Technical Appendix 1.2: Consultation Register

Technical Appendix 1.2: Consultation Register

Table 1.2.1 Consultation Register

Consultee Name	Date	Topic	Summary of Consultee Response	Response
Energy Consents Unit	07/05/2025	General	2. Consultation Following the scoping opinion request, a list of consultees was agreed between the Energy Consents Unit and Ramboll UK Limited, on behalf of the Company. A consultation on the scoping report was undertaken by the Scottish Ministers. The consultation period commenced on 10 February 2025 and was scheduled to close on 3 March 2025.	Noted.
		General	Extensions to this deadline were granted to: • RSPB • NatureScot • Historic Environment Scotland • The Highland Council	Noted.
		General	The Scottish Ministers also requested responses from their internal advisors, Transport Scotland and Scottish Forestry. Standing advice from Marine Scotland Science (MSS) has been provided with requirements to complete a checklist prior to the submission of the application for consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. All consultation responses received and the standing advice from MSS are attached in ANNEX A – List of Consultees and their responses and ANNEX B MD-SEDD Standing Advice.	Noted.
		General	The purpose of the consultation was to obtain scoping advice from each consultee on environmental matters within their remit. Responses from consultees and advisors, including the standing advice from MSS, should be read in full for detailed requirements and for comprehensive guidance, advice and, where appropriate, templates for preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment report ("EIA report").	Noted.
		General	Unless stated to the contrary in this scoping opinion, the Scottish Ministers expect the EIA report to include all matters raised in responses from the consultees and advisors.	Noted. A response to each matter raised in the Scoping Opinion is included in each technical chapter (5-12) of the **EIAR (Volume 2).**
		General	The following organisations were consulted but did not provide a response: • Civil Aviation Authority • Cromarty Firth Fisheries Trust • Cromarty Firth District Salmon Fishery Board • Crown Estate Scotland • Fisheries Management Scotland • John Muir Trust • Mountaineering Scotland • NATS Safeguarding • Oban Airport • ScotWays • Scottish Wildlife Trust • Scottish Wild Land Group • VisitScotland • Woodland Trust	Noted.

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Consultee Name	Date	Topic	Summary of Consultee Response	Response
			• Ardross Community Council • Cromarty and District Community Council • Dingwall Community Council • Ferintosh Community Council • Invergordon Community Council • Kiltearn Community Council • Resolis Community Council	
		General	Where consultees did not respond, it is assumed that they have no comment to make on the scoping report, However, each would be consulted again in the event that an application for consent is submitted subsequent to this EIA scoping opinion.	Noted.
		General	The following organisations advised that they do not require further consultation on this application: • Aberdeen Airport • Edinburgh Airport • Glasgow Airport • Glasgow Prestwick Airport	Noted.
		General	The Scottish Ministers are satisfied that the requirements for consultation set out in Regulation 12(4) of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 have been met.	Noted.
		General	3. The Scoping Opinion This scoping opinion has been adopted following consultation with the Highland Council, NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES), all as statutory consultation bodies. The Scottish Ministers have also consulted with other bodies which they consider likely to have an interest in the proposed Development, by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities or local and regional competencies.	Noted.
		General	The Scottish Ministers adopt this scoping opinion having taken into account the information provided by the Company in its request dated 23 January 2025 and the responses received to the subsequent consultation.	Noted.
		General	In providing this scoping opinion, the Scottish Ministers have had regard to current knowledge and methods of assessment and have taken into account: • the specific characteristics of the proposed Development • the specific characteristics of that type of Development • the environmental features likely to be affected	Noted. Details on the description of the Proposed Development are included in **Chapter 3: Site Description and Proposed Development (EIAR Volume 2)**.
		General	A copy of this scoping opinion has been sent to the Highland Council for publication on their website. It has also been published on the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit website at www.energyconsents.scot.	Noted.
		General	The Scottish Ministers expect the EIA report which will accompany the application for the proposed Development to consider in full all consultation responses attached at Annex A.	Noted. A response to each matter raised in the Scoping Opinion is included in each technical chapter (5-12) of the **EIAR (Volume 2).**

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Consultee Name	**Date**	**Topic**	**Summary of Consultee Response**	**Response**
		General	The Scottish Ministers are satisfied with the scope of the EIA set out in the scoping report.	Noted.
		General	In addition to the consultation responses, the Scottish Ministers wish to provide comments with regards to the scope of the EIA report. The Company should note and address each matter.	Noted.
		Marine Directorate – Science, Evidence, Data and Digital (MD-SEDD) Generic Advice	MD-SEDD provide generic scoping guidelines for onshore wind farm and overhead line development https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/Freshwater/Research/onshoreren) which outline how fish populations can be impacted during the construction, operation and decommissioning of a wind farm or overhead line development and informs developers as to what should be considered, in relation to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, during the EIA process. In addition to identifying the main watercourses and waterbodies within and downstream of the proposed development area, developers should identify and consider, at this early stage, any areas of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) where fish are a qualifying feature and proposed felling operations particularly in acid sensitive areas. MD-SEDD also provide standing advice for onshore wind farm or overhead line development (which has been appended at Annex B) which outlines what information, relating to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, is expected in the EIA report. Use of the checklist, provided in Annex 1 of the standing advice, should ensure that the EIA report contains the required information; the absence of such information may necessitate requesting additional information which may delay the process. Developers are required to submit the completed checklist in advance of their application submission.	Noted. Marine Scotland's checklist has been completed and submitted with the application.
		Existing/Planning Infrastructure	The Scottish Ministers request that the company assess the impact of the proposed development on existing and/or planned infrastructure. In particular, the company should carry out the necessary assessments to confirm if any part of the proposed development is within the consultation zone of any of the following: • a licenced explosives site • gas (or any other) pipeline • existing overhead electric lines • underground cables • water pipes • telecommunications links	Noted.
		Cumulatives/SSEN Overhead Line	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) have advised that the current/proposed access route would cross under a planned new 400kV overhead transmission line between Beauly and Spittal in Caithness. The Scottish Ministers recommend that the Company engage with SSEN regarding any potential interfaces between the two projects.	The project team is aware of the new 400 kV line and where appropriate the potential cumulative effects of this and the Proposed Development and have been reported in the **EIAR (Volume 2)**.

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Consultee Name	Date	Topic	Summary of Consultee Response	Response
		Hazardous Substances	Scottish Ministers request the company to assess if any flammable, toxic or explosive chemicals detailed in The Town and Country Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Regulations 2015 would be stored on site in quantities such that a Hazardous Substances Consent would be required under section 2 of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Act 1997.	The Proposed Development, being a wind farm, is not a type of development that would store or process hazardous substances in quantities relevant to the potential for industrial major accidents with respect to The Town and Country Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Regulations 2015.
		General	Ministers are aware that further engagement is required between parties regarding the refinement of the design of the proposed development regarding, among other things, surveys, management plans, peat, radio links, finalisation of viewpoints, cultural heritage, cumulative assessments and request that they are kept informed of relevant discussions.	Each technical chapter **(5-12) in EIAR Volume 2** includes a table which summaries the consultation that has been undertaken which is specific to that technical discipline.
		Mitigation	4. Mitigation Measures The Scottish Ministers are required to make a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the proposed Development on the environment, as identified in the environmental impact assessment. The mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impacts identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. Applicants are also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures proposed in the environmental assessment, provided in tabular form, where that mitigation is relied upon in relation to reported conclusions of likelihood or significance of impacts.	**Chapter 14 (EIAR Volume 2)** includes a summary of all predicted significant residual effects. A Schedule of Mitigation is provided in **Technical Appendix 14.1 (EIAR Volume 4)**.
		General	5. Conclusion This scoping opinion is based on information contained in the applicant's written request for a scoping opinion and information available at the date of this scoping opinion. The adoption of this scoping opinion by the Scottish Ministers does not preclude the Scottish Ministers from requiring of the Company information in connection with an EIA report submitted in connection with any application for section 36 consent for the proposed Development.	Noted.
		General	This scoping opinion will not prevent the Scottish Ministers from seeking additional information at application stage, for example to include cumulative impacts of additional developments which enter the planning process after the date of this opinion.	Noted.
		General	Without prejudice to that generality, it is recommended that advice regarding the requirement for an additional scoping opinion be sought from the Scottish Ministers if no application has been submitted within 12 months of the date of this opinion.	Noted.
		General	It is acknowledged that the environmental impact assessment process is iterative and should inform the final layout and design of proposed developments. The Scottish Ministers note that further engagement between the relevant parties in relation to the refinement of the design of this proposed Development will be required,	Noted.

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Consultee Name	**Date**	**Topic**	**Summary of Consultee Response**	**Response**
			and request that they are kept informed of any on-going discussions.	
		General	Applicants are encouraged to engage with officials at the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit at the pre-application stage and before proposals reach design freeze.	Noted.
		General	When finalising the EIA report, applicants are asked to provide a summary in tabular form of where within the EIA report each of the specific matters raised in this scoping opinion has been addressed.	Noted. A response to each matter raised in the Scoping Opinion is included in each technical chapter (5-12) of the **EIAR (Volume 2).**
		General	It should be noted that to facilitate uploading to the Energy Consents portal, the EIA report and its associated documentation should be divided into appropriately named separate files of sizes no more than 10 megabytes (MB).	Noted.
The Highland Council	24/04/2025	General	Thank you for consulting The Highland Council (THC) on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Request for the above project. We received the consultation on 13 February 2025 by email and we are grateful for the extension of time to make comments. Our view on the scope of the assessment may be subject to change on a number of topics within the EIAR if the scale of development, in terms of the number and height of turbines, changes. The applicant has also utilised the Council's Major PREAPP Service (THC ref. 24/00966/PREMAJ), and the applicant is advised that our advice response pack made under that request should be read alongside with this scoping response. Whilst highly unlikely, this application may reduce in scale to a level that would be considered as an application under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (As Amended). If this is the case, we would require a revised scoping response under the relevant regulations.	Noted.
		General	This response is given without prejudice to the Planning Authority's right to request additional information in connection with any statement, whether Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) or not, submitted in support of any future application. These views are also given without prejudice to the future consideration of and decision on any planning application received by The Highland Council (THC). THC request that any EIAR submitted in support of an application for the above development take the comments highlighted below into account; many of which are already acknowledged within the Scoping Report. In particular, the elements of this report as highlighted in parts 3, 4, and 5 should be presented as three distinct elements. Responses to the internal consultation undertaken included in the report below. Should any further	Noted.

Table 1.2.1 Consultation Register

Consultee Name	Date	Topic	Summary of Consultee Response	Response
			responses be received from internal consultees, these will be forwarded on in due course.	
		Description of the Development	1. Description of the Development The EIAR must include the following in relation to the description of the proposed development: a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and the full land-use requirements during the operational, construction and decommissioning phases. These might include requirements for borrow pits, local road improvements, infrastructural connections (i.e. connections to the grid), off site conservation measures, etc. A plan with eight figure OS Grid co-ordinates for all main elements of the proposal should be supplied; • a description of the main characteristics of the production processes, for instance, nature and quantity of the materials used; • the risk of accidents, having regard in particular to substances or technologies used; • an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light / flicker, heat, radiation, etc.) resulting from the operation of the development; and • the estimated cumulative impact of the project with other consented or operation development.	Noted. The Proposed Development is described in **Chapter 3: Site Description and Proposed Development (EIAR Volume 2)**. Inter-project cumulative effects are reported in each **technical chapter (5-12) of the EIAR (Volume 2)**.
		Alternatives	2. Alternatives A statement is required that outlines the main development alternatives and an indication of the main reasons for the final project choice. This is expected to highlight the following: the design chapter should clearly set out the design evolution of the scheme including constraints to the delivery of that scheme; • the range of technologies that may have been considered; • locational criteria and economic parameters used in the initial site selection; • options for access; • design and locational options for all elements of the proposed development (including grid connection); • the environmental effects of the different options examined; and • The assessment should also highlight sustainable development attributes including for example assessment of carbon emissions/carbon savings.	Noted. Details on design evolution and the alternatives that have been considered is included in **Chapter 4: Design Evolution and Alternatives (EIAR Volume 2)**.

Table 1.2.1 Consultation Register				
Consultee Name	**Date**	**Topic**	**Summary of Consultee Response**	**Response**
		Environmental Effects	3. Environmental Elements Affected The EIAR must provide a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development. Some principal considerations are detailed below. There are a number of wind energy developments in the area, and you are encouraged to use your understanding of these in assessing your development and the potential for cumulative effects to arise. The EIAR should fully utilise this understanding to ensure that information provided is relevant and robustly grounded.	Noted. A summary of the predicted significant residual effects of the Proposed Development is included in **Chapter 14 of the EIAR (Volume 2)**.
		Sustainability	The Council's Sustainable Design Guide SG provides advice and guidance on a range of sustainability topics, including design, building materials, and minimising environmental impacts of development. A Sustainable Design Statement is required. Wind farms produce a sustainable form of energy; however, the Council will need to be satisfied in reaching a conclusion on any consultation or application that the development in its entirety is in fact sustainable development. In order for us to do so we recommend that matters related to the three pillars of sustainable development are fully assessed in the information which supports the application. The wind farm needs to be considering the provision of energy systems within the holistic demand cycle of the network. The developer needs to consider the impact of the installation and the prospective long-term use of the energy to accommodate the requirements of a decarbonised energy provision for Scotland and the Highlands. The application should include a statement on how the development is likely to contribute to the Scottish Government Energy Efficient Scotland roadmap and provide the Highlands with secure and clean electricity supplies.	Noted. A Design and Access Statement is included as a supplementary document to EIAR outlining how the design represents sustainable development.
		Sustainability	It would be highly beneficial to have information to explain electricity network benefits and capacity proposed, with the end result ideally being all wind turbines being operational on a consistent basis when there is sufficient windspeeds, rather than either certain or no turbines being in operational depending upon short term grid constraints or levels of demand.	Noted. The proposed total generating capacity of the Proposed Development is approximately 55.8 Megawatts (MW). Further details on the Proposed Development are included in **Chapter 3** and **4 (EIAR Volume 2)**.
		Sustainability	The concept of developing energy storage and/or Major Energy Users (such as Hydrogen production) in association with Energy Generation are of interest to the Council, with considerable potential benefits for energy generation (avoiding or reducing curtailment), diversity, decarbonisation, efficiency and supply and for the economy. It may be noted that the Council supports in broad principle the inclusion of energy storage within such developments and that in respect of hydrogen the Council has (March 2021) agreed to prepare a Hydrogen Strategy for Highland. A strategy for the provision of charging points within the development should also be submitted with the application.	Noted. Hydrogen and battery storage not relevant to the Proposed Development.

Table 1.2.1 Consultation Register

Consultee Name	Date	Topic	Summary of Consultee Response	Response
		Miscellaneous: Health and Safety and Shadow Flicker	Miscellaneous: Health and Safety and Shadow Flicker The EIAR needs to address all relevant climatic factors which can greatly influence the impact range of many of the preceding factors on account of seasonal changes affecting, rainfall, sunlight, prevailing wind direction etc. From this base data information on the expected impacts of any development can then be founded recognising likely impacts for each phase of development including construction, operation and decommissioning. Issues such as dust, air borne pollution and / or vapours, noise, light, shadow-flicker can then be highlighted. Consideration must also be given to the potential health and safety risks associated with lightning strikes and ice throw given the proximity of recreational routes through the site.	Issues such as dust, air borne pollution and/or vapours, noise and light has been addressed in the Outline Decommissioning and Construction Environmental Management Plan (ODCEMP) in **Technical Appendix 3.1 (EIAR Volume 4)**. Shadow flicker has been scoped out of the assessment as no residential properties are located within the shadow flicker range Turbines will be fitted with lightning protection to direct the discharge towards the ground without affecting the structure. Standard mitigation for the risk of ice throw comprises off-site monitoring to enable the deactivation of turbines on sensing ice accumulation, as well as physical and visual warning for both site personnel and third parties.
		Miscellaneous: Health and Safety and Shadow Flicker	Depending on the proximity of the working area and access route to any houses etc. the applicant may require to submit a scheme for the suppression of dust during construction. Particular attention should be paid to construction traffic movements and routing.	Dust management has been included in the ODCEMP **Technical Appendix 3.1 (EIAR Volume 4)**.
		Miscellaneous: Health and Safety and Shadow Flicker	A number of the aforementioned matters could be addressed by a CEMD for the proposal. While acceptable in principle we would request that an Outline CEMD is included with the application.	Noted
		Miscellaneous: Health and Safety and Shadow Flicker	Given the reported separation distance from any nearby residential properties, it is accepted that a shadow flicker assessment is not required to be undertaken.	Noted.
		Significant Effects on the Environment	Significant Effects on the Environment Leading from the assessment of the environmental elements the EIAR needs to describe the likely significant effects of the development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development, resulting from: • the existence of the development; • the use of natural resources; and • the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances and the elimination of waste.	Noted. A summary of the predicted significant residual effects of the Proposed Development is included in **Chapter 14 of the EIAR (Volume 2)**.
		Significant Effects on the Environment	The potential significant effects of development must have regard to: • the extent of the impact (geographical area and size of the affected population); • the trans-frontier nature of the impact; • the magnitude and complexity of the impact; • the probability of the impact; and • the duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact. The effects of development upon baseline data should be provided in clear summary points.	Noted. A summary of the predicted significant residual effects of the Proposed Development is included in **Chapter 14 of the EIAR (Volume 2)**.
		Significant Effects on the Environment	The Council requests that when measuring the positive and negative effects of the development a four point scale is used advising any effect to be either strong positive, positive, negative or strong negative.	Effects criteria has been outlined in the EIAR in each technical chapter **(EIAR Volume 2)** and has been alignment with standard practice/best practice guidance for each particular topic.

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Consultee Name	Date	Topic	Summary of Consultee Response	Response
		Significant Effects on the Environment	The applicant should provide a description of the forecasting methods used to assess the effects on the environment.	Methods used to assess the effects on the environment are outlined in each technical chapter **(EIAR Volume 2)** of the EIAR.
		Mitigation	Mitigation Consideration of the significance of any adverse impacts of a development will of course be balanced against the projected benefits of the proposal. Valid concerns can be overcome or minimised by mitigation by design, approach or the offer of additional features, both on and off site. A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reducing and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment must be set out within the EIAR statement and be followed through within the application for development.	Noted. A schedule of mitigation is provided in **Technical Appendix 14.1 (EIAR Volume 4).**
		Mitigation	The mitigation being tabled in respect of a single development proposal can be manifold. Consequently, the EIAR should present a clear summary table of all mitigation measures associated with the development proposal. This table should be entitled draft Schedule of Mitigation. As the development progresses to procurement and then implementation this carries forward to a requirement for a Construction Environmental Management Document (CEMD) and then Plan (CEMP) which in turn will set the framework for individual Construction Method Statements (CMS). Further guidance can be obtained at: http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/485C70FB-98A7-4F77-8D6BED5ACC7409C0/0/construction_environmental_management_22122010.pdf. This is currently under review by a working party led by SEPA working through Heads of Planning Scotland but for the time being remains relevant.	Noted. A schedule of mitigation is provided in **Technical Appendix 14.1 (EIAR Volume 4).**
		Mitigation	The implementation of mitigation can often involve a number of parties other than the developer. In particular local liaison groups involving the local community are often deployed to assist with phasing of construction works – abnormal load deliveries, construction works to the road network, borrow pit blasting. It should be made clear within the EIAR or supporting information accompanying a planning application exactly which groups are being involved in such liaison, the remit of the group and the management and resourcing of the required effort.	Noted. A schedule of mitigation is provided in **Technical Appendix 14.1 (EIAR Volume 4).**
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	24/02/2025	General	We have already provided a response to The Highland Council in August 2024 as part of their major applications meetings. It appears that the information provided for this consultation is the same as that provided previously and therefore our response is largely the same. Our groundwater guidance has been updated Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Developments on Groundwater Abstractions and Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Developments on Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial	Noted.

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Consultee Name	Date	Topic	Summary of Consultee Response	Response
			Ecosystems have been added to the planning section of the SEPA website, in place of LUPS GU31.	
		General	We welcome engagement with the applicant at an early stage to discuss any of the issues raised in this letter and would especially welcome further pre-application engagement once initial peat probing, peat condition assessment and habitat survey work has been completed and the layout developed further as a result.	Noted, consultation has taken place with SEPA since the Scoping Opinion was issued.
		General	Our position and advice, given below, is based on the determining authority ultimately determining that the proposal is classed as development that could be supported for the purposes of assessment under Policies 5 and 22, as defined in National Planning Framework 4. If this is not the case, please advise so we can re-consider our position and advice.	Noted.
		General	Layout drawings showing the existing and proposed structures to be provided. It is expected that this will be shown on drawings showing buffer zones and peat depths. Drawings should be at a resolution that allows the information to be clearly seen.	Noted, see **Chapter 9 of the EIAR (Volume 2)** and the supporting **Technical Appendices (9.1 – 9.8) in Volume 4 of the EIAR**.
		General	Layout should be designed to minimise the extent of new works on previously undisturbed ground. For example, a layout which makes use of lots of spurs or loops is unlikely to be acceptable, cabling must be laid in ground already disturbed such as verges, and existing built infrastructure must be re-used or upgraded where possible.	Noted. Reference to use of existing infrastructure has been included in the **EIAR (Volume 2)**.
		General	A comparison of the environmental effects of alternative locations of infrastructure elements may be required, particularly where they deviate from the existing infrastructure.	Noted. An Outline Peat Management Plan (OPMP) has been included as **Technical Appendix 9.6 (EIAR Volume 4).**
		Design	1. Site Layout Each of the drawings requested below must detail all proposed upgraded, temporary and permanent infrastructure. This includes all tracks, excavations, buildings, borrow pits, pipelines, cabling, site compounds, laydown areas, storage areas and any other built elements. All drawings must be based on an adequate scale with which to assess the information.	Noted. **Figure 1.3a and 1.3b (EIAR Volume 3a)** illustrates the proposed site layout.
		Design	Layout should be designed to minimise the extent of new works on previously undisturbed ground. For example, a layout which makes use of lots of spurs or loops is unlikely to be acceptable, cabling must be laid in ground already disturbed such as verges, and existing built infrastructure must be re-used or upgraded where possible.	Noted.
		Design	A comparison of the environmental effects of alternative locations of infrastructure elements may be required,	Noted.

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Consultee Name	Date	Topic	Summary of Consultee Response	Response
			particularly where they deviate from the existing infrastructure.	
		Life Extension, Repowering and Decommissioning	7. Life extension, repowering and decommissioning Life extension, repowering and decommissioning - Proposals for life extension, repowering and/or decommissioning must demonstrate accordance with SEPA guidance on the life extension and decommissioning of onshore wind farms. Table 1 of the guidance provides a hierarchical framework of environmental impact based upon the principles of sustainable resource use, effective mitigation of environmental risk (including climate change) and optimisation of long term ecological restoration. The submission must demonstrate how the hierarchy of environmental impact has been applied, within the context of latest knowledge and best practice, including justification for not selecting lower impact options when life extension is not proposed. The discarding of materials as waste should be avoided. However, if there is an intention to discard materials then further guidance on this may be found in the document Is it waste - Understanding the definition of waste.	Noted.
NatureScot (NS)	14/03/2025	General	1. Background To date we have provided some informal pre-application advice to the applicants, as well as advice through the Highland Council's Major Pre-application advice service meeting in August 2024.	Noted.
		General - Key Issues	The assessment of these issues and the resultant impacts will determine our position on any application which comes forward. We provide more detailed comments on these and other site-specific issues in Annex 1 to this letter, to assist with the EIA process. We recommend that results of survey and assessment are used to inform the design and layout, seeking to avoid impacts to the sensitivities outlined in Annex 1 to this letter and in the Scoping Report. If avoidance of impacts is not possible, we advise any impacts are minimised through appropriate mitigation, details of which should be provided in the EIA Report (EIAR).	Noted.
		General	3. General pre-application and scoping advice The Scoping Report broadly covers the topics that we would expect to see included in the EIAR. Our website includes a wide range of standing advice and guidance documents which we recommend the applicants follow in the preparation of the EIAR, see: https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/planning-and-development-standing-advice-and-guidance-documents.	Noted.
		General	The Scoping Report includes a number of questions and we hope those relevant to us are answered within this letter. The applicants and their consultants are welcome to contact us directly for any further clarification or guidance they may require.	Noted.

Table 1.2.1 Consultation Register				
Consultee Name	**Date**	**Topic**	**Summary of Consultee Response**	**Response**
		General	Please note that while we are supportive of the principle of renewable energy, our advice is given without prejudice to a full and detailed consideration of the impacts of the proposal if submitted for formal consultation as part of the EIA or planning process.	Noted.
		Grid Connection	8. Grid Connection Recommended to include details of the grid connection within the EIAR (where feasible) - noted that this may have implications for the natural heritage interests highlighted above, in particular Novar SPA, as well as other interests	The existing Novar 1 Wind Farm has an agreement to export up to 18.5 MW to the grid at Alness substation through a combination of overhead lines and underground cables. It is anticipated that a new grid connection will be required to connect the Proposed Development to the grid. More details on the potential environmental effects of a new grid connection is provided **Technical Appendix 3.4 (EIAR Volume 4)**.
		Decommissioning	9. Decommissioning Recommended that the EIA process assesses the likely impacts of decommissioning for the new proposal. Noted that this could be brief, but should still provide an appropriate level of detail on how the site infrastructure may be removed and how the site is intended to be restored.	Noted, decommissioning of the proposed wind farm has been included in the scope of the EIAR and is reported in the **technical chapters (5-12) in Volume 2**.
Marine Scotland	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
Crown Estate Scotland	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
Cromarty District Salmon Fisheries Board	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
Cromarty Firth Fisheries Trust	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
Fisheries Management Scotland	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
John Muir Trust	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
Mountaineering Scotland	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
Oban Airport	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A

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Consultee Name	**Date**	**Topic**	**Summary of Consultee Response**	**Response**
Scottish Wildlife Trust	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
Scottish Wild Land Group (SWLG)	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
Visit Scotland	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
Woodland Trust	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
Alness Community Council	26/02/2025	General	Alness Community Council have noted the questions within the repowering scoping report documents and follows is a general overview of concerns raised: 1) Visual Impact - Will there be a full visual impact assessment for the 34 turbines at 61 mtrs being replaced by 10 at 180mtrs? 2) Decommissioning of the existing facility, will they reuse the existing bases or do they remove them and if so how? Please detail the sequence of construction/decommissioning? 3) What will be the additional impact of infrastructure amendments to allow for transport of very large turbines? 4) Can you replace the turbines that exist and reuse the infrastructure that is already there.	1) Visual assessment is included in **Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual Amenity (EIAR Volume 2)**. 2) Process of decommissioning of the existing Novar 1 Wind Farm is described in detail within **Technical Appendix 1.5: Outline Circular Decommissioning Strategy (EIAR Volume 4)**. 3) Transport of infrastructure components is further described in **Chapter 11: Traffic and Access (EIAR Volume 2)**. 4) One of the design principles for the Proposed Development was to maximise reuse of the existing infrastructure. More details on the design are included within Design and Access Statement.
Ardross Community Council	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
Cromarty & District Community Council	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
Dingwall Community Council	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
Ferintosh Community Council	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
Invergordon Community Council	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
Kiltearn Community Council	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A
Resolis Community Council	N/A	N/A	No response	N/A

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