



Douglas West Wind Farm Extension

Part of a Coordinated Strategy for the Future of the Hagshaw Wind Cluster

SUPPLEMENTARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

JULY 2020



Supplementary Environmental Information

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background and Purpose of Supplementary Environmental Information Report

- 1.1.1 Douglas West Extension Ltd is hereafter referred to as “the Applicant”. In April 2019, the Applicant submitted an application to the Scottish Ministers for Section 36 (S36) consent and deemed planning permission, under the terms of the Electricity Act 1989, for an extension to the consented Douglas West Wind Farm (the proposed extension hereafter referred to as the “Proposed Development”), at site centre British National Grid (BNG) NS 80399 32105. Whilst the Proposed Development has been designed as a physical extension to the consented Douglas West Wind Farm, it is a standalone project capable of delivery in its own right.
- 1.1.2 This application was supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) as required by The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. This EIA Report was prepared to assess the environmental impacts of the Proposed Development and accompanied the S36 Application submitted to the Scottish Ministers.
- 1.1.3 Subsequent to the production of the original EIA Report, feedback has been received from various statutory and non-statutory consultees and stakeholders. Apart from holding objections from Glasgow Airport and NATS pending agreement of a solution to mitigate impacts on radar equipment, no other objections have been received from any statutory consultees.
- 1.1.4 Discussions have been held as appropriate, to provide clarification and responses to queries raised by a number of consultees. With the exception of one topic area set out below, no queries or consultation responses necessitated any change to the Proposed Development in terms of design, layout, or environmental mitigation and management measures set out in the EIA Report.
- 1.1.5 A consultation response from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) requested that the proposed arrangements for inclusion of aviation safety lighting on turbines be slightly revised, amending the specific turbines to be lit and increasing the number of lit turbines from five to six. The Applicant has agreed to incorporate this change to the Proposed Development design, and further work by its professional advisors has therefore been required to re-assess potential visual effects of turbine lighting, based on the revised lighting proposals.
- 1.1.6 The original EIA Report included Appendix 6.5, which reported the assessment visual effects of turbine lighting, undertaken by Pegasus Group. This SEI report provides an updated assessment of night-time landscape and visual effects, also undertaken by Pegasus Group. An updated version of Appendix 6.5 is attached to this SEI report, and should be considered to supersede Appendix 6.5 from the original EIA Report.
- 1.1.7 No other changes to the Proposed Development are proposed, and there are no other changes to the environmental assessment works previously undertaken and reported in the original EIA Report. Therefore, this SEI Report should be read in conjunction with the submitted EIA Report.

1.2 Legislative Context

- 1.2.1 This SEI Report is provided as additional information to the EIA Report submitted in April 2019 to the Scottish Ministers, in support of a S36 application for Douglas West Wind Farm Extension. This additional information is submitted in accordance with Paragraph 19 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, as the Applicant was notified in writing by the Scottish Government Energy Consent Unit, on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, that such additional information was required in order to give proper consideration to the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment. Publication of this additional information will be undertaken in accordance with Paragraph 20 of the Regulations.

1.3 Report Availability

1.3.1 Copies of this SEI Report are available from:

3R Energy
Lanark Auction Market,
Hyndford Road,
Lanark
ML11 9AX
Tel: (01555) 660244
Email: info@3renergy.co.uk

1.3.2 The cost of a hard copy of the SEI Report is £120.00. A digital copy can be provided on DVD free of charge.

1.3.3 In accordance with The Electricity Works (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020, hard copies of the SEI Report will not be displayed. However, the application will be advertised in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 20 of the EIA 2017 Regs, and documents can be viewed digitally on the project website at the following link: <https://www.3renergy.co.uk/douglas-west-extension> or on the Scottish Government Energy Consents website at www.energyconsents.scot under application reference ECU00001836.

1.4 Representations to the Application

1.4.1 Any representations to the application should be made directly to the Scottish Government at:

Energy Consents Unit
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
G2 8LU
Email: representations@gov.scot
Website: www.energyconsents.scot/Register.aspx

2 The Proposed Development

- 2.1.1 The site lies west of the M74 in rural South Lanarkshire, approximately 2.68 km to the north-west of the village of Douglas, and approximately 1.56 km to the south of Coalburn to the nearest turbine.
- 2.1.2 The Proposed Development will comprise 13 wind turbines up to 200 m blade tip height when vertical, each being around 6 megawatt (MW) in power rating. The Proposed Development generation capacity will be approximately 78 MW, plus around 20 MW of energy storage capacity. The associated infrastructure will include: site access, access tracks, crane hardstandings, underground cabling, on-site substation and maintenance building, energy storage compound, temporary construction compound, laydown area, concrete batching plant, potential excavations/borrow workings and two permanent meteorological masts.
- 2.1.3 Figures 1.1 to 1.3 from the original EIA Report illustrate the site location and Proposed Development layout.

3 Consultee Responses

- 3.1.1 Table 1 overleaf provides a summary of consultation comments on the S36 application, received from various statutory and non-statutory consultees and stakeholders. The table briefly notes the nature of the comments received and the responses provided by the Applicant (where applicable).
- 3.1.2 As noted above, the consultation response from the CAA was the only one which was considered to necessitate a change to the Proposed Development design. The change relates only to the proposed positioning of visible aviation lighting. Further detail on this is introduced in Chapter 3 of this report, and a revised Appendix 6.5 provides the full updated assessment of the visual effects of turbine lighting.

4 Conclusions

- 4.1.1 This SEI Report provides a summary of consultation responses to the S36 application for Douglas West Wind Farm Extension.
- 4.1.2 The consultation response from the CAA is the only one considered to necessitate any change to the Proposed Development. The change is limited to an amendment to the specific turbines which would be fitted with visible aviation lighting.
- 4.1.3 A revised assessment of the visual effects of turbine lighting has been undertaken and is presented as part of this SEI Report (Appendix 6.5 – Updated June 2020).

Table 1 – Douglas West Wind Farm Extension S36 Application – Consultee Responses

Consultee	Summary of Response – Key Issues	Supplementary Information Provided by Applicant
<p>South Lanarkshire Council (incorporating consultation with various Council departments, the West of Scotland Archaeological Service, Douglas Community Council (CC), Coalburn CC, and Lesmahagow CC)</p>	<p>No objection.</p> <p>Various conditions proposed, relating to pre-construction provision of detailed final design information, micro-siting, traffic management, environmental management, habitat management, application of suitable noise limits, and agreement of a scheme for aviation lighting.</p>	<p>The Applicant is happy to work with South Lanarkshire Council and the Energy Consents Unit to agree suitable conditions.</p>
<p>East Ayrshire Council</p>	<p>No objection.</p>	<p>None required.</p>
<p>Scottish Natural Heritage</p>	<p>No objection.</p> <p>Statutory designated sites: no adverse effects considered likely to arise.</p> <p><u>Landscape and Visual Impacts:</u></p> <p>SNH’s initial response noted that they were currently only providing landscape and visual advice in the highest priority circumstances (e.g. likely significant adverse effects on a National Scenic Area or National Park or Wild Land Area, landscape issues of national interest in the wider countryside, contributing to selected place-based priorities). These circumstances were not considered to apply in this case, therefore no comment was made.</p> <p>However, a follow-up response was provided in March 2020. This notes that the consent of Hagshaw Hill Repowering significantly changes the landscape baseline. The response notes that the LVIA accords with relevant guidance and that the assessment is ‘well-considered and generally sound in its findings,’ although in some instances, assessed in the context of the existing cumulative baseline, the significance of effects is considered by SNH to be underestimated. No overall conclusion is drawn and no objection is made.</p>	<p>No action required in respect of comments on the landscape and visual impact assessment, apart from night-time lighting effects. It is noted that the CAA has responded and requested a slight amendment to the lighting arrangements which had been assessed as part of the EIA. A revised Night-time Lighting Assessment has therefore been prepared, taking account of the CAA’s requested lighting arrangement (refer to the CAA consultation section below).</p> <p>With respect to ecology and ornithology recommendations, the Applicant is happy to continue liaising with SNH to agree the suitable conditions in relation to the recommendations made.</p>

Consultee	Summary of Response – Key Issues	Supplementary Information Provided by Applicant
	<p>With respect to night-time lighting effects, SNH notes that it is not aware of the lighting scenario, as assessed, having been agreed with CAA and therefore it is not considered the worst-case scenario.</p> <p><u>Ecology and ornithology recommendations:</u></p> <p>Several recommendations made in respect of pre-construction update surveys, construction-phase environmental management, and post-construction environmental monitoring.</p>	
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	<p>No objection subject to a condition requiring a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), and agreement on the re-use of forestry brash.</p> <p>Clarification was provided by the Applicant’s professional advisors in August 2019, confirming that all forestry residues would be collected and sold into existing biomass markets, not reused on site. SEPA provided a further response, requesting a condition regarding management of forestry brash.</p>	<p>The Applicant is happy to work with SEPA and the Energy Consents Unit to agree suitable conditions as recommended by SEPA.</p>
Scottish Forestry	<p>No objection.</p> <p>The information provided has enabled Scottish Forestry to support the application in principle, with expectation that delivery and management of Compensatory Planting is conditioned.</p>	<p>None required.</p>
Historic Environment Scotland	<p>No objection.</p> <p>No queries or requests for further information. HES considers that the impacts of the wind farm would not, “raise issues of national significance for its interests.”</p>	<p>None required.</p>
Transport Scotland	<p>No objection.</p> <p>Conditions proposed, requiring approval of the proposed route for abnormal loads, and any mitigation measures, from the trunk roads authority. Also any additional signing or temporary traffic control measures to be undertaken by a recognised Quality Assured traffic management consultant.</p>	<p>Proposed conditions noted and agreed by the Applicant.</p>

Consultee	Summary of Response – Key Issues	Supplementary Information Provided by Applicant
Scottish Water	No objection.	None required.
Marine Scotland	No objection. Recommends fish surveys to establish an integrated water quality and aquatic biota monitoring programme.	The Applicant is happy to agree to a condition requiring agreement of a water monitoring programme to be implemented prior to and during construction.
The Coal Authority	No objection.	None required.
Scotways	No objection. Recommends consultation with the access team at South Lanarkshire Council regarding the wording of any condition relating to path diversions that may be required. Requests confirmation of the minimum distance between Turbine 13 and path SL103.	The Applicant is happy to liaise with South Lanarkshire Council in respect of path diversions, to agree a suitable condition. Final turbine position details will be provided following confirmation of any micro-siting.
NATS En-Route plc (NERL)	Initial objection on safeguarding grounds. Notes that the development may benefit from an approved mitigation technology, allowing the objection to be removed. This is subject to ongoing evaluation and a formal agreement.	Mitigation solutions being discussed, with the intention of this being agreed and a formal agreement in place, in advance of determination.
Glasgow Airport	Initial objection due to potential clutter on the Airports radar system.	Mitigation solutions being discussed as noted, with the intention of this being agreed and a formal agreement in place, in advance of determination.
Ministry of Defence	No objection.	None required.
Civil Aviation Authority	The Applicant's professional advisor engaged with the CAA regarding the proposed aviation lighting arrangement. The CAA requested a slightly modified lighting arrangement, involving a change to which specific turbines would be lit, increasing the total number of lit turbines from five to six.	A revised Night-time Lighting Assessment has been prepared by Pegasus Group on behalf of the Applicant assessing the revised lighting strategy requested by the CAA. This is presented as a revised version of EIA Report Appendix 6.5 (refer to Appendix 6.5 – Updated June 2020 , attached to this report).
BT - Openreach	No objection.	None required.
Joint Radio Company	No objection.	None required.
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	No comment.	None required.

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