



# Chapter 6

## Scoping and consultation

# Table of contents

6.1	Executive summary	1
6.2	Introduction	1
6.3	Scoping report	1
6.4	Further consultation	2
6.5	Public Information Days (PIDs) and community consultation	2
6.6	Gate check	2
6.7	References	2

## Technical Appendices

Technical Appendix 6.1: Scoping Response Table

Technical Appendix 6.2: Consultee Meetings Key Issues



# Chapter 6

## Scoping and consultation

### 6.1 Executive summary

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. The Scoping Report was submitted to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in April 2019 to accompany a request for the Scottish Ministers to adopt a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 15 of the EIA Regulations 2017. The Scoping Opinion was received from the ECU in June 2019.
2. In addition to the EIA consultation and consultation forming part of the scoping process, consultation was undertaken with the local communities in the form of Public Information Days (PIDs) and Community Council meetings, which were held in June and July this year.
3. A Gatecheck Report was sent to the ECU in July 2019. The report provided detail on how consultee scoping responses were to be addressed by the EIA process and the design of the proposed Development. The five consultees that responded to the Gatecheck Report, (A&BC, SEPA, Historic Environment Scotland (HES), North Ayrshire Council (NAC) and SNH) were all satisfied that their views had generally been considered and specified concerns addressed.

### 6.2 Introduction

4. 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.
5. 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 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.

### 6.3 Scoping report

6. The Scoping Report was submitted to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in April 2019 to accompany a request for the 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 date of the response is shown in **Table 6.1**.

Consultee	Response Received	Date of Response
Argyll & Bute Council (A&BC)	Yes	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2019
Argyll District Salmon Fisheries Board (ADSFB)	Yes	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2019

Consultee	Response Received	Date of Response
Arran Community Council	Yes	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
Argyll & Bute Council Environmental Health Officer	Yes	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2019
BT	Yes	9 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
British Horse Society	Yes	8 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO/MOD)	Yes	11 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
Energy Consents Unit	Yes	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2019
Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS)	Yes	25 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
Glasgow Prestwick Airport (GPA)	Yes	7 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL)	Yes	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
South Knapdale Community Council	Yes	11 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
Historic Environment Scotland	Yes	7 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
Joint Radio Company (JRC)	Yes	7 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
Marine Scotland Science	Yes	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
National Air Traffic Services (NATS) Safeguarding	Yes	8 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
North Ayrshire Council	Yes	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland (RSPB Scotland)	Yes	16 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	Yes	29 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
Scottish Forestry	Yes	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2019
Scottish Natural Heritage	Yes	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2019
Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (Scotways)	Yes	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2019
Scottish Water	Yes	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
The Coal Authority	Yes	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
Transport Scotland	Yes	24 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
VisitScotland	Yes	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS)	Yes	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2019
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	No response	
Crown Estates	No response	
East Kintyre Community Council	No response	
Gigha Community Council	No response	
John Muir Trust	No response	
Mountaineering Council of Scotland	No response	
Network Rail	No response	
Ofcom	No Response	
Scottish Wild Land Group	No response	
Scottish Wildlife Trust	No response	
Sustrans Scotland	No Response	
Tarbert & Skipness Community Council	No response	

Consultee	Response Received	Date of Response
West Kintyre Community Council	No response	West Kintyre did not receive the Scoping Opinion from the ECU due to an administrative error. SPR was fully consulting West Kintyre during the period of Scoping and subsequent to it.

Table 6.1: Scoping Consultees

8. A Scoping opinion was received from the ECU in June 2019. A summary of the key issues raised in the Scoping Opinion is provided in **Technical Appendix 6.1**. The Scoping Opinion is detailed in the consultation tables contained within each EIA Report **Chapters 7 to 15**, with reference to how the comments have been addressed.

## 6.4 Further consultation

9. In addition to the formal scoping that was undertaken, additional consultation was undertaken with a number of consultees regarding specific issues. This included consultation in respect of the locations for noise monitoring (see **Chapter 13 Noise**) and the view point locations for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (**Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment**). This is detailed in the technical Chapters and is not repeated here.

## 6.5 Public Information Days (PIDs) and community consultation

10. 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 Argyll & Bute and to maximising the opportunities for local communities to benefit from their projects. Local community councils were contacted during development of the proposals. SPR informed the following Community Councils of the proposed Development by email in April 2019:

- Arran Community Council;
- East Kintyre Community Council;
- Gigha Community Council;
- South Knapdale Community Council;
- Tarbert & Skipness Community Council; and
- West Kintyre Community Council

11. 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. Three PIDs were held in June 2019 to establish dialogue with the local community regarding the proposed Development. A total of around 50 people attended the PIDs. 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.

12. Further details of the PIDs can be found in the **Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report** submitted as part of the application for consent for the proposed Development.

13. A meeting, with around 7 attendees, was undertaken with representatives of South Knapdale Community Council on 19 June 2019 to provide background on the proposed development and an update on project design.
14. A further meeting, with around 20 attendees, was held by West Kintyre Community Council on SPR's behalf on 22 June 2019 where representatives of East Kintyre & South Knapdale Community Councils were also in attendance. SPR again, provided background on the proposed Development, the wider context of SPR operations and a further update on project design, including the design process, infrastructure layout/evolution and work completed to-date, site enhancements, and ongoing environmental surveys, such as peat, geology, transport, archaeology, noise and landscape & visual.
15. 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;
  - traffic impacts on the A83;
  - important viewpoints;
  - recreational access;
  - tourism impact;
  - community benefits;
  - access into the Site;
  - noise disturbance; and
  - landscape and visual impact from Clachan.
16. A summary of the key issues raised at the consultee meetings are provided in **Technical Appendix 6.2**.

## 6.6 Gate check

17. A Gatecheck Report was sent to the ECU in July 2019. 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 five consultees in August 2019. The five consultees that responded to the Gatecheck Report, ABC, SEPA, Historic Environment Scotland (HES), North Ayrshire Council (NAC) and SNH were all satisfied that their views had generally been considered and specified concerns addressed. Comments of note included the following:
- SNH provided additional views on LVIA and turbine lighting which have both been considered in the EIA Report;
  - ABC noted that since the original scoping consultation the council's engineers have highlighted that flooding may be an issue for the site and downstream on the Clachan Burn. This had previously been highlighted by SEPA.
  - ABC do not agree that Decommissioning should be excluded from the EIA Report; and
  - ABC confirmed that they agreed with the scope of viewpoints and visualisations; cumulative cut-off date; proposed list of proposals to be included within the cumulative assessment; and scope of key visual receptors.

## 6.7 References

SPR (April 2019) Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development: EIA Scoping Report.

Energy Consents Unit, Scottish Government (26 June 2019) Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development; Scoping Opinion On Behalf Of Scottish Ministers Under The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

Scottish Government (31 August 2010). Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010: Community Engagement.

Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (26 June 2019). Scoping Opinion for Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development.

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