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Chapter 1

Introduction

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Glossary

Term	Definition
Environmental Impact Assessment	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a means of drawing together by the developer, in a systematic way, a description of the development and information relating to the likely significant environmental effects arising from a Proposed Development
Environmental Impact Assessment Report	A document reporting the findings of the EIA and produced in accordance with the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 Regulation 5
The Proposed Development	The proposed Scawd Law Wind Farm development
The Proposed Development Area	The development area within the red line site boundary (application area) as shown in Volume 3a Figure 1.2: Site Layout

List of Abbreviations

List and describe your abbreviations here.

Abbreviation	Description
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
FORL	Fred. Olsen Renewables Ltd
GSP	Grid Supply Point
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
Natural Power	The Natural Power Consultants Ltd
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
PAC	Pre-Application Consultation

1.1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 This Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been prepared in support of an application submitted under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate the proposed Scawd Law Wind Farm development (the Proposed Development) comprising of:

- Turbine infrastructure including turbine foundations; external transformer housing; crane pads and hardstand areas;
- Micro-siting allowance of turbines and associated infrastructure of up to 75 m;
- Substation, control building and compound;
- Battery/energy storage infrastructure;
- Construction of approximately 6.8 km of new access tracks;
- Alterations to the public road network;
- Underground electricity cables;
- Anemometry mast;
- Signage;
- One temporary borrow pit;
- Temporary concrete batching plant;
- Temporary construction and storage compounds, laydown areas and ancillary infrastructure;
- One minor water crossing between T3 and T6 (a peat drain from the acrotelm (one layer in an undisturbed peat bog) and not a major water crossing); and
- Drainage and drainage attenuation measures (as required).

1.1.2 It is intended that multi-use trails will be applied for as a separate consent within the Proposed Development Area. The trails and their predicted impacts on tourism and the local economy are detailed in Appendix 13.3. To secure the delivery of multi-use trails a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed with a community group.

1.1.3 It is intended that the Proposed Development will make use of the available capacity on the local transmission network with connection to the substation proposed to be located between turbines 7 and 8 (see Figure 1.2: Site Layout in Volume 2).

1.1.4 The application has been submitted by The Natural Power Consultants Ltd (Natural Power) on behalf of the Applicant (Fred. Olsen Renewables Limited, (" FORL")).

1.1.5 The Proposed Development is located to the north-east of Innerleithen approximately 3 km to the east of the B709 and some 4 km north of the A72 (Figure 1.1: Regional Context, Volume 3a).

1.1.6 The Proposed Development lies along the top of two ridges, lying between 500 m and 640 m above sea level; with steep slopes to the south, leading down to small water courses that drain south towards the River Tweed, some of which are within the site boundary (see Figure 1.2, Volume 3a). Habitat is considered typical of this area, comprising a mix of heather moorland and rough, semi-improved grassland, with extensive plantation forestry situated c.1 km to the south and west. The land is currently used for sheep farming, and the estate also release birds (pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* and red-legged partridge *Alectoris rufa*) for game shooting.

1.1.7 Figure 1.1 in Volume 3a shows the regional context of the Proposed Development.

1.1.8 Figure 1.2 in Volume 3a shows the location and site layout of the Proposed Development.

1.1.9 Figure 1.3, in Volume 3a shows the Proposed Development mapped constraints.

1.1.10 This EIAR describes the natural and human environment of the area in which the Proposed Development would be situated (if consented) and discusses the details of the construction, operational and decommissioning phases. It assesses the potential significant effects that the development would have on the biological environment, the physical environment and on human health and population and the alternatives studied (see Chapter 5: Approach to EIAR for more information). It also describes the policy context for renewable energy in the Scottish Borders, Scotland and the UK, the overall policy context as set out by international agreements to reduce emissions of climate change gases, and discusses targets set for the growth of renewable energy generation.

1.1.11 Volume 1 of the EIAR is dedicated to the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) which is a summary of the key details of the project in laypersons language and aims to be accessible to a variety of readers.

1.1.12 Volume 2 contains the EIAR chapters and assessments.

1.1.13 Volume 3a contains figures (except Landscape and Visual).

1.1.14 Volume 3b contains Landscape and Visual figures and LVIA & Cultural Heritage visualisations.

1.1.15 Volume 4 contains Appendices.

1.1.16 The Section 36 application (under the Electricity Act 1989) will be accompanied by a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report which is an informative description of the PAC undertaken for the Proposed Development, and a Planning Statement which considers the Proposed Development against relevant national and regional policies.

1.2 APPLICATION DETAILS

1.2.1 The application is submitted in accordance with:

- The Electricity Act 1989; and
- The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

1.2.2 The application seeks consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. The application also seeks a direction under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) that planning permission be deemed to be granted.

1.2.3 A full Scoping Report was submitted to the ECU on the 28th July 2020. A copy of this can be found in Appendix 1.1 in Volume 4 of the EIAR. The full scoping opinion was received on the 21st October 2020. This can be found in Appendix 1.2 in Volume 4 of the EIAR.

1.3 THE APPLICANT

1.3.1 FORL (hereby referred to as "The Applicant") (see Table 1.1 below) has been developing and operating wind farms since the mid 1990's and is fully committed to the Scottish and UK renewable energy generation market, with an operational portfolio generating capacity of 529.7 MW. In the UK, The Applicant have a total of eight operational wind farms.

1.3.2 With over twenty-five years' experience in consenting, developing and operating wind farms, The Applicant is one of very few developers that take a project all the way from initiation and development, through to operations.

1.3.3 The Applicant was the first developer to bring forward community benefit in Scotland. To date, the Applicant has made available over £6 million to eligible communities surrounding its wind farms and is substantially increasing this investment as new projects come online. The Applicant has committed to maximising opportunities for the local supply chain. This includes committing to ensuring that all main contractors will spend at least 30% of the contract value locally and incentivising all contractors to use local content.

1.3.4 In addition, two projects, Rothes I and Rothes II, contributed over £60m to the Highlands & Islands economy, and £103m to the Scottish economy alone to date.

1.3.5 The Applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bonheur ASA and is responsible for the group's renewable energy activities.

Table 1.1: Details of the Applicant

APPLICANT		
Fred. Olsen Renewables Limited	Registered Address: c/o Fred. Olsen Renewables Ltd, 2nd Floor, 36 Broadway London SW1H 0BH United Kingdom	Tel: +44 (0)207 931 0975

1.4 PROJECT TEAM

1.4.1 The project has been designed and assessed by the Applicant in association with their lead consultants, Natural Power (Table 1.2). Natural Power has been appointed to coordinate and produce this EIAR and associated application documentation.

1.4.2 Natural Power has been providing expertise to the renewable energy industry since the company was formed in 1995 and is one of the UK's leading renewable energy consultants. As well as development and EIA services, Natural Power also provide expert advice and due diligence consultancy, site construction management, and site operation and maintenance.

1.4.3 Natural Power currently employs over 450 people working full time providing renewable energy services nationally and internationally. Natural Power's office in Stirling, where this project is largely managed, currently employs approximately 100 renewable energy experts. Contact details of other consultants involved in the production of the EIAR are provided in Table 1.3.

Table 1.2: Details of agent and lead consultancy

LEAD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CONSULTANCY		
The Natural Power Consultants Ltd	Ochil House, Springkerse Business Park, Stirling, FK7 7XE	Tel: 0777 665 6225 *Contact: Lesley Cartwright*

Table 1.3: Other consultants involved in the production of this EIAR

CONSULTANTS		
LEGAL, PLANNING AND POLICY		
David Bell Planning	David Bell Planning Ltd 26 Alva Street Edinburgh EH2 4PY	Tel: 0131 259 6017 *Contact: David Bell*
Wright, Johnston & Mackenzie LLP	The Capital Building, 12/13 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2AF	Tel: 0131 524 1500 *Contact: Nicola J Martin*
LVIA REVIEW AND PHOTOGRAPHY		
MVGLA Ltd	Cairndhu Dundas Street, Comrie Perthshire, PH6 2LN	Tel: 01764 670 506 *Contact: Marc Van Grieken (technical reviewer)*
Tom Finnie	Tom Finnie Photography 36 Stonehouse Road Sandford Strathaven ML10 6PD	Tel: 0788767003 Contact: Tom Finnie
CULTURAL HERITAGE		
AMS Consultancy	York Hub, Popeshead Court Offices, Peter Lane, York, YO1 8SU	Tel: 01904 404849 *Contact: Steve Lancaster*
NOISE		
Hayes McKenzie Partnership Ltd	Unit 3, Oakridge Office Park, Whaddon, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 3HT	Tel: 01722 710 091 *Contact: Rob Shepherd*
SOCIOECONOMICS AND TOURISM		
Stantec Inc	5th Floor, Lomond House, 9 George Square, Glasgow, G2 1DY	Tel: 0141 343 3319 *Contact: Mark Johnston*
AVIATION		
Aviatica Group Ltd	Reservoir House, Gladhouse, Midlothian, EH23 4TA	Tel: 0771 044 7378 *Contact: Malcolm Spaven*

1.5 STRUCTURE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESMENT REPORT

1.5.1 The EIAR comprises the following volumes:

Table 1.4: EIAR Contents

VOLUME	TITLES AND CONTENTS
1	**Non-Technical Summary**

2	**EIAR Chapters and Assessments** Chapter 1: Introduction Chapter 2: Policy Context Chapter 3 Site Selection and Design Evolution Chapter 4: Project Description Chapter 5: Approach to EIAR Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Chapter 7: Ecology Chapter 8: Ornithology Chapter 9: Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage Chapter 11: Noise Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport Chapter 13: Socio-economic, Tourism and Recreation Chapter 14: Aviation and Other Matters Chapter 15: Synergistic Effects and Summary of Mitigation and Residual Effects
3a	**All Figures, except Landscape and Visual**
3b	**Landscape and Visual Figures and LVIA & Cultural Heritage Visualisations**
4	**Appendices**
Supplementary Documents	**Planning Statement** **Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report**

1.5.2 A detailed outline of Volume 2 is presented below:

- Chapter 1: Introduction, this chapter, provides a brief introduction of this document and the application.
- Chapter 2: Policy Context, identifies the energy and land use policy, and outlines the need for the Proposed Development and its benefits within the context of international climate change agreements and UK and Scottish renewable energy policy.
- Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Evolution, provides a detailed description of the site selection process for the proposed site. This chapter also discusses the considered alternatives, the design evolution process and mitigation measures that were introduced at the site selection and design stage to reduce environmental impacts.
- Chapter 4: Project Description, provides a detailed description of the Proposed Development including details of the construction, operational and decommissioning arrangements.
- Chapter 5: Approach to EIAR, presents a methodology for environmental design and assessment of the Proposed Development through gathering baseline environmental data, mitigation of impacts during site design, final assessment of the significance of residual environmental and human effects of the proposal.
- Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual, provides an assessment of the Landscape and Visual Impacts (LVIA) of the Proposed Development and cumulative LVIA. The Residential Visual and Amenity Assessment is also presented in this chapter.
- Chapter 7: Ecology, provides an overview of the baseline ecological conditions relating to the habitats and (non-avian) fauna present within the Proposed Development area and immediate surrounding environment.
- Chapter 8: Ornithology, describes the ornithological interest at the Proposed Development and assesses the predicted effects on these interests.
- Chapter 9: Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology, assesses the impacts on the hydrological, geological and hydrogeological environment at the Proposed Development.
- Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage, considers the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon cultural heritage assets.
- Chapter 11: Noise, assesses the findings of the construction and operational noise assessments that were carried out to assess the noise impact of the Proposed Development.
- Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport, assesses the effects due to transport and access resulting from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.
- Chapter 13: Socio-economic, Tourism and Recreation, assesses the predicted socioeconomic and tourism impacts of the Proposed Development on local, regional and national levels.
- Chapter 14: Aviation and Other Matters, assesses the potential impact on aviation, Ministry of Defence interests, communication operations and existing site infrastructure. It demonstrates the consulting process undertaken and outlines mitigation where it is deemed necessary. This chapter also considers Shadow Flicker and Ice Throw.
- Chapter 15: Synergistic effects, Summary of Mitigation and Residual Effects, summarises the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment presented in the EIAR chapters described above. This chapter also includes synergistic effects.