

4. Approach to EIA

Contents

4.1	Introduction	4-1
4.2	Legislation and Guidance	4-1
4.3	Legal Framework for the EIA Report	4-5
4.4	The EIA Process	4-6
4.5	Scope of the EIA	4-7
4.6	Consultation	4-9
4.7	Assessment of Effects	4-9
4.8	Mitigation Measures	4-11
4.9	Enhancement	4-11
4.10	Assumptions, Limitations and Uncertainty	4-11
4.11	Summary	4-12
4.12	References	4-13

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4. Approach to EIA

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This chapter of the EIA Report details the broad approach undertaken to complete the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development.

4.1.2 The structure of the EIA Report follows the requirements of Schedule 4 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (Scottish Government, 2017) and other relevant good practice guidance. The EIA Report comprises three main components – a Non-Technical Summary (NTS), the main EIA Report text and figures (including a summary table of the predicted Environmental Effects and a Schedule of Mitigation), and the EIA Report Appendices.

4.1.3 This chapter is structured as follows:

- overview of the relevant legislation, policy and guidance;
- an outline of the EIA process that has been followed;
- the scope of the assessment completed;
- details of the assessment of potential effects;
- mitigation measures;
- enhancement; and
- the assumptions made, likely limitations and uncertainty.

4.1.4 This chapter includes the following appendices:

- Appendix 4.1 EIA Screening Request (2018);
- Appendix 4.2 ECU EIA Screening Opinion (2018);
- Appendix 4.3 EIA Scoping Report (2017); and
- Appendix 4.4 ECU EIA Scoping Opinion (2017).

4.2 Legislation and Guidance

4.2.1 During the EIA, a number of legislative and best practice documents have informed the process.

4.2.2 The Proposed Development meets the Schedule 2, Category (a) criteria of the EIA Regulations, by nature of it being classed as a generating station which requires consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act. The criteria for considering whether a Schedule 2 development requires the preparation of an EIA is set out in Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations, should it be accepted that paragraph (3) of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations removes the requirement for EIA for a Schedule 2 project. Paragraph (3) of Schedule 2 applies to projects already consented and specifically to determine whether EIA is required for a further application. The Schedule requires regard to be had to:

“any change to or extension (including a change in the manner or period of operation) of development of a description listed in schedule 1 or in paragraphs (1) or (2) of this schedule where that development is already authorised, executed, or in the process of being executed, and the change or extension may have significant adverse effects on the environment.”

4.2.3 The Government regulations and best practice guidance which have been followed are referred to below:

- The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (as amended), Planning Circular 1/2017 (Scottish Government, 2017b);
- Scottish Planning Policy (Scottish Government, 2014);
- Planning Advice Note (PAN) 1/2013 Environmental Impact Assessment (Scottish Government, 2017c);
- Guidelines on the Environmental Impacts of Windfarms and Small Scale Hydroelectric Schemes (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002);
- Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment, Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA, 2006);
- A Handbook on Environmental Impact Assessment (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2018); and
- Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments, (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2012).

4.2.4 Table 4.1 below sets out how the information required by Schedule 4 ‘Content of an Environmental Statement’ of the EIA Regulations has been provided in this EIA Report.

Table 4.1 - Information Required in the EIA Report

Required Information (EIA Regulations)	Relevant Reference within this EIA Report
<p>1. A description of the development, including in particular:</p> <p>(a) a description of the location of the development;</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(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</p>	<p>The Proposed Development is described in Chapter 3 of the EIA Report, including consideration of anticipated construction methods and the operation of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The land use requirements during construction and operational phases are also described in Chapter 3.</p> <p>Expected residues and emissions are addressed, where relevant, in the appropriate technical chapters of this EIA Report.</p>

Required Information (EIA Regulations)	Relevant Reference within this EIA Report
quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases.	
2. A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of project design, technology, location, size and scale) 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.	A description of alternatives is provided in Chapter 2.
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 project 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.	A description of the existing environment is provided within each technical chapter.
4. A description of the factors specified in regulation 4(3) 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 hydromorphological 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.	<p>The receptors potentially affected by the Proposed Development are detailed within each of the technical chapters.</p> <p>Effects on population and human health are assessed in relation to visual impacts, socio-economic, recreation, tourism, traffic, noise and shadow flicker.</p> <p>Biodiversity is covered in ecology and ornithology chapters.</p> <p>Material assets are addressed through the assessment of cultural heritage effects and other chapters as appropriate.</p>
<p>5. A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia:</p> <p>(a) the construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works;</p> <p>(b) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources;</p> <p>(c) the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste;</p> <p>(d) the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters);</p> <p>(e) the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved development, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular</p>	<p>The predicted significant effects of the Proposed Development are reported after relevant mitigation measures have been applied to an identified impact, in each of the technical chapters of the EIA Report. Effects have been predicted in relation to both the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development, including the nature of these effects and their duration.</p> <p>The overall approach and methods used in the assessment of environmental impacts are discussed in Section 4.7 of this EIA Report. Prediction methods are discussed in detail within each relevant technical chapter of the EIA Report.</p>

Required Information (EIA Regulations)	Relevant Reference within this EIA Report
<p>environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources;</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(g) the technologies and the substances used.</p> <p>The description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in regulation 4(3) 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. This description should take into account the environmental protection objectives established at Union or Member State level which are relevant to the development including in particular those established under Council Directive 92/43/EEC3 and Directive 2009/147/EC.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>An overview of the methodology of the assessment is provided within Chapter 4 while the individual technical chapters provide details of each technical assessment.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>The overall approach to mitigation is discussed in Section 4.8 of this EIA Report. Specific mitigation measures are reported in each relevant technical section of the EIA Report and in the schedule of committed mitigation measures presented in Chapter 18.</p>
<p>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. Relevant information available and obtained through risk assessments pursuant to legislation of the European Union such as Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council or Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom or relevant assessments may be used for this purpose provided that the requirements of this Directive are met. 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.</p>	<p>The predicted significant effects of the Proposed Development are reported after relevant mitigation measures have been applied to an identified impact, in each of the technical chapters of the EIA Report</p>

Required Information (EIA Regulations)	Relevant Reference within this EIA Report
9. A non-technical summary of the information provided under points 1 to 8.	A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) is presented as a stand-alone document.
10. A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the EIA report.	References are provided at the end of each chapter of the EIA Report.

4.3 Legal Framework for the EIA Report

EIA Process

4.3.2 The findings of the EIA are presented in this EIA Report, which has been prepared in accordance with the EIA Regulations.

4.3.3 The broad approach which has been followed in undertaking the EIA is presented in this chapter and an overview of the methodology adopted for each technical study is provided within the respective EIA Report technical chapters (Chapters 6 to 17).

Screening

4.3.4 Screening is the process by which it is determined whether or not an EIA should be conducted for the Proposed Development.

4.3.5 The Proposed Development is a Schedule 2 development. Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations sets out the criteria that should be considered in determining whether a Schedule 2 development is likely to have significant environmental effects and hence require a formal EIA. As set out above, Schedule 3 only applies should paragraph (3) of Schedule 2 not allow EIA to be screened out. The Schedule 3 criteria are:

- the characteristics of the development (e.g. its size, culmination with other developments, use of natural resources, resultant pollution, waste generated);
- the environmental sensitivity of the location; and
- the characteristics of the potential impacts (including extent, magnitude, probability and duration).

4.3.6 A Screening Request was submitted to the ECU in February 2018 (refer to Appendix 4.1). The ECU confirmed that an EIA is required for the Proposed Development in their Screening Opinion (refer to Appendix 4.2).

Scoping

4.3.7 The EIA scoping process is undertaken to identify the potentially significant environmental impacts that should be considered when assessing the potential effects of the Proposed Development. An EIA Scoping Opinion may be obtained from the ECU which would set out the matters that should be considered through the EIA. In reaching its EIA Scoping Opinion, the ECU consults statutory and non-statutory stakeholders for their respective opinions regarding EIA scope.

- 4.3.8 An EIA Scoping Opinion was requested from the ECU in April 2017 through the submission of an EIA Scoping Report (refer to Appendix 4.3), as prepared by the EIA Project Team. This EIA Scoping Report contained details of the site baseline and the Section 36 Proposed Development. It also proposed which environmental impacts would be assessed in the EIA, and the assessment methodologies that would be used.
- 4.3.9 The ECU consulted with a variety of statutory and non-statutory consultees before providing an EIA Scoping Opinion on the 27th July 2017 (refer to Appendix 4.4). This information has also informed the Proposed Development EIA.

Previous Assessments

- 4.3.10 An Environmental Statement was submitted to the Scottish Government in December 2012 that accompanied the previous Section 36 application. The document provided findings of the EIA for a 30 turbine site. Following submission, a number of consultees asked for supplementary environmental material, and an Environmental Statement Addendum was submitted in 2013 to provide this information.
- 4.3.11 Following the refusal of the Section 36 application a revised Environmental Statement was submitted to Dumfries and Galloway Council in 2015, which supported the Consented Development planning application.

4.4 The EIA Process

- 4.4.1 EIA is the systematic process of compiling, assessing and presenting all of the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed development. The assessment is designed to inform the decision-making process by way of setting out the likely environmental profile of a project. Identification of potentially significant adverse environmental effects then leads to the design and incorporation of appropriate mitigation measures into both the design of the scheme and the way in which it is constructed.
- 4.4.2 Throughout the assessment, a distinction has been made between the term ‘impact’ and ‘effect’. The EIA Regulations refer to the requirement to report the significance of “effects”. An impact is defined as the likely change to the characteristics/nature of the receiving environment as a result of the Proposed Development (e.g. noise from turbines), whereas the ‘effect’ relates to the significance of the impact (e.g. a significant residual noise effect on residential properties). These terms have been adopted throughout this EIA to present a consistent approach to the assessment and evaluation of effects and their significance.
- 4.4.3 The exception to this is the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment which classifies the level of physical change to the receiving environment as the “magnitude of change” in line with the recommendations of the Guidelines for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. However, this terminology should be considered interchangeable with “magnitude of impact”
- 4.4.4 The main steps in the EIA assessment process for the Proposed Development have been:
- Baseline surveys (where appropriate and where possible) to provide information on the existing environmental character of the proposed site and the surrounding area.

- Consideration given to the possible interactions between the Proposed Development and the existing and predicted future site conditions. These interactions or effects are assessed using stated criteria based on accepted guidance and best practice.
- Using the outline design parameters for the Proposed Development, prediction of the likely environmental effects, including direct effects and any indirect, secondary, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.
- Identification of mitigation measures designed to avoid, reduce or off-set adverse effects as well as enhancement measures that could result in beneficial effects. Assessment of alterations to the design and the reassessment of previously proposed mitigation to establish suitable mitigation for the Proposed Development.
- Assessment of the significance of any residual effects after mitigation, in relation to the sensitivity of the feature impacted upon and the magnitude of the effect predicted, in line with the methodology identified below (refer to Section 4.7).
- Identification of any uncertainties inherent in the methods used, the predictions made and the conclusions drawn during the course and the assessment process.
- Reporting of the results of the EIA in this EIA Report.

4.4.5 The EIA process is an iterative process where its findings have informed the design evolution of the project.

4.5 Scope of the EIA

Technical Scope

4.5.2 The technical scope of the assessment will cover all the matters aforementioned in Table 4.1, with the following exceptions relating to technical topics which were scoped out of the EIA.

4.5.3 No significant health and safety effects have been identified with respect to construction and operation of the Proposed Development, which would not be appropriately mitigated through good practice in construction and adherence to relevant legislation and guidance, as noted in Sections 3.4 and 3.5 of this EIA Report. Infrastructure including roads and properties have been appropriately buffered and are sufficiently separated from the proposed turbine locations to limit any potential Health and Safety concerns. Therefore, further assessment of health and safety effects has been scoped out of the EIA.

4.5.4 The effects of the Proposed Development on the Scottish Water clean water main near to the site have been assessed in Chapter 9. No known electrical or gas infrastructure has been identified within the study area. This will be identified through a standard pre-construction utilities survey so as to avoid disruption. Further assessment of effects on utilities has therefore been scoped out of the EIA.

4.5.5 The Eskdalemuir Observatory Seismic Monitoring Site is a component of the UK's Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty compliance for nuclear testing and maintains a 50 km exclusion zone. The observatory is situated 53 km to the east of the Proposed

Development, and therefore potential effects on the seismic monitoring site have been scoped out of further assessment.

- 4.5.6 The Proposed Development is not considered likely to cause any significant effects to air quality during operation, therefore assessment of effects on operational air quality has been scoped out of the EIA.
- 4.5.7 Similarly, due to the distance from residential receptors and the use of industry standard measures to control potential effects on air quality during construction (e.g. dust mobilisation and construction vehicle emissions) through implementation of a Construction and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (CDEMP), these effects are not considered likely to be significant. Assessment of effects on air quality during construction has therefore been scoped out of the EIA.
- 4.5.8 All other technical topic areas identified in Table 4.1 have been assessed as part of the EIA process and are reported in the relevant sections of this EIA Report.
- 4.5.9 Each issue has been considered to the appropriate level of detail in the EIA Report, using the information collated during the scoping exercise and from the Scoping Opinion received from ECU (Appendix 4.4), and the responses to the previous applications. For each impact the baseline condition has been described, with the receptor sensitivity identified. The potential effects have been predicted and assessed for their significance. Where possible and applicable, mitigation measures have been identified and any potential residual environmental effects assessed.

Spatial Scope

- 4.5.10 The spatial scope of the EIA, in other words the geographical coverage of the assessment undertaken, has taken account of a number of factors, in particular:
- the extent of the Proposed Development (refer to Figure 1.2);
 - the nature of the baseline environment, sensitive receptors and the likely impacts that could arise; and
 - the distance over which predicted effects are likely to remain significant and in particular the existence of pathways which could result in the transfer of effects to a wider geographical area than the extent of proposed physical works.

Temporal Scope

- 4.5.11 The baseline years used for the assessment of environmental effects is 2011-2018, as these are the years in which the assessment work was undertaken.
- 4.5.12 For the purposes of the EIA, construction is assumed to commence in late 2019. The proposed operational life for the Proposed Development is 28 years, after which time it will be decommissioned (see s.75 for the Consented Development, which binds the Applicant to decommission the site appropriately refer to Appendix 4.5).
- 4.5.13 For construction effects, the assessment also takes into account the time of day that works are likely to be undertaken, for example if any night time working is required to minimise disruption to road users.

4.6 Consultation

- 4.6.1 Consultation remains a critical component of the EIA process. In order to inform the EIA, there has been ongoing consultation with statutory consultees, engagement through the Section 36 Application, Section 36 Addendum and planning application (2012, 2013, 2015) processes and subsequent discussions, correspondence and meetings.
- 4.6.2 The content and scope of the EIA has also been informed by feedback from continued consultation across the years.

4.7 Assessment of Effects

- 4.7.1 Within the EIA Report, the assessment of effects for each environmental topic takes into account the environmental impacts of both the construction/decommissioning and operational phases of the Proposed Development and the likely environmental impacts that would occur should the Proposed Development not be consented (the do-nothing scenario).
- 4.7.2 If the Proposed Development is not consented, the do-nothing scenario will apply which constitutes the Applicant constructing the Consented Development, which is physically identical to the Proposed Development (refer to Chapters 1 and 2 for further details). The Consented Development was environmentally assessed and consented in 2015 and the assessment is reported within the Sandy Knowe Wind Farm Environmental Statement (2015).
- 4.7.3 In order to determine whether or not the potential effects of the Proposed Development are likely to be 'significant' a number of criteria are used. The significance criteria vary between topics but generally include:
- international, national and local designations or standards;
 - relationship with planning policy;
 - sensitivity of the receiving environment;
 - magnitude of impact;
 - reversibility and duration of the effect; and
 - inter-relationship between effects.
- 4.7.4 Effects that are likely to be significant, prior to mitigation, are identified within the EIA Report. The significance attributed to the resultant effect is informed by professional judgement, as to the sensitivity of the affected receptor(s) and the nature and magnitude of the predicted changes/impacts. For example, a major adverse change/impact on a feature or site of low importance will have an effect of lesser significance than the same impact on a feature or site of high importance. Table 4.2 below is used as a guide to the relationship between the sensitivity of the identified receptor and the anticipated magnitude of an impact/change. Professional judgement is however equally important in establishing the suitability of this guiding 'formula' to the assessment of the significance of each individual effect.

Table 4.2 - Guide to the Inter-Relationship between Magnitude of Impact and Sensitivity of Receptor

		Sensitivity of Receptor / Receiving Environment to Change			
		High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Magnitude of Impact/Change	High	Major	Moderate to Major	Minor to Moderate	Negligible
	Medium	Moderate to Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
	Low	Minor to Moderate	Minor	Negligible to Minor	Negligible
	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

4.7.5 The following terms are used in the EIA Report, unless otherwise stated, to determine the level of effects predicted to occur:

- major beneficial or adverse effect – where the Proposed Development would result in a significant improvement (or deterioration) to the existing environment;
- moderate beneficial or adverse effect – where the Proposed Development would result in a noticeable improvement (or deterioration) to the existing environment;
- minor beneficial or adverse effect – where the Proposed Development would result in a small improvement (or deterioration) to the existing environment; and
- negligible – where the Proposed Development would result in no discernible improvement (or deterioration) to the existing environment.

4.7.6 Using professional judgement and with reference to the Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment (IEMA, 2004), the majority of the assessments within this EIA Report consider effects of moderate and greater significance to be significant, while those of minor significance and less to be non-significant. If there are deviations these will be clearly stated within this individual technical chapters.

4.7.7 Summary tables that outline the predicted effects associated with an environmental issue, the appropriate mitigation measures required to address these effects and subsequent overall residual effects are provided at the end of each technical chapter of the EIA Report. Distinction has also been made between direct and indirect, short and long term, permanent and temporary, beneficial and adverse effects.

Cumulative Effects

4.7.8 Part 5 of Schedule 4 of The EIA Regulations set out the cumulative matters that require to be incorporated within EIA Reports. The EIA Regulations state that EIA Reports should include an assessment of *“the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved development, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources”*.

4.7.9 Cumulative effects are those which result from incremental changes caused by past, present or reasonably foreseeable future actions resulting from the introduction of the

Proposed Development. These cumulative effects cover the combined effects of individual impacts from the Proposed Development and combined impacts of several developments, as noted within the guidance provided by SNH in the document “*Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments*” (2012). Developments considered in addition to the Proposed Development are existing and proposed developments, covering all types of developments, including other wind farms (SNH, 2012).

4.8 Mitigation Measures

4.8.1 The EIA Regulations require the EIA to present a description of the measures proposed to avoid, reduce and, if possible, offset significant adverse effects. Wherever reasonably practicable, mitigation measures are proposed for each significant environmental effect predicted, and can take various forms including:

- changes to the scheme design;
- physical measures applied on site; and
- measures to control particular aspects of the construction or operation of the scheme.

4.8.2 Where none of the above are deemed practicable, offsetting measures will be considered.

4.8.3 Mitigation measures are presented as commitments in order to ensure a level of certainty as to the environmental effects of the Proposed Development. There are various ways in which mitigation measures can be secured, such as through the use of planning conditions. Therefore, notwithstanding any statutory mechanisms to ensure implementation, the Applicant will be committed to implementing all mitigation measures identified in this EIA Report relating to construction of the Proposed Development.

4.8.4 A schedule of all of the mitigation measures proposed in this EIA Report is presented in Chapter 18.

4.9 Enhancement

4.9.1 Similar to the reporting of mitigation measures, where opportunities for environmental enhancement are proposed, these have been included in the summary of environmental commitments reported at the end of each technical chapter and in Chapter 18.

4.10 Assumptions, Limitations and Uncertainty

4.10.1 The EIA process is designed to enable informed decision-making based on the best available information about the environmental implications of a proposed development. However, there will always be some uncertainty inherent in the scale and nature of the predicted environmental effects as a result of the level of detailed information available at the time of assessment, the potential for minor alterations to the Proposed Development following completion of the EIA Report and/or the limitations of the prediction processes.

4.10.2 A number of assumptions were made during the EIA process and are described below:

- The principal land uses adjacent to the site remain unchanged during the course of the Proposed Development’s lifetime.

- Information provided by third parties, including publicly available information and databases are correct at the time of submission.
- 4.10.3 Specific assumptions may also be made with regards to the individual technical disciplines, which are described within each chapter.
- 4.10.4 The main limitation has been that while baseline conditions have been assumed to be accurate at the time of surveying, due to the dynamic nature of the environment, these conditions may change during site preparation, construction and operation.
- 4.10.5 There is also the potential for a degree of uncertainty as certain aspects of the Proposed Development may be subject to change until a detailed design has been finalised. This uncertainty can come in the forms of:
- turbine selection;
 - foundation and infrastructure design; and
 - micro-siting of the turbines which may change due to investigation findings or implementation of mitigation measures.
- 4.10.6 Any limitations to the EIA are summarised in each technical chapter, where relevant, together with the means proposed to mitigate these.
- 4.10.7 Figures for land take and habitat loss should be considered as approximate and could vary slightly once the detailed design is developed.
- 4.10.8 Information on the Proposed Development construction has been developed by the project team based on professional judgement and outline design works, on the most likely methods of construction, plant, access routes and working areas etc. for the purposes of the EIA. The final choice on construction methods will rest with the contractors and may differ from those used in this assessment, and any such uncertainty is stated in Section 3.4 of the EIA Report.

4.11 Summary

- 4.11.1 This chapter has detailed the methodology used to conduct the EIA and produce the EIA Report for the Proposed Development. An overview of the relevant legislation and guidance documents has been provided with the main legislative document being The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended). Following this, the EIA process and the scope of the assessment are detailed.

4.12 References

Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2006). Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment.

Scottish Government (2014). *Scottish Planning Policy*. Available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/Policy>

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