

Euchanhead Renewable Energy Development

Additional Environmental Information
Chapter 1: Introduction

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Abbreviations

Additional Environmental Information	AEI
Design and Access Statement	DAS
Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
East Ayrshire Council	EAC
Energy Consents Unit	ECU
Environmental Impact Assessment	EIA
Non Technical Summary	NTS
Pre-Application Consultation Report	PAC Report
ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Limited	SPR
Section 36 (of The Electricity Act 1989)	S36
SLR Consulting Limited	SLR



1. Introduction

In October 2020, ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Limited (SPR) submitted an application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) for Section 36 (S36) consent under the Electricity Act 1989, to install and operate the proposed Euchanhead Renewable Energy Development (hereafter referred to as the proposed Development).

The Site of the proposed Development is located predominantly within the Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC) administrative area. However, one of the proposed access options to the Site from the public highway lies with the East Ayrshire Council (EAC).

The application for consent (ECU Reference: ECU00002141) comprised 21 wind turbines (with a blade tip height of up to 230m), approximately 31.5MW of battery energy storage, and associated ancillary infrastructure.

The application was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report which was prepared in accordance with the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations).

Following the submission of the October 2020 application, formal consultation with consultees took place throughout 2020, 2021 and the early part of 2022. There was also ongoing consultation with the DGC landscape officer up until April 2023. DGC have not issued a formal response (to the October 2020 application) to the ECU.

2. Purpose of Additional Environmental Information (AEI)

The EIA Regulations include provision for the preparation of Additional Environmental Information (AEI), where further work in relation to the likely environmental effects has been undertaken. This may reflect the fact that a project has been modified since the original application was submitted, and updates to the EIA are necessary. It may also be as a result of further information being requested by the determining authority or a consultee.

In response to discussions with key consultees, particularly DGC, the following amendments to the 2020 S36 application Site Layout have been made:

- Removal of two turbines (Turbines No.20 and No.21); and
- Reduction in turbine blade tip height of five turbines (reducing the height of Turbines No.9, No.10, No.11, No.18 and No.19 from 230m to 200m).

As a result of the removal of turbines No.20 and No.21, approximately 2,363m of new access track which was proposed to serve these turbines is no longer required. The associated turbine foundations and crane hardstanding areas for these turbines are also no longer required. These infrastructure elements have also therefore been removed.

This AEI has been prepared to provide further information to the EIA Report (as submitted in October 2020), including the amendments to the proposed Development since the original application was submitted. It is intended to be read alongside and complement the EIA Report, to ensure that all relevant environmental information is available for consideration by the determining authority. Unless otherwise stated, the information contained in the EIA Report remains valid.

This AEI explains the amendments to the proposed Development (and where appropriate re-assess effects) and address any key points that have been raised by consultees during the consultation process for the application.

In each chapter of this AEI, details are provided where relevant, on the consultation responses received during the application consultation period and how these have been addressed, if necessary.

The information contained in this AEI is considered to be substantive information for the purposes of the EIA Regulations. It will therefore be published as additional information in terms of Regulation 20 of the EIA Regulations and publicly advertised as the same.

3. Responsibility for the AEI

This AEI has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited (SLR) and the specialist consultancies that contributed to the EIA Report, as follows:

- SLR: the introductory chapters (**Chapters 1-6**), Ecology (**Chapter 8**), Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils (**Chapter 10**), Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (**Chapter 11**), Access, Traffic and Transport (**Chapter 12**), Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism (**Chapter 14**), Other Issues (**Chapter 15**) and Schedule of Commitments (**Chapter 16**);
- Stephenson Halliday: Landscape and Visual (**Chapter 7**);
- Natural Research Projects: Ornithology (**Chapter 9**); and
- Hoare Lea: Noise (**Chapter 13**).

3.1. Statement of Expertise

In the context of the EIA Regulations, **Table 1:1** below outlines the relevant expertise and / or qualifications of the experts who prepared the AEI. The AEI team is led by SLR, with assistance from specialist consultants. **Table 1:1** demonstrates the relevant competency for each technical discipline covered in the EIA Report and this AEI.

Table 1:1 – AEI Team Competency

Discipline	Specialist Assessor	Qualifications	Years of Experience
Renewable Energy and Planning Policy	SLR: - Morag Eaton - Alastair Smith - Vanessa Ramirez	BSc (Hons), MURP, MRTPI BSc (Hons), MSc, LRTPI BSc, MSc	18 years 7 years 1.5 years
Landscape and Visual	Stephenson Halliday: - Kelly Anderson	BLA, CMLI	28 years
Ecology	SLR: - Duncan Watson - Sara Toule - Callum Taylor	BSc, MSc, CEnv, MCIEEM BSc (Hons), MRes, ACIEEM MSc, BSc, Qualifying CIEEM	22 years 15 years 6 years
Ornithology	NRP: - Alex Ash	BSc	15 years



Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	SLR:		
	- Gordon Robb	BSc, MSc, MBA, C.WEM, FCIWEM	32 years
	- Alan Huntridge	BSc (Hons), MSc	17 years
	- Katy Rainford	BSc (Hons)	7 years
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	SLR:		
	- Beth Gray	MA (Hons), ACIfA	9 years
Access, Traffic and Transport	SLR:		
	- Iain Lamb	BEng (Hons)	30 years
Noise	Hoare Lea:		
	- Mark Jiggins	MSc MIOA	25 years
Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism	SLR:		
	- Alastair Smith	BSc (Hons), MSc, LRTPI	7 years
Carbon Emissions	SLR:		
	- Alan Huntridge	BSc (Hons), MSc	17 years
Infrastructure, Telecommunications and Broadcast Services	SLR:		
	- Alastair Smith	BSc (Hons), MSc, LRTPI	7 years
Shadow Flicker	SLR:		
	- Alastair Smith	BSc (Hons), MSc, LRTPI	7 years
GIS	SLR:		
	- Anne Altringham	BSc Hons, MSc	13 years

4. Structure and Presentation of the AEI

All of the EIA Report chapters have been reviewed to identify the need to update or replace content as part of the amendments to the proposed Development and / or address the relevant consultees responses since the EIA Report was completed and submitted. Where an EIA Report chapter or assessment does not need updated, supplemented or replaced, no changes have been made (this will be explained in the relevant AEI chapter) as it is not the intention of this AEI to repeat information contained in the EIA Report that remains valid. As a consequence, whilst the structure and chapter numbering of the AEI reflects that of the EIA Report, the format and level of detail in the AEI chapters does vary.

Where Technical Appendices and Figures from the EIA Report have been updated, the original numbering has also been retained (but prefixed with 'AEI'). Where new Technical Appendices and Figures have been added, their numbering follows on from those in the EIA Report (and are prefixed with 'AEI'). Technical Appendices and Figures from the EIA Report that are not updated as part of this AEI remain valid, and this is clearly stated in the introductory text for each AEI chapter.

This AEI comprises four volumes, the first containing the AEI Non Technical Summary (NTS)¹, the second containing the AEI Chapters, the third containing the AEI Figures and AEI Technical Appendices, and the fourth containing the AEI wirelines and photomontages.

The content of the AEI chapters, including the extent to which they update, or supplement information in the EIA Report is set out below, adopting the original chapter numbering:

- **AEI Chapter 1: Introduction** (this chapter) provides a brief introduction to the purpose of the AEI, the reasons for submitting AEI in relation to the proposed Development, the format of the AEI, and how the AEI is being advertised and consulted on;
- **AEI Chapter 2: Site Description and Design Evolution**, sets out the amendments to the Site layout of the proposed Development, and if the design principles remain as per the EIA Report;
- **AEI Chapter 3: Description of Development**, includes further details of the amendments to the proposed Development;
- **AEI Chapter 4: Renewable Energy and Planning Policy**, considers relevant new policy documents, and updates on meeting renewable energy targets, that have become available / been adopted, since the submission of the S36 application in October 2020.
- **AEI Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment**, discusses the need for EIA and sets out the approach to assessment, within the AEI, taken in respect of the proposed Development;

¹ The AEI NTS provides a brief, easy to understand overview of the AEI. It is not designed to replace the original EIA Report NTS in its entirety.



- **AEI Chapter 6: Scoping and Consultation**, outlines consultation responses following the submission of the S36 application in October 2020, and identifies where in the AEI relevant information can be found;
- **AEI Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual**, considers the implications of the design amendments to the proposed Development, for the assessment findings presented in **Chapter 7** of the EIA Report.
- **AEI Chapter 8: Ecology**, considers the implications of the design amendments to the proposed Development for the assessment findings presented in **Chapter 8** of the EIA Report;
- **AEI Chapter 9: Ornithology**, considers the implications of the proposed amendments to the proposed Development for the assessment findings presented in **Chapter 9** of the EIA Report;
- **AEI Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils**, considers the implications of the design amendments to the proposed Development for the assessment findings presented in **Chapter 10** of the EIA Report;
- **AEI Chapter 11: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage**, considers the implications of the proposed amendments to the proposed development for the assessment findings presented in **Chapter 11** of the EIA Report;
- **AEI Chapter 12: Access, Traffic and Transport**, considers the implications of the design amendments to the proposed Development for the assessment findings presented in **Chapter 12** of the EIA Report;
- **AEI Chapter 13: Noise**, considers the implications of the design amendments to the proposed Development for the assessment findings presented in **Chapter 13** of the EIA Report;
- **AEI Chapter 14: Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism**, considers the implications of the design amendments to the proposed Development for the assessment findings presented in **Chapter 14** of the EIA Report;
- **AEI Chapter 15: Other Issues**, considers the implications of the design amendments to the proposed Development for the assessment findings presented in **Chapter 15** of the EIA Report; and
- **AEI Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments**, considers and updates the summary of proposed mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures proposed in the EIA Report, to take account of the design amendments to the proposed Development.

5. Status of 2020 Submission Documents (Non EIA Report)

The EIA Report NTS should be read in conjunction with the AEI NTS. The original Planning Statement should be read in conjunction with the AEI Planning Statement Addendum. The original Design and Access Statement (DAS) remains unchanged, however should be read in conjunction with **Chapter 2** of this AEI. The original Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report remains unchanged.

6. Approach to the AEI

The approach to EIA set out in **Chapter 5** of the EIA Report describes the methodology used to conduct the EIA in accordance with legislation, policy and accepted good practice. This approach has also been adopted for the preparation of the AEI, as appropriate.

Overall, each AEI chapter seeks to:

- Provide a revised assessment, where required, taking into account the amendments that have been made to the proposed Development, and
- provide new or additional information, where required, to address consultation responses, or to supplement what was previously provided within the EIA Report.

For completeness, a summary of changes to the significance of effects (if there are any) as presented in the EIA Report, is provided at the end of each AEI topic chapter.

Unless otherwise stated, the overall scope of the EIA and AEI remains as stated in **Chapter 1** of the EIA Report and **Chapter 1** of the AEI.

7. Consultation on the Application (Including AEI)

Although not all consultation responses to the 2020 S36 application have resulted in the production of additional information, an overview of the consultee comments on the application is provided in each AEI topic chapter where relevant, as well as details on how the issues have been addressed.

This AEI will be advertised and notice published as follows:

- On the project website: www.scottishpower.com/EuchanheadRED;
- In the Cumnock Chronicle;
- In the Galloway Gazette; and
- In the Edinburgh Gazette.

This AEI (and 2020 EIA Report) is being made available for viewing in hard copy format at the following locations, during their normal opening hours:

- Dumfries and Galloway Council, Kirkbank House, English Street, Dumfries, DG1 2HS;
- New Cumnock Town Hall, 31-33 Castle, New Cumnock, KA18 4AN; and
- Sanquhar Library, 100 High Street, Sanquhar, DG4 6DZ.

A copy of the AEI volumes will be made available for download from the project website at: www.scottishpower.com/EuchanheadRED

Paper copies of the AEI NTS are available free of charge from:

SLR Consulting Limited,
24 St Vincent Place,
Glasgow,
G1 2EU

Tel: 07718 482283

Paper copies of the AEI may be purchased by arrangement from the above address for £600 per copy, or £20 per USB memory stick copy. The price of the paper copy reflects the cost of producing all of the Landscape and Visual photomontages at the recommended size. As such, a USB memory stick version is recommended.

The submission of this AEI will trigger another public consultation period of 30 days, during which members of the public and consultees will have the opportunity to make representations to the ECU on its content. The 30 day consultation period will run from the date of the final public notice (which will be published in the newspapers detailed above and via the project website: www.scottishpower.com/EuchanheadRED).



References

Electricity Act 1989

The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017