



# Chapter 5

## Scoping & Consultation

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# Chapter 5

## Scoping & Consultation

### 5.1 Introduction

1. This chapter sets out the Scoping Process that has been undertaken as part of the EIA for the proposed Development. It also details additional consultation that has been undertaken in respect of the proposed Development with consultees.
2. The purpose of scoping and consultation is to:
  - Ensure that statutory consultees and other bodies with a particular interest in the environment are informed of the proposed Development and provided with an opportunity to comment at early stage in the EIA process;
  - Obtain baseline information regarding existing Site conditions;
  - Establish key environmental issues and potential effects to be evaluated during the EIA;
  - Identify those issues which are likely to require more detailed study and those which can be justifiably excluded from further assessment; and
  - Provide a means of confirmed the most appropriate methods of assessment.

### 5.2 Scoping Report

3. The Scoping report was submitted to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in March 2019 to accompany a request to Scottish Ministers to adopt a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 15 of the EIA Regulations 2017. The list of those organisations consulted, if they responded and the data of the response is shown in **Table 5.2.1**.

Table 5.2.1 Scoping Consultees

Consultee	Response Received
Ayrshire Rivers Trust	Yes
Barrhill Community Council	Yes
British Horse Society	Yes
BT	Yes
Cree Valley Community Council	Yes
Defence Infrastructure Organisation	Yes
Dumfries & Galloway Council	Yes
Energy Consents Unit	Yes
Galloway Fisheries Trust	Yes
Glasgow Prestwick Airport	Yes
Historic Environment Scotland	Yes
Joint Radio Company	Yes
Marine Scotland	Yes
Mountaineering Scotland	Yes
NATS Safeguarding	Yes

Consultee	Response Received
OfCom	Yes
RSPB Scotland	Yes
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Yes
Scottish Forestry	Yes
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)	Yes
Scottish Water	Yes
ScotWays	Yes
South Ayrshire Council (SAC)	Yes
The Coal Authority	Yes
Transport Scotland	Yes
Visit Scotland	Yes
West of Scotland Archaeology Service	Yes
Barr Community Council	No
Civil Aviation Authority	No
Crown Estates Scotland	No
Fisheries Management Scotland	No
John Muir Trust	No
Pinmore and Pinwherry Community Council	No
Scottish Wild Land Group	No
Scottish Wildlife Trust	No

4. A Scoping meeting was held with the ECU, SAC and SNH on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 to discuss the proposal and address any initial concerns raised by SNH. This focused on the landscape and visual impacts of the scheme as well as discussion of the proposed Development layout and the proposal timescales.
5. A Scoping Opinion was received from the ECU on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (refer to **Technical Appendix 5.1**). This EIA Report has been prepared based on the Scoping Opinion received, as per the requirements set out in Regulation 5(3) of the EIA Regulations. A summary of the key issues raised in the Scoping Opinion is provided in **Technical Appendix 5.2**. Where relevant the Scoping Opinion is detailed in the consultation tables contained within **Chapters 6-14**, with reference to how the comments have been addressed in the EIA.

### 5.3 Further Consultation

#### 5.3.1 SNH

6. In addition to formal scoping and the Scoping meeting in March 2019, a further meeting was held with SNH and the ECU in July 2019. SAC were also invited to the meeting but were unable to attend. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the proposed approach to the landscape and visual impact assessment in response to specific concerns raised by SNH in their previous communications during Scoping. Much of the discussion focused on the potential effects on the Merrick Wild Land Area. The results of the on-going ecology surveys were all summarised.
7. At the opening of the meeting, SNH noted that they have concerns about the potential significant effect on the views from the Merrick Wild Land Area. Specific comments raised at the meeting in relation to potential effects of the proposed Development were noted and considered further in the design process.

### 5.3.1 Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

8. The Applicant met with The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere in October 2019 to discuss the impact of the proposed Development upon the Biosphere, which is a UNESCO site covering a large area across South Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway. The Applicant confirmed that the Biosphere would be considered within the Environmental Impact Assessment and that the group would be kept informed of the proposal as it progresses.

### 5.3.2 South Ayrshire Council

9. The Applicant attended a meeting with SAC in November 2019 to discuss the windfarm proposal. It was agreed that a further follow up meeting between the Applicant and South Ayrshire Council would be held following the submission of the application.

## 5.4 Public Information Days (PIDs) and Community Consultation

10. Public consultation is a key element of the environmental assessment process; therefore, as part of a wide consultation process, attention was given to community engagement in cognisance of the Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3:2010: Community Engagement. Local community councils and local ward councillors were contacted during the development of the proposals.
11. In addition to the consultation on the scope of the EIA, consultation has been undertaken in the form of Public Information Days (PIDs) and meetings.
12. Two rounds of PIDs have been undertaken to gain an insight from the local community. This has consisted of PID's events held in the local community halls of the village of Barr and Barrhill. These PID's events were undertaken in 20 and 21 May and 19 and 20 August 2019. Each event ran from 3pm to 7pm.
13. The applicant invited Barrhill, Barr and Cree Valley Community Councils for a private viewing. Barrhill and Barr Community Councillors attended events during the public hours. Cree Valley CC were able to attend the August Barrhill event early.
14. The PIDs were advertised, the week preceding each event, in the Stranraer and Wigtownshire Free Press, Galloway Gazette, Ayr Advertiser and Ayrshire Post. In the case of the second round of PID's, held in August, the PID's were advertised two weeks prior.
15. Approximately 40 individuals drawn from the local community attended the May PID at Barrhill. The PID at Barr Village was less well attended with less than 15 individuals attending. The PID in August were similar with approximately 30 individuals attending the Barrhill PID's, and approximately 15 attending the Barr PID's.
16. For the PIDs held in May 2019, maps showing the location of the proposed development and the initial layout used in seeking the Scoping Opinion, were presented. Project staff were available to answer questions and helped residents interpret the maps. Two representatives from landscape architects Optimised Environments (OPEN) ran modelling software, so that attendees could appreciate the change in the views that could result from the proposed Development. Visitors were also asked to complete a feedback form to complete at the event or to forward to SPR at a later date.
17. For the PIDs held in August, twelve presentation boards were placed in each venue. The boards provided a summary of the proposed Development, the studies undertaken, the potential effects identified and some of the options to mitigate the effects. Four of the boards presented visual imagery from selected viewpoints to help local residents understand the likely change in some of the views around their community.
18. As for the May PIDs, project staff were available to answer questions and helped residents interpret the display boards. Maps showing the evolved layout for the proposed Development were also available to enable discussion

on updates to the layout since the PIDs in May. Again, two representatives from OPEN ran modelling software, so that individuals could appreciate the change in the views that could result from the proposed Development. Visitors were also asked to complete a feedback form to complete at the event or to forward to SPR at a later date.

19. Further details on the PIDs is presented in the Pre-application Consultation Report submitted with the application for consent for the proposed Development.

## 5.5 Gatecheck

20. A Gatecheck Report was sent to the ECU in October 2019. The report provides detail on how consultee scoping responses have been addressed by the EIA process and through the design of the proposed Development. Further responses to the Gatecheck Report were received from five consultees.
21. All consultees who responded were satisfied that comments they had previously raised at Scoping had been considered and were content with the proposed approach to the EIA.
22. Dumfries and Galloway Council highlighted the upcoming publication of the new Local Development Plan (LDP2) and SNH reiterated comments they had previously made in Scoping and in consultation meetings, as discussed above in Section 5.3.

## 5.6 References

SPR (March 2019) Clauchrie Windfarm, Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report.

Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (20 May 2019) Scoping Opinion for Clauchrie Windfarm.

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