Novar 1 Wind Farm Repowering

Chapter 2 - EIA Approach and Methodology

September 2026



2 EIA Approach and Methodology

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This chapter sets out the methodology used to prepare each chapter of the EIAR and describes the general structure and content of the technical chapters. It sets out the process of identifying and assessing the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment.

2.1.2 Further detail on how the assessment methodology is applied to each topic is presented within the respective technical chapters of this EIAR:

- Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual Amenity;
- Chapter 6: Cultural Heritage;
- Chapter 7: Ecology;
- Chapter 8: Ornithology;
- Chapter 9: Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Soils;
- Chapter 10: Noise;
- Chapter 11: Traffic and Access; and
- Chapter 12: Aviation.

2.1.3 The EIAR has been prepared to comply with The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 ('EIA Regulations'). The EIAR has also drawn on current good practice guidance in EIA, including but not limited to the following:

- National Planning Framework 4[1];
- Planning Advice Note 1/2013: Environmental Impact Assessment (Scottish Government, 2013)[2];
- NatureScot Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook[3]
- Scottish Renewables Guidelines on Streamlining Environmental Impact Assessment for Onshore Wind Farms;[4]
- The Institute for Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) 'Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment'[5];
- ISEP's 'Special Report into the State Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in the UK'[6];
- ISEP's 'Shaping Quality Development'[7];
- ISEP's 'Delivering Proportionate EIA'[8];
- ISEP's 'Major Accidents and Disasters in EIA'[9];
- ISEP's 'Effective Scoping of Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment[10]; and
- ISEP's 'Assessing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Evaluating their Significance[11].

[1] Scottish Government (2023), National Planning Framework 4. Available at https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/. [Accessed February 2026]

[2] Scottish Government (2013). Planning Advice Note (PAN) 1/2013 Environmental Impact Assessment [Accessed February 2026]

[3] NatureScot (2018) Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook: Guidance for competent authorities, consultation bodies, and others involved in the Environmental Impact Assessment process in Scotland.

[4] Scottish Renewables (2025) Guidelines on Streamlining Environmental Impact Assessment for Onshore Wind Farms. Available at: New EIA Report Guidance [Accessed February 2026]

[5] ISEP (2004) Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment. Available at:

[6] ISEP (2011) Special Report into the State of Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in the UK

[7] ISEP (2015) Shaping Quality Development.

[8] IEMA (2017) Delivering Proportionate EIA

[9] IEMA (2020) Major Accidents and Disaster in EIA

[10] IEMA (2022) Effective Scoping of Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment.

[11] IEMA (2022) Assessing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Evaluation their Significance

2.2 EIA Scoping

2.2.1 The EIA Regulations make provision for obtaining a Scoping Opinion from Scottish Ministers regarding the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided within the EIAR. The specific objectives of Scoping are to:

- seek agreement on the likely significant effects associated with the Proposed Development, and confirm that all likely significant effects have been correctly included in the proposed scope of the EIA ('scoped in');
- seek agreement on where effects have been excluded from further assessment ('scoped out'); and
- invite comment on the proposed approach to baseline data collection, prediction of environmental effects and the assessment of significance.

2.2.2 In accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, the Applicant submitted a request for a Scoping Opinion to the ECU in January 2025. This request was accompanied by a Scoping Report, prepared by Ramboll on behalf of the Applicant, which provided a summary of the Proposed Development, identified the potential significant environmental effects and summarised the proposed scope of the EIA. The Scoping Report is included as **Technical Appendix 1.3 (EIAR Volume 4)**.

2.2.3 In accordance with Regulation 12(4) of the EIA Regulations, the ECU consulted statutory stakeholders, internal Scottish Government advisors, non-statutory consultees and community councils. The following consultees provided a response:

- The Highland Council;
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency;
- NatureScot;
- Historic Environment Scotland;
- Scottish Forestry;
- Transport Scotland;
- Aberdeen Airport;
- Alness Community Council;
- British Horse Society;
- British Telecoms Plc;
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation;
- Edinburgh Airport;
- Glasgow Airport;
- Glasgow Prestwick Airport;
- Highlands and Islands Airport Ltd;
- Joint Radio Company;
- RSPB Scotland;
- Scottish Water; and
- Scottish and Southern Energy Networks.

2.2.4 A Scoping Opinion was received from the ECU on the 7th May 2025 and is included in **Technical Appendix 1.4 (EIAR Volume 4)**. Regulation 5(3) of the EIA Regulations states that an EIAR "…*must be based on that scoping opinion and must include the information that may reasonably be required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the development on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment*…".

2.2.5 A summary of the matters raised in the Scoping Opinion and how they have been addressed is presented in the relevant technical **Chapters (5-12) of the EIAR (Volume 4)**.

2.2.6 Additional information has become available since the scoping consultation, such as data from additional ecology surveys and the output from technical modelling. For some environmental factors, this additional information has provided the opportunity to re-examine the scope of the assessment.

2.2.7 Where the assessments presented in this EIAR differ from that envisaged in either the Scoping Report or Scoping Opinion, this is detailed and justified within the methodology section of each technical chapter. Any proposed changes were also outlined in the EIA Gate Check Report that was submitted to the ECU in December 2025.

2.3 Topics Scoped In

2.3.1 The Scoping Report and consultation process identified the following topics as potentially resulting in significant environmental effects, such that they should be scoped in as technical chapters within the EIAR Volume 2:

- Landscape and Visual Amenity (**Chapter 5**);
- Cultural Heritage (**Chapter 6**);
- Ecology (**Chapter 7**);
- Ornithology (**Chapter 8**);
- Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Soils (**Chapter 9**);
- Noise (**Chapter 10**);
- Traffic and Access (**Chapter 11**); and
- Aviation (**Chapter 12**);

2.3.2 Within each of the above chapters a table has been included to identify what has been assessed and what has been scoped out due to the limited potential for significant effects to be generated.

2.3.3 The Scoping Report, and Scoping Opinion provided by ECU, identified certain topics that would not be afforded their own technical chapter, but that should be considered proportionally within other technical chapters as potentially significant issues, or otherwise addressed through standalone technical reports and/or technical appendices to the EIAR. Table 2.1 provides an outline of how and where these topics have been addressed in this EIAR:

Table 2.1 Other Topics of Potential Significance

Topic	Issue	Approach
Forestry	Potential impacts to woodland including ancient woodland. Landscape and visual effects arising from forestry impacts.	Impacts to woodland habitats are assessed within **Chapter 7: Ecology (EIAR Volume 2)**. Landscape and visual effects from forestry impacts are assessed within **Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual Amenity (EIAR Volume 2)**. An Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) is included in **Technical Appendix 3.2 (EIAR Volume 4)**.
Socio-economics	Economic benefits. Potential tourism impacts.	A separate Socio-Economic Statement has been prepared and forms part of the consent application package. Tourism impacts have the potential to arise from impacts on visual amenity, cultural heritage assets and transport and access including to users of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) e.g. walkers and horse riders.

Table 2.1 Other Topics of Potential Significance		
		Impacts on tourism are addressed as part of: • The direct effects on users of the PRoW on-Site and in the surrounding area are considered within **Chapter 11: Transport and Access (EIAR Volume 2)**; • **Chapter 6: Cultural Heritage (EIAR Volume 2)** assesses the potential effects on cultural heritage assets including their setting and interpretation; and • The potential impacts on visual amenity for tourism and recreational locations in proximity to the Site has been assessed within **Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual Amenity (EIAR Volume 2)**.
Climate	Carbon emissions and climate resilience.	A Carbon Balance Assessment is included in **Technical Appendix 3.3 (EIAR Volume 4)**. Relevant aspects of climate change and climate resilience are assessed within technical chapters where relevant, including **Chapter 7: Ecology and Chapter 9: Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Soils (EIAR Volume 2)**.
Population and human health	No specific issues raised in Scoping.	Effects on human health from noise, have been assessed as part of the noise assessment in **Chapter 10: Noise (EIAR Volume 2)**. Effects on pedestrian amenity and safety is covered in the traffic and access assessment in **Chapter 11: Traffic and Access (EIAR Volume 2)**. Effects on amenity associated with visual impacts have been assessed and are reported in **Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual Amenity (EIAR Volume 2)**.
Risk of major accidents and disasters	Peat landslide risk management.	The potential for ground instability from peat slide is covered in **Technical Appendix 9.7: Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment (EIAR Volume 4)**.
Materials and waste	Materials and waste to be addressed in proportionate manner within the EIAR. Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) required.	An outline circular decommissioning strategy is provided in **Technical Appendix 1.5 Outline Circular Decommissioning Strategy (EIAR Volume 4)**. An Outline Decommissioning and Construction Environmental Management Plan (ODCEMP) is included as **Technical Appendix 3.1 (EIAR Volume 4)**. Materials and waste are addressed as part of: • **Chapter 3: Site Description and Proposed Development (EIAR Volume 2)**;

Table 2.1 Other Topics of Potential Significance		
		• **Chapter 11: Traffic and Access (EIAR Volume 2)**; and • **Chapter 9: Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Soils (EIAR Volume 2)**, including consideration of borrow pits, earthworks and peat and soil management and restoration.
Soils	Outline Peat Management Plan, setting out the management of peat, conservation and reinstatement during decommissioning of the existing Novar 1 Wind Farm, construction, operations and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	An Outline Peat Management Plan and Borrow Pit Assessment covering the decommissioning of the Novar 1 Wind Farm and construction, operation, and decommissioning of the repowered wind farm is included in **Technical Appendices 9.6** and **9.8 (EIAR Volume 4)**; Impacts to soils has been addressed as part of **Chapter 9: Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Soils (EIAR Volume 2)**, including consideration of borrow pits, earthworks and peat and soil management and restoration.

2.4 Topics Scoped Out

2.4.1 Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, the following matters were scoped out of the assessment:

- **Telecommunications:** there are no telecommunications facilities with the potential to be adversely affected by the Proposed Development. Section 12.8 of the Scoping Report advised that "*It is proposed to scope out telecommunications from the EIA assessment. Ofcom records show no fixed microwave links passing within 2.5 km of the Site; operators of scanning telemetry and television re-broadcast links have confirmed that they have no assets with the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development; and due to the remoteness of the Site, no effects on TV reception are predicted*." A further search of the Ofcom Spectrum Information Portal in December 2025 confirmed that there continue to be no fixed microwave links passing within 2.5 km of the Turbine Array. The Joint Radio Company (JRC), AtkinsRéalis and Arqiva were consulted on 30th December 2025. They responded on 1st, 5th and 9th January 2026 respectively that they had no telecommunications infrastructure with the potential to be adversely affected by the Proposed Development;
- **Shadow flicker:** no residential properties are located within the shadow flicker range. THC's Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance[12] requires shadow flicker to be considered for regularly occupied buildings within 11 times the proposed blade diameter and within 130 degrees either side of north relative to the final proposed turbine locations. There are no properties that would fall within this Study Area, which is further illustrated on **Figure 2.1 (EIAR Volume 3a)**;
- **Air Quality**: the main activities that would have the potential to give rise to air quality impacts would be limited to those during construction and decommissioning. These impacts would be localised, short-term, intermittent and controllable and therefore considered not significant;

[12] The Highland Council (2016). Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance. Available at: Onshore wind energy supplementary guidance - Highland Council.[Accessed 1st May 2026].

- **Heat and radiation**: it is not anticipated that there would be any significant sources of heat or radiation during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development; and
- **Agriculture:** the Site does not contain any Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land grades therefore agricultural soils have been scoped out.

2.5 Consultation and Engagement

2.5.1 Consultation throughout the EIA process is critical to the development of a comprehensive and proportionate EIAR. The views of statutory and non-statutory consultees are important to ensure that from the outset, the EIA focuses on specific issues where significant environmental effects are likely, and where further investigation is required. A summary of general consultee comments and the associated responses is presented in **Technical Appendix 1.2: Consultation Register (EIAR Volume 4)**. A table has been provided in each **technical chapter (5-12)** in **Volume 2 of the EIAR** to identify the topic specific engagement that has been undertaken and to explain how any requests have been addressed in the EIAR.

2.5.2 Ongoing consultation has enabled embedded and additional mitigation measures to be incorporated into the Proposed Development to limit adverse environmental effects and optimise environmental benefits. Early and ongoing engagement with consultees has been important to inform the evolving design.

2.5.3 Consultation has principally been undertaken at the following key stages:

- **Pre-application consultation**: understanding initial views and feedback on the Proposed Development and agreeing the extent of future consultation;
- **EIA scoping**: determining the EIA methodology and establishing the key environmental issues;
- **Technical consultation**: engagement with statutory and non-statutory consultees as required, procuring baseline information from relevant organisations and confirming acceptance of survey methodologies (outside the scoping process), has been carried out throughout the EIA process;
- **Public consultation**: included two rounds of public exhibitions and communication with the relevant community councils; and
- **Gate Check Report**: summarises the design evolution of the Proposed Development (since the scoping stage) and the consultation feedback received through scoping and any additional engagement completed since the scoping stage.

Public Consultation

2.5.4 The Applicant has conducted public consultation in the form of local exhibition events. The purpose of these events was to raise initial awareness of the Proposed Development within the local community, and to gather views and feedback for consideration in the ongoing design. Exhibitions were held as follows:

- Public exhibition round 1:
  - 4th March 2025, Evanton and Ardross; and
  - 5th March 2025, Alness.
- Public exhibition round 2:
  - 27th August 2025, Evanton and Ardross; and
  - 28th August 2025, Invergordon and Alness.

2.5.5 A summary of the representations received during the public exhibitions and associated consultation periods is provided in the **Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report**, which is a standalone document which supports the application submission.

2.6 Assessment Methodology

Baseline Characterisation

2.6.1 For the purposes of this EIAR, the baseline has been taken as the current conditions within the Site and the surrounding area, at the time of assessment (i.e., in the assessment year of 2026), although in defining the baseline conditions, data from preceding years may have been used where the data remains relevant.

2.6.2 The baseline adopted is defined in each of the technical chapters, as evaluated through field and desktop research of the existing environmental conditions. The dates of surveys and the dates when data sources have been accessed are provided within the technical chapters. The data are considered to accurately reflect current baseline conditions because the conditions of the Site and surrounding area have not been subject to any significant or material changes since the time of the assessment in respect of each technical chapter. The potential significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development are then assessed against these defined baseline conditions.

2.6.3 Each technical chapter defines the following in the methodology section:

- Source of data/information, which may comprise desk study and/or survey information;
- Spatial scope or 'Study Area', which varies for each topic, taking account of the geographical scope of the potential impacts. The study areas have also been used to inform the zone of influence for the cumulative effects; and
- Any limitations of the baseline information that has been collated.

2.6.4 Where necessary, the scope and method of baseline characterisation have been discussed and agreed with consultees.

2.6.5 Consideration has been given as appropriate to existing and future Site conditions:

- **Existing baseline**: identified during Site surveys, desk-based data collection and/or modelling;
- **Future baseline**: conditions at the time the repowered wind farm is under construction/ operational, established by means of desk-based prediction, calculation and/or modelling; and
- **Cumulative future baseline**: in combination with other existing and/or approved developments in the cumulative study area; established by means of desk-based prediction, calculation and/or modelling.

Future Baseline in Absence of Proposed Development

2.6.6 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations requires consideration of the likely evolution of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) in the absence of the Proposed Development, as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge. Whilst there are limitations to the predictions that can be made about natural baseline conditions at a future point in time, effort has been made to characterise the future baseline in the absence of the Proposed Development in the assessment for each environmental topic.

2.6.7 The future baseline scenario is described within each technical chapter where it has been used. In general, environmental conditions at the Site over the lifetime of the Proposed

Development are not expected to change markedly. The area would likely remain as open land although there could be changes to forestry from ongoing commercial operations.

Embedded Mitigation

2.6.8 The main aim of the design process is to 'design out' the potential for significant environmental effects as far as possible. For the purposes of the EIA, both design and standard mitigation are considered embedded mitigation. Such measures are described within each technical chapter as appropriate and have been taken into account prior to the assessment of the likely effects.

2.6.9 Embedded mitigation in the form of design solutions is presented in each of the **technical chapters 5-12** in **Volume 2 of the EIAR**, providing a detailed review of mitigation achieved through design.

2.6.10 As a part of embedded mitigation, standard best practice and compliance with current Regulations during the decommissioning of the existing Novar 1 Wind Farm and construction and operation of the repowered wind farm are outlined in **Chapter 3: Site Description and Proposed Development (EIAR Volume 2)** and **Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline Decommissioning and Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (EIAR Volume 4)**.

Assessment of Effects

2.6.11 The assessment of effects is presented in **technical chapters 5-12 (EIAR Volume 2)**, with all predicted significant residual effects summarised in **Chapter 14: Summary of Residual Effects (EIAR Volume 2)**.

2.6.12 The EIA employs a range of tools and approaches aimed at predicting the likely nature and extent of environmental effects. Some technical assessments will rely on mathematical models which provide a numerical estimate of the size of the environmental change or impact, such as the levels of noise likely to arise from operational wind turbines. Other technical assessments will rely on map-based techniques to plot the extent of land use change or habitat loss or use illustrative methods to communicate how the Proposed Development might appear from a particular viewpoint.

2.6.13 Methods of prediction applied within EIAR chapters utilise quantitative and qualitative methods, or a combination of both. Quantitative methods predict measurable changes due to the Proposed Development and rely on accurately measuring the baseline conditions on the Site. Qualitative assessment techniques rely on professional judgment and are exercised within a structured framework to ensure consistency of conclusions drawn. Clear distinctions are made between matters of fact, judgement and opinions with all sources identified. Assumptions, degrees of confidence, limitations and areas of uncertainty are clearly stated within each technical chapter.

Assessment Criteria

2.6.14 The approach to assessing and assigning significance to an environmental effect is derived from a variety of sources including legislative requirements, topic-specific guidance, standards and codes of practice, the EIA Regulations, advice from statutory consultees and other stakeholders and the expert judgement of the team undertaking the EIA.

2.6.15 Determining the significance of effect varies between environmental topics, but in principle is based on the sensitivity (vulnerability/value/importance) of the resource that could be affected (receptor), and the magnitude of change from the baseline conditions. The level at which an assessed effect becomes significant has been defined in each technical chapter

and professional judgement has been applied and clearly described where effects are close to this threshold.

2.6.16 The sensitivity of a receptor is a factor of vulnerability or ability to absorb change and its value or importance (for example, taking into account whether it is designated/protected by legislation). Each technical chapter defines how receptor sensitivity is determined, utilising relevant technical guidance where applicable.

2.6.17 The magnitude of impact refers to the degree of change from the established baseline conditions that would arise from the Proposed Development. The magnitude of impact is defined within each technical chapter and has been determined, where available and appropriate, using quantifiable data, applicable national and international standards or limits and professional judgement. In assessing the magnitude of the impact and significance of resulting effects, regard has been given to the following:

- the likelihood of the impact/effect occurring;
- the geographical extent of the impacts/effect;
- the duration of the impact/effect; and
- the reversibility of the impact/effect, being either reversible or irreversible.

2.6.18 The significance of effect is determined with reference to published guidance, matrices and/or application of professional judgement. Each effect has been assessed against the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of the impact. For most environmental topics, where more than one effect classification exists for any given scenario (i.e., slight or moderate), professional judgement has been used to assign a single effect classification. Further information is given in each of the **technical chapters (5-12)** in **Volume 2 of the EIAR**.

Additional Mitigation

2.6.19 Paragraph 7 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations notes that the EIAR should 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 (for example the preparation of a post-project analysis). That description should explain the extent, to which significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, prevented, reduced or offset, and should cover both the construction and operational phases."

2.6.20 Where environmental effects cannot be avoided through the consideration of alternatives and the design of the development including embedded mitigation, additional mitigation has been applied to reduce the scale of effect. The assessment of effects, described above, has been used to determine whether additional mitigation is required to reduce residual effects, but mitigation may be applied to any assessed scale of effect.

2.6.21 Additional mitigation is prescribed where likely significant effects have been identified in the assessment. These measures aim to avoid, prevent or reduce likely significant adverse effects.

2.6.22 Where additional mitigation is prescribed, means of securing such mitigation through the consenting process or post-consent have been detailed within the relevant technical chapters.

Residual Effects

2.6.23 Residual effects are those affects remaining following consideration of additional mitigation. Residual effects are also defined as either 'significant' or 'not significant'. Based on the

above, residual effects of moderate and major scale may be considered significant but this is dependent on the relevant technical assessment and published assessment guidance.

2.6.24 Where published assessment guidance is not definitive in respect of categorising/ determining significant environmental effects, or where no published guidance is available, professional judgement has been applied, considering the duration, extent and context of the effect.

2.6.25 Where there are any deviations to the terminology set out above (e.g. due to published industry guidance for a specific topic or professional judgement), this has been clearly identified and explained within the relevant technical chapter.

2.6.26 In accordance with the EIA Regulations, monitoring should be proposed where appropriate where significant adverse residual effects remain. In some cases, for instance where there is uncertainty over a residual effect, it may also be appropriate to implement monitoring.

2.6.27 Significant residual effects are described in each technical chapter and summarised in **Chapter 14: Summary of Significant Residual Effects (EIAR Volume 2)**.

2.7 Assessment of Cumulative Effects

2.7.1 The following two types of cumulative effects have been considered within the EIA:

- **Intra-Project**: Otherwise known as in-combination effects, this describes effects of different types of impact from the Proposed Development on receptors at or surrounding the Site. Potential impact interactions include, for example, the combined effects of noise and visual impacts on a sensitive receptor; and
- **Inter-Project**: The combined effects generated from the Proposed Development with other existing and/or approved developments in the vicinity, most notably other energy infrastructure developments.

2.7.2 Inter-project effects are assessed and reported in each of the **technical chapters (5-12)** in **Volume 2 of the EIAR**.

2.7.3 Intra-project/in combination effects are assessed in **Chapter 13: Cumulative Effects Chapter (EIAR Volume 2)**, where further information can be found on the assessment methodology.

Inter-project Cumulative Effects

2.7.4 The EIA Regulations require that, in assessing the effects of a particular development proposal, consideration is also given to the cumulative effects which might arise from the proposal in conjunction with other existing and/or approved development proposals in the vicinity. The combined effects of developments in isolation may be insignificant, but when considered cumulatively with other developments may result in a significant effect.

2.7.5 A planning application search has been conducted to identify potential cumulative developments using relevant planning portals, and the following schemes have been considered:

- Those within 35 km of the Site;
- Onshore wind developments where at least one of the turbines is greater than 50 m to tip height;
- Other energy infrastructure projects such as electricity transmission projects which include overhead lines;
- Operational schemes;
- Schemes that have been refused planning permission or Section 36 consent, but which are the subject of an active appeal;

- Schemes that have secured planning permission or Section 36 consent, but construction has not yet commenced;
- Schemes that have secured planning permission or Section 36 consent and are under construction;
- Schemes where an application for planning permission or Section 36 consent has been submitted to the relevant determining authority but where a decision is pending; and
- Schemes that are at the EIA scoping stage are not currently subject to an application for consent, but some information is in the public domain through the submission of the Applicant's Scoping Report. All scoping stage schemes within 35 km have been identified and the technical chapter authors have then considered whether they should be included in the scope of the inter-project cumulative assessment.

2.7.6 The list of potential cumulative developments is detailed in Table 2.2 and illustrated on **Figure 2.2 (EIAR Volume 3a)**.

2.7.7 It is acknowledged that the status and information available on cumulative developments changes with time. To ensure there is sufficient time to assess cumulative developments without undue impact to the submission of the EIAR, the **31 July 2026** was used as a cut-off. After this point, no further research has been undertaken on the evolving status of any existing development and/or approved developments in the study area.

2.7.8 The list of developments identified as having the potential to give rise to significant cumulative effects differs between environmental topics. Cumulative effects are assessed and reported on as a section within each technical chapter, which includes full justification for which of the developments from Table 2.2 have been considered in their respective assessments.

2.7.9 Technical chapters have applied the following criteria to further refine the cumulative developments to be considered for assessment of cumulative effects:

- The cumulative development has a construction and/or operational phase which has the potential to coincide with the Proposed Development;
- The cumulative development shares common sensitive receptors which are assessed and described in the supporting environmental documentation, and have the potential to be significantly affected by the combination of the approved development and the Proposed Development; and
- The cumulative development has sufficient environmental assessment information freely and publicly available to inform a cumulative assessment.

Table 2.2: Cumulative Developments					
Name	**Approx. direction and distance from Site (to nearest infrastructure where available)**	**Turbine No.**	**Tip height (m)**	**Planning status**	**Timescales**
Wind Farms					
Achany	30-35 km	19	100	Operational	N/A
Auchmore	20-25 km	1	48		
Auchmore 2	20-25 km	1	48		
Beinn nan Oighrean	10-15 km	2	80		
Beinn Tharsuinn	10-15 km	17	80		
Coire na Cloiche	5-10 km	13	99.5		
Corriemoillie	15-20 km	17	126.25		
Cullisse Farm	25-30 km	1	66.5		
Fairburn	20-25 km	20	100		
Lairg	30-35 km	3	100		
Lochluichart	20-25 km	17	125		
Lochluichart Extension	20-25 km	6	125		
Novar 2	0-5 km	16	106		
Rosehall	30-35 km	19	90		
Somerby Farm Lochussie Repowering	10-15 km	1	102		
Yellow Wells	5-10 km	1	78		
Garvary	25-30 km	24	179.75	Approved	Original application submitted in April 2021 (37 turbines). Scheme was further amended in February 2024 to 24 turbines. Project was consented in February 2025.
Kirkan	15-20 km	17	175		Project was consented in July 2023.

Table 2.2: Cumulative Developments					
Lairg 2	25-30 km	10	Min. 150 Max. 200		Project was consented in November 2021. Construction began on the main civils work in May 2025.
Lochluichart Extension II	15-20 km	5	149.9		Revised site layout plan approved in July 2023.
Meall Buidhe	20-25 km	8	Min. 144.5 Max. 149.9		Application was consented in June 2023.
Strathrory	5-10 km	7	Min. 149.9 Max.180		Application was consented in August 2023. Fully constructed but not yet operational.
Abhainn Dubh	0-5 km	9	149.9	In-planning (application under determination)	Supplementary Environmental Information submitted to ECU in October 2024.
Achany Extension	35-40 km	19	200		Application submitted in November 2025.
Allt An Tuir	30-35 km	9	Min. 180 Max. 200		Application submitted in February 2025.
Balblair	20-25 km	7	Min. 180 Max. 200		Application submitted in March 2025. In June 2026, application was revised to remove one turbine and reduce the height of three of the turbines in the array in response to consultation during determination of the application.
Ballach	25-30 km	20	155		Application submitted in August 2025.
Carn Fearna	10-15 km	9	Min. 180 Max. 200		Application submitted in April 2025.
Coille Beith	25-30 km	11	200		Application submitted in July 2025.
Lairg 3 (aka Acheilidh Wind Farm)	25-30 km	12	Min. 200 Max. 230		Application submitted in May 2024.
Strath Oykel	25-30 km	11	200		Application granted 8th January 2025. However, judicial review has denied approval therefore its back to the ECU for them to review.
Ceislein	0-5 km	11	200		Application submitted in February 2026.

Table 2.2: Cumulative Developments					
Creachan	5-10 km	13	200		Application submitted in February 2026.
Inveroykel	20-25 km	20	Min. 200 Max. 230		Application submitted in February 2026.
Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm Repowered and Extended	5-10 km	31	180	EIA Scoping	Scoping submitted in March 2025.
Braelangwell	15-20 km	17	220		Scoping submitted in August 2024.
Tarvie	15-20 km	11	200		Scoping submitted in May 2024.
Glasa Wind Farm	5-10 km	27	250		Scoping submitted in April 2025. Public exhibition held in April 2025.
Ruith Cnoc	30-35 km	42	220		Scoping submitted January 2026.
Garvary II	20-25 km	16	200		Scoping submitted March 2026.
Fionn	30-35 km	26	250		Scoping submitted December 2025
Invercassley	30-35 km	20	230		Scoping submitted January 2025.
Transmission					
Spittal to Loch Buidhe to Beauly 400 kV OHL Connection	Within south border of the Site	N/A	N/A	In-planning (application under determination)	Application submitted in September 2025.