

2. Approach to EIA

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 The Proposed Development is a Schedule 2 Development under the EIA Regulations. As there is the potential for 'likely significant' effects to result from the Proposed Development, the Applicant has considered it appropriate that an EIA is carried out. This chapter details the scope and approach to this EIA.
- 2.1.2 The purpose of an EIA is to evaluate the 'likely significant' effects of a development or project. It helps decision-makers understand potential environmental consequences, both positive and negative, and assess ways to mitigate or avoid adverse impacts. The EIA process is iterative and has been run alongside the design of the Proposed Development. By incorporating environmental considerations into decision-making processes, EIA helps to promote sustainable development and minimise harm to ecosystems and human health.
- 2.1.3 This EIAR reports the findings of the EIA and accompanies the s.36 application under the Electricity Act.

2.2 Assessment Topics

- 2.2.1 To align with the requirements of Regulation 4 of the EIA Regulations, the following factors and the interaction between these factors have been considered as part of this EIA:
- *"Population and human health;*
 - *Biodiversity, and in particular species and habitats protected under any law that implemented Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of wild birds;*
 - *Land, soil, water, air and climate; and*
 - *Material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape".*
- 2.2.2 In addition, as required under Regulation 4 (4), this EIA includes an assessment of the expected effects deriving from the vulnerability of the Proposed Development to risks, so far as relevant to the development, of major accidents and disasters.
- 2.2.3 Table 2.1 sets out where each of the factors are addressed within this EIAR and under which environmental topic they are included.

Table 2.1 Summary of Factors and Chapter References

Factor	Environmental Topic	Chapter within this EIAR
Population and Human Health	Noise and Vibration	Chapter 10
	Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat	Chapter 13
	Shadow Flicker	Scoped out of the EIA – See Table 2.2
	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	Scoped out of the EIA – See Table 2.2 (provided as a standalone assessment)
Biodiversity	Ecology	Chapter 8
	Ornithology	Chapter 9
Land	Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat	Chapter 13
Soil	Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat	Chapter 13
Water	Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat	Chapter 13
Air and Climate	Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat	Chapter 13
	Climate Change	Scoped out of the EIA – See Table 2.2
	Air Quality	Scoped out of the EIA – See Table 2.2
Material Assets	Traffic, Transport and Access	Chapter 11
	Aviation Safeguarding	Chapter 12
	Forestry	Scoped out of the EIA – See Table 2.2
	Infrastructure and Telecommunications	Scoped out of the EIA – See Table 2.2
	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	Scoped out of the EIA – See Table 2.2
Cultural Heritage	Cultural Heritage	Chapter 7
Landscape	Landscape and Visual Assessment	Chapter 6
Major Accidents and Disasters	Traffic, Transport and Access	Chapter 11
	Aviation Safeguarding	Chapter 12
	Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat	Chapter 13

- 2.2.4 A request for an EIA Scoping Opinion was submitted to the ECU on 27 August 2024 with a supporting EIA Scoping Report, pursuant to Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, detailing the proposed scope of the EIA and the proposed approach and methodology of the topic assessments. Subsequently, a Scoping Opinion was received from the ECU on 28 October 2024.
- 2.2.5 Through this process, the ECU and relevant consultees agreed for the assessment topics identified in **Table 2.2** to be scoped-out of this EIA on the basis that likely significant effects are not predicted to occur.
- 2.2.6 Details of the EIA Scoping Consultation responses and how these have been addressed in this EIA are provided within each technical chapter, with an overarching summary provided in **Chapter 5: Summary of Consultation**.

Table 2.2 Topics Scoped-out of EIA

Topic	Rationale for De-scoping
Climate Change	During its lifetime, the Proposed Development will contribute to climate change mitigation through the production of renewable energy. The anticipated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions savings have been presented in the Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat chapter as part of the Carbon Calculator (see Appendix 13.3), which includes the carbon emissions associated with site works, the transportation of materials and components to site and any other carbon loss through tree felling or disturbance of peat/peaty soils. Therefore, a separate Lifecycle GHG Emissions assessment was not considered to be required. The Proposed Development is designed to be resilient to harsh weather conditions; therefore, mitigation to that effect is already embedded within the design. On this basis, the assessment of potential climate effects has been scoped out of the EIA.
Shadow Flicker	There are no properties identified which could be affected by shadow flicker therefore this topic has been scoped out of the EIA.
Forestry	Effects on forestry are localised along the existing forestry access track, where limited felling is required for the access upgrade works. In addition, forestry operations will need to adhere to the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy, which are considered as embedded good industry practice. On this basis, effects on forestry were not considered significant in EIA terms and were scoped out of the EIA. However, a Forestry Assessment Report is provided as Appendix 4.3. This appendix sets out the forestry baseline, felling calculations and plans, as well as the compensatory replanting requirement in line with The Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy. This appendix informs the topics likely to be impacted by woodland removal, e.g. ecology.

Topic	Rationale for De-scoping
Infrastructure and Telecommunications	Effects on Infrastructure and Telecommunications are not considered to be significant in EIA terms. A review of the potential impacts on infrastructure during the construction and decommissioning phase and of the underground cable and overhead line assets which cross the southern section of the access road has been completed and effects mitigated by design and management measures during construction phase. A summary of this review has been provided as Appendix 4.1.
Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	Effects on socio-economics, recreation and tourism are not considered to be significant in EIA terms. A Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism Report has been provided as a standalone report in support of the application. The report sets out the impact of the Proposed Development on tourism and the economy and the benefits for the local community.
Air Quality	No significant air quality effects are anticipated as emissions to air are restricted to construction power and construction dust, which will be mitigated through good practice measures (such as a dust management plan within a Construction Environmental Management Plan). These measures are detailed in the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan provided in Appendix 4.2.

2.3 EIA Regulation Requirements

- 2.3.1 As required under Regulation 5 and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations, this EIAR contains the information as set out within **Table 2.3**.

Table 2.3 EIAR Requirements

Required Contents	Location in this Report
1. A description of the development, including in particular:	
a. a description of the location of the development;	• Chapter 4: Project Description, Section 4.1
b. a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development, including, where relevant, requisite demolition works, and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases;	• Chapter 4: Project Description, Section 4.2 and Section 4.3

Required Contents	Location in this Report
c. a description of the main characteristics of the operational phase of the development (in particular any production process), for instance, energy demand and energy used, nature and quantity of the materials and natural resources (including water, land, soil and biodiversity) used; d. an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (such as water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation) and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases.	• Chapter 4: The Proposed Development • Chapter 8: Ecology • Chapter 13: Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat • Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Assessment • Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration • Chapter 13: Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat
2. A description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects.	• Chapter 3: Evolution of Design and Alternatives
3. A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (the “baseline scenario”) and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the development as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of relevant information and scientific knowledge.	• Chapters 6 to 13, Section 5
4. A description of the factors likely to be significantly affected by the development: population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydro-morphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape.	• Chapters 6 to 13, Section 7
5. A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia:	The assessment of likely significant residual effects is provided in each of the following chapters:

Required Contents**Location in this Report**

a. the construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works;	• Chapters 6 to 13, Section 7
b. the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources;	• Chapter 8: Ecology, Section 7 • Chapter 13: Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat, Section 7
c. the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste;	• Chapter 10 Noise and Vibration Section 7 • Chapter 13 Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat, Section 7
d. the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters);	• Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage, Section 7 • Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration, Section 7 • Chapter 11: Traffic, Transport and Access Section 7 • Chapter 12: Aviation Safeguarding, Section 7 • Chapter 13: Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat, Section 7
e. the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved developments, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources;	• Chapters 6 to 13, Section 10
f. the impact of the development on climate (for example the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the development to climate change;	• Chapter 13: Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat, Appendix 13.3
g. the technologies and the substances used.	• Chapters 6 to 13, Section 7
The description of the likely significant effects on the factors should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development.	• Chapters 6 to 13, Section 7 • Chapter 14: Inter-related Effects
6. A description of the forecasting methods or evidence, used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment, including details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.	• Chapters 6 to 13, Section 4

Required Contents**Location in this Report**

7. 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.	• Chapters 6 to 13, Section 6 and Section 7 • Chapter 15: Schedule of Mitigation and Residual Effects
8. A description of the expected significant adverse effects of the development on the environment deriving from the vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for and proposed response to such emergencies.	• Chapter 11: Traffic, Transport and Access • Chapter 12: Aviation Safeguarding • Chapter 13: Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat
9. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 8.	• Volume 1 of this EIAR.
10. A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the EIAR.	• Within each chapter of Volume 2 of this EIAR.

2.4 EIA Quality

- 2.4.1 In addition to the requirements of Schedule 4, Regulation 5(5) requires that the EIAR is “*prepared by competent experts*” and that the EIAR “*must be accompanied by a statement from the developer outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts*”
- 2.4.2 In accordance with the EIA Regulations, by appointing AECOM Limited, the Applicant has ensured that the EIAR has been prepared by “*competent experts*”. The EIAR has been compiled and approved by professional EIA practitioners at AECOM. The EIAR meets the requirements of the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) (previously The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)) EIA Quality Mark scheme, of which AECOM is a registered member. This is a voluntary scheme operated by ISEP that allows organisations to make a commitment to excellence in EIA and to have this commitment independently reviewed on an annual basis.

2.4.3 The specialist consultants appointed by the Applicant are as follows:

- Landscape and Visual – AECOM
- Cultural Heritage – AECOM
- Ecology – ERM
- Ornithology – SLR (formally known as MacArthur Green)
- Noise and Vibration – The Noise Consultants
- Traffic, Transport and Access – Pell Frischmann
- Aviation Safeguarding – Wind Farm Aviation Safeguarding Ltd.
- Geology, Hydrogeology, Hydrology and Peat – AECOM
- Forestry – RTS Forestry
- Infrastructure and Telecommunications - AECOM

2.4.4 Details of the relevant professional memberships of the authors and codes of practice followed in order to confirm relevant competence are provided in **Appendix 2.1 Competent Experts**.

2.5 EIA Methodology

Overview

2.5.1 The determination of the likely significance of the effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development is a key output of the EIA process. The general approach to the determination of the significance of effect associated to a potential impact is based on a combination of the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of the impact. The impact assessment therefore involves three key steps:

1. Assignment of sensitivity (or importance or value) to the receptors;
2. Identification of the magnitude of the potential impact; and
3. Determination of the significance of the effect.

2.5.2 By applying these steps, the greater the environmental sensitivity or value of the receptor or resource, and the greater the magnitude of impact, the more significant the effect. The assessment of effect significance within environmental topics combines best practice and professional judgement with consideration of several factors, including the:

- type of effect, i.e. whether it is adverse, beneficial, neutral or uncertain;
- probability of the effect occurring, based on the scale of certain, likely or unlikely;
- sensitivity / importance of the resource or receptor under consideration;
- magnitude of the potential impact in relation to the degree of change which occurs as result; and

- permanence of the effect, i.e. whether it is temporary, permanent, short-term, long-term and/or reversible.
- 2.5.3 The approach to assigning significance of effect relies on reasoned argument, the professional judgement of competent experts and using effective consultation to ensure the advice and views of relevant stakeholders are considered.
- 2.5.4 The assessment of the potential significance of adverse effects takes into consideration the design of the Proposed Development and any mitigation measures which are considered to be embedded into the design and/or via implementation of industry standards and/or adherence to industry regulations.
- 2.5.5 Once a potential impact on an environmental receptor has been identified and the likely effect of that impact has been assessed, should likely significant effects be predicted then additional mitigation measures are proposed, where appropriate.
- 2.5.6 Mitigation is a hierarchy of measures ranging from prevention of environmental impacts by avoidance, to measures to reduce impacts, to measures to offset any impacts that cannot be remedied. The residual effect is then determined after consideration of all the proposed mitigation measures.
- 2.5.7 Where topic-specific assessments follow a different methodology based on best-practice within that discipline, this will be identified within the relevant chapter. For example, the **Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Assessment** is based on the approach set out in Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (Landscape Institute, and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (2013) where, for example, the term 'magnitude of effect' is used rather than 'magnitude of impact'.

Defining the Baseline Scenario

- 2.5.8 The study area for the Proposed Development has been defined for each environmental topic depending on the topic specific guidance, best practice, the geographic scope of potential impacts or the information required to assess those impacts and the associated likely significant effects. The study areas for each of the assessment topics are detailed in **Section 3 Approach and Methodology** of each of the topic-specific assessment chapters (**Chapters 6 to 13**).
- 2.5.9 In order to identify the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment, it is important to understand the environment that would be affected ('the baseline'). Once the study area has been defined, the baseline information is obtained for each topic through desk-based reviews, consultation with key stakeholders and/or field surveys. The baseline information for each of the assessment topics is presented in **Section 4 Baseline Conditions** of each of the assessment chapters (**Chapters 6 to 13**).
- 2.5.10 Understanding the baseline allows for the measurement of changes that would be caused by the Proposed Development. The baseline environmental conditions are therefore defined and

described without the project in place (i.e. the baseline scenario) in accordance with the EIA Regulations. The baseline also considers if natural changes are likely to occur, either prior to construction or prior to the operation of the Proposed Development, or without its implementation (i.e. the future baseline). When describing the future baseline scenario, readily available information such as local plans, designated site management plans and climate change scenario data is utilised to provide a description of the natural changes in the local environment over an appropriate timescale that the datasets support.

Identification of Receptors and Potential Impacts

- 2.5.11 Once the baseline has been defined, individual environmental features which may be impacted by the Proposed Development (i.e. receptors) and the potential impacts on them are identified. Impacts are identified for the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. The receptors for each of the assessment topics are identified in **Section 4 Baseline Conditions** of each of the assessment chapters (**Chapters 6 to 13**).

Sensitivity or Importance of Receptors

- 2.5.12 The sensitivity of the baseline conditions is assessed according to the relative importance or value of existing environmental features on or near to the Development Site, or by the sensitivity of receptors which would potentially be affected by the Proposed Development. Criteria for the determination of sensitivity, importance or value of receptors are established based on guidance, legislation, statutory designation and/or professional judgment.
- 2.5.13 The criteria in **Table 2.4** provide a general definition for determining the sensitivity of receptors.

Table 2.4 Sensitivity

Sensitivity	Definition
Very High	The receptor has little or no ability to absorb change without fundamentally altering its present character, is of very high environmental value, or of international importance.
High	The receptor has low ability to absorb change without fundamentally altering its present character, is of high environmental value, or of national importance.
Medium	The receptor has moderate capacity to absorb change without significantly altering its present character, has some environmental value or is of regional importance.
Low	The receptor is tolerant of change without detriment to its character, is low environmental value, or local importance.
Negligible	The receptor is resistant to change and/or is of little environmental value.

Magnitude of Impact

- 2.5.14 The magnitude of potential impacts on environmental baseline conditions are identified through consideration of the Proposed Development, taking into account the scale or degree of change from the existing baseline as a result of the impact. Consideration is given to the

duration and reversibility of the impact, as well as consideration of relevant legislative or policy standards or guidelines.

2.5.15 **Table 2.5** provides a general definition for determining the magnitude of a particular impact.

Table 2.5 Magnitude of Impact

Magnitude	Definition
High	Total loss or major alteration to key elements / features of the baseline conditions, such that post development character / composition of baseline condition will be fundamentally changed.
Medium	Loss or alteration to one or more key elements / features of the baseline conditions, such that post development character / composition of the baseline condition will be materially changed.
Low	Minor shift away from baseline conditions. Changes arising from the alteration will be detectable but not material; the underlying character / composition of the baseline condition will be similar to the pre-development situation.
Negligible	Very little change from baseline conditions. Change is barely distinguishable, approximating to a “no change” situation.

Significance of Effect

2.5.16 The general approach adopted in the assessment of significance is outlined in **Table 2.6**. A combination of the magnitude of the impact and the sensitivity of the receptor determines the significance of effect. For some specialist topics, additional categories have been added where a greater level of definition is required. It should be noted that this general approach is a framework and should not be treated as a matrix.

Table 2.6 Significance of Effects

Magnitude	Sensitivity				
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
High	Major	Major	Moderate	Moderate	Minor
Medium	Major	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
Low	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Negligible
Negligible	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

2.5.17 The significance of the effects arising from the Proposed Development are reported using a seven-point scale, as follows:

- Major Adverse, Moderate Adverse, Minor Adverse;
- Negligible; and
- Major Beneficial, Moderate Beneficial, Minor Beneficial.

- 2.5.18 Effects predicted to be Minor or Negligible are manageable and such effects are 'Not Significant' in EIA terms. Effects assessed as Moderate or Major are generally considered 'Significant' in EIA terms. However, some technical chapters have established specific assessment criteria that differ from the general approach outlined in this section. Where this is the case, chapters will clearly indicate whether a predicted effect is considered 'Significant' or 'Not Significant'.
- 2.5.19 The description of the likely significant effects identifies direct and indirect, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, and beneficial and adverse effects of the development.
- 2.5.20 The significant effects identified for each of the assessment topics are set out in **Section 5 Potential Significant Effects** of each of the assessment chapters (**Chapters 6 to 13**).

2.6 Cumulative Effects

- 2.6.1 As detailed in Section 2.3, Schedule 4, paragraph 5(e) of the EIA Regulations requires that an EIAR provides a description of "*the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved development*". These impacts are considered through the assessment of cumulative effects reported in this EIAR.
- 2.6.2 Cumulative effects may occur where receptors are affected by other developments in addition to the Proposed Development. For example, where two effects (non-significant or significant) could combine to result in a potential cumulative effect which is significant. The assessment of cumulative effects is described in **Section 8 Cumulative Effects** in each of the topic-specific chapters (**Chapters 6 to 13**).
- 2.6.3 In order to align with best practice ISEP (IEMA, 2020) and NatureScot (2021) guidance, a number of criteria have been considered to inform the selection of developments to be taken forward into the cumulative assessment, these include:
- Development proposals of more than local scale (i.e. national or major development); and/or
 - Development proposals where EIA is required, or where there is considered the potential for significant effects on key receptors;
 - Consented developments;
 - Developments where a planning application (or equivalent consent applications under other consenting regimes) has been submitted but not yet determined.
- 2.6.4 For assessment purposes, operational developments are generally considered part of the baseline. Developments consented but under construction at the time of preparation of this EIA are generally considered as part of the future baseline. Where a topic deviates from this approach, clarifications are provided within the technical chapter. For example, this approach differs for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (**Chapter 7**), where

schemes which have been consented and/or are under construction in addition to existing operational schemes are assessed as Scenario 1 in the three-part cumulative scenario in that chapter.

- 2.6.5 Developments at pre-application stage (e.g. EIA Scoping) are generally not considered in the cumulative assessment, due to the indicative nature of these schemes and the lack of certainty they will progress to the application stage. However, the pre-application stage Ceislein Wind Farm (also being developed by the Applicant) has been included at the request of NatureScot and Ardross Community Council, as part of the pre-application consultation process.
- 2.6.6 **Table 2.7** provides the long list of developments considered as part of the cumulative assessments due to the potential to have cumulative effect with the Proposed Development. To ensure the cumulative assessment aligns with the principle of proportionality, each technical chapter focuses on the relevant cumulative developments which are informed by topic-specific receptors, the nature of the anticipated impacts and the relevant study area.

Table 2.7 Cumulative Developments

Scheme Name	Number of Turbines	Approximate Distance from Development Site (km)
Application Stage: Operational		
Coire Na Cloiche	13	2.7
Beinn nan Oighrean	2	5.4
Beinn Tharsuinn	17	5.5
Novar	34	6.6
Novar II	16	7.7
Achany	19	19.9
Corriemoillie	17	20.1
Rosehall	19	20.1
Lochluichart	17	21
Lairg	3	22.2
Lochluichart Extension	6	22.3
Fairburn	20	28.2
Bhlaraidh	32	57.2
Corrimony	5	55.7
Millennium	16	72.5
Millennium Extension I	4	72.5
Millennium Extension II	6	72.5
Beinneun	32	78.2

Scheme Name	Number of Turbines	Approximate Distance from Development Site (km)
Application Stage: Consented		
Contullich Energy Storage	N/A	5.3
Strathrory ¹	7	7.7
Meall Buidhe	8	11.2
Garvary	24	18.9
Kirkan	17	19
Lairg II	10	20.5
Lochluichart Extension II	5	20.1
Achany Extension	18	23.3
Kirkan	17	24.3
Meall Buidhe	8	25.2
Lochluichart Extension II	5	28.5
Strath Oykel	11	28.9
Chràthaich	14	54
Tomchrasky	14	67.8
Millennium South	10	72.5
Bunloinn	10	75.6
Application Stage: In planning		
Abhainn Dubh	9	12.5
Coille Beith	19	16.0
Balblair	8	16.1
Carn Fearna.	9	20.0
Allt an Tuir	9	20.7
Acheilidh	12	23.0
Loch Liath	13	50.1
Bhlaraidh Extension	15	55.9
Pre -Application stage		
Ceislein	11	8.2

¹ Now under construction.

2.7 Inter-related Effects

- 2.7.1 Paragraph 5 of the EIA Regulations goes on to state that *the “description of the likely significant effects on the factors... should cover the... cumulative... positive and negative effects of the development”*. These impacts are considered through the assessment of inter-related effects reported in this EIAR.
- 2.7.2 Inter-related effects occur when different effects of the Proposed Development combine, e.g. where there are multiple different effects, for example noise, visual or traffic impacts, identified on a single receptor, for example a nearby property, occurring across multiple phases of the development, which result in an effect which is significant.
- 2.7.3 The assessment of in-combination effects is provided in **Chapter 14: Inter-related Effects** of this EIAR.

2.8 Mitigation

- 2.8.1 Given the iterative development of the design of the Proposed Development, there is an opportunity for certain mitigation measures to be embedded in the design. These mitigation measures are referred to as 'embedded mitigation'. The potential effects discussed and assessed in this EIAR (i.e. the significance of effect of the potential impacts) are the significant effect likely to occur accounting for the implementation of the 'embedded mitigation'.
- 2.8.2 Following the assessment of the likely significance of effect of potential impacts, further 'additional mitigation' measures have been implemented, if needed. Effects remaining following the implementation of 'additional mitigation' are referred to as 'residual effects'.
- 2.8.3 ISEP define three forms of mitigation (primary, secondary and tertiary) in their EIA guidance for Shaping Quality Development (IEMA, 2015). Primary mitigation measures are inherent to the design of the Proposed Development and are usually modifications made during the pre-application phase that are an inherent part of the project (i.e. embedded mitigation).
- 2.8.4 Embedded / primary mitigation includes the positioning and orientation of the infrastructure of the Proposed Development to avoid or reduce adverse effects on sensitive environmental receptors. **Chapter 3: Evolution of Design and Alternatives** provides an overview of the design evolution of the Proposed Development and how the iterative nature of the EIA process has influenced the design development.
- 2.8.5 The design measures embedded into the design and construction of the Proposed Development are detailed in **Chapters 6 to 13**.
- 2.8.6 Additional mitigation measures consist of secondary mitigation. Secondary mitigation measures are foreseeable measures that require further activity to achieve the anticipated outcome. Secondary mitigation measures include the mitigation measures identified within the topic-specific assessment chapters and **Chapter 15: Schedule of Mitigation** including

the following management plans submitted as part of the EIA or as a pre-construction condition:

- Outdoor Access Management Plan (OAMP)
- Construction Traffic Management Plan
- Outline Habitat Management Plan (**Appendix 8.5**)

2.8.7 Tertiary mitigation measures can be identified at any point during the design and EIA process and are inexorable actions which would be required to be undertaken to meet other existing legislative requirements with or without the EIA feeding into the design process, or which are standard practices used to manage commonly occurring environmental effects. For example, standard practice measures which mitigate potential nuisance effects during construction dictated by the Control of Pollution Act 1974. Typically, these measures are standardised and often covered by other forms of legislation or controls, therefore they do not need to be presented in extensive detail in the EIA; however, some tertiary mitigation measures have been identified where appropriate.

2.8.8 The following management plans submitted as part of the EIA are considered to be standard practice measures (i.e. tertiary mitigation):

- Outline Construction Environment Management Plan (**Appendix 4.2**), which includes;
 - Dust Management Plan;
 - Noise Management Plan;
 - Water Quality Management Plan;
 - Emergency Response Management Plan; and
 - Materials Management Plan.
- Peat Management Plan (**Appendix 13.4**)

2.8.9 Due to the legal requirement and therefore certainty of tertiary mitigation measures they are also considered to be embedded mitigation.

2.8.10 Both primary and tertiary mitigation measures have been considered as embedded mitigation measures when assessing the significance of effects of potential impacts, prior to the consideration of the need for additional / secondary mitigation and the identification of any residual effects.

2.9 References

HEMA (2015) Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to Shaping Quality Development (November 2015)

IEMA (2020) Impact Assessment Outlook Journal (Volume 7: July 2020) Demystifying Cumulative Effects. (Online) Available at: <https://www.isepglobal.org/media/nbsdjhl/ia-outlook-journal-vol-7.pdf>

IEMA (2024) Institute of Environmental management and Assessment (IEMA) Impact Assessment Guidelines: Implementing the Mitigation Hierarchy from Concept to Construction. August 2024. (Online) Available at: <https://www.iema.net/media/oone2qce/iema-mitigation-in-eia-guidance-final.pdf>

Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013. Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition.

NatureScot (2021) Guidance - Assessing the cumulative landscape and visual impact of onshore wind energy developments. (Online) Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessing-cumulative-landscape-and-visual-impact-onshore-wind-energy-developments>

Scottish Parliament (2017) The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017