the EIA.
31	The following information must be submitted in relation to GWDTE: a) A map demonstrating that all GWDTE are outwith a 100m radius of all excavations shallower than 1m and outwith 250m of all excavations deeper than 1m 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. b) If the minimum buffers above cannot be achieved, a detailed site specific qualitative and/or quantitative risk assessment will be required.	SEPA	SEPA Response PCS/16144 7 Appendix 1 - 4.1	The results of a GWDTE assessment and appropriate mapping will be included in the EIA Report. Preliminary assessment has concluded that GWDTE are not likely to be groundwater dependent at this site.
32	Information detailed in Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development Proposals on Groundwater Abstractions and Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems should be submitted.	SEPA	SEPA Response PCS/16144 7 Appendix 1 - 4.2	See above.
33	It is suggested that NVC survey could be carried out without carrying out Phase 1 or Sniffer assessments.	SEPA	SEPA Response PCS/16144 7 para 1.5	A Phase 1 and NVC Survey has been carried out, the results of which will be detailed in the EIA Report.

No.	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Ref.	Comments
34	The EIA Report should provide evidence to confirm that no development would take place within 250 m of a ground water supply source.	SEPA	SEPA Response PCS/16144 7 para 1.6 and Appendix 1 - 5.1	The Hydrology and Hydrogeology chapter of the EIA Report will identify the locations of all groundwater supply sources in relation to the Proposed Development.
35	If new borrow pits are proposed then ground investigation needs to be carried out prior to the application being submitted to ensure that the areas proposed are likely to yield the material required. Specific areas should be identified rather than large areas of search.	SEPA	SEPA Response PCS/16144 7 para 1.8	A Borrow Pit Appraisal would be included with the EIA Report comprising specific information for each borrow pit. At this stage there is no intention to undertake ground investigation works prior to submission of the application given that GI data is available from Stronelaig Wind Farm which, together with peat probing data for the site and site survey by the engineering geologist, has informed identification of borrow pit locations.
36	A Site Management Plan should be submitted in support of the application containing specific information for each borrow pit.	SEPA	SEPA Response PCS/16144 7 Appendix 1 - 7.2	As above.
37	Clear, site specific plans should be provided showing where pollution prevention measures would be located accompanied by a schedule of mitigation measures.	SEPA	SEPA Response PCS/16144 7 para 1.9	A draft CEMP will be provided as part of the EIA Report, and all mitigation measures summarised in a Schedule of Mitigation.
38	The schedule of mitigation must include reference to best practice pollution prevention and construction techniques and regulatory requirements, and should set out the daily responsibilities of ECOWs, how site inspections will be recorded and acted upon and proposals for a planning monitoring enforcement officer (refer to SEPA's	SEPA	SEPA Response PCS/16144 7 Appendix 1 - 8.1	The Schedule of Mitigation within the EIA Report will include reference to best practice requirements, and set out the responsibilities of ECOWs along with the noted details. SEPA's GPPs will be referenced as part of this.

No.	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Ref.	Comments
	Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPPs).			
39	The layout should be designed to minimise the extent of new works on previously undisturbed ground and cabling must be laid in ground already disturbed such as verges.	SEPA	SEPA Response PCS/16144 7 Appendix 1 - 1.1	The Proposed Development will make use of existing infrastructure as far as practicable in order to minimise ground disturbance. Opportunities to route cabling through already disturbed ground will be taken where feasible.
40	The EIA should 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 (refer to 'Is it waste - Understanding the definition of waste' (SEPA)).	SEPA	SEPA Response PCS/16144 7 Appendix 1 - 9.2	This will be demonstrated in the EIA Report.
41	Latest guidance from SNH for wind farm developments on landscape, birds and protected species should be followed. In particular: - map and descriptions of Wild Land Areas; - peat map; and - up-dated guidance on standard of visualisations.	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HIAnnex A - 1	Surveys and assessments for the Proposed Development will be in accordance with the latest SNH guidance.
42	A full assessment of the impacts of the Proposed Development on the Monadhliath SAC and associated SSSI and River Spey SAC and associated SSSI should be included in the EIA Report.	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 3	The Ecology chapter of the EIA Report will include assessment of the likely impacts from the Proposed Development on the relevant designated ecological sites and their qualifying features.
43	A deer management plan including measures to mitigate adverse impacts on the Monadhliath SAC/SSSI which may arise through the displacement of deer should be included in the EIA Report. The Deer Management Plan should take into account the management of deer on neighbouring land and the neighbouring wind farms to ensure that the objectives are complimentary.	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 3.1	The outcomes of the Stronelaig Deer Management Plan (DMP) would be reviewed and an updated DMP prepared for the overall site at the appropriate time. This would be undertaken in discussion with SNH.

No.	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Ref.	Comments
44	An assessment on the Special Qualities of the Cairngorms National Park should be included in the EIA Report and should include cumulative effects.	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 3.3 and 4.2	The Landscape and Visual chapter of the EIA Report will include an assessment of the Special Qualities of the Cairngorms National Park, inclusive of cumulative effects with other like developments.
45	The assessment of effects on wild land should be limited to WLA 19 and WLA 20 and can be included within the LVIA. However in order for consultees to fully understand the range and significance of effects on wild land, the effects on each WLA and each relevant quality within that WLA must be clearly described and concluded. This is the approach advocated in SNH's 2017 consultative draft guidance	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 4.3	The approach to the assessment of effects on wild land is as per set out in the Scoping Report, and comments provided by SNH in the Scoping Opinion have been taken into account.
46	It is recommended that the wild land assessment methodology including the scope of the wild land assessment is discussed with SNH at an early stage.	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 4.3	See above.
47	A cumulative assessment of effects on the landscape issues raised should be undertaken to ensure that consultees are able to differentiate between the effects as a result of the two distinct clusters of this proposal.	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 4.4	Cumulative assessment of the effects on the landscape will be included within the Landscape and Visual assessment. The LVIA will make clear which parts of the development (eastern and / or western cluster) are leading to effects.
48	The more recent CNP Landscape Character Assessment, 2009 should be used in preference to the previous document.	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 4.4	Noted.

No.	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Ref.	Comments
49	<p>Wirelines should be produced from the following locations in order to select the best range of viewpoints (pre-application).</p> <p>Viewpoint selection: Pleased good correlation with Stronelaig ES viewpoints. Wireframe locations suggested to assist viewpoint selection, together with ZTV maps.</p>	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 4.5	Consultation has been undertaken with SNH to determine and agree viewpoint selection for the purposes of the LVIA.
50	The Applicant 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 carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat.	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 5	The Proposed Development has been designed to minimise potential effects on carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat.
51	<p>In addition to the peat depth survey, NVC survey and Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessment the assessment of potential impacts on carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat will be assisted by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mapping of any artificial drainage (ditches, grips etc.); - Mapping of areas of bare peat; - Observations of any nationally rare or scarce species; - Identification of bog moss Sphagnum species to species level; and - Identification of montane (alpine) features in the vegetation (species, wind-pruning etc.). 	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 5	Mapping and identification of the noted features will be incorporated in the Geology and Carbon Balance and Ecology chapters, where relevant.
52	An Outline Habitat Management Plan to demonstrate how impacts on habitats and species will be addressed should be included in the EIA Report.	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 5	Habitat management measures will be considered as part of the EIA Report.

No.	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Ref.	Comments
53	Subject to bird survey work being carried out to SNH guidance, 1 year of bird survey work is considered suitable, with the addition of survey works for Glendoe Hydro and Stronelairg Wind Farm to provide background.	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 6	Noted.
54	Ornithological vantage points should be outwith the footprint / buffer of proposed turbines.	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 6	Most of the vantage points (VPs) are at least 500m from the proposed wind turbines. Where that was not possible (e.g. due to topography or access restrictions) the VP location was within the viewshed of another VP, which was >500m from the turbines. This allowed bird activity to be remotely monitored, i.e. when the surveyor was not in position at the VP <500m from the turbines, to help address observer effect.
55	Vantage points 2 and 3 are within the view sheds of other vantage points. To ensure there is no displacement effect from the presence of observers, watches should not take place simultaneously from VPs 2 & 3 or 3 & 4.	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 6	See above.
56	In addition to the use of existing datasets to detect possible effects of Stronelairg wind farm construction work on bird surveys a record of the activities taking place on the Stronelairg site during each survey period should be made. This information should be as detailed as reasonably possible and include information on whether personnel were on foot or in vehicles.	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 6	Potentially disturbing activities (including construction works), which could potentially affect bird behaviour / suppress flight activity during the survey, were recorded for each watch period.
57	To minimise disturbance all golden eagle survey work should be co-ordinated with the monitoring undertaken by the HRSG and the Regional Eagle Conservation Management Plan (RECOMP).	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A -	This was the case, current and recent breeding golden eagle data relating to occupied territories relevant to the assessment, was collected and provided by HRSG.

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			6	
58	The EIA Report should include wildcat, otter, bats and water vole and possibly pine marten, red squirrel and badger should suitable habitat be found on the development site or areas off site, such as access routes which will need to be adapted as a result of this proposal.	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 7	Protected species surveys have been carried out where suitable habitat exists.
59	All species surveys should be undertaken by suitably qualified field ecologists in accordance with standard methodologies. These methods should be detailed along with the results and any mitigation measures in the EIA Report, in a confidential annex if necessary.	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 7	Noted.
60	The results of the NVC and Phase 1 surveys should be presented in the EIA report. The NVC survey should cover the development site, the new access track and a suitable buffer and include all Annex 1 and BAP Priority Habitats and GWDTE.	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 8	The results of the NVC and Phase 1 surveys will be included within the Ecology chapter of the EIA Report.
61	The sensitivity of montane habitats should be to be taken into account in the design of the proposal and any significant loss and/ or damage to montane habitats should be avoided.	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 8.1	No montane habitats have been identified.
62	The EIA Report should fully consider the potential natural heritage impacts of vehicle movements, track creation and modification along the full length of the proposed routes, including those outside the	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/	Noted.

No.	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Ref.	Comments
	development area. Refer to: - 'Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands'; and - 'Forests and Water Guidelines" (4th edition)'		WF/HI Annex A - 8.1	
63	Due regard should be paid to the potential use of the area for recreation by the general public when designing and planning the Proposed Development.	SNH	SNH Response CNS/REN/ WF/HI Annex A - 9	This will be considered within the Land Use and Recreation Chapter of the EIA Report.
64	A specific assessment of the effects on the special landscape qualities of the National Park should be undertaken, including cumulative effects taking into account particularly Stronelairg Wind Farm and Glenshero Wind Farm (application).	CNPA	CNPA Response PRE/2018/ 0029 pg 1	The Landscape and Visual chapter of the EIA Report will include an assessment of the Special Qualities of the Cairngorms National Park to inform the findings of LVIA and the CLVIA.
65	Welcome the commitment to consider the requirement for a night time lighting assessment and would be happy to input into this process.	CNPA	CNPA Response PRE/2018/ 0029 pg 2	This will no longer be required given reduction in turbine height from that proposed at scoping stage.
66	Information needed to satisfy that the chosen Abnormal Load Route can accommodate both conventional HGV traffic and the movement of abnormal loads.	TS	TS Response TS00538 pg 2	The Traffic and Transport chapter of the EIA Report will include details of the preferred route for conventional traffic and abnormal loads. A Swept Path Analysis will be carried out to check the suitability of junctions along the route, where necessary.
67	Potential trunk road related environmental impacts such as driver delay, pedestrian amenity, severance, safety etc. should be considered and assessed where appropriate (i.e. where the IEMA Guidelines for further assessment are breached).	TS	TS Response TS00538 pg 2	The Traffic and Transport chapter of the EIA Report will include consideration of road related environmental impacts, inclusive of driver delay, pedestrian amenity, severance and safety.
68	Impacts associated with the operational and decommissioning phases of the development may be scoped out of the EIA.	TS	TS Response TS00538	Noted.

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			pg 3	
69	<p>The EIA should consider effects on the settings of the following historic environment assets:</p> <p><u>Scheduled Monuments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corrieyairack Pass, military rad scheduled monuments (SM 6128, 6129, 6140, 6141 and 6142); and - Dun-da-Lamh fort (SM 4631). <p><u>Category A Listed Buildings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Garvamore, Garva Barracks (LB 6899); and - Garvamore, Garva Bridge over River Spey (LB 6900). 	HES	HES Response AMN/16/H Annex	The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIA Report will include assessment of likely effects on settings of the noted Scheduled Monuments and Category A Listed Buildings. Effects on other assets will be considered following review of the ZTV and site survey where required.
70	ZTV should be used to identify potential setting impacts in the first instance. However, even where a ZTV indicates that no intervisibility would be possible from any such assets identified, the potential should be considered for turbines to appear in the background of key views towards these assets, and this should be considered as part of the assessment.	HES	HES Response AMN/16/H Annex	Noted. This will be considered.
71	It would be helpful if, where the assessment finds that significant impacts are likely, appropriate visualisations such as photomontage and wireframe views of the development in relation to the sites and their settings are provided.	HES	HES Response AMN/16/H Annex	No significant impacts are anticipated from scheduled or listed sites.
72	Electrofishing should be carried out to assess the presence and abundance of fish species of high conservation value and results outlined in the EIA Report	MS	MS Response FL/15-7 pg 1	Further consultation has been carried out with Marine Scotland to agree that historic data can be used to inform the EIA, and no further survey work is required.
73	Hydrochemical parameters including turbidity / suspended solids and flow data should be measured at sites likely to be impacted as a result of the Proposed Development and results outlined in the EIA Report.	MS	MS Response FL/15-7 pg 1	As above.

No.	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Ref.	Comments
74	The design of watercourse crossings should include uninhibited passage of fish - refer to 'River Crossings and Migratory Fish (2012)' and 'Engineering in the Water Environment Good Practice Guide to Construction of River Crossings (SEPA)	MS	MS Response FL/15-7 pg 2	Noted.
75	In the interests of air safety, the MOD will request that all turbines be fitted with aviation safety lighting in accordance with the Civil Aviation Authority, Air Navigation Order.	DIO	DIO Response DIO 10044652 pg 1	All turbines will be below 150m. Further consultation with the MOD will be undertaken to ensure compliance with aviation safety requirements.
76	The EIA should explicitly address what has changed since 2014 to make potentially larger turbines acceptable in areas where previously turbines were ruled not to be acceptable.	MouS	MouS Response pg 2 item 1	This will be discussed within the alternatives chapter of the EIA Report, and the Design Statement.
77	Advice on viewpoint selection provided.	MouS	MouS Response pg 2 item 4	Further review of viewpoints has been undertaken since scoping, with the final viewpoint list being agreed with SNH.
78	Suggest that an assessment of tourism and recreation should be included.	MouS	MouS Response pg 2 item 5	This will be included in the EIA Report.
79	Consideration should be given to Right of way HI109 which forms part of the longer Glen Markie Track, a historic route which is promoted by the Heritage Paths project as described in the ScotWays publication Scottish Hill Tracks	ScotWays	Scotways Response Letter 30/10/18 pg 1	Consideration of the Right of Way HI109 will be included as part of the Land Use and Recreation Chapter of the EIA Report.
80	The Proposed Development lies within a Drinking Water Protected Area (DWPA) in the Loch Ness Catchment which supplies Invermoriston Water Treatment Works (WTW) and it is essential that water quality and water quantity in the area are protected.	SW	SW Response 767311 pg 1	The protection of water quality and quantity will be considered in the EIA Report, and appropriate mitigation measures identified to minimise potential effects.

No.	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Ref.	Comments
81	The Application must clearly address and explain what has changed since the proposal for the original Stronelairst of 83 turbines was reduced to 66 turbines. Further it will need to be demonstrated why the developer now considers it to be reasonable and necessary to revert to an earlier footprint version of Stronelairst; albeit with some variation including more turbines, increased height and further land	JMT	JMT Response item 2	This will be discussed within the alternatives chapter of the EIA Report, and the Design Statement.
82	The developer needs to justify the Proposed Development in relation to previous iterations of the Stronelairst Wind Farm.	JMT	JMT Response item 6	See above.
83	Advised that the Proposed Development is likely to cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network with 8 x fixed radio links likely to be affected. BT require ideally 100 m minimum clearance from the blade tip to the link path.	BT	BT Response WID10851	Confirmation of BT radio link locations has been sought from BT. The nearest is approximately 8km from the Proposed Development. It is not anticipated that the Proposed Development would cause interference to these radio links.
84	The Proposed Development could affect the performance of electronic aeronautical systems for Inverness Airport. A line of sight drawing using the following details should be produced and supplied so that HIAL can be assured that radar would not be affected: Inverness Radar - Grid Reference 276977.56E 852598.07N - Height of radar head 31.4m AOD	HIAL	HIAL Response 2018/0104 /INV	Preliminary modelling suggests that Radar Line of Sight does not exist between Inverness Radar and the Proposed Development. This will be confirmed within the Aviation chapter of the EIA Report.
85	The potential impacts of disturbance during construction and collision risk should be considered for Slavonian Grebe and Common Scoter at the Loch Knockie and Nearby Lochs Special Protection Area (SPA) and demonstrated in the EIA Report.	RSPB	RSPB Response 727345 pg 1	Noted. This will be considered in the Ornithology chapter of the EIA Report.
86	The potential impacts on Annex 1 species including hen harrier, merlin, golden eagle, osprey, red kites, golden plover and peregrine should be adequately covered in the EIA Report.	RSPB	RSPB Response 727345 pg 1	As above.

No.	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Ref.	Comments
87	The potential impacts on other important bird species likely to occur including dunlin, greenshank and black grouse (see 163) should be adequately covered within the EIA report.	RSPB	RSPB Response 727345 pg 1	As above.
88	Potential effects of the access route on habitats suitable for black grouse and breeding osprey should be adequately covered in the EIA Report.	RSPB	RSPB Response 727345 pg 1	Noted. This will be addressed in the EIA Report.
89	More information should be provided to justify the proposed ornithological survey effort, and it will need to be demonstrated in the EIA Report that the survey data is adequate, robust and accurate.	RSPB	RSPB Response 727345 pg 2	The Ornithology chapter of the EIA Report will set out the full methodology employed for each ornithology survey and the guidance or standard followed.
90	The cumulative assessment should fully accord with SNH (2018) guidance on “Assessing the cumulative impact of onshore wind farms on birds” and the SNH (2018) guidance on “Assessing the Significance of Impacts from Onshore Wind Farms Outwith Designated Areas”.	RSPB	RSPB Response 727345 pg 3	Noted.
91	In assessing cumulative impacts on species that are sensitive to wind energy developments such as golden eagle and hen harrier, it would be appropriate to consider impacts at the Natural Heritage Zone (NHZ) scale (in this case, NHZ 10: Central Highlands), taking account of all existing and proposed wind energy schemes in NHZ 10.	RSPB	RSPB Response 727345 pg 3	Noted.
92	The carbon calculator should be used as early as possible in the planning process, to inform siting and micrositing of both turbines and tracks and other infrastructure, and not simply undertaken after the site layout has been determined.	RSPB	RSPB Response 727345 pg 3	Results of the carbon calculator will be included in the EIA Report.
93	The Proposed Development should achieve ‘no net loss’ of peatland, firstly through avoiding deep peat disturbance and secondly through commitments to restoration.	RSPB	RSPB Response 727345 pg 3	The wind farm has been designed to minimise disturbance to areas of deeper peat.

No.	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Ref.	Comments
94	A detailed Habitat Management Plan (HMP) should be prepared and submitted as part of the proposals. This should contain detailed ecological justification for any habitat management proposals. The scheme should avoid any development on deep peat and seek to enhance key habitats such as blanket bog occurring within the area.	RSPB	RSPB Response 727345 pg 4	This will be considered through the EIA process.
95	It is recommended that any potential detrimental impact of the proposed development on tourism - whether visually, environmentally and economically - be identified and considered in full.	VS	VS Response letter 11/10/2018 pg 2	Potential impacts from the Proposed Development on tourism will be assessed within the EIA Report.