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Chapter 17

Synergistic Effects, Summary of Mitigation and Residual Effects

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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 of 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
Residual Effect	Residual impacts are defined as those impacts that remain following the implementation of mitigation measures
Synergistic Effect	Result of two or more processes interacting together to produce an effect that is greater than the cumulative effect that those processes produce when used individually.
The Applicant	Fred. Olsen Renewables Limited
The Proposed Development	The Proposed Windy Standard I Repower Wind Farm
The Proposed Development Area	The area shown delineated by the red line boundary shown on Figure 1.2.

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
ACP	Airspace Change Proposal

Abbreviation	Description
ALAA	Abnormal Load Access Assessment
amsl	Above mean sea level
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
CEMP	Construction and Environmental Management Plan
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
CO_2	Carbon dioxide
dB	Decibel
DGC	Dumfries and Galloway Council
ECoW	Environmental Clerk of Works
EHV	Extra High Voltage
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
FCS	Forestry and Land Commission Scotland
GDL	Garden Designed Landscape
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GPA	Glasgow Prestwick Airport
GPG	Good Practice guidance
Ha	Hectare
HMP	Habitat Management Plan
IEF	Important Ecological Features
IFP	Instrument Flight Procedure
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
IOA	Institute of Acoustics
IOF	Important Ornithological Feature
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MoD	Ministry of Defence
NATS	National Air Traffic Services
NERL	NATS En Route
NSA	National Scenic Area
NVIS	Night Vision Imaging System
PPIP	Pollution Prevention and Incident Plan
PSR	Primary Surveillance Radar
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SF	Scottish Forestry
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SP	Scottish Power

Abbreviation	Description
SPA	Special Protected Area
SPP	Species Protection Plan
SSNL	Site Specific Noise Limits
SSR	Secondary Surveillance Radar
SUW	Southern Upland Way
TMA	Terminal Control Area
TMP	Traffic Management Plan
TTWA	Travel To Work Areas
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

17.1 INTRODUCTION

17.1.1 This chapter presents: a summary of the topics scoped in for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); the consultees which were consulted/responded during the EIA; where in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) these responses have been addressed, if applicable; the EIA results where these are potentially significant; any mitigation proposed; and any residual effects. Synergistic effects are potential effects which may be caused through a combination of effects from different topics, and these are assessed in Section 17.2.

Table 17.1: Summary of Effects, Mitigation and Residual Effects

Topic	Consultees	EIAR Reference	Potential Significant Effects	Proposed Mitigation	Residual Effects
Landscape & Visual	• Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC) • NatureScot • Carshairn Community Council • Dalmelington Community Council • New Cumnock Community Council • Mountaineering Scotland • John Muir Trust • Scottish Wild Land Group	Chapter 6	The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of this EIAR considers the effects on the landscape and visual resource of the Proposed Development Area and the wider study area, including effects on landscape elements, landscape character, views and visual amenity, and cumulative effects. Effects on Physical Elements: The Proposed Development will affect two landscape elements; rough grassland/moorland ground cover, and coniferous forestry. The effect on both of these landscape elements will be **not significant**. Effects on Landscape Character: the Landscape Character Types (LCTs), the cumulative effect on the RSA will be **not significant** in all scenarios, as the operational and under construction wind farms are a prevailing characteristic of the landscape, and the addition of the Proposed Development to these will not materially alter this situation. Effects on Views: The cumulative viewpoint assessment has indicated that cumulative effects will be **not significant**, and this will apply to views from core paths. This is due to the extensive wind energy development that forms the context to the Proposed Development as seen at every viewpoint, which ensures that the addition of the Proposed Development itself will have a non-material effect on the cumulative situation. Effects on Visible Aviation Lighting: The assessment of night-time visual effects for the Proposed Development has predicted a **significant effect** at one of the three night-time viewpoints	The Proposed Development has been designed to minimise visibility from areas that are not affected by baseline wind energy development, as can be seen in the cumulative Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTVs) with nearby wind farms. It is also relevant that the overall trend of the operational, under construction, consented and application stage wind turbines that are in close proximity to the Proposed Development is towards larger turbines. In this context, the removal of the operational Windy Standard I turbines, which are considerably smaller than other turbines in the cluster of development, and their replacement with the Proposed Development turbines will be beneficial as it will reduce the wide variation in turbine sizes that is currently apparent. The removal of the larger number of operational Windy Standard I turbines and replacement with fewer, larger turbines is also beneficial as it reduces the visual confusion, clustering and overlapping that is currently seen on the Proposed Development Area. The rotation speed of rotors will also beneficially reduce due to the increased size of the turbines. The location of the Proposed Development within Southern Uplands and Southern Uplands with Forest LCTs is beneficial in that these are large-scale, upland LCTs that are acknowledged to have capacity to accommodate wind energy development (as evidenced by operational and consented development). Moreover, the Proposed Development is located within an extensive area of Southern Uplands LCTs, ensuring that turbines will not encroach, or be perceived as encroaching, into smaller-scale, more complex lowland LCTs, where scale comparisons could arise. The location of the turbines within the Southern Uplands also ensures that visibility from principal visual	**Summary of Residual Effects:** • the landscape character of the Proposed Development Area itself and surrounding LCTs (all of which are Southern Uplands landscapes types) up to a maximum of approximately 6.5 km away, of which some effects will become not significant when predicted baseline wind farms are also taken into consideration; • views from local hilltops at Benbrack (Viewpoint 4), Blackcraig Hill (Viewpoint 2), and Cairnsmore of Carsphairn (Viewpoint 1) in both the current baseline and predicted baseline scenarios; • very intermittent views (including night-time views) from the Water of Ken valley (Viewpoint 3) in both the current baseline and predicted baseline scenarios; • intermittent views from the settlements of Leggate, Connel Park and Bankglen, and New Cumnock (Viewpoint 5) in the current baseline scenario only; when the consented wind farm at Pencloe Forest is also taken into consideration, these effects will be not significant; • intermittent views from the northern slope of the upland basin that encloses the headwaters of the River Nith (Viewpoint 7) in the current baseline scenario only; when the consented wind farm at Pencloe Forest is also taken into

Topic	Consultees	EIAR Reference	Potential Significant Effects	Proposed Mitigation	Residual Effects
				receptors (e.g. A76, A713, settlements) is limited due to landform screening by the large-scale hill landform. The Proposed Development has been designed to avoid the appearance of prominent turbines on ridgelines and high points of the site, and this also helps to minimise visibility from visual receptors. The repowering nature of the development ensures that existing infrastructure is extensively used, minimising the need for new infrastructure.	consideration, this effect will be not significant; and • intermittent views from a stretch of the Southern Upland Way (SUW) between Stroanpatrick and Polskeoch and intermittent views from core paths that gain clear and open visibility of the Proposed Development and lie within a maximum of approximately 11 km of the Proposed Development (of which some effects will become not significant when predicted baseline wind farms are also taken into consideration).
Cultural Heritage	• DGC Archaeology Service • Historic Environment Scotland • Visit Scotland	Chapter 7	There are **no predicted significant effects** on the setting of heritage assets arising from the construction or operation of the Proposed Development. The development therefore does not significantly adversely affect the fabric or setting of any Listed Buildings, the integrity of the setting of any Scheduled Monuments or the setting of any Garden Designed Landscapes (GDLs) on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes.	Appropriate mitigation would consist of a watching brief on the elements of the ground works (turbine base, hard standing, crane base, auxiliary crane bases and laydown area) associated with the construction of turbine five, as this area intersects with the mapped extent of Asset 38. The precise scope of the watching brief would be negotiated with DGC Archaeology Service and the agreed mitigation programme would be documented in a Written Scheme of Investigation. No mitigation is proposed with respect to the potential impacts due to setting change.	**No Significant Effect**
Ornithology	• DGC • NatureScot • Royal Society for the Protection of Birds • Energy Consents Unit	Chapter 8	The assessment considered the various potential impacts arising from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and evaluated the significance of these impacts on the identified key species of interest in the context of their conservation value, sensitivity to wind farm development and the scale of the potential effects. The Proposed Development is predicted to have no significant cumulative disturbance/displacement or collision effects on all of the Important Ornithological Features (IOF)'s. All impacts on IOF's are concluded to be **low magnitude - negligible** and therefore **not significant**. Additional mitigation is proposed in order to further minimise effects and will ensure compliance with legislation and Good Practice guidance (GPG).	By applying effective embedded mitigation measures, mainly through the design process, and following good practice guidelines during construction, including production of a Species Protection Plan (SPP), the magnitude of residual effects of the Proposed Development is assessed as being low/negligible in terms of magnitude, and thus not significant in terms of the EIA Regulations. However additional mitigation is proposed in order to further minimise effects including a Habitat Management Plan (HMP).	**No significant effect**
Ecology	• DGC • NatureScot	Chapter 9	An assessment has been made of the potential for significant effects of habitats and non-avian species within the Proposed Development Area. It is predicted that unmitigated the Proposed Development would **not have any significant effects** on any Important Ecological Features (IEFs) but will have a **moderate negative**	Despite the **absence of significant effects**, suitable offsite projects are being identified in discussion with the Applicant and suitable local parties in order to develop a HMP in offsite locations which will provide a	**No significant effect**

Topic	Consultees	EIAR Reference	Potential Significant Effects	Proposed Mitigation	Residual Effects
	• Royal Society for the Protection of Birds • Fisheries Management Scotland • Scottish Wildlife Trust		**(not significant)** effect on noctule and Leisler's bat species and a **low negative (not significant) effect** on other bat species. The Proposed Development is considered likely to have a **low magnitude** and **not significant** effect on wet/dry modified bog. In relation to bats, the effects as a result of the Proposed Development are assessed as being **low – moderate negative but not significant**. The Proposed Development is considered likely to have a **low magnitude and not significant effect** on fish.	more significant positive impact to the local environment that would be possible on the limited features present within the Proposed Development Area.	
Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology	• DGC • Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) • Scottish Water • NatureScot	Chapter 10	An assessment has been carried out of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the hydrological, hydrogeological and geological environment. The assessment has considered the site preparation, construction and operation of The Proposed Development. The potential effects on the hydrological, geological and hydrogeological environment have considered: • Pollution Incidents; • Erosion and Sedimentation; • Modification of surface water and groundwater flows; • Modification of natural drainage patterns; • Impediments to flow and flood risk; • Excavation of material, including rock, soils and peat; and • Compaction of soils. Good practice design and construction of the Proposed Development delivered through a skilled team of competent workers, with mitigation and compliance monitored in collaboration with SEPA, DGC and other engaged stakeholders, will result in a risk that is considered to be **not significant** in terms of the EIA Regulations.	Following the identification and assessment of the key receptors, taking into account the potential effects, a comprehensive suite of mitigation and good practice measures has been incorporated into the design, including extensive buffer areas. In addition, a site-specific Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) as well as detailed design of infrastructure and associated mitigation will be implemented to protect the groundwater and surface water resources from pollution and minimise changes to the hydrological environment.	**No significant effect.**
Forestry	• DGC • SEPA • NatureScot • Forestry and Land Commission Scotland (FCS)	Chapter 11	Commercial forestry is not being regarded as a receptor for a formal impact assessment. Instead, the chapter describes the plans as a result of the Proposed Development for felling, restocking and forest management practices; the process by which these were derived; and the changes to the physical structure of the forestry within the Proposed Development Area. The effects of the changes to the forest design plan as a result of the development will be considered within the relevant chapters of the EIAR which are: • Chapter 4: Site Design and Design Evolution; • Chapter 6: Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA); • Chapter 8: Ornithology; • Chapter 9: Ecology; • Chapter 10: Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeological, and	As a result of the construction of the Proposed Development, there would be a net loss of woodland area. The area of stocked woodland in the study area would decrease by 7.5 ha. In order to comply with the criteria of the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy, compensation planting would be required. The Applicant is committed to providing appropriate compensatory planting. The extent, location and composition of such planting to be agreed with Scottish Forestry (SF), taking into account any	**N/A**

Topic	Consultees	EIAR Reference	Potential Significant Effects	Proposed Mitigation	Residual Effects
			• Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport	revision to the felling and restocking plans prior to the commencement of construction of the wind farm.	
Traffic and Transport	• DGC Roads Planning Service • Transport Scotland • DGC • East Ayrshire Council	Chapter 12	The traffic and transport assessment considered the most likely construction methods, programme and sequencing against baseline traffic conditions. In addition, the traffic impacts associated with the abnormal load deliveries were also assessed. An Abnormal Load Access Assessment (ALAA), including swept path analysis at particular pinch points was also prepared demonstrating the viability of the proposed abnormal load route. The assessment concludes that, with the incorporation of suitable mitigation measures secured through a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP), there will be **no significant traffic effects** associated with the Proposed Development.	A preliminary CTMP has been prepared. The assessment has been based on a number of conservative assumptions and will be clarified post consent and once a civil contractor is engaged. Therefore, a Planning Condition is expected to be applied to development for a final CTMP to be prepared and approved by DGC post consent and prior to construction works commencing.	**No significant effect.**
Aviation	• DGC • DGC Landscape Architect • Ministry of Defence • National Air Traffic Services (NATS) • NatureScot • Edinburgh Airport • Glasgow Airport • Prestwick Airport • Defence Infrastructure Organisation • Nuclear Safety Directorate • Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	Chapter 13	The aviation assessment considers the likely significant effects on aviation and defence associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The assessment concluded that: • The NATS En Route (NERL) Lowther Hill Primary Surveillance Radar (PSR) will have line of sight to all turbines in the Proposed Development. However blanking has already been applied to the Lowther Hill radar over the Proposed Development Area to mitigate the effects of the Windy Standard I and Windy Standard II wind farms. The effects of the Proposed Development on the Lowther Hill PSR are therefore **assessed as negligible.** • The Glasgow Prestwick Airport (GPA) Terma PSR will have line of sight to all turbines in the Proposed Development. In view of the Terma radar's ability to filter out returns from wind turbines while continuing to display wanted aircraft targets, the effects of the Proposed Development on this radar are **assessed as negligible.** • Effects on GPA Instrument Flight Procedures (IFP) are the subject of an assessment by GPA's Approved .Procedure Designer. In the event that the IFP assessment concludes that changes are required, the effect will be of **moderate significance**. • **There will be no effects** on Glasgow Airport IFPs. • **There will be no effects** on the GPA Instrument Landing System. • The effect of the Proposed Development on military low flying **is assessed as negligible**. • The cumulative effects on NERL PSRs **are assessed as negligible**. • The cumulative effects on the GPA Terma radar **are assessed as negligible**. • The cumulative effects on GPA IFPs will be of **moderate significance**. • The cumulative effects on the GPA Instrument Landing System **are assessed as negligible.**	Existing mitigation in the form of blanking of the Lowther Hill PSR will continue to be applied. The residual effect on the Lowther Hill PSR will be negligible. The GPA Terma radar has inherent wind farm mitigation capabilities. The residual effect on the GPA PSR will be negligible. Any effects on GPA IFPs will be mitigated by submission of an Airspace Change proposal (ACP) to the CAA. The residual effect on GPA IFPs will be negligible.	**Negligible effect**

Topic	Consultees	EIAR Reference	Potential Significant Effects	Proposed Mitigation	Residual Effects
			• The cumulative effects on GPA's use of Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) data from Lowther Hill SSR are **assessed as negligible.** • The cumulative effect of the Proposed Development on military low flying is **assessed as negligible.**		
Telecommunications	• Joint Radio Company • British Telecom	Chapter 13	The Proposed Development has a radio link present at the location of Turbine 2. This was known to Fred. Olsen Renewables Limited (the Applicant) at an early stage of the repower design process as it provides a communication link for the Windy Standard Control Room. The applicant has advised that they no longer wish to keep this link active and would take the link offline at the point of decommissioning. A fibre link would be installed for communication purposes at the time of constructing the Proposed Development. As the radio link was identified early on and is proposed to be removed, **no significant effects** have been predicted.	The Applicant is in discussions with British Telecom about the removal of the link.	**N/A**
Existing Infrastructure	• National Grid • Scottish Power (SP) Energy Network	Chapter 13	SP Energy Network identified underground extra high voltage (EHV) 33 kV lines present at the proposed locations of turbines one and seven, which are current infrastructure components of the existing Windy Standard I Wind Farm connecting the existing turbines to the onsite substation. Where there are utility assets within the Proposed Development Area, these are proposed to be re-used insofar as possible for the repowering of Windy Standard I or safely removed during the decommissioning of the existing wind farm. **No significant effects** are predicted.	A site-specific CEMP as well as detailed design of infrastructure and associated mitigation will be implemented to protect safety of human and environmental project aspects.	**N/A**
Noise	• Scottish Government • DGC Environmental Health	Chapter 14	The guidance contained within ETSU-R-97 and the Institute of Acoustics (IOA) GPG was used to assess the likely operational noise impact of the Proposed Development. Predicted levels indicate that for dwellings neighbouring the Site the operational noise impact is **not significant** after the site-specific noise limits (SSNL) are adopted.	**Mitigation during Construction** Due to the separation distances between the Proposed Development, a construction noise assessment has not been undertaken. Nevertheless, a range of good practice measures would be detailed in the CEMP and employed to minimise noise impacts. **Mitigation during Operation** The exact model of wind turbine to be used for the Proposed Development would be the result of a future tendering process. Achievement of the noise limits determined by this assessment would be a key determining factor in the final choice of wind turbines for the site.	**No significant effect.**

Topic	Consultees	EIAR Reference	Potential Significant Effects	Proposed Mitigation	Residual Effects
Socioeconomics	• Energy Consents Unit • Visit Scotland	Chapter 15	The residual effects on socio-economics are: • **minor** effect on the Dumfries and Galloway economy and **negligible** effect on the Scottish economy from spending during the construction period; • **negligible** effect on the Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish economy from spending during the operations and maintenance phase; and • **negligible** effect on the Dumfries and Galloway economy from the payment of non-domestic rates. The decommissioning of the Proposed Development will result in a Low magnitude of change on the Onshore Wind Sector receptor (a medium sensitivity receptor), resulting in a **Short-Term Low / Moderate Beneficial effect**. Residual effects on tourism and recreation assets have been assessed as: • **negligible** for those visitor attractions within 15 km from the Proposed Development; • **negligible** for those accommodation providers within 15 km from the Proposed Development; and • **negligible** for those recreational trails and paths within 15 km from the Proposed Development.	There are no standard mitigation requirements for economic impacts during construction and development and operations and maintenance. No mitigation measures are required with regards to the tourism assets (recreational walks, visitor attractions and accommodation providers) in the proximity of the Proposed Development.	**No significant effect.**
Carbon Balance		Chapter 16	The results from the carbon calculator reveal that the Proposed Development would have effectively paid back its expected carbon debt from manufacture, construction, impact on habitat and decommissioning within 1.9 years, if it replaced the fossil fuel-mix electricity generation method. Over the expected 33 years that the wind farm is likely to be generating carbon-free electricity, this could result in expected Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emission savings of over 1,677,588 tonnes[1] of CO_2 when replacing fossil fuel-mix electricity generation. This illustrates a **positive net impact on climate change** through contributing significantly towards the reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) from energy production.	Examples of mitigation and examples of carbon gain due to site improvements and restoration include: • Restoration of areas within a proposed site; • The drainage associated with the hardstandings and foundations will have an expected draw down on the water table during the construction period until such a time when they are removed/backfilled. This work will where possible, intend to raise the water table depth above or the same as what was already present before construction. All construction ditches and drainage on site will be blocked to minimise indirect habitat damage and loss through drainage; and • Opportunities for habitat management and potential peat restoration have been investigated and are presented in Chapter 9 Ecology of the EIAR.	The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) has identified the online carbon calculator tool for wind farm carbon assessments. This tool provides a consistent and the most comprehensive method for carbon assessment for wind farm developments on peat lands to date. However, the online tool does not define what level of impact on peat is considered to be a 'significant effect' as the existing carbon balance literature using this carbon assessment tool does not state this requirement.

Source: Natural Power

17.2 SYNERGISTIC EFFECTS

17.2.1 An assessment of synergistic effects ensures that the assessments provided in the EIAR for each topic are not considered in isolation. Chapters 8 and 9 of the EIAR assess the biological environment (Ornithology and Ecology). Chapters 6, 7 and 10 assess the physical environment (LVIA, Cultural Heritage and Hydrology) and Chapters 12, 13, 14, and 15 assess population and human health (Traffic and Transport, Aviation and Existing Infrastructure, Noise and Socio-economics). It is acknowledged that there are also some potential overlaps between the physical environment and population and human health.

[1] Calculation is 33 years x 50,836 tCO_2 (as shown in Table 16.5 and online submission).

17.2.2 This assessment considers the potential synergistic effect of related residual effects during construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. A synergistic effect during decommissioning is considered to be of similar or less significance than that created during construction and therefore they are discussed together below.

Construction and Decommissioning

17.2.3 During the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, potential adverse synergistic effects are limited to the Proposed Development Area where there will be heavy plant operations, earth works, forestry operations and vehicle movements. These could result in potential synergistic effects upon physical and biological receptors including where there are overlaps between ecology, hydrology and hydrogeology. These effects would be temporary in nature, will be managed through a CEMP, Pollution Prevention and Incident Plan (PPIP), Traffic Management Plan (TMP) and Decommissioning Plan and in isolation have been assessed in the EIAR as not significant. These potential effects will also be monitored by an Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW) and if deemed necessary a Planning Monitoring Officer enforced through planning condition(s). Given the limited number and extent of receptors, the limited effects predicted and their temporary nature, the synergistic effects during construction and decommissioning phases are considered **not significant**.

Operation

17.2.4 Potential synergistic effects during the operational phase relate primarily to overlaps between physical and human receptors and are limited to areas which are within or close to the Proposed Development Area where there may be a combination of potential visual and noise effects.

17.2.5 The EIAR predicts that there are no significant adverse effects in isolation for noise. None of the properties assessed have been identified to be affected to such a degree that they would become 'widely regarded as an unattractive place where to live and/or the development is inescapably dominant or unpleasantly overwhelming'. According to guidance, the location of the Proposed Development is in an area that is characterised by extensive baseline (operational and consented) wind energy development, including the Windy Standard I turbines on the Proposed Development Area itself, this is beneficial as it ensures that the Proposed Development will not introduce a new influence on unaffected areas. Furthermore, a combination of all these effects at once is not possible and in sequence would be very limited in occurrence and duration. It is not considered that the synergistic effects would become overbearing such that these places become unpleasant locations to reside.

17.2.6 Cumulative effects were identified to be **not significant**, to views from core paths. This is due to the extensive wind energy development that forms the context to the Proposed Development as seen at every viewpoint, which ensures that the addition of the Proposed Development itself will have a non-material effect on the cumulative situation. As neither the potential visual effects or direct effects will prevent use of these in the long term, it is considered that the synergistic effects during construction and operation are **not significant**.

17.3 SUMMARY

17.3.1 This chapter of the EIAR summarises the potential effects of the Proposed Development as well as potential synergistic effects which consider such effects in combination. Following the implementation of mitigation primarily in the form of embedded mitigation in the siting and design of the proposal, potential significant adverse effects are restricted to isolated landscape and visual effects upon limited receptors within close proximity of the Proposed Development. As noted in Table 17.1; these are effects which are commonly associated with wind farms and in this regard need to be balanced against the benefits.

17.3.2 Suitable offsite projects are being identified in discussion with the Applicant and suitable local parties in order to develop a HMP in offsite locations which will provide a more significant positive impact to the local environment that would be possible on the limited features present within the Proposed Development Area. The Proposed Development will provide socio-economic benefits through continuing employment opportunities it has already provided for the past 25 years of operating in that area and throughout the lifetime of the repower following consent. In addition, the Proposed Development will contribute towards meeting national renewable energy targets and reducing carbon dioxide emissions to help reach the national carbon net zero target.