



# Chapter 6

## Scoping and Consultation



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# Table of contents

<b>6.1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Scoping and consultation</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>6.3</b>	<b>Further consultation</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>6.4</b>	<b>Public and community consultation</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>6.5</b>	<b>Gatecheck</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6.6</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>5</b>

## Technical Appendices

Technical Appendix 6.1: Consultation Response Table





# Chapter 6

## Scoping and Consultation

### 6.1 Introduction

1. This Chapter sets out the consultation 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 stakeholders with a particular interest in the environment and the Site are informed of the proposed Development and provided with an opportunity to comment at an early stage in the EIA process;
  - obtain baseline information regarding existing environmental Site conditions;
  - establish key environmental issues and identify potential effects to be considered 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 confirming the most appropriate methods of assessment.

### 6.2 Scoping and consultation

3. SPR previously submitted a scoping opinion request to Scottish Ministers for a windfarm development on a similar site to the proposed Development in 2013. This request was made under regulation 7 of The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000. The Scottish Ministers scoping opinion was subsequently received in October 2013.
4. The 2013 scoping opinion specifically related to a proposed 31 turbine windfarm of 145 metre maximum height, with a generating capacity of up to 93 megawatts (MW). Scottish Government advice provides that if the proposal changes substantially prior to application submission, the applicant may wish to consider the need to request a new scoping opinion.
5. Despite the wealth of scoping and EIA baseline information available from the 2013 scoping opinion and recent scoping exercises undertaken for neighbouring developments, SPR deemed it prudent to request new scoping advice on the proposed development in February 2020. However, acknowledging the amount of information already known about the Site this request was made directly to consultees rather than to Scottish Ministers. The Energy Consents Unit (ECU), who will administer this application for consent on behalf of Scottish Ministers, were consulted and confirmed the acceptability of this direct scoping approach.
6. A summary report containing all the consultation responses was submitted to the ECU in June 2020. The list of those organisations consulted, if they responded and the date of the response is shown in **Table 6.1**.

Table 6.1: Scoping consultees

Consultee	Response Received	Date of Response
Arqiva	Yes	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
BT	Yes	25 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
British Horse Society	Yes	29 <sup>th</sup> April 2020
CAA	Yes	14 <sup>th</sup> February

Consultee	Response Received	Date of Response
Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO/MOD)	Yes	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Yes	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 (partial response)
East Ayrshire Council	Yes	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Galloway Fisheries Trust	Yes	6 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere	Yes	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Glasgow Prestwick Airport (GPA)	Yes	6 <sup>th</sup> April 2020
Historic Environment Scotland	Yes	23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2020
Joint Radio Company (JRC)	Yes	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Marine Scotland	Yes	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
Met Office	Yes	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Nith District Salmon Fisheries Board	Yes	18 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
National Air Traffic Services (NATS) Safeguarding	Yes	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Ofcom	Yes	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland (RSPB Scotland)	Yes	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	Yes	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020
Scottish Natural Heritage	Yes	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (Scotways)	Yes	9 <sup>th</sup> April 2020
Transport Scotland	Yes	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Tynron Community Council	Yes	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
VisitScotland	Yes	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
Atkins	No Response	
Ayrshire Roads Alliance	No Response	
Association of Salmon Fishery Board	No Response	
Cairnhead Community Forest Trust	No Response	
Carsphairn Community Council	No Response	
Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS)	No Response	
John Muir Trust	No Response	
Glencairn Community Council	No Response	
Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Community Council	No Response	
Mountaineering Council of Scotland	No Response	
New Cumnock Community Council	No Response	
Penpont Community Council	No Response	
Royal Burgh of Sanquhar and District Community Council	No Response	
Scottish Forestry	No Response	
Scottish Wildlife Trust	No Response	
Scottish Water	No Response	

8. A summary of the key issues raised during consultation is provided in **Technical Appendix 6.1**. The responses are detailed in the consultation tables contained within each EIA Report **Chapters 7 to 15**, with reference to how the comments have been addressed.

## 6.3 Further consultation

9. Additional consultation was undertaken with a number of consultees regarding specific issues. This included consultation in respect of the viewpoint locations for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (**Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment**), consultation with respect to ecological considerations (**Chapter 8: Ecology**) and identification of heritage assets for assessment in the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment (**Chapter 11: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage**). This is detailed in the relevant technical Chapters and is not repeated here.
10. Consultation with Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) was undertaken on a continual basis throughout the development process. FLS have been regularly updated by SPR throughout the design process, and agreed the suitability of each draft layout in consultation with SPR. This was done through regular meetings and updates with the FLS Forest Liaison Officer. FLS were also involved in the approval of any materials used in the Scoping exercise and public exhibitions.

## 6.4 Public and community consultation

11. Public consultation is a key element of the environmental assessment process and, as part of the wider consultation process, attention was given to community engagement, in cognisance of Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010: Community Engagement (Scottish Government 2010). SPR are committed to developing renewable energy responsibly and strive to be good neighbours in all aspects of their work and are committed to Dumfries and Galloway and East Ayrshire and to maximising the opportunities for local communities to benefit from their projects.
12. Local community councils that have an administrative boundary within or adjacent to the Site were contacted during development of the proposals. SPR's project development team has a long standing existing relationship with the local community councils and informed the following Community Councils of the proposed Development by email in February 2020:
  - Carsphairn Community Council;
  - Glencairn Community Council;
  - Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Community Council;
  - New Cumnock Community Council;
  - Penpoint Community Council;
  - Royal Burgh of Sanquhar and District Community Council; and
  - Tynron Community Council.
13. In addition to this consultation with Community Councils and consultation through the scoping process, consultation has been undertaken with the local communities in the form of Public Information Days (PIDs) and meetings. Two PIDs were held in February 2020 to establish dialogue with the local community regarding the proposed Development. A total of around 75 people attended the PIDs, including representatives from a number of the Community Councils.
14. SPR provided an explanation on the design process, infrastructure / layout and work completed to date, including work on peat, geology, hydrology, transport, archaeology, ecology, ornithology, landscape and visual and noise. These contained displays of more advanced plans of site layouts as well as 3D modelling of the proposed Development which allowed members of the local community to interact and ask any questions specific to the development. The 3D model allows an interested person to gain an understanding of what the proposed Development may look like from any viewpoint in a defined area from the Site.
15. A second round of public consultation on the proposed final layout design was held in July 2020 in the form of an online Public Information Event, the format of which was agreed with the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit.
16. With face to face public information days not being possible during the COVID-19 emergency, a combination of postal, web and telephone consultation was undertaken instead. In summary this comprised:

- over 2,500 leaflets were posted to local residents on the 17 July 2020. This leaflet provided an update on the project, including the proposed final layout design. It also provided details on the consultation format and timings, opportunities to engage in the process, and identified where further information may be obtained;
  - an online Public Information Event on the proposed Development was hosted on the Euchanhead project website. The event went live on the 27 July 2020 and ran until the 3 August 2020. The event included all of the information that would have been presented at a traditional public information day. The event included a feedback form where comments and questions, as well as any requests for further information, could be submitted directly to the Project Team; and
  - attendees could also request a virtual meeting with the project team.
17. Further details of the public consultation can be found in the **Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report** submitted as part of the application for consent for the proposed Development.
18. The Community Councils and local residents in attendance at the above meetings highlighted a number of points which this EIA Report addresses, including:
- abnormal Load deliveries impacting local road network condition and closures;
  - traffic impacts on the A76;
  - access into the Site;
  - important viewpoints;
  - recreational access;
  - tourism impact;
  - community benefits;
  - flooding and flood risk;
  - location and impact on Allan's Cairn;
  - impacts on walkers;
  - noise disturbance;
  - support for renewables;
  - need to tackle climate change; and
  - landscape and visual impact.

## 6.5 Gatecheck

19. A Gatecheck Report was sent to the ECU in July 2020. The report provides detail on how consultee scoping responses have been addressed by the EIA process and the design of the proposed Development. Further responses to the Gatecheck Report were received from 3 consultees in September 2020.
20. All consultees that responded to the Gatecheck Report, SEPA, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and SNH<sup>1</sup> were all satisfied that their views had generally been considered and specified concerns addressed.
21. In October 2020, Dumfries and Galloway Council responded confirming they were not in a position to offer any further feedback.

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<sup>1</sup> SNH were renamed NatureScot on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020.



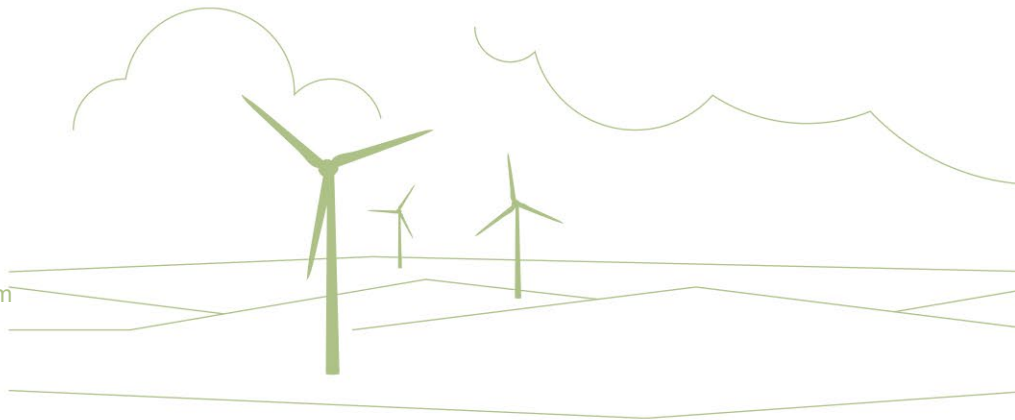
## 6.6 References

Scottish Government (2010). Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010: Community Engagement.

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