Ecology

Background

Pre-application advice for the proposed Development was requested from the Highland Council (THC) and a response provided in March 2019. Key issues relating to impacts on the ecology, as provided by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and additional relevant advisory bodies are summarised here.

THC response identifies that the Site is located to the west of the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands Special Area of Conservation (SAC), designated for its internationally important peatland, habitats, rare plant species and otter *Lutra lutra* interests. As such, the proposal should look to include appropriate mitigation measures to ensure that no direct or indirect impacts upon the SAC will occur and that the integrity of the designation will be maintained. A survey for otter, which are a qualifying feature of the SAC, should also be undertaken to inform the EIA and if otters are present an otter protection plan should be produced.

The Site is noted to contain areas of blanket bog, including that located within the Phillips Main Mire Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The response acknowledges and advises that while no development infrastructure is proposed to be located within the designation boundary, appropriate mitigation measures should be included to demonstrate that the proposal would not either directly or indirectly impact on the SSSI. It is advised that a National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey is to be undertaken to inform turbine siting and an assessment upon Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTEs). If any proposed turbine locations and access tracks are located on blanket bog than further NVC survey at these locations, and within the micrositing buffer to determine the condition of habitats.

It is advised that the Site may support a range of European and nationally protected species including; otter, bats, freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*, wildcat *Felis silvestris*, badger *Meles meles*, pine marten *Martes martes* and water vole *Arvicola amphibius*. Any planning application should therefore be informed by surveys of the presence of these species on the Site together with an assessment of likely impacts and proposed mitigation, with reference to current guidance.

A HMP should be produced in draft to detail measures necessary to restore habitats subject to disturbance caused by the proposed Development, together with opportunities to enhance habitats as a result of historic impact such as through the re-use of any timber felling and through appropriate deer management.

Consultant Experience and Expertise

The technical lead for Ecology will be Nicole Robinson from Avian Ecology Ltd. Nicole is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and holds a BSc in Ecological Sciences from the University of Edinburgh (2009) and an MSc in Ecological Management and Conservation Biology from Queens University Belfast (2010). She has over 10 years' experience in the EIA of renewable energy developments in Scotland and throughout the UK, in relation to ecological and ornithological interests and designated sites for nature conservation.

Nicole is supported by Howard Fearn (Director) of Avian Ecology Ltd. a Full Member of CIEEM, with an MSc in Ecology and Environmental Management (2007) and over 12 years' experience in the EIA of onshore renewable energy developments, in relation to ecological and ornithological interests.

She is also supported by a team of highly skilled ecological field surveyors, with considerable experienced in undertaking baseline ecological field surveys for onshore renewable energy developments including habitat and species specialists familiar with working on sites of an upland and remote nature.

Baseline

Designated Sites

Statutory designated sites for nature conservation with ecological features of interests located within 10 km of the Site are summarised in Table 6.1 and shown on Figure 6.1.

Those sites with geological and ornithological features of interest are considered under 'Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology & Soils' and 'Ornithology'.

The Phillips Mains Mire SSSI is located in its entirety within the north eastern extent of the Site and is designated by virtue of its nationally important blanket bog habitat interests, with an extensive system of dubh lochans. The latest assessed condition of the Site is Favourable Maintained.

The Site does not form part of any non-statutory designated site for nature conservation.

Table 6.1: Statutory designated sites for nature conservation.

Site Name	Designation	Distance and Direction	Ecological Designated Features
Phillips Mains Mire	SSSI	Onsite	Blanket bog
Stroupster	SSSI	1.1 km East	Blanket bog
Peatlands			Oligotrophic loch
Caithness and	SAC	1.14 km East	Acid peat-stained lakes and ponds
Sutherland Peatlands			Blanket bog
			Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels
			Depressions on peat substrates
			Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface
			Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath
			Marsh saxifrage (Saxifraga hirculus)
			Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)
Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands	Ramsar	1.14 km East	Blanket bog
Loch of Mey	SSSI	1.7 km North West	Transition grassland
Loch Heilen	SSSI	1.9 km West	Mesotrophic loch
Dunnet Links	SSSI	3 km West	Sand dunes
Duncansby Head	SSSI	3 km East	Maritime cliff
Stroma	SSSI	5.7 km North East	Maritime cliff
Dunnet Head	SSSI	7.1 km North West	Maritime cliff
Loch of Durran	SSSI	7.7 km South West	Transition grasslands
			Vascular plant assemblage

Site Name	Designation	Distance and Direction	Ecological Designated Features
Loch of Wester	SAC	8.5 km South	Naturally nutrient-rich lakes or lochs which are of- ten dominated by pondweed
Loch of Wester	SSSI	8.5 km South	Mesotrophic Loch

Habitats and Vegetation

The habitats within the Site are comprised largely of commercial coniferous plantation woodland, the majority of which are mid-rotation but are likely to be of varying heights and maturity, with some areas of felling and restock, open moorland and grassland habitats.

A small number of watercourses intersect the Site, including the Link Burn, Burn of Horsegrow, the Burn of Ormigill, Burn of Hollandmey. A small number of waterbodies are also present within the Site, including the dubh lochans of the Phillips Mains Mire SSSI.

Proposed Baseline Survey Methodologies

The following baseline ecological field surveys and desk studies will be undertaken to inform the design and assessment of the proposed Development.

Desk Study

A desk study will be undertaken to identify and review existing ecological information pertaining to the Site and surrounding area. The following key sources will be consulted to obtain existing information for non-statutory designated sites and protected and notable species out to 2 km of the Site (extended to 10 km for information relating to bat species):

- SNH Sitelink;
- SNH;
- Scotland's Environment Map (https://map.environment.gov.scot/sewebmap/);
- Highland Biological Recording Group;
- Flow Country Rivers Trust;
- Scottish Wildcat Action; and,
- Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels (Scottish Squirrels).

Publicly available EIA documentation for the following adjacent windfarms will also be reviewed, together with additional peer reviewed literature and publicly available resources where relevant:

- Lochend (Operational) 3/02682/FUL;
- Stroupster (Operational) 05/00273/FULCA;
- Slickly (Application) 19/05624/FUL; and,
- Lyth (Refused) 3/01832/FUL.

Field Surveys

Ecological field surveys proposed for completion in 2020 to inform the design and assessment of the Proposed Development are detailed in Table 6.2.

The commencement of ecological field surveys in April 2020, was compromised as a result of the Covid-19 virus outbreak. Surveys were however, commenced in late-May 2020 where they could be done safely, in accordance with current Scottish Government advice and with social distancing measures in place.

The completion of ecological field surveys through the spring, summer and autumn of 2020, will continue to be undertaken in accordance with current good practice survey guidance in so far as is possible and no essential gaps in surveys are currently anticipated. Should significant limitations to the undertaking of proposed baseline ecological field surveys detailed in Table 6.2 be experienced due to evolving Covid-19 restrictions, the degree to which a precautionary approach can be adopted will be discussed with SNH at the earliest opportunity prior to assessment.

Table 6.2: Proposed ecological field surveys.

Ecological Feature	Overview of Proposed Survey Methodology
Habitats and Vegetation	A Phase 1 habitat survey for all terrestrial habitats likely to be affected by the Proposed Development, will be undertaken following industry standard survey guidance (JNCC, 2010).
	A NVC survey of potential habitats listed on Annex 1 of the EC Habitats Directive and UKBAP Priority Habitats will also be undertaken following industry standard sur- vey guidance (Rodwell, 2006), complemented by Common Standards Monitoring where required to assess the condition of sensitive upland habitat features (JNCC, 2009).
	The survey area will comprise habitats within the Site, and accessible areas out to 300 m (maximum ecology survey area as shown on Figure 6.2), to allow for the identification of potential GWDTEs and subsequent hydrological assessment in accordance with Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) guidance (SEPA, 2014).
Bats	Bat activity surveys will follow current SNH guidelines 'Bats and Onshore Wind Tur- bines: Survey, Assessment and Mitigation' (SNH, 2019b), in so far as is possible, and in view of the limitations posed by the locality of the Site with regards appropriate weather conditions for bat activity. Surveys will therefore seek to capture a longer period of monitoring during the spring ¹ , summer and autumn 2019 activity period (up to 30 nights), to sample a representative range of weather conditions applicable for the Site.
	Survey effort will be focused in those parts of the Site where turbines are most likely to be located, including at proposed turbine locations where these are confirmed at the time of survey and to ensure a representative sample of baseline bat activity is captured on the basis of habitat types and features. Surveys will employ the use of ground-level static monitoring stations and weather stations, with the number of monitoring stations deployed calculated on the number of proposed turbines in accordance with SNH guidance (2019b). Adopting a precautionary approach, a total of 12 monitoring stations are proposed.
	Supplementary survey methods including walked transects, vantage point surveys and monitoring at height are not proposed.

¹ The commencement of bat activity surveys was compromised by the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus, with sampling of spring bat activity in 2020 commenced in the late May. The spring survey period defined in current SNH guidance (2019) is April to May and as such partial survey coverage has been completed and is not considered to represent a significant limitation to the baseline data set for the purposes of assessment.

Ecological Feature	Overview of Proposed Survey Methodology			
	A ground-level survey for features that could support bat roosts within 200 m, plus rotor radius, of the Site will be undertaken to inform the requirement for further surveys (i.e. presence/absence surveys) in consultation with SNH.			
Pine marten	Woodland habitats within the Site may provide suitable opportunities for pine marten, with some use of open moorland habitats also possible.			
	A survey for pine marten will therefore be undertaken in accordance SNH guidance (2019a), with reference to good practice survey methodologies (e.g. Cresswell et al., 2012). The survey will comprise a walkover search for signs of pine marten presence and potential den sites within and out to 250 m of the Site as access allows.			
Badger	Badgers are generally considered to be absent or scarce within this locality of Caith- ness however, opportunities for sett creation may be present, notably within wood- land habitats of the Site.			
	A survey for badger will therefore be undertaken in accordance with SNH guidance (SNH, 2019a) with reference to good practice survey methodologies (e.g. Harris et al., 1989; SNH, 2018b). The survey will comprise a walkover search for signs of badger presence and set locations within 100 m of the Site, as access allows.			
Otter	The woodland and watercourses of the Site may provide suitable foraging, commut- ing and holt opportunities for otter.			
	A survey for otter will be undertaken in accordance with SNH guidance (2019a), with reference to good practice survey methodologies (e.g. Channin, 2003). The survey will comprise a walkover search along watercourse sections within 200 m of the proposed Development for signs of otter presence and potential holt locations, as access allows.			
	Observations of possible holt locations made during badger surveys will also be rec- orded, with further targeted surveys of terrestrial habitats within the Site which may support inland holt locations, undertaken where identified.			
Water vole	The watercourses within the Site may provide suitable habitat for water vole. A survey for water voles will therefore be undertaken in accordance with SNH guidance (SNH, 2019a) with reference to good practice survey methodologies (e.g. Dean et al., 2016). The survey will comprise a walkover search of suitable watercourse sections within 50 m of the proposed Development, for signs of water vole presence.			
Red squirrel	Red squirrels are considered to remain scarce in this locality of Caithness however, habitats within the Site may provide suitable drey creation and foraging opportunities.			
	A survey for red squirrels, including a search for feeding signs and presence of dreys within suitable habitats of the Site will be undertaken to confirm presence, or likely absence in accordance with SNH guidance (SNH, 2019a).			
Fish	A fish habitat assessment will be undertaken of all watercourses intersecting the Site following industry standard guidance (SFCC, 2007) extended to include the suitability of habitats for freshwater pearl mussel in accordance with SNH guidance (SNH, 2019a).			

Potentially Significant Effects

The EIA will consider the following main impacts on ecological features and from which potentially significant effects may occur as a result of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed Development:

- designated sites: including direct and indirect impacts to qualifying habitat features;
- terrestrial habitats and vegetation: effects include direct (i.e. derived from land-take from all infrastructure) and indirect (i.e. changes caused by effects to supporting systems such as groundwater or overland flow);
- aquatic habitats: including ecological effects of changes in water conditions through potential pollution effects. Hydrological effects will be considered in the appropriate EIA Report Chapter; and
- protected species, bats and fish: effects considered will include direct (i.e. loss of life as a result of the proposed Development; loss of key habitat; barrier effects preventing movement to/from key habitats; and general disturbance) and indirect (i.e. loss/changes of/to food resources; population fragmentation; degradation of key habitat, e.g. as a result of pollution).

The EIA Report will provide sufficient information to inform a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) of the proposed Development upon Natura sites, where the potential for likely significant effects upon the qualifying ecological features of such sites is considered.

Proposed Assessment Methodology and Approach

Impact assessment presented within the EIA report for ecological features will be based on current CIEEM guidance (2019).

The assessment of potential effects of bats as a result of the proposed Development will be undertaken in accordance with SNH (2019b) guidelines and include measures of relative bat activity using Ecobat.

The assessment process will include the following stages:

- determination and evaluation of important ecological features;
- identification and characterisation of impacts;
- outline of mitigating measures to avoid and reduce significant impacts;
- assessment of the significance of any residual effects after such measures;
- · identification of appropriate compensation measures to offset significant residual effects; and
- identification of opportunities for ecological enhancement.

The assessment within the EIA Report will only assess in detail impacts upon important ecological features i.e. those that are considered important and potentially significantly affected by the proposed Development. A detailed assessment of features that are sufficiently widespread, unthreatened and resilient to project impacts will not be undertaken and justification for 'scoping out' provided.

Relevant European, national and local legislation, policy and guidance will be referred to in order to determine the importance (or 'sensitivity') of ecological features. In addition, importance will also be determined using professional judgement, specialist consultation advice and the results of baseline surveys and the importance of features within the context of the geographical area.

Importance will not necessarily relate solely to the level of legal protection that a feature receives and ecological features may be important for a variety of reasons, such as their connectivity to a designated site and the rarity of species or the geographical location of species relative to their known range.

The importance of an ecological feature will be defined in a geographical context from 'Local' to 'International'.

Impacts will be considered for the construction and operational phases of the proposed Development and will be assessed on the basis that a clearly defined range of avoidance and standard good practice measures are implemented.

Potentially significant effects upon important ecological features identified will be expressed with reference to an appropriate geographic scale. For example, a significant effect on a nationally designated site is likely to be of national significance.

In cases of reasonable doubt, where it is not possible to robustly justify a conclusion of no significant effect, a significant effect will be assumed as a precautionary approach. Where uncertainty exists, this will be acknowledged.

The potential for cumulative impacts with other renewable energy developments proposals will be assessed in accordance with SNH guidance (2012) and include consideration of those such developments located within the same hydrological catchment(s) or within the regular range of mobile species out to a maximum of 10 km from the application boundary for bats, in accordance with current SNH guidance (2019).

The assessment will encompass the effects of the proposal in-combination with existing developments, either built or under construction; approved developments, awaiting implementation; and, proposals awaiting determination within the planning process with design information in the public domain.

Approach to Mitigation

The adoption of embedded mitigation measures to avoid or minimise adverse impacts upon ecological features will be part of the iterative design process for the Proposed Development.

Measures to avoid or otherwise and minimise potentially adverse impacts upon ecological features during scheme design will include:

Land-take

Development infrastructure will be designed to minimise the requirement for land-take and the number of watercourse crossings;

The scheme design will also seek to minimise the requirements for tree felling, in so far as is possible having regard to other ecological and non-ecological constraints;

• Watercourse crossings

New watercourse crossings required would be designed in accordance with best practice and enable the free passage of fish and other wildlife;

Watercourse Buffers

A minimum 50 m buffer between scheme infrastructure will be applied around all watercourses in so far as possible having regard to other ecological and non-ecological constraints;

Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

A CEMP (or similar) would be in place during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the development. The CEMP will include all good practice construction measures, pollution prevention controls and monitoring to be implemented over the course of the development in line with good practice guidance; and

• Bat Habitat Features

A minimum 50 m buffer (from blade tip) will be applied to watercourses and woodland edges in so far as possible having regard to other ecological and non-ecological constraints.

Where the EIA Report proposes additional measures to mitigate potentially significant adverse effects on ecological features, a further assessment of residual ecological effects, taking into account any ecological mitigation recommended, will be undertaken.

Where baseline ecological surveys confirm the presence of protected species within the Site and which may be impacted by the Proposed Development, additional measures shall include those to ensure legislative compliance in the form of species protection plans. Where required draft protection plans will be provided as part of the EIA Report, and will be finalised in consultation with SNH and other relevant consultees.

Approach to Enhancement

Suitable principles for biodiversity enhancement to be delivered as part of the proposed Development will be outlined within the EIA report. The appropriateness and feasibility of principles will be confirmed with SNH and relevant consultees as necessary over the course of the EIA, with a view to prescriptive enhancement measures being detailed post-consent within a HMP or similar.

Opportunities for compensatory woodland planting and/or woodland habitat improvement will be outlined in conjunction with the Forestry section of the EIA report.

Issues to be Scoped in or Out

Within the EIA, impacts will be considered during the construction and operational phases of the proposed Development.

The adoption of embedded measures to avoid or minimise adverse impacts upon ecological features, at each phase, will be part of the iterative design process for the proposed Development.

Designated sites

No infrastructure would be located within the Phillips Mains Mire SSSI and there would be no direct impact upon the ecological qualifying interests of any statutory designated site for nature conservation.

The EIA will consider the potential for significant indirect effects upon the Phillips Mains Mire SSSIs qualifying blanket bog interests and implications for its currently 'Favourable Maintained' conservation status.

The potential for indirect impacts upon the ecological qualifying interests of any such site listed in Table 1, located greater than 5 km from the application boundary is considered highly unlikely; by virtue of the static nature of the qualifying habitats interests, spatial separation and/or absence of clear hydrological pathways of connectivity. The potential for impacts upon the following statutory designated sites are therefore scoped out for detailed assessment within the EIA: Stroma SSSI, Dunnet Heath SSSI, Loch of Durran SSSI, Loch of Wester SAC/SSSI.

Similarly the potential for indirect impacts upon the 'Maritime cliff' qualifying interests of the Duncansby Head SSSI and the 'Sand dunes' qualifying interests of the Dunnet Links SSSI are reasonably precluded on the basis of the nature of development, spatial separation and existing barriers for potential effects including roadways.

The Loch Heilen SSSI, Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC/Ramsar and Stroupster Peatlands SSSI are located within a different hydrological catchment to that occupied by the proposed Development with no obvious pathways for hydrological connectivity however, by virtue of spatial proximity the potential for indirect impacts upon the designations ecological habitat interests will be considered further within the EIA.

In the event otter are recorded within the Site, the potential for likely significant effects upon the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands SAC will also be considered within the EIA to inform a HRA, if required.

The Site has direct hydrological connectivity with the Loch of Mey SSSI and as such the potential for significant impacts upon the designations transition grassland habitats will be considered within the EIA.

The potential for direct and indirect impacts upon ornithological and geological qualifying interests of designated sites is considered separately under 'Ornithology' and 'Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology & Soils'.

Protected species

The use of additional survey techniques (e.g. camera trapping) to further establish the presence of protected species (e.g. occupancy of den sites) and inform mitigation requirements are not currently proposed, but would be discussed with SNH and relevant primary interest groups, should the requirement for such be identified.

It is considered that the requirement for further detailed fish surveys to inform an assessment of effects upon fish need not be required providing the implementation of good practice scheme design and mitigation measures. Mitigation measures would be developed in consultation with SNH and other primary interest groups, to avoid and/or minimise the potential for pollutant impacts upon aquatic habitats and ensure the free passage of fish within the Site is maintained.

In accordance with SNH guidance (2018a) there are some species groups which, providing the implementation of suitable mitigation measures, are unlikely to be subject to significant effects as a result of windfarm developments. As such, they do not require surveys to inform an EIA. This includes invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians but excludes additional European Protected Species (EPS).

The only additional EPS with some potential to be present within the Site is great-crested newt Triturus cristatus and wildcat.

Great crested newt is known to be present, but localised in Caithness (McInerny & Minting, 2016). Formal survey is not currently proposed however, in the event suitable breeding water bodies are identified and may be impacted by the proposed Development, the requirement for survey to establish species presence and consideration within the EIA will be discussed in consultation with SNH.

The Site is not located in proximity to any Wildcat Priority Area. The presence of wildcat and potential for impacts is considered unlikely however, consultation will be undertaken with Scottish Wildcat Action to identify any existing species records within proximity to the Site and the requirement for any formal survey and assessment.

Consultees

The consultees below will be approached for information to inform the EIA. These consultees may also be contacted by the Scottish Government regarding the scope of the EIA:

- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Highland Biological Recording Group (HBRG);
- Scottish Wildcat Action;
- Flow Country Rivers Trust; and,
- Scottish Squirrels.

Consultee Questions

- Do consultees agree that the range of surveys proposed is sufficient and appropriate?
- Do consultees agree with the approach to the proposed surveys to be undertaken?
- Do consultees agree with those surveys which have been scoped out i.e. in relation to protected species?
- Are there any other relevant consultees/key sources who should be contacted with respect to baseline ecological information gathering and assessment?
- Do consultees agree with the proposed assessment of the potential effects as a result of the proposed Development, including the approach to cumulative assessment?
- Are there any specific non-wind energy developments that consultees believe should be considered for inclusion within the cumulative impact assessment?
- Do consultees agree that a detailed assessment of impacts upon the ecological qualifying interests of the Stroma SSSI, Dunnet Heath SSSI, Loch of Durran SSSI, Loch of Wester SAC/SSSI is not required?

Relevant Policy and Guidance

The following key pieces best practice guidance will be used to inform the scope and approach to baseline ecological information gathering, interpretation and assessment:

- The Highland Council (2016) Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance. The Highland Council.
- Chanin P (2003) Monitoring the Otter Lutra lutra. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No 10. English Nature, Peterborough;
- CIEEM (2019) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester;
- Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London;
- Cresswell, W. J., Birks, J. D. S., Dean, M., Pacheco, M., Trewhella, W. J., Wells, D. and Wray, S. (2012) UK BAP Mammals Interim Guidance for Survey Methodologies, Impact Assessment and Mitigations. The Mammal Society, Southampton;
- Dean, M., Strachan, R., Gow, D. and Andrew, R. (2016) The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook (The Mammal Society Mitigation Guidance Series). Eds Fiona Mathews and Paul Chanin. The Mammal Society, London;
- Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D (1989) Surveying Badgers, Mammal Society;
- JNCC (2010) Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey a technique for environmental audit: Revised Re-print. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough;
- McInerny, C. & Minting, P. (2016) The Amphibians & Reptiles of Scotland. The Glasgow Natural History Society, Glasgow;
- Rodwell, J.S. (2006) National Vegetation Classification: Users' Handbook. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough;
- Rodwell, J. S., (1991, 1992, 1998, 2000) British Plant Communities. Vol 1-5. JNCC, Cambridge;
- SEPA (2017) Land Use Planning System Guidance Note 4: Planning Guidance on On-shore Windfarm Developments. Scottish Environment Protection Agency;
- SEPA (2014) Land Use Planning System Guidance Note 31: Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Windfarm Development Proposals on Groundwater Abstractions and Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosytems. Scottish Environment Protection Agency;
- SFCC (2007). Habitat Surveys Training Course Manual. Scottish Fisheries Co-ordination Centre, Pitlochry;
- SNH (2019a) Standard Advice for Planning Consultants: Protected Species. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-developmentadvice/planning-and-development-protected-species;
- SNH (2019b) Bats and Onshore Wind Turbines: Survey, Assessment and Mitigation. Prepared jointly by Scottish Natural Heritage, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, RenewableUK, ScottishPower Renewables, Ecotricity Ltd, the University of Exeter and the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) with input from other key stakeholders;
- SNH (2018a) SNH General Pre-application/Scoping Advice to Developers of Onshore Wind Farms. Scottish Natural Heritage, Inverness;
- SNH (2018c) Best Practice Badger Survey Guidance Note. SNH, Inverness;
- SNH (2012) Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments. Scottish Natural Heritage, Inverness.
- The Highland Council, (2012). Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP)..
- The Highland Council, (2018). Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan (CaSPlan).



	в	01/07/2020	AJ	Application boundary updated.	Scale @ A3	0 3 6	Hollandmey Renewable End
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Application boundary updated.

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