Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Swarclett Wind Farm

Chapter 15: Schedule of Mitigation

Swarclett Wind Energy Limited

July 2024

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Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
The Applicant	Swarclett Wind Energy Limited
Environmental Advisors and Planning Consultants	Atmos Consulting Limited
Environmental Impact Assessment	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a means of carrying out, in a systematic way, an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects from a development.
Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations	The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations)
Environmental Impact Assessment Report	A document reporting the findings of the EIA and produced in accordance with the EIA Regulations
The Proposed Development	The Swarclett Wind Farm
The Proposed Development Footprint	The area within which the Proposed Development will be located
The Proposed Development Site	The full application boundary as per Figure 1-1

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
CMRA	Coal Mining Risk Assessment
CTMP	Construction Stage Traffic Management Plan
DIA	Drainage Impact Assessment
DMP	Drainage Management Plan
DWS	Drinking Water Standards
EnvCoW	Ecological/Environmental Clerk of Works
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
CEMP	Construction Environment Management Plan
GWDTE	Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems
HMP	Habitat Management Plan
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
PPP	Pollution Prevention Plan
THC	The Highland Council
WQMP	Water Quality Management Plan
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

15 Schedule of Mitigation

15.1 Introduction

This Chapter of the EIA Report provides a summary of the key conclusions of the EIA namely, the mitigation measures identified through the assessments as being required to address particular effects and to meet Schedule 4, Part 7 of the EIA Regulations.

An EIA Report is required to include: "*A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements*".

The mitigation measures included in the EIA for the Proposed Development fall into the following categories:

- Embedded mitigation, incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development, such as the use of existing infrastructure where possible. All embedded mitigation measures are detailed within Chapter 3: Description of Development as well as the relevant technical chapter; and
- Additional mitigation measures, including monitoring and enhancement, identified as a result of the EIA, e.g., topic specific management plans such as a Habitat or Peat Management Plan.

The additional mitigation measures that have been identified are presented in the relevant technical chapters of the EIA Report (Chapters 5 to 14) and are summarised in the Schedule of Mitigation below.

15.2 Schedule of Mitigation

A Schedule of Mitigation, proposed to address potential significant adverse effects arising from the Proposed Development is provided in Table 15-1.

The Schedule of Mitigation is supported by an Outline Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) provided in Appendix 15-1.

The Outline CEMP should be read in conjunction with Chapters 5 to 14 and their respective technical appendices, in particular, the Outline CEMP is supported by:

- Appendix 6-4 Outline Habitat Management Plan.

Table 15-1: Schedule of Mitigation

ID	EIA Report Chapter and Document	Phase	Mitigation Commitments
LV-01	Chapter 5 Landscape and Visual Amenity Assessment	Construction	Local mitigation measures including structure planting re proposed to soften and filter views to the sub station and BESS which positioned on low lying terrain within the shallow valley of the Burn of Durran.
LV-02	Chapter 5 Landscape and Visual Amenity Assessment	Design Mitigation	The number of turbines was reduced from four to two to reduce overall visual impact and to ensure access to areas of deep peat were avoided. The siting of the battery storage and substation was adjusted as a result of the change in the extent of the red line boundary.
EC-01	Chapter 6 Ecology	Design mitigation	Initial consultation feedback from SEPA recommended that turbines are sited outwith the deep peat in the Cleanie Moss area of the Proposed Development Site. This consultation advice had been taken into consideration at the initial and scoping layout design stages following initial desktop and early phase 1 peat probing to ensure that areas of deep peat were avoided when siting turbines. Turbines have been sited at least 50m from watercourses. The design sought to minimise the take of potential GWDTEs through taking account of NVC information, along with other site constraints, in layout iterations.
EC-02	Chapter 6 Ecology	Construction	A construction Method Statement (CMS) will be prepared post-determination and in advance of commencement of works on Site. Works will be overseen by an Environmental/Ecological Clerk of Works (EnvCoW/EcoW) and their role and responsibilities will be detailed in the Final CEMP.
EC-03	Chapter 6 Ecology	Pre-construction	A survey focussed on otter and water vole will be undertaken prior to the commencement of construction, covering suitable habitats within 250m (50m for water vole) from construction areas, this will be completed by a suitably qualified ecologist.
EC-04	Chapter 6 Ecology	Construction	A site speed limit of 15mph will be in place at all times to reduce the risk of collision with protected species.
EC-05	Chapter 6 Ecology	Construction	Excavations will be covered at the end of each working day to minimise the risk of faunal species being injured or trapped. Alternatively, a plank or similar means of egress will be placed to allow means of escape. Any temporarily exposed open pipe system will be kept capped in such a way as to prevent wildlife gaining access.
EC-06	Chapter 6 Ecology	Construction	Works will be conducted during day light hours where possible, avoiding the sensitive

ID	EIA Report Chapter and Document	Phase	Mitigation Commitments
			periods of dawn and dusk when wildlife is most active
EC-07	Chapter 6 Ecology	Construction	Mitigation is required to reduce the chances of inadvertently killing or injuring individual reptiles during construction works. Identification and management of potential refugia and hibernacula, if present, will be undertaken. Where appropriate and safe to do so, all construction working areas with potentially suitable open habitats for reptiles will be initially be cut during the active season for reptiles (April to October). Taking into account ornithological sensitivities as detailed in Chapter 7 Ornithology, October is likely to be the optimal month for this task. Mitigation works will be carried out to reduce the height of vegetation and make it less attractive for reptile habitation. This will be undertaken under EnvCoW/EcoW supervision. Regular cutting will then be undertaken to keep it unsuitable for reptiles until construction commences.
EC-08	Chapter 6 Ecology	Construction	In the event that a protected species is discovered on the Proposed Development Site, all works in the area will stop and the EnvCoW/EcoW will be contacted. Increased buffer areas may be required in these locations.
EC-09	Chapter 6 Ecology	Construction	Incidental habitat loss will be avoided by minimising the footprint of construction activities. The operation of machinery and storing materials should be limited to within the footprint of permanent construction features where practical.
EC-10	Chapter 6 Ecology	Reinstatement	Best practice techniques for vegetation and habitat reinstatement will be adopted and implemented on areas subject to disturbance, such as the temporary construction compound area, as soon as is practicable.
EC-11	Chapter 6 Ecology	Construction	Pollution prevention measures will be outlined within the Final CEMP produced prior to works commencing on site.
EC-12	Chapter 6 Ecology	Construction and operation	A Habitat Management Plan (HMP) will be established and agreed with THC and NatureScot before construction commences.
EC-13	Chapter 6 Ecology	Operation	A distance of at least 50m between turbine blade tip and the nearest element of the proposed woodland planting to be maintained as per current bat guidance (NatureScot et al., 2021).
OR-01	Chapter 7 Ornithology	Construction	Wherever possible vegetation clearance will take place outside of nesting bird season (works to be carried out between September and mid-March). Where this is not possible, then vegetation should be searched by a suitable qualified ecologist no more than 24 hours before clearance commences.

ID	EIA Report Chapter and Document	Phase	Mitigation Commitments
			Nests of non-Schedule 1 or Annex 1 species present will be marked with a buffer to prevent damage to the nest. This buffer can only be removed with EnvCoW/EcoW approval once nest is no longer in use.
OR-02	Chapter 7 Ornithology	Pre-construction and Construction	In the 12 months before construction commences, breeding raptor surveys will be undertaken and also should be carried out during construction if construction falls within a breeding season with the aim of identifying the presence of any Annex I or Schedule 1 species which may be disturbed by the construction works.
OR-03	Chapter 7 Ornithology	Construction	A toolbox talk should be provided through the induction process, detailing the potential for sensitive species on the Proposed Development Site, detailing that sightings should be reported to the EnvCoW/EcoW.
OR-04	Chapter 7 Ornithology	Construction	Should the roost of an Annex I or Schedule 1 species be present, then disturbance buffers based on guidance (Goodship & Furness, 2022), should be established around the nest and no construction activity should be allowed within the area. The EnvCoW/EcoW should carry out a risk assessment if access roads are within the buffer distance of the nest to establish is they can be used without unlawful disturbance to the nest.
HY-01	Chapter 8 Hydrology	Construction	All infrastructure and drainage to be positioned a minimum of 50m from watercourses. Battery storage is located approximately 250m west away from potential new water crossing areas. Where this is not possible, The Drainage Impact Assessment (DIA) and Drainage Management Plan (DMP) produced as part of the final design will ensure precautionary drainage features will be put in place.
HY-02	Chapter 8 Hydrology	Construction	Micro siting allowance of up to 50m to be overseen by EnvCoW working with contractor on the basis of local field surveys.
HY-03	Chapter 8 Hydrology	Design	All watercourse crossings to be bottomless arch designed based on best practice guidelines
HY-04	Chapter 8 Hydrology	Pre-construction and construction	Develop a DIA and implement a DMP with detailed methods for the collection and treatment of all surface water runoff.
HY-05	Chapter 8 Hydrology	Pre-construction and construction	Develop and implement a CEMP pre-construction.
HY-06	Chapter 8 Hydrology	Pre-construction and	Develop and implement a Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP)

ID	EIA Report Chapter and Document	Phase	Mitigation Commitments
		construction	
HY-07	Chapter 8 Hydrology	Pre-construction and construction	Develop and implement a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) to address surface and ground water quality and protection and include measures for different rainfall and flow conditions.
HY-08	Chapter 8 Hydrology	Pre-construction and construction	Include hydrological management and monitoring of Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE) water supply and conditions in the HMP. This Include potential for minor ditch blocking to maintain groundwater levels in M23 GWDTE
HY-09	Chapter 8 Hydrology	Pre-construction and construction	Appointment of EnvCoW/ECoW ensuring the requirements of the CEMP, DMP and HMP are implemented, to undertake regular site inspections.
CH-01	Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage	Construction	Demarcation of non-linear heritage assets in close proximity to the Proposed Development footprint (Assets 70c, 70d, 96, 104, 105, and 107) prior to construction
CH-02	Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage	Construction	Micrositing of proposed tracks and infrastructure to avoid direct impacts on Assets 70c, 70d, 96, 104, 105, and 107
CH-03	Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage	Construction	Watching brief to be undertaken on all ground-breaking works within 50m of recorded heritage assets, and on a proportion of the remaining ground-breaking works elsewhere. Depending on the results of such works, further mitigation such as post-excavation work may be required. Detailed mitigation will be agreed with The Highland Council (THC) through a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
CH-04	Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage	Construction	Minimise direct impacts to linear heritage assets (Assets 70a, 70b, 106, 108, 110 and 112) be breaching only necessary widths to facilitate access and construction. Breaching to be undertaken during archaeological watching brief to ensure preservation by record.
CH-05	Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage	Construction	Archaeological watching brief to be undertaken on a proportion of ground-breaking works in order to allow for the identification of hitherto unknown sub-surface heritage assets. Depending on the results of any evaluation or watching brief works, further mitigation such as post-excavation work may be required. Detailed mitigation will be agreed with THC through a WSI
CH-06	Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage	Construction and operation	For development proposals where cultural heritage and archaeology are factors, the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) requires the provision of public benefit. The scope of such public benefit items will be informed by the programme of archaeological works and the potential results thereof. Significant on-site archaeology remains could allow for public open days, site tours and the installation of heritage

ID	EIA Report Chapter and Document	Phase	Mitigation Commitments
			display boards or online resources as legacy items to assist with public engagement. Should there be no significant archaeological results within the Proposed Development Site, public benefit items could focus on other local cultural heritage assets/events, such as the drainage of the adjacent Loch Durran. Compensatory mitigation proposals include public benefit items that would enhance the understanding and appreciation of the prehistoric landscape within.
CH-07	Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage	Construction	Demarcation of known heritage assets within close proximity to the Proposed Development footprint to prevent inadvertent direct impacts
TR-01	Chapter 11 Transport and Access	Construction	A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will detail the measures to be taken during the construction phase.
TR-02	Chapter 11 Transport and Access	Construction	An Abnormal Load Transport Management Plan detailing the measure to reduce the effect of abnormal load convoys will be produced. This will include the timings of abnormal load deliveries, signage and liaison with authorities and local communities
TR-03	Chapter 11 Transport and Access	Construction	A Section 96 Agreement or similar agreement on the road to cover Wear and Tear will be agreed with The Highland Council to ensure the road does not deteriorate as a result of the proposed construction traffic.
N01	Noise	Operational	Noise reduced mode of operation as required. Only of relevance to the cumulative impact.

15.3 Conclusions

As detailed in Chapter 3 of this EIA Report: Description of Development, the Proposed Development will comprise up to 2 wind turbines (maximum of 149.9m tip height) and associated infrastructure; battery storage, hardstandings, cabling and access roads. The wind turbines have an indicative output of 9.6MW and the battery storage will have an indicative capacity of 12MW.

The assessments have not identified any residual (inclusive of mitigation measures) significant effects with the exception of Landscape and Visual. The effects on Landscape and Visual has been minimised in so far as possible through design modifications and input to the design process.

Best practice will be used to control the potential effects of construction activities including undertaking the work in accordance with a CEMP.

15.4 References

UK Government (2017). The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/571/contents/made [Accessed 21/04/2024]