



Chapter 5

Scoping and Consultation

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Chapter 5

Scoping and 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 non-statutory consultees.
2. The purpose of scoping and consultation was to:
 - Ensure that statutory consultees and other bodies with a particular interest in the environment were 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 Site conditions;
 - Establish key environmental issues and potential significant effects evaluated during the EIA;
 - Identify those issues which were likely to require more detailed study and those which could be justifiably excluded from further assessment; and
 - Agree on the most appropriate methods of assessment.

5.2 Scoping Report

3. The Scoping Report was submitted to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in April 2019 to accompany a request to Scottish Ministers to adopt a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 15 of the EIA Regulations. The list of those organisations consulted and whether they responded is shown in **Table 5.1**.

Consultee	Response Received
British Horse Society	Yes
BT	Yes
Cree Valley Community Council	Yes
Crown Estates Scotland	Yes
Defence Infrastructure Organisation	Yes
Dumfries & Galloway Council (DGC)	Yes
Edinburgh Airport	Yes
Energy Consents Unit	Yes
Fisheries Management Scotland	Yes
Joint Radio Company	Yes
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	Yes
Highlands and Islands Airport Limited	Yes
Galloway Fisheries Trust	Yes
Glasgow Airport	Yes
Glasgow Prestwick Airport	Yes
RSPB Scotland	Yes
NATS Safeguarding	Yes

Consultee	Response Received
New Luce Community Council	Yes
Nith District Salmon Fishery Board	Yes
Old Luce Community Council	Yes
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	Yes
Scottish Forestry	Yes
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)	Yes
Scottish Water	Yes
Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)	Yes*
Marine Scotland	Yes
Transport Scotland	Yes
Visit Scotland	Yes
Civil Aviation Authority	No
Barrhill Community Council	No
John Muir Trust	No
Kirkcowan Community Council	No
Mountaineering Scotland	No
Scottish Wild Land Group	No
Scottish Wildlife Trust	No
Urr District Salmon Fishery Board	No

*ScotWays responded to say they were unable to provide a full response in the timescales.

Table 5.21 Scoping Consultees

4. A Scoping Opinion was received from the ECU on 10 June 2019 (refer to **Technical Appendix 2.1**). Where relevant, the Scoping Opinion is detailed in the consultation tables contained within **Chapters 6 to 14**, with reference to how the comments have been addressed in the EIA.

5.3 Further Consultation

5. In addition to meeting with (DGC) planning officers in July as part of the Gatecheck process with the ECU (refer to **Section 5.5** below), members of the EIA team approached Council representatives individually for detailed consultation. This included clarification on methodologies proposed as part of the environmental impact assessment. Discussions and written communications were held with the Council's Landscape Architect, Environmental Health Officer and archaeological service.
6. Members of the EIA team have also sought further consultation and clarifications from other consultees that raised concerns or questions as part of their scoping responses. A list of those organisations, in addition to the Council departments, are listed below with copies of correspondence provided in **Technical Appendix 5.1** (redacted as appropriate in respect to personal contact details i.e. telephone numbers and email addresses).
 - Arqiva
 - Atkins
 - DGC Archaeological Service
 - DGC Environmental Health Officer (Noise & Private Water Supply)
 - DGC Landscape Officer
 - Galloway Forest Astronomical Society
 - Historic Environment Scotland
 - Joint Radio Company (JRC)

- ScotWays
- SEPA
- SNH
- RSPB

5.4 Public Information Days and Community Consultation

7. 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 were contacted during the development of the proposals and notified in advance of any events taking place.
8. 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.
9. Two PIDs were held in Kirkcowan Village Hall to obtain feedback on the proposals from the local community on the 04 June and 28 August 2019. Each event ran from 3pm to 7pm. The PIDs were advertised in the week preceding each event, in the Stranraer and Wigtownshire Free Press and Galloway Gazette. The events were also publicised via leaflets distributed to around 650 residents local to the proposed Development (within 11 km of the Site) and adverts placed on local information boards.
10. For the PID held in June 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 discuss the proposal. 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. A total of 20 individuals attended this event.
11. For the PID held in August, twelve presentation boards were placed at the 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 so that local residents could understand the likely change in some of the views around the proposed Development.
12. As for the June PID, project staff were available to answer questions and discuss the proposal. Maps showing the evolved layout for the proposed Development were also available to enable discussion on updates to the layout since the PID in June. 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. A total of 30 individuals attended this event.
13. 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

14. The Applicant has been in regular contact with the ECU through the application process and met with the ECU and planning officers from Dumfries and Galloway Council on the 19 July 2019 as part of the ECU Gatecheck process. A Gatecheck Report was sent to the ECU prior to the meeting in July 2019 (refer to **Technical Appendix 5.2**). The

report provided detail on how consultee scoping responses were to be addressed by the EIA process and through the design of the proposed Development.

15. Four consultation responses to the Gatecheck Report were received from statutory consultees on 09 September 2019. These included responses from Dumfries and Galloway Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Environment Scotland and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). All were satisfied that their views had been considered and specific concerns addressed. SEPA requested clarification that an updated peat survey would be submitted if it is shown to be necessary. The technical team responded to SEPA and noted that a programme of peat depth survey work has been undertaken across the Site to supplement and update the previous survey data. These surveys were undertaken to ensure appropriate data coverage in line with the 2017 Peatland Survey guidance (Scottish Government *et al*, 2017).

5.6 References

Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage, SEPA (2017). *Peatland Survey. Guidance on Developments on Peatland*. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/peatland-survey-guidance/>

SPR (April 2019) *Kilgallioch Windfarm Extension, Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report*.

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