

Euchanhead Renewable Energy Development

Additional Environmental Information
Chapter 11: Archaeology and Cultural
Heritage

Table of Contents

Abbreviations	3
11. Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	4
11.1. Introduction	4
11.1.1. Superseded EIA Report Documents	4
11.2. Consultee Responses to 2020 Application	5
11.3. Design Amendments	5
11.4. Changes to Baseline Conditions	5
11.5. Assessment of Design Amendments Effects	6
11.5.1. Construction Effects	6
11.5.2. Operational Effects	6
11.6. Cumulative Assessment	6
11.7. Summary of Changes to the Significance of Effects	7

Abbreviations

Additional Environmental Information	AEI
Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Environmental Impact Assessment	EIA
Section 36 (of The Electricity Act 1989)	S36

11. Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

11.1. Introduction

SLR Consulting has been commissioned by the Applicant to undertake an update of the archaeology and cultural heritage assessment contained within the 2020 Euchanhead Renewable Energy Development Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. This updated archaeology and cultural heritage assessment addresses the following changes since the Euchanhead Renewable Energy Development Section 36 (S36) application was made in 2020:

- The removal of Turbines No.20 and No.21;
- The reduction in turbine blade tip height of Turbines No.9, No.10, No.11, No.18 and No.19, from 230m to 200m; and
- The updated cumulative situation in the surrounding area (primarily Sanquhar II Community windfarm being granted consent in August 2023).

This Additional Environmental Information (AEI) Chapter supplements Chapter 11: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of the 2020 Euchanhead Renewable Energy Development EIA Report (from herein referred to as the 'EIA Report'). The methodology employed in this AEI remains the same as that set out in EIA Report Chapter 11: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.

The following key documents should be read in conjunction with this AEI chapter:

- EIA Report Volume 2 – **Chapter 11: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage** (2020); and
- EIA Report Volume 4b – **Technical Appendices 11.1 to 11.2.**

11.1.1. Superseded EIA Report Documents

The following documents from the EIA Report:

- EIA Report Volume 3d – **Figures 11.1 to 11.2.**

Have been superseded by the following:

- EIA Report Volume 3d – **AEI Figures 11.1 to 11.2.**

11.2. Consultee Responses to 2020 Application

All consultation, regarding archaeological and cultural heritage, with statutory consultees that was received prior to the 2020 S36 application being submitted, is outlined in the EIA Report **Chapter 11: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage**.

Table 11:1 sets out the relevant consultee responses to the 2020 S36 application.

Table 11:1 - 2020 S36 Application Consultee Responses

Consultee	Summary of Key Issues	Response to Comments
East Ayrshire Council Response Date: 20 January 2020	The planning authority agrees with the applicant that the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and local monuments within Easy Ayrshire are of negligible impact. There is no unacceptable direct effects on features and archaeology. WoSAS (West of Scotland Archaeology Service) have also raised no issues in regard to archaeological assets or scheduled monuments with the Easy Ayrshire Council.	Noted. No response required.
Historic Environment Scotland Response Date: 9 December, 2020	Sufficient information was provided in the EIA report to conclude that the development proposal does not raise issues of national significance sufficient to warrant an objection. HES are content that impacts would be negligible.	Noted. No response required.

11.3. Design Amendments

The amendments to the 2020 S36 application Site Layout are detailed in **AEI Chapter 2: Site Description and Design Evolution**. The key amendments with regards to archaeology and cultural heritage are:

- The removal of Turbines No.20 and No.21, as well as the access track associated with these turbines; and
- The reduction in turbine blade tip height of Turbines No.9, No.10, No.11. No.18 and No.19, from 230m to 200m.

These amendments have not been made as a result of feedback from consultees regarding the assessment presented in EIA Report **Chapter 11: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage**.

11.4. Changes to Baseline Conditions

There have been no changes to baseline conditions since the previous **Chapter 11** in the EIA report.

11.5. Assessment of Design Amendments Effects

11.5.1. Construction Effects

Chapter 11 of the 2020 submitted EIA report identified direct impacts upon two archaeological features; SLR 31 and SLR32. These assets comprise trackways, considered to be of negligible importance. The proposals were identified to result in direct impacts upon these assets by the construction of new access tracks. It was identified that these impacts would be low adverse, resulting in a slight significance of effect. The revised layout would not alter these impacts; the tracks which would cause direct impacts have not been amended.

The removal of Turbines No.20 and No.21 and the associated tracks (see **AEI Figure 11.1**) would reduce the proposals' overall footprint, but not the slight significance of effect upon unknown features or remains as presented in the EIA Report. Overall, direct impacts remain the same as outlined in the submitted EIA Report.

11.5.2. Operational Effects

Chapter 11 of the submitted EIA Report found no more than negligible significance of effect upon assets by change to their setting. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) were in agreement with this finding, as shown by their response detailed in **Table 11-1** above.

The removal of Turbines No.20 and No.21, and the reduction in height from 230m to 200m of Turbines No.9, No.10, No.11, No.18 and No19 would not cause a potential increase in setting effects upon the assets previously assessed, as the proposed turbines would be less visible (see **AEI Figure 11.2**). The resulting design amendments would therefore only result in less potential setting effects on cultural heritage assets, however already none were identified in the EIA Report.

Overall, there are no changes to the previous assessment conclusions as submitted in Chapter 11 of the 2020 EIA Report.

11.6. Cumulative Assessment

The methodology for the cumulative assessment is set out in **Chapter 11** of the 2020 EIA Report.

The proposed Development would not have any effects considered to be above slight effect in EIA terms. Therefore, it would not contribute toward any cumulative effects. Therefore, cumulative impacts have been scoped out.



11.7. Summary of Changes to the Significance of Effects

Overall, the removal of two turbines with associated tracks and infrastructure, and the reduction in height of five of the proposed turbines from 230m to 200m, would result in no changes to the previously identified effects presented in the 2020 EIA Report.

The following impacts would remain:

- Slight adverse significance of effect upon SLR31 and SLR32;
- A negligible to slight adverse significance of effect upon unknown archaeological remains; and
- Slight adverse significance of effect upon the setting of Allan's Cairn (SLR27) with a very slight beneficial significance of effect due to the proposed mitigation in the form of signage boards and improved access.