

7.3 Consultation

17. A direct scoping exercise was undertaken because a prior pre-application consultation exercise was completed in 2019 (**Technical Appendix 6.2: Pre-Application Advice 2019, Chapter 6: Scoping and Consultation**) in relation to the potential for a RED at Hollandmey. The advice received as part of that process covered a lot of the information that would typically be contained in a formal scoping direction and was being taken into account when preparing the Project Factsheet and EIA Topic Information Sheets provided to consultees. The EIA Topic Information Sheets were produced by technical specialists and outlined the proposed methodology and approach for assessing effects.
18. A request for a Scoping Opinion was submitted directly to consultees and to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in July 2020. Consultee responses came directly to RSK from each consultee. Key information provided by consultees and the way in which the LVIA has responded is listed in **Table 7.2**.

Table 7.2: Key consultation overview

Consultee name	Consultee comments	Consultant comments / action
NatureScot scoping response dated 26 August 2020	We note that a wild land assessment has been scoped out due to the distance of the WLA from the proposed site. Impacts may be possible at distances greater than 20 km and we therefore advise on screening in a wild land assessment and we can provide further advice once we receive a ZTV.	Consultant emailed screening note to NatureScot on 27 August 2020 with a map of WLA overlaid with a tip height ZTV. NatureScot responded on 16 September 2020 to say they do not expect there to be significant effects arising on the qualities of WLAs and would not expect a wild land assessment. Should the turbines require lighting NatureScot requested that they be consulted regarding potential significant night-time effects.
NatureScot scoping response dated 26 August 2020	If the turbines are likely to require aviation lighting then we would be happy to discuss the scope of this assessment further with you.	Consultant liaised with the aviation technical specialist working on the project to discuss the requirement for lighting. It was concluded that the turbines would not require aviation obstacle lighting and any lighting required would use infra-red wavelength lighting that is not visible to the human eye.
NatureScot scoping response dated 26 August 2020	We note that this proposal may have potentially significant effects on North Hoy and West Mainland NSA. We advise that that a Special Landscape Qualities (SLQ) assessment for the NSA should be screened in and we can advise further once we see a ZTV.	Consultant emailed screening note to NatureScot on 27 August 2020 with a map of NSA overlaid with a tip height ZTV. Consultant emailed NatureScot with a wireline of a proposed viewpoint in the North Hoy and West Mainland NSA (Viewpoint 1, Figure 7.14) which would be used without a photograph for assessing potential effects on the NSA.

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		NatureScot responded on 16 September 2020 agreeing that a full photomontage would not be required. An SLQ assessment has been undertaken in the LVIA.
THC scoping response dated 17 September 2020	The visual impact assessment must use images taken using a 35 mm format full frame sensor camera.	A 35 mm format full frame sensor camera was used.
THC scoping response dated 17 September 2020	Single frame images showing focal lengths of 50 mm and 75 mm must be included.	Volumes 3b and 3c show images with equivalent focal length of 50 mm and 75 mm as per THC guidance.
THC scoping response dated 17 September 2020	Photomontages should follow the Council's Visualisation Standards.	The photomontages shown in the LVIA follow the Council's guidance and NatureScot guidance.
THC scoping response dated 17 September 2020	The assessment should include the impact of borrow pits, access tracks and all elements of the development.	The LVIA assesses the impact of the proposed Development which includes all components including access tracks, borrow pits etc.
THC scoping response dated 17 September 2020	The cumulative assessment study area should be 45 km and a minimum of 35 km.	The cumulative assessment includes windfarms within a 45 km study area with a focus on those sites within 30 km
THC scoping response dated 17 September 2020	Consultation with ECU to identify sites at scoping stage.	No sites at scoping identified.
THC scoping response dated 17 September 2020	Viewpoints must be agreed with THC in advance of preparing any visualisations.	Consultant emailed a ZTV showing viewpoint locations to the Council on 26 August 2020 and reached agreement regarding viewpoints on 16 September 2020.
THC scoping response dated 17 September 2020	The Council requested two additional viewpoints: one on the Far North Railway Line between Altnabreac Station and Olgrinmore and one on the A836 between Thurso and Dunnet to the east of Castletown.	The LVIA has included visualisations from these two viewpoints.
THC scoping response dated 17 September 2020	All core paths should be assessed, the National Cycle Route (NCN), long distance trails and the NC500 should also be assessed.	The LVIA assesses core paths within 5 km of the proposed Development. NCN route 1 (NCN1) is assessed. The NC500 is assessed where it passes through the study area. There are no long distance trails in the study area.
THC scoping response dated 17 September 2020	The Applicant should present images for presentation in the Council's Panoramic Digital Viewer.	Images have been provided to comply with the Council's Panoramic Digital Viewer.
THC scoping response dated 17 September 2020	The LVIA should use the NatureScot 2019 landscape character assessment.	The LVIA uses the NatureScot 2019 landscape character assessment.
THC scoping response dated 17 September 2020	All potentially affected WLAs should be assessed.	WLAs are scoped out of the LVIA in agreement with NatureScot.

Consultee name	Consultee comments	Consultant comments / action
THC scoping response dated 17 September 2020	The impacts on SLA should be assessed.	The LVIA assesses the impacts on those SLA likely to be affected by the proposed Development.
THC scoping response dated 17 September 2020	The LVIA should include an assessment of the proposed Development against the criteria included in the Council's OWESG.	The LVIA includes an assessment against the criteria in the Council's OWESG.
THC scoping response dated 17 September 2020	Residential visual amenity should be assessed in the LVIA.	An assessment of effects on residential visual amenity is included in Technical Appendix 7.2 .
Orkney Islands Council (OIC) consultation response dated 17 September 2020.	OIC agreed that Viewpoint 1 North Hoy and West Mainland NSA and Viewpoint 2 Burwick, South Ronaldsay would be suitable as would Viewpoint 3 Gills Bay Ferry. OIC advised that an application for a windfarm on Hoy with turbines of a similar height to the proposed Development would be submitted within the week.	Viewpoints 1, 2 and 3 are included in the LVIA. Viewpoint 1 is included as a wireline only as agreed with NatureScot. The Hoy Windfarm is included in the cumulative assessment.