# Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm

## Supplementary Environmental Information Report

## Volume 4 - Non-Technical Summary

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

## PREFEACE

This Non-Technical Summary (NTS) summarises the findings of the Supplementary Information Report (SEI Report) that has been undertaken on behalf of Corriegarth 2 Windfarm Limited (the Applicant) in support of an application for consent to construct and operate a 14 turbine wind farm known as Corriegarth Wind Farm (the Development). The SEI Report provides the information required to be submitted as a result of revisions made to the Development. The SEI Report should be read in conjunction with the EIA Report and demonstrates how the predicted effects of the SEI Layout differ from that presented in the EIA Report.

The SEI Report comprises of the following documents:

- **Volume 1** – SEI Report Text;
- **Volume 2** – SEI Report Figures;
  - **Volume 2a** – Figures excluding LVIA;
  - **Volume 2b** – LVIA Figures;
  - **Volume 2c** – NatureScot Visualisations;
  - **Volume 2d** – The Highland Council (THC) Visualisations;
- **Volume 3** – SEI Report Technical Appendices; and
- **Volume 4** – SEI Report Non-Technical Summary.

In addition to the above, the SEI Report is accompanied by a Planning Statement.

The SEI Report will be publicised in accordance with Part 5 of the EIA Regulations and the Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990[1] and the Electricity Works (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020[2] (the Coronavirus Regulations).

The SEI Report and supporting documentation, including the EIA Report, is available on the Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm project website: www.baywa-re.co.uk/en/wind/corriegarth-2-windfarm/

CD copies of the complete application submission are available free of charge. Hard copies of the application submission may be obtained for a fee of £500.

To request a copy of the application submission please contact:

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[1] The Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990 [Online] Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1990/455/regulation/4/made (Accessed 23/03/2023)
[2] The Electricity Works (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [Online] Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2020/123/made (Accessed 23/03/2022)

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

In January 2021, Corriegarth 2 Windfarm Limited ('the Applicant') submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report), for consent pursuant to Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989[3] (Planning Reference: ECU00002175) to install and operate a wind farm comprising 16 wind turbines, with a generation capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW), and associated infrastructure, at a site within the Scottish Highlands for a period of 30 years ('the Development'). In addition, the Applicant sought a Direction from the Scottish Ministers for planning permission to be deemed to be granted under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997[4], as amended.

The EIA Report as submitted in January 2021, presented information on the likely significant environmental effects of the Development. The EIA Report also informed the reader of the nature of the Development and the measures proposed to protect the environment during site preparation, construction, operation and decommissioning.

Following submission of the EIA Report, the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) of the Scottish Government consulted relevant statutory and non-statutory organisations, the majority of which provided consultation responses.

Since the EIA Report was submitted and on receipt of consultation responses, the Applicant has taken the decision to make amendments to the location of eight turbines and the removal of turbines T10 & T12, resulting in a revised layout of 14 turbines. Furthermore, relocation of ancillary infrastructure components associated with the Development have also been undertaken. The effects of revisions are required to be reassessed under the EIA regulations.

The Applicant has therefore prepared this SEI Report to respond to points raised from consultees during the consultation process and to provide an EIA of effects arising from changes proposed represented by the Revised Development.

## 1.2 Introduction

This Non-Technical Summary (NTS) summarises the SEI Report which provides information required to be submitted as a result of revisions made to the Development, and should be read in conjunction with the NTS as submitted with the EIA Report. The majority of the assessment reported within the EIA Report is still relevant to the SEI Layout, and the site boundary (the Site) is unchanged.

The SEI Report, which should be read in conjunction with the EIA Report, demonstrates how the predicted effects of the SEI Layout differ from those presented in the EIA Report. It is not the intention of the SEI Report to repeat or replace information presented within the EIA Report that remains valid, rather it will identify any alterations in the baseline, assessment methodology or assessment results and update the findings of the EIA Report.

In summary this SEI Report is intended to address the following:

- Describe and assess changes made to the layout of the Development, specifically the removal and relocation of turbines and associated infrastructure;
- The Peat Slide Risk Assessment has been updated following comments made on the EIA Report, as well as due to the revisions within the Development;
- An Outline Habitat Management Plan (oHMP) has been provided following consultee comments, namely NatureScot & Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA); and

[3] Electricity Act 1989 [Online] Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/29/contents (Accessed 23/03/2022)
[4] The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 [Online] Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/8/section/57 (Accessed 23/03/2022)

- Whilst not a reason for the preparation of this SEI Report, it is noted that the status of nearby wind farms has changed since the submission of the EIA Report, which are captured within the SEI Report as relevant for completeness.

## 2 ENERGY AND PLANNING POLICY

**Chapter 2: Energy and Planning Policy** of the EIA Report, submitted in January 2021 (Planning Reference: ECU00002175), does not require to be updated in light of revisions to the Development.

Any planning and policy changes since January 2021 are outlined and discussed in the updated planning statement which accompanies this SEI Report which is submitted in support of the Development.

# 3 SITE SELECTION AND DESIGN

**Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design** of the EIA Report set out the design strategy for the Development in which various economic, technical, and environmental factors were all considered in the iterative design process and resulted in the layout proposed within the EIA Report. Consultation responses were received from various statutory and non-statutory bodies (consultees). As outlined in **SEI Chapter 5: EIA Methodology**, the Highland Council ('the Council') and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)provided key recommendations on potential revisions to the design of the Development in respect of landscape/visual and peat impacts (respectively).

Changes being made can be summarised as follows:

- Removal of T10 & T12, reducing the number of turbines from 16 to 14 turbines;
- Relocation of turbines (T1, T2, T5, T8, T9, T11, T13, T14, T15) and adjustments to turbine crane hardstandings and access tracks; and
- Relocation ancillary infrastructure, including borrow pits & substation compound.

# 4 DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

The SEI layout is shown on **Figure 1**. In common with the layout presented in the EIA Report, the Development would comprise of three-bladed horizontal axis turbines up to 149.9 m tip height; however, the Revised Development seeks planning permission for up to 14 turbines, reduced from 16 turbines for the original Development. The Revised Development also includes all associated infrastructure including:

- New and upgraded access tracks;
- Substation & compound (including a control building);
- Crane hardstandings;
- Underground cabling;
- External transformer enclosures located adjacent to each turbine;
- Temporary construction compound;
- One borrow pit; and
- Temporary laydown areas.

The components of the Revised Development are summarised in Table 4.1, which describes any changes made as part of the SEI.

***Table 4.1 Key Parameters of the Revised Development***

| Element | EIA Report Layout Details ('the Development') | SEI Report Layout Detail ('the Revised Development') |
|---|---|---|
| **Turbines** | Up to 16 turbines, each with a blade tip height of up to 149.9 m.<br>Depending on the final turbine choice, a small transformer will be located at the base of each turbine.<br>Each turbine will have a foundation with a diameter of approximately 21 m, with a depth of approximately 3 m. | As a result of the removal of T10 & T12, the Revised Development includes up to 14 turbines, each with a blade tip height of up to 149.9 m.<br>Eight turbines have been relocated as part of the SEI Design - T1, T2, T8, T9, T11, T13, T14, T15.<br>There is no change to the information on turbine transformers or foundations. |
| **Access Track** | Access track to serve the construction and operation of the wind farm of width approximately 5 m, this will consist of localised upgrades along 13 km of the existing 25 km of track and 10 km of newly constructed track.<br>For the southern borrow pit at Carn Fluich Bhaid, the access track will not be utilised for abnormal loads, so there is no requirement for widening. | Same specification of track however reduction in overall length, consisting of approximately 13 km of upgraded track and 6 km of newly constructed track.<br>Four watercourse crossings have been removed following the rerouting of access tracks to the revised turbine locations.<br>The southern borrow pit at Carn Fluich Bhaid and the access track serving it have been removed.<br>In addition to the changes made to the access tracks as a result of the removal of T0 and T12, and the relocation of T1, T2, T5, T8, T9, T11, T13, T14 and T15, the access tracks for T1, T3, T4 and T22 were realigned to avoid the existing Operational Corriegarth Wind Farm turbine foundations. |

| Element | EIA Report Layout Details ('the Development') | SEI Report Layout Detail ('the Revised Development') |
|---|---|---|
| **Electrical Infrastructure** | A substation building will be located towards to the west of the turbines, measuring approximately 30 x 20 m with another control building measuring approximately 25 x 15 m. Both buildings will be located within a compound measuring approximately 60 x 90 m, which will also include any external electrical infrastructure and vehicle parking.<br>Underground cabling, laid where possible alongside the access tracks, will link the turbine transformers to the onsite substation. | The substation building has been moved approximately 50 m to the west of the proposed updated borrow pit. There is no change to the substation and control building specification, however, they will be located within a compound which will also include any electrical and HV infrastructure and vehicle parking.<br>There is no change to the information on underground cabling. |
| **Crane Hardstanding** | Crane hardstandings will be required adjacent to each turbine; this will consist of a main area of approximately 1400 $m^2$ at each turbine.<br>In addition to the main hardstanding areas, there will be additional flattened areas for crane assembly and turbine blade storage; however, these will be temporary and only include small areas of hardstandings. | No change to crane hardstanding sizes proposed in response to the Revised Development turbine relocations.<br>However, as a result of the turbine relocations, the location and alignments of the crane hardstanding's for turbines T1, T2, T5, T8, T9, T11, T13, T14, T15 have been adjusted. |
| **Temporary Construction Compound** | A temporary construction compound will be required during the construction of the Development, forming an area of hardstanding providing space for portakabins, parking and lay down areas; this will measure a maximum of 100 x 50 m and is located at the same location as the construction compound for the Operational Corriegarth Wind Farm. | No change. |
| **Borrow Pits** | Up to two onsite borrow pits are proposed. One is located adjacent to the borrow pit used for the Operational Corriegarth Wind Farm at Carn na Saobhaidhe and the other is in the south of the Site on the slopes of Carn Fluich Bhaid. Give that there is 35 km of track with 25 km existing, relatively little aggregate will be required when compared to a typical wind farm of this size, and the use of both borrow pits may not be required. | Only one borrow pit is proposed, located adjacent to the borrow pit used for the Operational Corriegarth Wind Farm at Carn na Saobhaidhe.<br>Given the reduction in overall length of tracks proposed, consisting of approximately 13 km of upgraded track and 6 km of newly constructed track, relatively little aggregate will be required when compared to a typical wind farm of this size, and therefore, the use of only one borrow pit is now required. |

| Element | EIA Report Layout Details ('the Development') | SEI Report Layout Detail ('the Revised Development') |
|---|---|---|
| **Site Access** | Site access will be taken from the B862, utilising the existing access for the Operational Corriegarth Wind Farm. | No change. |

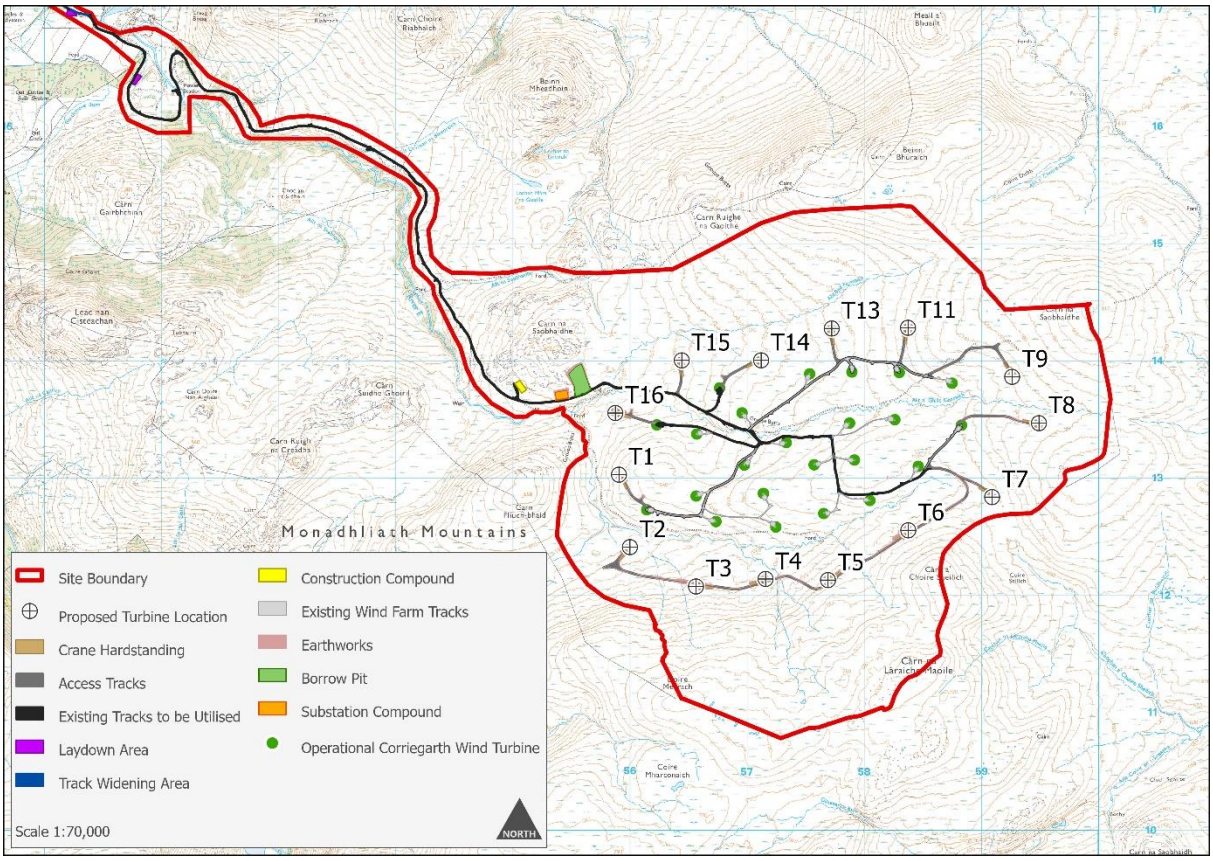


***Figure 1: SEI Site Layout***

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# 5 EIA METHODOLOGY

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process undertaken to identify and evaluate the likely significant effects of a proposed development on the environment and to identify measures to mitigate or manage any significant adverse effects. The assessment must be carried out following consultation with statutory consultees, other interested bodies and members of the public. The purpose of identifying significant effects is to ensure decision makers are able to make an informed judgement on a proposal. Where one or more significant effects are identified, it does not automatically follow that a proposal should be refused.

The purpose of the SEI Report is to present the environmental assessment of likely significant effects resulting from the revised layout, following consultee responses from the EIA report, and to update and supplement information presented in the EIA Report as appropriate.

The broad assessment methodology used within the SEI Report remains as stated in the EIA Report. The majority of technical assessment methods presented in the EIA Report remain valid; however, where different assessment methods have been used within the SEI Report to correspond with the latest guidance or assessment tools, these are highlighted within the individual technical chapters.

## 6 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL AMENITY

**Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Amenity** of the EIA Report assessed the likely significant landscape and visual effects of the Development (16 wind turbines at 149. m blade tip height) during construction, operation, and decommissioning, with reference to mitigation which was developed during the design and planning process. The landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) also considered the possible cumulative effects arising from the Development in conjunction with other approved, under construction and proposed (for which an undetermined valid planning application exists) wind farms in the local area.

**SEI Report Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Amenity** evaluates the effects of the Revised Development on the landscape and visual resource, focusing on changes made to the Development Layout and how these may result in changes to the assessment of effects. It supplements **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Amenity** and accompanying appendices of the EIA Report.

Visibility of the Revised Development of 14 wind turbines (149.9m to blade tip height) as described in **Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design** is broadly similar to that of the original Development Layout. Within 5 km of the outermost wind turbines of the Revised Development, theoretical visibility is largely focused within the interior of the Site, with the broad 'bowl'-shaped landform of the Site containing visibility of the Revised Development in views from lower lying areas to the west of the Site. Theoretical visibility is indicated from lower lying areas along and adjacent to the existing access track, which passes to the north-west of the Site to the B862. Within 10-15 km of the outermost wind turbines of the Revised Development, theoretical visibility is indicated from Stratherrick, elevated slopes to the west of the Great Glen, and elevated summits and slopes within the interior of the Monadhliath Mountains to the east. Due to intervening landform and the dramatic profile of the Great Glen, very limited visibility is indicated across much of Loch Ness and its shoreline with actual visibility further limited by the presence of intervening woodland and forestry.

This updated assessment of landscape and visual effects presented in this SEI Chapter has determined that the overall significance of effects on the landscape and visual amenity of the Study Area will remain the same as that assessed in the LVIA for the original Development Layout.

The landscape character of the Study Area is varied and includes open areas of rolling moorland plateau contrasted with intimate glens and straths. The Site is located within two landscape character types (LCTs): the Rolling Uplands – Inverness (LCT 221) and Farmed Strath – Inverness (LCT 227). Proposed wind turbines are located within the interior of the Rolling Uplands plateau (LCT 221). The existing access track connects to the B862 and is partially located within the smaller-scale Farmed Strath (LCT 227). The assessment found that the Revised Development will result in moderate (adverse) and significant landscape effects within localised extents of the Site. The extent of direct landscape effect on the Site and LCT 221 has slightly decreased for the Revised Development given the reduction in number of turbines and length of access track. Effects on the landscape character of the Study Area are considered to be not significant.

During the operational phase, the assessment found that moderate (adverse) and significant visual effects will be experienced from four of the 19 representative viewpoints located within 11 km of the Revised Development:

- Viewpoint 3: B862 West of Corriegarth Lodge;
- Viewpoint 4: South Loch Ness Trail, north of Whitebridge;
- Viewpoint 5: Errogie; and

- Viewpoint 7: General Wade's Military Road.

Moderate (adverse) and significant effects will be experienced from localised sections of the B862, NCN Route 78 and the South Loch Ness Trail; however, an overall minor (adverse) and not significant effect will be experienced from each of these routes as a whole.

Whilst a moderate (adverse) and significant effect will be experienced by residential receptors from VP1: Gorthleck, this represents a worst-case scenario from relatively limited extents of the settlement. An overall minor (adverse) and not significant effect will be experienced for the settlement of Gorthleck as a whole.

The Site itself is not located within any landscape designations and wild land areas; however, there are a number of designations within the 40 km Study Area. The Loch Ness and Duntelchaig Special Landscape Area (SLAs), the Cairngorms National Park (CNP), and Monadhliath Wild Land Area (WLA 20) were considered within the assessment. An overall minor (adverse) and not significant effect was identified for the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. The adverse effects on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the CNP and the Wild Land Qualities of WLA 20 identified within the assessment are judged not to undermine the objectives for the protection of the areas. The overall integrity of the CNP and WLA 20 will not be compromised by the introduction of the Revised Development.

Operational wind farms and those under construction including the Operational Corriegarth Wind Farm are included as part of the baseline for the LVIA and considered as part of the primary LVIA assessment. Scenario 1 of the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (CLVIA) considers the addition of the Development to a landscape with operational, under construction and consented wind farms. Scenario 2 of the CLVIA considers the addition of the Development to a landscape with operational, under construction, consented and undetermined valid planning applications. Where the assessment found potential for cumulative effects under either scenario, these were considered to be minor (adverse) and not significant. No significant cumulative effects were identified in the CLVIA.

Significant landscape and visual effects will be limited to relatively localised extents of the Study Area. All significant effects are judged to be fully reversible; following decommissioning of the Revised Development at the end of the operational phase, when the wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure would be removed, and the Site fully restored.

# 7 ECOLOGY

**SEI Chapter 7: Ecology** of the SEI Report evaluates the effects of the Development on important ecological features during construction, operation and decommissioning. Overall, the reduction in wind turbine numbers, and smaller footprint of the Revised Development is likely to result in reduced, or at least unchanged effects on IEFs as those predicted in the EIA Report.

The Revised Development will result in a considerable decrease in direct and indirect impacts on blanket bog, and the oHMP has been revised to ensure the scale of peatland restoration is sufficient to account for indirect and direct effects and ensure a net gain of blanket bog is achieved. Therefore, the potential effects on blanket bog from the revised Development will be the worst case neutral, and **not significant** in relation to the EIA Regulations.

Effects on ecology associated with the Revised Development are considered to be **not significant**. This represents no change to the conclusions of the EIA Report or the HRA appraisal.

# 8 ORNITHOLOGY

Chapter 8 of the SEI Report evaluates the construction and operational effects of the Revised Development on ornithological features, in comparison to those predicted for the Development in EIA Report **Chapter 8: Ornithology**. It takes into consideration consultation responses on the EIA Report relating to ornithology, provided by NatureScot and RSPB Scotland.

All methods of assessment are consistent with those used in EIA Report **Chapter 8: Ornitholog**y to allow a direct comparison of predicted effects between the Development and Revised Development. The baseline survey information used is also the same but includes more recent data on breeding raptor species up to 2021, provided by the Highland Raptor Study Group. The Important Ornithological Features (IOFs) taken forward to assessment are unchanged from the EIA Report, based on the information available. These are: red kite, white-tailed eagle, golden eagle, peregrine, golden plover and dunlin.

In general, the main changes in the Revised Development for ornithology features are the reduction in wind turbine numbers and associated infrastructure, and consequent reduced footprint.

For assessing construction effects (temporary and permanent habitat loss, temporary disturbance), although the overall footprint would be reduced, it is assumed that as a precaution, the duration and nature of construction activities would be similar, therefore predicted unmitigated construction effects are unchanged (at worst minor adverse, **not significant**). Effects on breeding birds would be mitigated via a BBPP and pre-construction surveys.

During operation, it is concluded that the effects of displacement on foraging or breeding birds would be slightly reduced due to the smaller footprint, although this change is unlikely to be significant at a population level for any IOF. It is demonstrated via a Golden Eagle Topography (GET) model that most of the Site is of comparatively lower suitability for golden eagles than much of the surrounding land within nearby territories.

Collision effects are also slightly reduced due to the decrease in wind turbine numbers, and based on the outputs of the Golden Eagle Population Model presented in the EIA Report for the Development, the predicted additional mortality due to collisions associated with the Revised Development would not significantly affect the Natural Heritage Zone (NHZ) 10 reference breeding population from continuing its expansion and maintaining favourable conservation status. Annual collision rates are also not predicted to be significant for any other IOF's reference populations, when mitigation measures (e.g., carrion removal from within 200 m of wind turbines, habitat management) are taken into consideration.

The status of other wind farm projects within NHZ 10 has been reviewed to determine whether the cumulative assessment in the EIA Report remains applicable. It is found that the EIA Report's assessment remains a suitable worst-case cumulative assessment and that the predicted cumulative effects are unchanged.

With the mitigation and enhancement measures outlined in the EIA Report still committed to by the Applicant for the Revised Development, it can be reasonably concluded that the residual effects predicted for all IOFs would be unchanged from the EIA Report, and therefore negligible or minor adverse and **not significant**.

## 9 ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

**Chapter 9: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage** of the EIA Report, submitted in January 2021 (Planning Reference: ECU00002175), does not require to be updated in light of revisions to the Development.

**Chapter 9: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage** of the EIA Report concluded that the Development resulted in effects that were not significant in terms of the EIA Regulations.

As a result of the turbine numbers reducing from 16 to 14 as part of the Revised Development, it is considered by EIA assessors that the Revised Development will not introduce any significant effects within the archaeology and cultural heritage resource. Additionally, whilst the reduction in the number of turbines may slightly reduce the effects predicted in the EIA Report, effects as a result of the Revised Development would remain **not significant.**

## 10 NOISE

An assessment of potential noise effects associated with the Revised Development has been carried out.

Construction noise will be limited in duration and confined to working hours as specified by the Council and therefore can be adequately controlled through the application of good practice measures and secured by planning condition. This will ensure that any noise from the Revised Development during construction will be adequately controlled.

Operational noise has been assessed in accordance with ETSU-R-97 and in line with current best practice. It has been shown that the Revised Development would comply with the requirements of ETSU-R-97 at all receptor locations. The operation of the Revised Development results in a negligible reduction in noise levels relative to those previously predicted in the EIA Report.

The cumulative effects of the Revised Development in conjunction with nearby wind energy developments either operational, consented or the subject of a current planning application were taken into consideration in the above assessment, in accordance with ETSU-R-97 and the GPG.

## 11 TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

**SEI Chapter 11: Traffic and Transportation** evaluates the effects of the Development on traffic and transport resources on routes to the Development Site and within the local area. The principal change in relation to Traffic and Transportation is the removal of a length of new access track to be constructed as well as correcting minor discrepancies in the Development's EIA Report.

The number of construction vehicles which are predicted to access the Development at each phase of the Development have been identified. 32,905 overall vehicle movements are predicted, which consists of 24,532 car and van movements and 7,373 HGV movements. The peak months of construction is predicted to occur from months 6-8 as reported in the EIA Report. The anticipated increase in traffic is estimated to be 90 vehicle movement per day.

The average number of daily vehicle movements predicted during the peak months has increased from that estimated in the EIA Report, however they are still below the recognised assessment threshold. This increase in vehicle movements is mainly due to an increase in the volume of concrete required for the turbine foundations as a result of a minor discrepancy in the Development's EIA Report and has been corrected in consultation with the Council. Therefore, the effect on Traffic and Transportation remains unchanged. The mitigation measures identified in the EIA Report will continue to apply to the Revised Development. Residual effects remain the same as in the EIA Report and are not significant in all cases.

An updated cumulative effects assessment was undertaken. This indicated that there was sufficient residual capacity on routes to the Development Site to accommodate the predicted increase in traffic in the worst case cumulative scenario. In any case it is assumed that the Traffic Management Plans of each of the identified cumulative developments would be coordinated in order to minimise effects. Therefore, cumulative effects are predicted to be low and **not significant**.

## 12 HYDROLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY

**SEI Chapter 12: Hydrology and Hydrogeology** of the SEI Report addresses the potential effects on hydrological receptors due to the changes made to the Application. The assessment methodology used within this SEI is unchanged from Chapter 12: Hydrology and Hydrogeology of the original EIA report. Additionally, there have been no changes to the baseline conditions presented in the 2019 EIA Report.

All turbine infrastructure associated with the Revised Development is located within the catchments of the River E and River Foyers.

All turbine infrastructure is located outwith areas identified as medium to high risk of flooding from all sources. Only the existing access track to the currently operational wind farm is located on a small flood plain.

The Revised Development lies within a designated Drinking Water Protected Area (DWPA) under the Water Framework Directive associated with the Loch Ness and Invermoriston catchments.

Consultation with Highland Council confirmed that there are three PWS within 2 km of the Development boundary. Two more PWS were identified during the assessment outlined within the EIA report. Considering whether these PWS were hydrologically or hydrogeologically connected to the Development, three of the PWS were scoped into the Private Water Supply Risk assessment. These are Corriegarth Lodge and Keepers Cottage, Garthbeg Farm and Garthbeg Bungalow.

No statutory designations are hydrologically connected to the Revised Development.

Embedded good construction practice provided in the Outline Water and Construction Environmental Management Plan (WCEMP) and a 50 m buffer of surface watercourses will limit the potential for significant effects on the hydrological environment.

All effects have been assessed as negligible or minor and are '**not significant'** in terms of the EIA Regulations.

## 13 GEOLOGY AND PEAT

**SEI Chapter 13: Geology and Peat** of the SEI report evaluates the effects of the Development on the Geology and Peat resource.

The Revised Development includes an overall reduction in footprint due to the removal of two turbines, re-location of eight turbines and a reduction in the length of new tracks. In addition, turbines and tracks have been moved to areas of shallower peat where possible. This has resulted in a reduction of peat disturbance in the region of approximately 172,500 $m^3$ as well as a reduction in impact on Class 1 peatland due to reduction of new track length.

Excavated peat will be utilised in a peatland restoration programme to enhance the currently deteriorating peat areas as presented in **SEI Chapter 7: Ecology**.

Following the same mitigation measures as the EIA Report, and supplemented with the enhanced mitigation included in Technical Appendix A13.1 PSRA and Technical Appendix A13.2 oPMP, the residual effect is reduced to minor and not significant (as per the EIA Report). As a result, there is no significant effect on peat.

The relocation of turbines and associated infrastructure has resulted in the removal of one new watercourse crossing and remains not significant.

The Revised Development presents no change to the effects assessed in the EIA Report in terms of geology.

The effects on geology and peat resources associated with the Revised Development are considered to be not significant.

This represents no change to the conclusions outlined in the EIA Report.

## 14 SOCIO-ECONOMICS, RECREATION AND TOURISM

**Chapter 14: Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism** of the EIA Report, submitted in January 2021 (Planning Reference: ECU00002175), does not require to be updated in light of revisions to the Development.

**Chapter 14: Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism** of the EIA Report concluded that the Development resulted in effects that were not significant in terms of the EIA Regulations.

As a result of the turbine numbers reducing from 16 to 14 as part of the Revised Development, it is considered by EIA assessors that the Revised Development will not introduce any significant effects within the resource of Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism.

## 15 CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON BALANCE

**Chapter 15: Climate Change** of the EIA Report evaluates the effects of the Development on Climate Change and Carbon Balance Resource.

**SEI Chapter 15: Climate Change** supplements Chapter 15 of the EIA report in relation to the revisions to the Development which are being proposed. The changes as a result of the Revised Development can be summarised as follows:

- The Carbon Savings from the Revised Development have decreased in comparison to the Development largely due to the reduction in turbine numbers from 16 to 14, producing modest changes;
- The Carbon losses from the Revised Development have also reduced in comparison to the Development largely due to the reduction in turbine numbers from 16 to 14;
- The Payback Period for the Revised Development in comparison with the Development, largely due to the reduction in turbine numbers and ancillary infrastructure required for the Revised Development in comparison to the Development.

No significant effects are predicted within the EIA Report as a result of climate change, this remains the case in light of the outlined changes. The Development will have a positive effect on carbon savings and a significant positive effect when considered cumulatively with UK-wide renewable energy development.

The Statement of Significance contained within Chapter 15 remains unchanged and therefore states that effects relating to climate change associated with the revised Development is still considered to be **not significant**; thus, representing no change to the conclusions outlined in the EIA Report.

## 16 OTHER ISSUES (HEALTH AND SAFETY, INFRASTRUCTURE, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AVIATION AND SHADOW FLICKER)

**Chapter 16: Other Issues** of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, submitted in January 2021 (Planning Reference: ECU00002175), does not require to be updated in light of revisions to the Development.

Chapter 16: Other Issues of the EIA Report concluded that the Development resulted in effects that were not significant in terms of the EIA Regulations; however, for Aviation, the EIA Report acknowledged that some effects is predicted in relation to civil aviation infrastructure. The EIA Report stated that the Applicant was engaged in discussions with Highlands and Islands Airport Limited (HIAL) to both better determine impacts and as required to identify suitable mitigation. It remains the case that the Applicant is in discussions with HIAL.

As a result of the turbine numbers reducing from 16 to 14 as part of the Revised Development, it is considered by EIA assessors that the Development will not introduce any new significant effects within the resource of Other Issues.