

# **Euchanhead Renewable Energy Development**

Additional Environmental Information  
Chapter 14: Socio-Economics,  
Recreation and Tourism

# Table of Contents

<b>Abbreviations</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>14. Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism</b>	<b>4</b>
14.1. Introduction	4
14.1.1. Superseded EIA Report Documents	4
14.2. Consultee Responses to 2020 Application	5
14.3. Design Amendments	6
14.4. Assessment of Design Amendments Effects	6
14.4.1. Additional Community Benefit Proposals	6
14.5. Summary of Changes to the Significance of Effects	7
14.6. Conclusions	7

## Abbreviations

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

# 14. Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism

## 14.1. Introduction

**Chapter 14: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism**, of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) provides an assessment of the proposed development on the socio-economics of the area/region it would be located, including the effects on recreation and tourism.

This Additional Environmental Information (AEI) Chapter supplements **Chapter 14** of the EIA Report. The methodology employed in this AEI Chapter remains as set out in **Chapter 14** of the EIA Report.

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

- EIA Report Volume 2 – **Chapter 14: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism** (2020); and
- EIA Report Volume 4b – **Technical Appendix 14.1**.

### 14.1.1. Superseded EIA Report Documents

The following documents from the EIA Report:

- **Figure 14.1: Socioeconomic Plan**; and
- **Figure 14.2: Southern Upland Way Mitigation**.

Have been superseded by the following:

- **AEI Figure 14.1: Socioeconomic Plan**; and
- **AEI Figure 14.2: Southern Upland Way Mitigation**.

## 14.2. Consultee Responses to 2020 Application

All consultation, regarding access, socio-economics, recreation and tourism, with statutory consultees that was received prior to the 2020 S36 application being submitted, is outlined in **Chapter 14: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism** of the EIA Report.

**Table 14:1** sets out the relevant consultee responses to the 2020 S36 application.

*Table 14:1 – 2020 S36 Application Consultee Responses*

Consultee	Summary of Key Issues	Response to Comments
<p><b>ScotWays</b></p> <p>Response Date: 06 January 2021</p>	<p>Looking at Figure 14.1 Socio-economic plan. While the documentation indicates that this plan shows the socio-economic receptors to include all routes, the mapping of the routes is both incomplete and in-accurate. The map legend shows the SUW, 'Heritage Path' and 'Core Path'. The applicant has failed to include recorded rights of way in the legend, or on the map, despite a right of way being affected by the proposed access route. This figure however does show recorded rights of way DS13 and DS14 (not directly affected by the application) but records these routes as core paths. While rights of way and core paths may follow the same line the applicant should be aware that the terms 'right of way' and 'core path' are not interchangeable - these routes have different status in law.</p> <p>We note that there is a proposed diversion to the SUW during construction however it appears that during the lifetime of the proposed development some of the internal wind farm access tracks will revert to using both the nationally important SUW and other promoted routes rather than any new access tracks.</p> <p>As well as direct impacts on public access, impacts on recreational amenity are of interest to the Society as are impacts of wind farms on the wider landscape. We are concerned about the impact the wind farm development will have on views of, and from, the Southern Upland Way. As we are aware of a large number of wind farm applications along this nationally important route the Society anticipates that the cumulative impact on the length of the SUW, as well as this</p>	<p><b>AEI Figure 14.1</b> and <b>AEI Figure 14.2</b> show the amended scheme in relation to heritage paths, core paths and rights of way.</p> <p>With regards to the proposed temporary diversion of the Southern Upland Way, we refer to the letter issued from SLR Consulting (on behalf of the Applicant) to ScotWays, dated 01/02/2021. This letter is attached as <b>AEI Technical Appendix 14.2</b>.</p>



	<p>individual section, will be taken into account.</p> <p>With this application containing confusing and contradictory information regarding recreational routes we cannot be certain that public recreational access has been fully considered. This proposal would negatively impact the Southern Upland Way, with turbines situated in close proximity to this nationally important route in addition to the intended use as an internal access track. The Society must therefore object to this application.</p>	
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There were no consultee responses to the 2020 S36 Euchanhead Renewable Energy Development application, that were in relation to socio-economics, recreation or tourism.

### 14.3. 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 socio economics, recreation and tourism 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 14: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism**.

### 14.4. Assessment of Design Amendments Effects

Scottish Government guidance remains that community benefit, associated with onshore wind farm projects, is provided at £5,000 per installed megawatt per year. Although the design amendments to the proposed Development remove two wind turbines and reduce the height of five others, the installed megawatts of the scheme are anticipated to remain approximately the same. As such, the associated community benefit would not reduce from that which was anticipated in the 2020 EIA Report i.e. approximately £630,000 per annum.

There are no other design amendments to the proposed Development that are considered to alter the effects predicted and presented in the 2020 EIA Report. There are no other changes to the proposed community benefit fund from what was presented in the 2020 EIA Report.

#### 14.4.1. Additional Community Benefit Proposals

In addition to the £5,000 per installed megawatt per year in community benefit, the Applicant is also committed to the following proposals detailed in **Table 14:2**. The proposals set out in **Table 14:2** are in addition to what was proposed in the EIA Report.



Table 14:2 – Additional Community Benefit Proposals

Additional Community Benefit Proposal	Description
Southern Upland Way Ranger	Support for the employment of a part time seasonal ranger to assist with the management of core footpaths in the area and align with benefit proposed as part of Scottish Power Renewables Harestanes South Windfarm. This will further enhance funding of the two rangers as part of Killgallioch Windfarm.
Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points	Installation of EV charging points in Kirkconnel/Kelloholm (subject to Landowner Agreement).

## 14.5. 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.

Therefore, there remains no significant residual effects predicted.

## 14.6. Conclusions

The amendments to the proposed Development, as set out in **Chapter 2: Site Description and Design Evolution** of this AEI, would not result in changes to the significance of effects presented within **Chapter 14** of the EIA Report. All of the information contained in **Chapter 14** of the EIA Report, including the associated Figures and Technical Appendices, therefore remain valid in terms of existing conditions, assessment methodology and significance of effects.

Predicted residual effects therefore remain as not significant.