

Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm

Additional Information

February 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	2
1.1	Additional Information Report	2
1.1	Purpose and Structure of AI Report	2
1.2	The Additional Information Process and Presentation	3
1.3	Statement of Competence	3
2.	DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	3
3.	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	4
3.1	Landscape and Visual	4
3.2	Ecology: Habitat Management Plan	4
4.	APPENDIX 1: LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL	5
5.	APPENDIX 2: ENHANCED OUTLINE HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN	6
6.	APPENDIX 3: PEATLAND CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND WALKOVER SURVEY	7

1. Introduction

1.1 Additional Information Report

In January 2021, Corriegarth 2 Windfarm Limited ('the Applicant') submitted an application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989¹ and for deemed planning permission under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. The application was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) (Planning Reference: ECU00002175). The proposal was to construct 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 jurisdiction of The Highland Council ('the Development'). In April 2022 the Applicant submitted a Supplementary Environmental Information (SEI) Report (2022 SEI) providing further, and updated, environmental information relating to revisions to the Development. The Applicant revised the Development by:

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

The Applicant thereafter seeks to construct and operate a wind farm comprising 14 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').

Subsequent to the submission of the 2021 EIAR and the 2022 SEI, 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 submission of the 2021 EIAR and 2022 SEI, The Highland Council (THC) objected to the Development on the 18th August 2022. The application was transferred to the Scottish Government's Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA). Two Reporters were appointed by the Scottish Ministers to consider the application (DPEA reference WIN-270-17). On the 8th February 2023, THC resolved to withdraw its objection to the application. However, the Scottish Ministers have requested that the appointed Reporters complete their consideration of the application and submit a report to them.

The Applicant has prepared this Additional Information (AI) in accordance with the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

1.1 Purpose and Structure of AI Report

Within the Note of the Pre-Examination Meeting (PEM), held on the 24th January 2023 and updated PEM held on the 16th February 2023, the Reporters appointed by the Scottish Ministers to consider the application, required the Applicant to submit additional information relating to an update to the cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment (CLVIA). The purpose of the CLVIA update submitted within this AI Report is to take account of the additions to the baseline of other relevant wind farm proposals since the current iteration was prepared. In addition, the Applicant is providing

¹ Electricity Act 1989 [Online] Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/29/contents> (Accessed 03/02/2023)

confirmation of the Enhanced outline Habitat Management Plan (EoHMP) and peat restoration proposals in line with NatureScot's consultation response dated 31st May 2022.

This AI Report should be read in conjunction with the 2021 EIAR and 2022 SEI. Unless otherwise stated in this AI report, the content of the 2021 EIAR and 2022 SEI remains valid.

1.2 The Additional Information Process and Presentation

The 2021 EIAR and 2022 SEI have been reviewed to identify the need to update and replace content in light of this AI. Where a chapter or assessment does not need to be updated, supplemented or replaced, no changes have been made as it is not the intention of this AI to repeat information contained within the 2021 EIAR nor 2022 SEI that remains valid.

The AI Report includes: Written text, Figures (including wireline visualisations) and Appendices and will contain the following sections:

- AI Main Report provides the updates in line with the requested information, including Technical Appendices which follows the following structure:
 - Section 1: Introduction
 - Section 2: Description of Development
 - Section 3: Additional Information
 - Updated Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (CLVIA) and associated Figures and wireline visualisations for a selection of viewpoints
 - Peat Restoration Proposals, including the baseline peatland condition assessment and walkover surveys and an enhanced outline habitat management plan.

1.3 Statement of Competence

The information presented in this AI has been prepared by the competent experts as detailed in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1: Competent Experts

Company Name	Author	Roles & Responsibility
Land Use Consultancy (LUC)	Dan Walker	Preparation of the cumulative LVIA update
Alba Ecology Ltd	Dr Kate Massey	Enhance Outline Management Plan containing further details on peat restoration proposals

2. Description of Development

There are no changes to the description or the location of the Proposed Development presented in Chapter 4 of the 2022 SEI. All aspects of the layout including the turbine numbers, locations, dimensions and associated infrastructure remains unchanged.

3. Additional Information

3.1 Landscape and Visual

The content of this AI presented in Appendix 1, comprises of an update to the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (CLVIA) and details changes to the cumulative situation within a 40km radius of the site. The updated CLVIA details changes which have occurred since the production of the 2022 SEI Chapter 6.

The updated CLVIA considers the changes which have occurred in the cumulative baseline since the CLVIA was updated in the 2022 SEI, taking account of recently consented and refused wind farms, and wind farm applications. The changes to the cumulative baseline are detailed in Table 2.1 and shown on AI Figure 6.8b. The extent and nature of changes since the baseline context considered in the 2021 CLVIA and 2022 SEI CLVIA Update are limited. As such, the assessment focuses on the cumulative landscape and visual effects of the Revised Development in combination with the now consented Bhlaraidh Extension and proposed Bunloinn, Tomchrasky and Tom na Clach Extension Wind Farms. All of these wind farms will be located at distances exceeding 17-39km from the Revised Development.

Chapter 2 presents a tabulated CLVIA update, considering changes to the cumulative landscape and visual effects, and cumulative effects on designated landscapes and wild land areas. The updated CLVIA is accompanied by updated figures, Cumulative Zone of Theoretical Visibility (CZTV) maps, and updated wireline visualisations from selected assessment viewpoints.

The updated CLVIA concludes that the Revised Development will not materially add to the cumulative effects identified in the 2021 CLVIA or the 2022 SEI CLVIA Update, and the extent of significant cumulative landscape and visual effects will remain unchanged from those presented in the original CLVIA (see EIA-R Table 6.65).

3.2 Ecology: Habitat Management Plan

Chapter 7 of the 2022 EIAR contained an Outline Habitat Management Plan (OHMP) which detailed a high level proposal committing to restore a total of 23.88 hectares (ha) of peatland through restoration as mitigation for non-significant but adverse direct and indirect losses of peatland habitat. NatureScot did not object on this basis but advised that *"the absolute extent of restored habitat should be no less than 50ha, but 100 ha is advisable to allow for future failures"*. Following the advice from NatureScot and the recent Scottish policy guidance updates, including National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (2022) and the Onshore Wind Policy Statement the Applicant has developed enhancement measures for the peatland habitats detailed in Appendix 2 Enhanced Outline Habitat Management Plan (EoHMP). The EoHMP provides detail of how this restoration will be achieved, including confirmation of 100ha proposed for restoration, a baseline assessment of these areas (Appendix 3) and restoration techniques to be employed on the site.