

# Appendix 1.2

## Scoping Opinion

Issue	Date	Revision Details
1193744A	16/02/2021	Released



The Scottish Government  
Energy Consents Unit

Scoping Opinion on behalf of Scottish Ministers under the Electricity Works  
(Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

Daer Wind Farm  
Natural Power Consultants Limited  
On behalf of E.ON Climate & Renewables UK Developments Ltd

March 2019

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ANNEX A

## 1. Introduction

This scoping opinion is issued by the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit on behalf of Scottish Ministers to Natural Power Consultants Limited, for E.ON Climate and Renewables UK Developments Limited (E.ON), a company incorporated under the Companies Acts with company number 03758407 and having its registered office at Westwood Way, Westwood Business Park, Coventry, CV4 8LG (“the company”). This is in response to a request dated 11 December 2018 for a scoping opinion under the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 in relation to the proposed Daer Wind Farm (“the proposed development”). The request was accompanied by a scoping report.

The proposed development will be located in the Lowther Hills of South Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway directly adjacent to the south east of the Daer Reservoir and within the planning authorities of South Lanarkshire Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council.

The proposed Development will consist of 15 wind turbines. The site consists of two land parcels, Daer and Rivox; the former is wholly within South Lanarkshire and the latter is wholly within Dumfries and Galloway.

Options for the transport route to site are being further investigated. One potential route is as follows, M74 on to A702; southbound on the A702 to Watermeetings and then Minor road from Watermeetings to site. Common to all options is the port of entry at KGV Docks in Glasgow.

The final specification of the turbines is not known at this time, they are likely to be up to a maximum 170 meters in height to blade tip, with a generation capacity of around 5 MW each.

In addition to wind turbines, there will be ancillary infrastructure including:

- Turbine foundations;
- External transformer housing;
- Crane pads;
- Upgrading and new access tracks;
- Underground electricity cables;
- Anemometry mast;
- Forestry felling and replanting;
- Signage;
- Temporary borrow pits;
- Temporary construction and storage compounds, laydown areas and ancillary infrastructure; and
- Drainage and drainage attenuation measures (as required).

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) should include search areas of the proposed locations for on-site borrow pits. The EIAR should present high level details of the borrow pit designs including indicative borrow pit plans.

The Company indicates the proposed development would be decommissioned after 35 years from the date of First Commissioning and site restored in accordance with the decommissioning and restoration plan.

## 2. Consultation

Following the request for a scoping opinion, a list of consultees was agreed between Natural Power Consultants Limited, and the Energy Consents Unit. Scottish Ministers undertook a consultation on the scoping report and this commenced on 14 January 2019. The consultation closed on 4 February 2019. Extensions to this deadline were granted to

- South Lanarkshire Council;
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation;
- Glasgow Prestwick;
- RSPB and
- Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society.

Scottish Ministers also requested responses from their internal advisors Marine Scotland and Transport Scotland. A full list of consultees is set out at Annex A.

The purpose of the consultation was to obtain scoping advice from each consultee on environmental matters within their remit. Responses from consultees and advisors should be read in full for detailed requirements and for comprehensive guidance, advice and, where appropriate, templates for preparation of the EIA report.

No responses were received from

- BAA Aerodrome Safeguarding (Edinburgh);
- British Horse Society;
- Civil Aviation Authority;
- Closeburn Community Council;
- Crawford and Elvenfoot Community Council;
- Fisheries Management Scotland;
- Forestry Commission;
- John Muir Trust;
- Kirkpatrick Juxta Community Council;
- Local District Salmon Fisheries Board;
- Moffat and District Community Council;
- Mountaineering Scotland;
- Nuclear Safety Directorate; and
- Scottish Wildlife Trust.

With regard to those consultees who did not respond, it is assumed they have no comment to make on the scoping report, however each would be consulted again in the event that an application for section 36 consent is submitted subsequent to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping opinion.

Scottish Ministers are satisfied that the requirements for consultations set out in Regulation 12(4) of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 have been met.

### **3. The Scoping Opinion**

This scoping opinion has been adopted following consultation with South Lanarkshire Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council, within whose area the proposed development would be situated. Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland, were also consulted as statutory consultation bodies, as were other bodies, which Scottish Ministers considered likely to have an interest in the proposed development by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities or local and regional competencies.

Scottish Ministers adopt this scoping opinion having taken into account the information provided by the applicant in its request dated 11 December 2018 in respect of the specific characteristics of the proposed development and responses received to the consultation undertaken. In providing this scoping opinion, the Scottish Ministers have had regard to current knowledge and methods of assessment; have taken into account the specific characteristics of the proposed development, the specific characteristics of that type of development and the environmental features likely to be affected.

A copy of this scoping opinion has been sent to South Lanarkshire Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council for publication on their website. It has also been published on the Scottish Government energy consents website at [www.energyconsents.scot](http://www.energyconsents.scot).

Unless stated to the contrary in this scoping opinion, Scottish Ministers expect the EIA report, which will accompany the application for the proposed development to consider in full all consultation responses attached in Annex A.

Scottish Ministers are satisfied with the scope of the EIA set out at Section 5.1 of the scoping report.

In addition to the consultation responses, Ministers wish to provide comments with regards to the scope of the EIA report. The Company should note and address each matter.

#### Scottish Water

The Scoping Report identified this proposal falls within a drinking water catchment area where a Scottish Water abstraction is located. Therefore this is deemed to be high risk as the proposed site lies close to the reservoir. The approach is generally noted as acceptable, but further engagement in relation to the detailed design stages, is required to determine the most appropriate proposals and mitigation within the catchment to protect water quality and quantity.

### Private Water Supplies

Scottish Ministers request that the Company investigate private water supplies within close proximity to the proposed development, which may be impacted by the development. The EIA report should include details of these supplies identified by this investigation, the Company should provide an assessment of the potential impact, risks, and any mitigation which would be provided.

### Fish Surveys

Scottish Ministers request the Company takes account of the advice provided by Marine Scotland Science and contact the Annan District Salmon Fishery Board, the Clyde River Foundation and River Annan Trust for information on local fish stocks.

### Peat

Scottish Ministers are aware indicative peat mapping suggests areas of deep peat and priority peatland within the area and therefore peat depth and vegetation surveys will be required as part of the EIA report.

### Viewpoints

A list of final viewpoints should be agreed with South Lanarkshire Council, Dumfries & Galloway Council and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and presented in the EIAR in accordance with the guidance included in “Visual Representation of wind farms” Version 2.2.

### Other Issues

Scottish Ministers are aware that further engagement is required between parties regarding the refinement of the design of the proposed development, also amongst other things, surveys, management plans, peat, finalisation of viewpoints, transport routes, cultural heritage, cumulative assessments and request that they are kept informed of relevant discussions.

### Mitigation Measures

The Scottish Ministers are required to make a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the proposed development on the environment as identified in the EIA. The mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impacts identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. Applicants are also asked to provide a consolidated schedule, in tabular form, of all mitigation measures proposed in the environmental assessment, where that mitigation is relied upon in relation to reported conclusions of likelihood or significant of impacts.

## Conclusion

This scoping opinion is based on information contained in the applicant's written request for a scoping opinion and information available at the date of this scoping opinion. The adoption of this scoping opinion by the Scottish Ministers does not preclude the Scottish Ministers from requiring of the applicant information in connection with a EIA report submitted in connection with any application for section 36 consent for the proposed development.

This scoping opinion will not prevent the Scottish Ministers from seeking additional information at application stage, for example to include cumulative impacts of additional developments which enter the planning process after the date of this opinion.

Without prejudice to that generality, it is recommended that advice regarding the requirement for an additional scoping opinion be sought from Scottish Ministers in the event that no application has been submitted within 12 months of the date of this opinion.

It is acknowledged that the environmental impact assessment process is iterative and should inform the final layout and design of proposed developments.

Applicants are encouraged to engage with officials at the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit at the pre-application stage and before proposals reach design freeze.

Applicants are reminded that there will be limited opportunity to materially vary the form and content of the proposed development once an application is submitted.

When finalising the EIA report, applicants are asked to provide a summary in tabular form of where within the EIA report each of the specific matters raised in this scoping opinion has been addressed.

It should be noted that to facilitate uploading to the Energy Consents portal, the EIA report and its associated documentation should be divided into appropriately named separate files of sizes no more than 10 megabytes (MB). In addition, a separate disc containing the EIA report and its associated documentation in electronic format will be required.

## **ANNEX A**

### **Consultation**

#### List of consultees

Dumfries and Galloway Council  
South Lanarkshire Council

BAA Aerodrome Safeguarding (Edinburgh)\*  
British Horse Society\*  
British Telecommunications Plc  
Civil Aviation Authority\*  
Closeburn Community Council\*  
Crawford and Elvenfoot Community Council\*  
Crown Estate Scotland  
Defence Infrastructure Organisation  
Fisheries Management Scotland\*  
Forestry Commission\*  
Glasgow Airport  
Glasgow Prestwick Airport  
Historic Environment Scotland  
John Muir Trust\*  
Joint Radio Company  
Kirkpartrick Juxta Community Council\*  
Local District Salmon Fisheries Board\*  
Marine Scotland  
Moffat and District Community Council\*  
Mountaineering Scotland\*  
NATS Safeguarding  
Nuclear Safety Directorate\*  
Royal Society Protection of Birds  
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency  
Scottish Natural Heritage  
Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society  
Scottish Water  
Scottish Wildlife Trust\*  
Transport Scotland  
Visit Scotland

Officials from Marine Scotland and Transport Scotland areas of the Scottish Government provided internal advice.

\*No consultee responses were received

**Proposal: CONSULTATION FROM SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT ENERGY CONSENTS UNIT IN RELATION TO REQUEST FOR SCOPING OPINION UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 FOR ERECTION OF WIND FARM CONSISTING OF 15 WIND TURBINES UPTO 170 METRES HIGH AND ASSOCIATED WORKS**

**Location: Daer Wind Farm, West of Moffat**

**Application Type: Scoping Opinion**

**Ref. No.: 19/0063/ENQ**

1. This scoping request from the Scottish Government Energy Consent Unit relates to a proposal to construct and operate a wind farm on land around a series of hills at Nether Law, The Knowes, Earlside and Gillknowe all to the north of Whiteside Hill (554m AOD), and adjacent to Daer reservoir. The applicant, E.ON Climate and renewables, seeks consent for the erection of 15 wind turbines up to 170 metres to tip height, turbine foundations, external transformer housing, crane pads, upgrading and new access tracks, underground electricity cables, anemometry mast, forestry felling and replanting, signage, temporary borrow pits, temporary construction and storage compounds, laydown areas and ancillary infrastructure, drainage and drainage attenuation measures (as required). The application site is split between two Local Authority planning areas: South Lanarkshire Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council. The site access and 12 of the proposed turbines lie within South Lanarkshire with the remaining 3 turbines lying within Dumfries and Galloway. The proposed works will be sought under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989, with the application being made to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit.

2. The Planning Service consulted the following Departments of Dumfries and Galloway Council: Roads, Flooding Unit, Environmental Health, Archaeologist, Landscape Architect and Access Officer.

To date responses have been received by the following internal consultees:

**3. Council Roads Officer**

3.1 The proposed windfarm is located within South Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway. The supplied Scoping Report Variation, Traffic and Transportation section (15) states that the delivery routes are from the M74 via the A702 then from Watermeetings along the Daer Water road to the site access. Therefore, Abnormal Indivisible Loads and other construction traffic will use access routes within South Lanarkshire.

3.2 Given the above, no objections.

**4 Council Flood Risk Management Team**

4.1 With reference to planning application 19/0063/ENQ, the Flood Risk Management Team (FRMT) have reviewed the information provided and have made the following observations:

- The area proposed for development intersects sections of the Medium Likelihood (0.5% Annual Exceedance Probability) Fluvial floodplain as detailed on DGi (information from SEPA),
- DGi is an indicative tool designed to highlight areas potentially at risk of flooding.

4.2 Due to the nature of the development the FRMT have no objection to the proposed development, however would advise the following;

- Developer needs to manage surface runoff from the site during and after construction. Runoff should mimic that of existing conditions and not be increased,
- Developer should consider the rate of runoff into the watercourses which are located within the site. Any significant increase may increase the flood risk downstream

4.3 This is a response to a request for information regarding development and flood risk to inform the Planning Authority's decision in this application and is based on the information supplied. As an internal consultee, and to ensure transparency and auditability in the process, all queries from the applicant regarding information supplied by the FRMT should, in the first instance, be directed to the appropriate Planning Officer.

## **5 Outstanding Responses**

5.1 There are still outstanding responses from the Councils Archaeologist, Councils Landscape Architect and Environmental Health Officer which will be forwarded on to the Energy Consents Unit once the Planning Service has received them.

**Soave N (Nicola)**

---

**From:** Soave N (Nicola)  
**Sent:** 21 March 2019 11:25  
**To:** Soave N (Nicola)  
**Subject:** Daer Wind Farm  
**Attachments:** Daer Wind Farm.pdf

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**From:** Masters, Richard <Richard.Masters@dumgal.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 28 February 2019 10:18  
**To:** McTeir, Chris <Chris.McTeir@dumgal.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: 19/0063/ENQ

Thanks Chris, that's great.

I've had a quick look at the site plan and compared it with our path records. There are 2 Core Paths within the site boundary, Core Path 504, The Southern Upland Way and Core Path 266 near Hangingshaw Hill. The section of the Southern Upland Way within the site is also recorded as a Right of Way. Plan attached.

We would request that access along the Core Paths is not restricted should the Wind Farm site be approved. If the developer requires advice on diversions or temporary closures, we will happy to assist.

We have no objections to the development.

Thanks,

Richard

**Richard Masters**  
**Countryside Access Officer**  
**Economy, Environment and Infrastructure**  
Dumfries & Galloway Council  
Cargen Tower  
Garroch Loaning  
Dumfries  
DG2 8PN  
Tel: 030 3333 3000

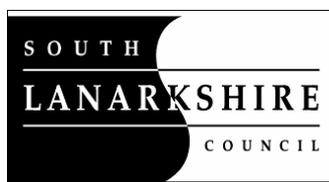
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**Community and Enterprise Resources**  
 Executive Director **Michael McGlynn**  
**Planning and Economic Development**

Nicola Soave  
 By Email

Our Ref: P/19/0063  
 Your Ref:  
 If calling ask for: James Wright  
 Date: 8 March 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

**ELECTRICITY ACT 1989**  
**THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND)**  
**REGULATIONS 2017**  
**DAER RESERVOIR, ELVANFOOT**

I refer to your request for comments to inform a scoping opinion made under regulation 12 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

Following internal consultation, South Lanarkshire Council, as Planning Authority would offer the following comments;

The structure of the scoping report is considered clear and sets out a prudent approach to the topics that may give rise to likely significant environmental effects and should be fully assessed in the EIA Report. The topics listed in the scoping report are acceptable to the Council and should be fully assessed within the EIA Report. The Council would request that there is a standalone chapter within any subsequent EIA Report that contains a summary of all the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures associated with the Environmental Impact of the proposals.

Whilst content with the topics, methodology and structure of the proposed EIA Report, the Council would also request the following additional comments are considered by the Scottish Government when forming their 'scoping opinion'.

**Chapter 10 of the Scoping Report: Landscape and Visual Assessment**

The proximity of the site adjacent to the Clyde Wind Farm and other existing or consented wind farm sites requires full and careful consideration of the cumulative impact of the proposals. Whilst the methodologies proposed for the Cumulative and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments are acceptable it is particularly important that the suite of visual receptor location points for these assessments is agreed with South Lanarkshire Council as a Consulting Authority to any further application. These location points should comprise of locations at a variety of distances from the site and include transport corridors, recreational routes and destination, as residential receptors.

**Chapter 11 of the Scoping Report: Ornithology & Ecology**

It should be noted that whilst there are no identified Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation or Local Nature Conservation Sites within 10km of this site, this is because the southern part of South Lanarkshire (south of Lanark) has not been surveyed or assessed at an appropriate scale to identify potential sites. An apparent lack of site does not result in there being no locally important sites within this area. The presence of priority peatland and the significant presence of protected species and habitats indicates that there would likely be locally important sites within the survey area. It should be noted that peatland and freshwater environments are considered

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 Email james.wright@southlanarkshire.gov.uk Phone: 01698 455903



'irreplaceable' habitats in South Lanarkshire and this should be taken into account for any design iteration. Mitigation against loss of these habitat types is unlikely to be considered acceptable. There is no environmental records centre in South Lanarkshire. Records are generally passed to the Glasgow Museum Records Centre. Other record centres such as the South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre may also hold relevant data.

A suitable buffer should protect the Sheil Dod SSSI.

A Habitat Management Plan is not referenced within the Scoping Report. Habitat Management could potentially have a positive impact upon the SSSI and other important habitats within the local area and therefore should be considered as part of the overall EIA assessment process.

Chapter 12 of the Scoping Report: Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology

Indicative peat mapping suggests areas of deep peat and priority peatland within the area and therefore peat depth and vegetation surveys will be required as part of the EIA Report.

Chapter 13 of the Scoping Report: Population and Human Health

It is considered that construction noise could be scoped out of any EIA Report subject to information regarding construction noise being submitted as supporting information to any Section 36 application.

The Socio-Economics section of this chapter should also refer to recreation and tourism and should include local recreational facilities and the EIA Report should consider the impact of the development proposals on the existing public access network. Given the proximity of the Southern Upland Way and other recreational infrastructure features to the site, it is recommended that an outdoor access plan for the site is prepared as part of the assessment process.

Chapter 14 of the Scoping Report: Cultural Heritage

The area concerned is at very high altitude but none-the-less has a wealth of recorded archaeology within it already thanks to the work of the Biggar Museum and volunteers in the past. They have demonstrated that it is a rich area for buried and upstanding prehistoric and medieval sites.

The proposed assessment outlined in the scoping report would appear to be entirely standard in terms of the proposed methodology which is fine for assessing direct issues, but we have disagreed in the past with these setting assessments as they appear to be assessing the change to the sites' significance rather than change to their settings. Specifics are requested at the end of the cultural heritage section but without actually doing the work this is simply not possible at this stage other than to say I have no specific sites or viewpoints of concern because I do not know which will even be affected as yet. As a guide I would say a 1km inner study area should be used to help assess direct issues and a 10km outer study area used for assessing setting issues. Setting issues should also include former non-statutory register sites (NSR) in our Historic Environment Record (HER).

Chapter 15 of the Scoping Report: Traffic and Transport should include swept path analysis to ensure that the delivery of the larger components can be accommodated within the public road.

**Conclusion**

Overall the scope of topics, set out within the Scoping Report are considered acceptable by South Lanarkshire Council subject to the incorporation of the chapter specific advice listed above.

Yours faithfully

**HQ Manager**

**Soave N (Nicola)**

---

**From:** Soave N (Nicola)  
**Sent:** 21 February 2019 11:58  
**To:** Soave N (Nicola)  
**Subject:** UPDATED - Consultation on the Scoping Opinion Request for the Proposed Daer Wind Farm  
**Attachments:** WID10904 Figure 1. Site Layout.pdf

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**From:** [paul.3.atkinson@openreach.co.uk](mailto:paul.3.atkinson@openreach.co.uk) <[paul.3.atkinson@openreach.co.uk](mailto:paul.3.atkinson@openreach.co.uk)> **On Behalf Of** [radionetworkprotection@bt.com](mailto:radionetworkprotection@bt.com)  
**Sent:** 15 January 2019 11:11  
**To:** McInnes T (Theresa) <[Theresa.McInnes@gov.scot](mailto:Theresa.McInnes@gov.scot)>; Econsents Admin <[Econsents\\_Admin@gov.scot](mailto:Econsents_Admin@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: UPDATED - Consultation on the Scoping Opinion Request for the Proposed Daer Wind Farm

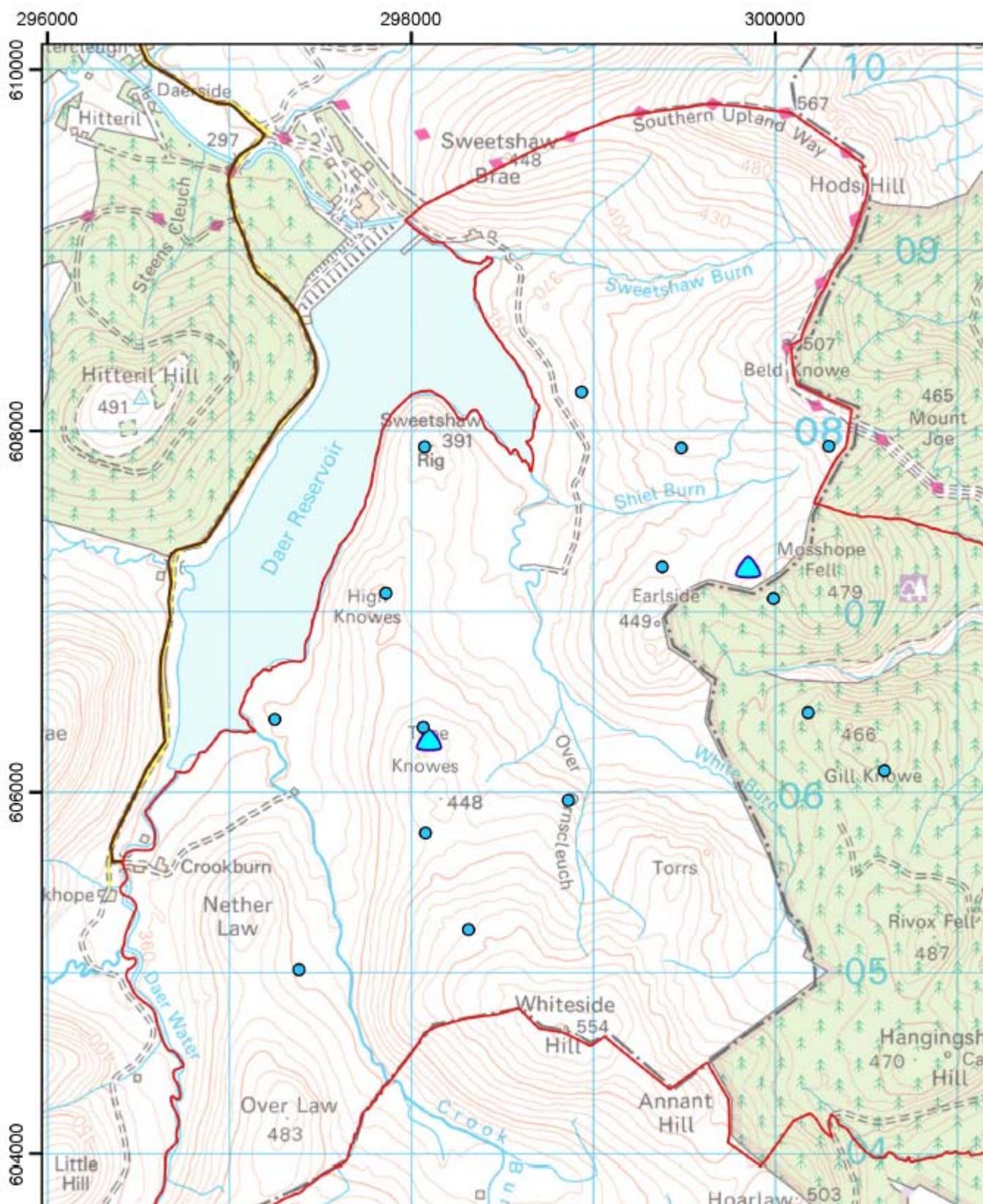
## **OUR REF; WID10904**

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your email dated 14/01/2019.

We have studied this Windfarm proposal with respect to EMC and related problems to BT point-to-point microwave radio links.

The conclusion is that, the Project indicated should not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network.



Kind Regards,  
**Paul Atkinson**  
 Fibre and Network Delivery  
 Radio Frequency Allocation & Network Protection (BNJ112)  
 Openreach

Web: [www.openreach.co.uk](http://www.openreach.co.uk)

PLEASE ALWAYS RESPOND TO [radionetworkprotection@bt.com](mailto:radionetworkprotection@bt.com)

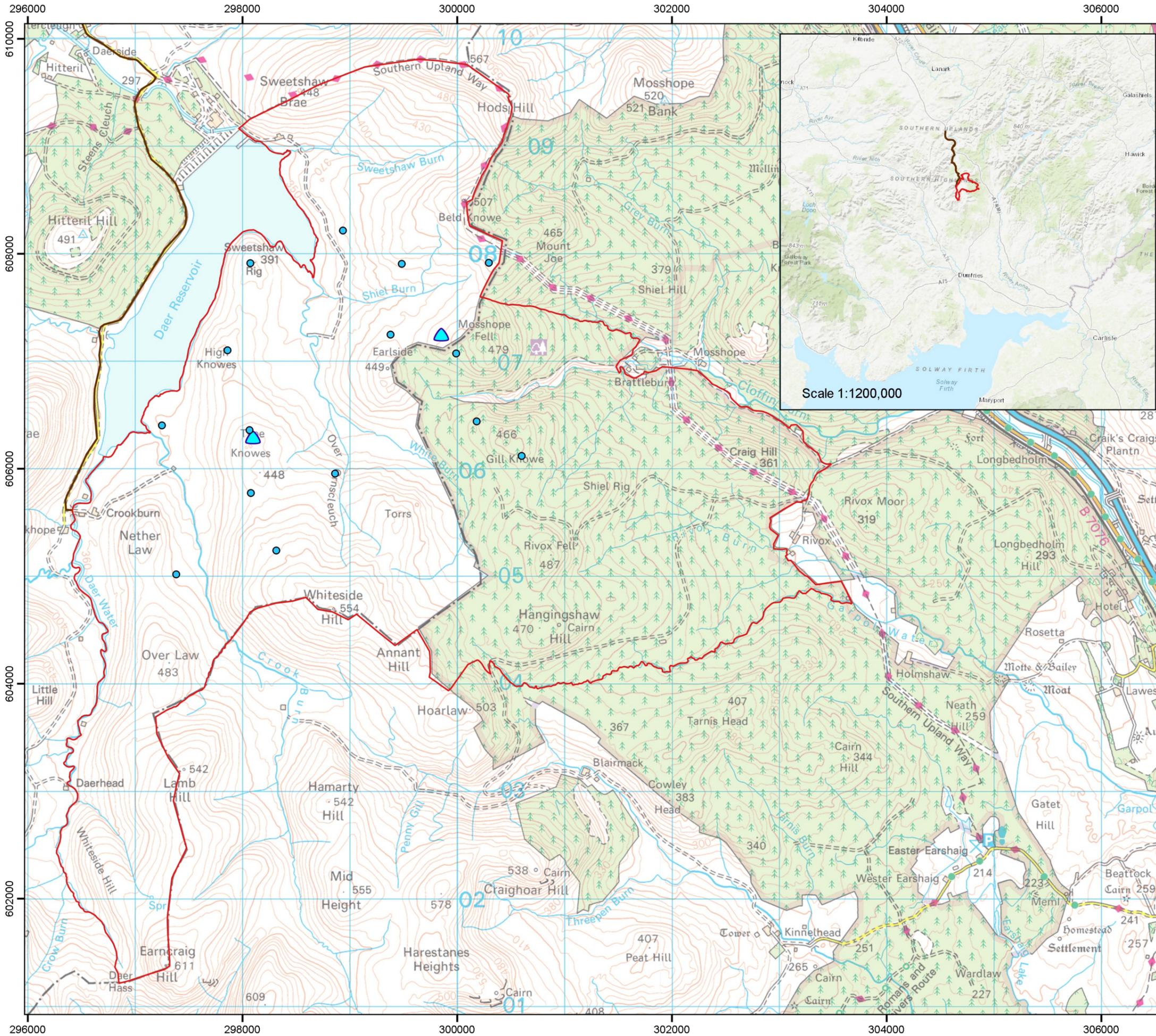
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Project:  
**Daer Wind Farm, South Lanarkshire / Dumfries & Galloway**

Title:  
**Figure 1: Indicative Site Layout and Location**

- Key**
- ▭ Site boundary
  - Proposed turbine
  - ▲ As-built temporary anemometry mast
  - Potential access route

- Notes:**
- a) Information on this map is directly reproduced from digital and other material from different sources. Minor discrepancies may therefore occur. Where further clarification is considered necessary, this is noted through the use of text boxes on the map itself.
  - b) For the avoidance of doubt and unless otherwise stated:
    1. where a line recorded in the key demarcates a boundary on this plan, the boundary edge is the outside edge of the line.
    2. where a line or feature recorded in the key of this plan is also shown as a line or feature by the Ordnance Survey, and that line or feature is located in a different position on the ground than shown by the Ordnance Survey, then the line or feature shall be deemed to follow the position as existing on the ground.
    3. this plan should be used for identification purposes only, unless specifically stated above or in accompanying documentation.
    4. The Natural Power Consultants Limited accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of data supplied by third parties.

**Scale @ A3: 1:35,000**  
 Coordinate System: British National Grid  
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N

Date: 30-11-18	Prepared by: AB	Checked by: JW
Ref: GB200492_M_052_A	Layout: 271017_15t_A	

**Drawing by:**  
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**From:** McGrogan, Joan <[joan.mcgrogan@crownestatescotland.com](mailto:joan.mcgrogan@crownestatescotland.com)>

**Sent:** 17 January 2019 15:45

**To:** McInnes T (Theresa) <[Theresa.McInnes@gov.scot](mailto:Theresa.McInnes@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Econsents Admin <[Econsents\\_Admin@gov.scot](mailto:Econsents_Admin@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** 20190117 - UPDATED - Consultation on the Scoping Opinion Request for the Proposed Daer Wind Farm - CES interests not affected

Dear Theresa

I refer to your email below.

---

I write to confirm that the assets of Crown Estate Scotland are not affected by this proposal.

Thanks

Kind regards

Joan.

**Joan McGrogan**  
**Portfolio Co-ordinator**

Tel: +44 (0) 131 260 6082

[www.crownestatescotland.com](http://www.crownestatescotland.com)

[@crownestatescot](mailto:@crownestatescot)

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**Crown Estate Scotland (Interim Management)**

  
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# Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Claire Duddy  
Assistant Safeguarding Officer  
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Safeguarding – Wind Energy  
Kingston Road  
Sutton Coldfield  
West Midlands B75 7RL  
United Kingdom

Your Reference: ECU00000740

Telephone [MOD]: +44 (0)121 311 2143

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E-mail: Claire.duddy532@mod.gov.uk

Nicola Soave  
The Scottish Government

19th February 2019

Dear Ms Soave,

**ELECTRICITY ACT 1989  
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS  
2017**

**SCOPING OPINION REQUEST FOR PROPOSED SECTION 36 APPLICATION FOR DAER WIND FARM IN  
THE LOWTHER HILLS ADJACENT TO THE DAER RESERVOIR IN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AREAS OF  
SOUTH LANARKSHIRE AND DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY**

Thank you for consulting the Ministry of Defence (MOD) about the above planning application in your communication dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

I am writing to advise you that the MOD objects to the proposal. Our assessment has been carried out on the basis that there will be 15 turbines, 170 metres in height from ground level to blade tip and located at the grid references below as stated in the planning application or provided by the developer:

Turbine	Easting	Northing
1	298314	605240
2	300599	606120
3	299990	607073
4	300294	607916
5	298065	606360
6	300180	606441
7	298077	605775
8	297860	607103
9	299483	607907
10	299378	607248
11	298072	607913
12	298935	608216
13	297382	605018
14	297249	606404
15	298862	605955

**Eskdalemuir Seismological Recording Station**

The turbines are approximately 29kms from the seismological recording station at Eskdalemuir and fall within its statutory safeguarded area. Scientific research has established that wind turbines of current design generate noise emissions that cause seismic vibrations which can interfere with the effective operation of the array. In order to ensure the United Kingdom can continue to implement its obligations in maintaining the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, a noise budget has been allocated to regulate the development of wind turbines within a 50km radius of the array. The budget has been set at 0.336nm rms.

At present the reserved noise budget has been reached. Therefore, the MOD must object to this application due to the unacceptable impact the proposed wind turbine would have upon the Eskdalemuir Seismological Recording Station.

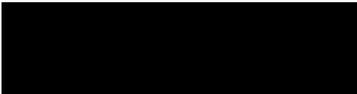
If the developer is able to overcome the issues stated above, the MOD will request that the turbines are fitted with aviation lighting in accordance with Article 19 of the Air Navigation Order.

MOD Safeguarding wishes to be consulted and notified about the progress of planning applications and submissions relating to this proposal to verify that it will not adversely affect defence interests.

I hope this adequately explains our position on the matter. Further information about the effects of wind turbines on MOD interests can be obtained from the following website:

**MOD:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wind-farms-ministry-of-defence-safeguarding>

Yours sincerely



Claire Duddy  
Assistant Safeguarding Officer - Wind Energy  
Defence Infrastructure Organisation

**SAFEGUARDING SOLUTIONS TO DEFENCE NEEDS**

**Soave N (Nicola)**

---

**From:** Soave N (Nicola)  
**Sent:** 21 February 2019 12:14  
**To:** Soave N (Nicola)  
**Subject:** UPDATED - Consultation on the Scoping Opinion Request for the Proposed Daer Wind Farm

---

**From:** #GLA Safeguarding <GLASafeguard@glasgowairport.com>  
**Sent:** 28 January 2019 10:20  
**To:** McInnes T (Theresa) <Theresa.McInnes@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: UPDATED - Consultation on the Scoping Opinion Request for the Proposed Daer Wind Farm

This proposal is located outwith our consultation zone. We therefore have no comment to make and need not be consulted further.

Kind regards

Kirsteen



**Kirsteen MacDonald**  
Safeguarding Manager

Glasgow Airport Limited, Erskine Court, St Andrews Drive, Paisley PA3 2TJ  
E [kirsteen.macdonald@glasgowairport.com](mailto:kirsteen.macdonald@glasgowairport.com)  
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<b>Scoping Report Summary of Questions</b>	
Question Number	Question
1	<p>Do consultees have any comments in relation to public consultation?</p> <p>Glasgow Prestwick Airport Ltd (GPA) welcome the public consultation process</p>
2	<p>Do consultees have any comments in relation to the approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment? As per the aim of the Scoping Report, we intend to focus the EIAR on the more significant effects and will therefore seek agreement that non-significant effects can be scoped out.</p> <p>GPA have no specific comments to make in relation to the approach to the EAI</p>
3	<p>Do consultees have any comments in relation to the proposed chapters to be included in the EIAR?</p> <p>GPA have no specific comments to make in relation to the proposed chapters to be included in the EAI</p>
4	<p>Do consultees have any comments on the LVIA and CLVIA methodologies?</p> <p>GPA only comment around CLVIA is in relation to the cumulative effect of many windfarms in close geographical proximity to each other – which could lead to cumulative rotating turbine blade 'clutter' being observed on radar displays. Radar mitigation considerations and capability must therefore take into consideration the cumulative impact and need to mitigate also adjacent wind farms – and radar mitigation feasibility assessments must take into consideration nearby windfarms – to ensure that the mitigation technology deployed has the capacity to deal with this cumulative effect.</p>
5	<p>Consultees are asked to provide a suitable list of representative viewpoints, of which some could be considered for night time use. It is suggested that a total of 20 viewpoints maximum are taken forward to EIA</p> <p>GPA has no comment to make to this question</p>
6	<p>Do consultees have comment on the acceptability of the proposed RVAA study area of 2 km and the general methodology outlined above?</p>

	GPA has no comment to make to this question
7	<p>Consultees are requested to propose a list of sequential receptors to be included in the detailed LVIA assessment.</p> <p>GPA has no comment to make to this question</p>
8	<p>Do consultees have comment on the information contained in the Cumulative Search Area map, (which is presented to the best of our knowledge at time of writing)?</p> <p>As in Q4 (above) GPA only comment around CLVIA is in relation to the cumulative effect of many windfarms in close geographically proximity to each other – which could lead to cumulative rotating turbine blade ‘clutter’ being observed on radar displays. Radar mitigation considerations and capability must therefore take into consideration the cumulative impact and need to mitigate also adjacent wind farms – and radar mitigation feasibility assessments must take into consideration nearby windfarms – to ensure that the mitigation technology deployed has the capacity to deal with this cumulative effect.</p> <p>.</p>
9	<p>Do consultees have comments regarding the cumulative baseline?</p> <p>GPA has no comment to make to this question</p>
10	<p>Do consultees have comment regarding a reasonable end date of three months prior to the submission of the LVIA and CLVIA after which point any additional sites will not be assessed with the application?</p> <p>GPA has no comment to make to this question</p>
11	<p>Do consultees have any comment with regard to the proposed baseline non-breeding and breeding season ornithological survey programme?</p> <p>GPA has no comment to make to this question</p>
12	<p>Do consultees have any comment with regard to the proposed baseline non-avian ecology survey programme?</p> <p>GPA has no comment to make to this question</p>

13	<p>Do consultees have any comment with regard to the features and potential effects identified as likely to require consideration for the proposed development?</p> <p>GPA has no comment to make to this question</p>
14	<p>Can consultees construction noise to be scoped out of EIA?</p> <p>GPA has no comment to make to this question</p>
15	<p>GPA make the following general statements in relation to aviation safeguarding.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Should the proposed rotating turbines be seen by our primary radar – GPA will be obliged to object to the development (on the grounds on aviation safety) unless a wind turbine radar mitigation scheme can be realised to deal with the turbine clutter on radar displays for the proposed 35 years lifespan of the windfarm.</li></ol>

**By email to:**

[Theresa.McInnes@gov.scot](mailto:Theresa.McInnes@gov.scot);  
[Econsents\\_Admin@gov.scot](mailto:Econsents_Admin@gov.scot)

Ms Theresa McInnes  
Energy Consents Unit  
4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay  
150 Broomielaw  
Glasgow  
G2 8LU

Longmore House  
Salisbury Place  
Edinburgh  
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716  
[HMConsultations@hes.scot](mailto:HMConsultations@hes.scot)

Our case ID: 300034631  
Your ref: ECU00000740

30 January 2019

Dear Ms McInnes

**Electricity Act 1989**

The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017  
Section 36 Application  
Daer Wind Farm in the Lowther Hills – South Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway  
Scoping Report

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 14 January 2019 about the above scoping report. We have reviewed the details in terms of our historic environment interests. This covers world heritage sites, scheduled monuments and their settings, category A-listed buildings and their settings, inventory gardens and designed landscapes, inventory battlefields and historic marine protected areas (HMPAs).

The South Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway local authority archaeological and cultural heritage advisors will also be able to offer advice on the scope of the cultural heritage assessment. This may include heritage assets not covered by our interests, such as unscheduled archaeology, and category B- and C-listed buildings.

**Proposed Development**

We understand that the proposed development comprises of 15 wind turbines of up to 170m in height to blade tip to be erected in the Lowther Hills adjacent to the Daer Reservoir.

**Scope of assessment**

We have reviewed the information provided in the submitted Scoping report in terms of our historic environment interests. We can confirm we are content with the proposed treatment of Cultural Heritage outlined in Section 14 of the Report. We note that within this section we have been asked for a preliminary list of potential cultural heritage viewpoints.

At this stage, we have not been able to identify any designated cultural heritage features that appear likely to experience a significant setting impact from the proposed development. However, the ZTV included in the Scoping Report is at a very small scale and is difficult to use for the purpose of assessing potential impacts.



As part of the Cultural Heritage Assessment, we would expect the applicant's heritage consultant to identify those sites which have potential interrelationships with key elements of the proposed windfarm. Once this has been done, we would be happy to advise further on any need for visualisations and viewpoints.

### **Further information**

Guidance about national policy can be found in our 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment' series available online at [www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/legislation-and-guidance/managing-change-in-the-historic-environment-guidance-notes](http://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/legislation-and-guidance/managing-change-in-the-historic-environment-guidance-notes). Technical advice is available on our Technical Conservation website at <http://conservation.historic-scotland.gov.uk/>.

We hope this is helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Urszula Szupczynska and they can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 8653 or by email on [Urszula.Szupczynska@hes.scot](mailto:Urszula.Szupczynska@hes.scot).

Yours sincerely

**Historic Environment Scotland**

**Soave N (Nicola)**

---

**From:** JRC Windfarm Coordinations <windfarms@jrc.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 23 January 2019 13:11  
**To:** McInnes T (Theresa)  
**Subject:** UPDATED - Consultation on the Scoping Opinion Request for the Proposed Daer Wind Farm [WF743075]

Dear theresa,

A Windfarms Team member has replied to your coordination request, reference **WF743075** with the following response:

*Dear*

***Planning Ref: Section 36***

***Name/Location: Daer Wind Farm, Nether Howecleuch, Moffat, South Lanarkshire***

***Total 15 turbines:***

***TURBINE:***

*Daer Wind Farm T1 hub 130m blades 75m  
Grid ref OSGB 298314 605240*

*No links affected*

-----  
***TURBINE:***

*Daer Wind Farm T2 hub 130m blades 75m  
Grid ref OSGB 300599 606120*

*No links affected*

-----  
***TURBINE:***

*Daer Wind Farm T3 hub 130m blades 75m  
Grid ref OSGB 299990 607073*

*No links affected*

-----  
***TURBINE:***

*Daer Wind Farm T4 hub 130m blades 75m  
Grid ref OSGB 300294 607916*

*No links affected*

*TURBINE:*

*Daer Wind Farm T5 hub 130m blades 75m*

*Grid ref OSGB 298065 606360*

*No links affected*

-----

*TURBINE:*

*Daer Wind Farm T6 hub 130m blades 75m*

*Grid ref OSGB 300180 606441*

*No links affected*

-----

*TURBINE:*

*Daer Wind Farm T7 hub 130m blades 75m*

*Grid ref OSGB 298077 605775*

*No links affected*

-----

*TURBINE:*

*Daer Wind Farm T8 hub 130m blades 75m*

*Grid ref OSGB 297860 607103*

*No links affected*

-----

*TURBINE:*

*Daer Wind Farm T9 hub 130m blades 75m*

*Grid ref OSGB 299483 607907*

*No links affected*

-----

*TURBINE:*

*Daer Wind Farm T10 hub 130m blades 75m*

*Grid ref OSGB 299378 607248*

*No links affected*

-----

*TURBINE:*

*Daer Wind Farm T11 hub 130m blades 75m*

*Grid ref OSGB 298072 607913*

*No links affected*

-----  
**TURBINE:**

*Daer Wind Farm T12 hub 130m blades 75m  
 Grid ref OSGB 298935 608216*

*No links affected*

-----  
**TURBINE:**

*Daer Wind Farm T13 hub 130m blades 75m  
 Grid ref OSGB 297382 605018*

*No links affected*

-----  
**TURBINE:**

*Daer Wind Farm T14 hub 130m blades 75m  
 Grid ref OSGB 297249 606404*

*No links affected*

-----  
**TURBINE:**

*Daer Wind Farm T15 hub 130m blades 75m  
 Grid ref OSGB 298862 605955*

*No links affected*

-----  
 This proposal **cleared** with respect to radio link infrastructure operated by:

**Scottish Power and Scotia Gas Networks**

-----  
*JRC analyses proposals for wind farms on behalf of the UK Fuel & Power Industry. This is to assess their potential to interfere with radio systems operated by utility companies in support of their regulatory operational requirements.*

*In the case of this proposed wind energy development, JRC does not foresee any potential problems based on known interference scenarios and the data you have provided. However, if any details of the wind farm change, particularly the disposition or scale of any turbine(s), it will be necessary to re-evaluate the proposal.*

*In making this judgement, JRC has used its best endeavours with the available data, although we recognise that there may be effects which are as yet unknown or inadequately predicted. JRC cannot therefore be held liable if subsequently problems arise that we have not predicted.*

*It should be noted that this clearance pertains only to the date of its issue. As the use of the spectrum is dynamic, the use of the band is changing on an ongoing basis and consequently, developers are advised to seek re-coordination prior to considering any design changes.*

*Regards*

*Wind Farm Team*

*The Joint Radio Company Limited  
Delta House  
175-177 Borough High Street  
LONDON  
SE1 1HR  
United Kingdom*

*Office: 020 7706 5199*

*JRC Ltd. is a Joint Venture between the Energy Networks Association (on behalf of the UK Energy Industries) and National Grid.*

*Registered in England & Wales: 2990041*

*<http://www.jrc.co.uk/about-us>*

*JRC is working towards GDPR compliance. We maintain your personal contact details in accordance with GDPR requirements for the purpose of "Legitimate Interest" for communication with you. However you have the right to be removed from our contact database. If you would like to be removed, please contact [anita.lad@jrc.co.uk](mailto:anita.lad@jrc.co.uk).*

We hope this response has sufficiently answered your query.

If not, please **do not send another email** as you will go back to the end of the mail queue, which is not what you or we need. Instead, **reply to this email keeping the subject line intact or login to your account** for access to your coordination requests and responses.

<https://breeze.jrc.co.uk/tickets/view.php?auth=o1xyacqaaf0gyaaaPIBW%2BmonCdIxqw%3D%3D>

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Ms Theresa McInnes  
Energy Consents Unit  
Scottish Government  
5 Atlantic Quay  
150 Broomielaw  
Glasgow  
G2 8LU

Our ref: FL/45 & 57-7

January 31st 2019

Dear Theresa,

**DAER WIND FARM, MOFFAT, SOUTH LANARKSHIRE AND DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY**

Thank you for seeking comment from Marine Scotland Science (MSS) on the scoping report for the proposed Daer wind farm. The proposed development site is located approximately 10 km west of Moffat and is drained by watercourses within the catchments of the River Clyde and River Annan. The River Annan is well known for its salmon and trout populations; the River Clyde supports important trout and grayling populations as well as recovering salmon populations.

MSS recommends the developer, E.ON, carries out site characterisation surveys to provide information as to the presence and abundance of fish species and the water quality of watercourses which could potentially be impacted as a result of the proposed development. This information will be useful to the developer in drawing up appropriate site specific mitigation measures and establishing a monitoring programme for before, during and after construction. We welcome the proposal, outlined within the scoping report, to carry out a programme of aquatic ecological monitoring, including water quality, macroinvertebrate and fish population surveys, should consent be granted. We encourage the developer to consult our generic monitoring programme for further details on a robust integrated monitoring programme designed specifically for wind farm developments

<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout->



[Coarse/Freshwater/Research/onshoreren](#). Baseline, pre-construction data collected at least 12 months prior to construction commencing, with the sites including the selection of control sites, the latter are unlikely to be impacted, should be considered within the monitoring programme. Further monitoring may be required one to two years prior to decommissioning taking place, which should be outlined in the Decommissioning Method Statement.

We recommend that the developer, if it has not already done so, contacts the Annan District Salmon Fishery Board, the Clyde River Foundation and River Annan Trust for information on local fish stocks.

The potential cumulative impact of adjacent developments e.g. wind farms on the water quality and aquatic biota should be considered particularly in the proposed water quality monitoring programme and the selection of control sites. Similarly, the potential impact associated with felling on the water quality and aquatic fauna should be included in the selection of hydrochemical parameters in the proposed monitoring programme. MSS recommends the developer removes all felled material from within and adjacent to watercourses to minimise the leaching of nutrients into watercourses.

The developer should take appropriate action to minimise the spread of invasive non-native species including North American signal crayfish which is present locally, and can have a deleterious impact on salmonid stocks.

In summary, MSS suggests the developer carries out site characterisation surveys to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and thereby allow appropriate site specific mitigation measures to be put in place and a strategically designed monitoring programme be established. Details should be outlined in the EIA report.

Kind regards,

Dr Emily E. Bridcut

---

**From:** NATS Safeguarding <[NATSSafeguarding@nats.co.uk](mailto:NATSSafeguarding@nats.co.uk)>  
**Sent:** 12 February 2019 12:04  
**To:** McInnes T (Theresa) <[Theresa.McInnes@gov.scot](mailto:Theresa.McInnes@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** FW: UPDATED - Consultation on the Scoping Opinion Request for the Proposed Daer Wind Farm [Our Ref: SG06997]

We refer to the application above. The proposed development has been examined by our technical safeguarding teams and conflicts with our safeguarding criteria.

Accordingly, NATS (En Route) plc objects to the proposal. The reasons for NATS's objection are outlined in the attached report **TOPA SG06997**

We would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the legal obligation of local authorities to consult NATS before granting planning permission for a wind farm. The obligation to consult arises in respect of certain applications that would affect a technical site operated by or on behalf of NATS (such sites being identified by safeguarding plans that are issued to local planning authorities).

In the event that any recommendations made by NATS are not accepted, local authorities are obliged to follow the relevant directions within Planning Circular 2 2003 - Scottish Planning Series: Town and Country Planning (Safeguarded Aerodromes, Technical Sites and Military Explosives Storage Areas) (Scotland) Direction 2003 or Annex 1 - The Town And Country Planning (Safeguarded Aerodromes, Technical Sites And Military Explosives Storage Areas) Direction 2002.

These directions require that the planning authority notify both NATS and the Civil Aviation Authority ("CAA") of their intention. As this further notification is intended to allow the CAA to consider whether further scrutiny is required, the notification should be provided prior to any granting of permission.

It should also be noted that the failure to consult NATS, or to take into account NATS's comments when determining a planning application, could cause serious safety risks for air traffic.

Should you have any queries please contact us using the details below.

Yours Faithfully

The logo for NATS, consisting of the letters 'NATS' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

**NATS Safeguarding**

D: 01489 444687  
E: [natssafeguarding@nats.co.uk](mailto:natssafeguarding@nats.co.uk)

4000 Parkway, Whiteley,  
Fareham, Hants PO15 7FL  
[www.nats.co.uk](http://www.nats.co.uk)

# Technical and Operational Assessment (TOPA)

For

Daer Windfarm Development

NATS ref: SG06997

LPA ref: ECU00000740

*Issue 1.0*

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## Publication History

Issue	Month/Year	Change Requests and summary
1.0	February 2019	Full Planning Assessment

## Document Use

External use: Yes

## Referenced Documents

# 1. Background

## 1.1. En-route Consultation

NATS en-route plc is responsible for the safe and expeditious movement in the en-route phase of flight for aircraft operating in controlled airspace in the UK. To undertake this responsibility it has a comprehensive infrastructure of RADAR's, communication systems and navigational aids throughout the UK, all of which could be compromised by the establishment of a wind farm.

In this respect NATS is responsible for safeguarding this infrastructure to ensure its integrity to provide the required services to Air Traffic Control (ATC).

In order to discharge this responsibility NATS is a statutory consultee for all wind farm applications, and as such assesses the potential impact of every proposed development in the UK.

The technical assessment sections of this document define the assessments carried out against the development proposed in section 3.

## 2. Scope

This report provides NATS En-Route plc's view on the proposed application in respect of the impact upon its own operations and in respect of the application details contained within this report.

Where an impact is also anticipated on users of a shared asset (e.g. a NATS RADAR used by airports or other customers), additional relevant information may be included for information only. While an endeavour is made to give an insight in respect of any impact on other aviation stakeholders, it should be noted that this is outside of NATS' statutory obligations and that any engagement in respect of planning objections or mitigation should be had with the relevant stakeholder, although NATS as the asset owner may assist where possible.

### 3. Application Details

Scottish Government submitted a request for a NATS technical and operational assessment (TOPA) for the development at Daer Windfarm. It will comprise turbines as detailed in table 1 and contained within an area as shown in the diagrams contained in Appendix B.

<b>Turbine</b>	<b>Lat</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>Hub (m)</b>	<b>Tip (m)</b>
1	55.3307	-3.6044	298314	605240	0	170
2	55.3390	-3.5687	300599	606120	0	170
3	55.3475	-3.5787	299990	607073	0	170
4	55.3551	-3.5742	300294	607916	0	170
5	55.3407	-3.6087	298065	606360	0	170
6	55.3418	-3.5754	300180	606441	0	170
7	55.3354	-3.6083	298077	605775	0	170
8	55.3473	-3.6122	297860	607103	0	170
9	55.3549	-3.5869	299483	607907	0	170
10	55.3489	-3.5884	299378	607248	0	170
11	55.3546	-3.6092	298072	607913	0	170
12	55.3575	-3.5957	298935	608216	0	170
13	55.3285	-3.6190	297382	605018	0	170
14	55.3409	-3.6216	297249	606404	0	170
15	55.3372	-3.5960	298862	605955	0	170

Table 1 – turbine details

### 4. Assessments Required

The proposed development falls within the assessment area of the following systems:

<b>Radar</b>	<b>Lat</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>nm</b>	<b>km</b>	<b>Az (deg)</b>	<b>Type</b>
Clee Hill Radar	52.3983	-2.5975	179.8	332.9	349.1	CMB
Great Dun Fell Radar	54.6841	-2.4509	55.1	102.1	315.5	CMB
Lowther Hill Radar	55.3778	-3.7530	5.0	9.3	110.8	CMB
Perwinnes Radar	57.2123	-2.1309	121.6	225.3	204.2	CMB
Tiree Radar	56.4556	-6.9230	130.0	240.8	119.4	CMB
<b>Nav</b>	<b>Lat</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>nm</b>	<b>km</b>	<b>Az (deg)</b>	<b>Type</b>
None						
<b>AGA</b>	<b>Lat</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>nm</b>	<b>km</b>	<b>Az (deg)</b>	<b>Type</b>
Lowther Rx	55.3853	-3.7432	5.0	9.2	116.4	Rx
Lowther Tx	55.3902	-3.7355	4.8	9.0	120.3	Tx

Table 2 – Impacted Infrastructure

## 4.1. En-route RADAR Technical Assessment

### 4.1.1. Predicted Impact on Lowther RADAR

Using the theory as described in Appendix A and turbine specific propagation profiles it has been determined that the terrain screening available for all the turbines other than turbine 14 will not adequately attenuate the signal, and therefore these turbines are likely to cause false primary plots to be generated. A reduction in the RADAR's probability of detection, for real aircraft, is also anticipated.

### 4.1.2. En-route operational assessment of RADAR impact

Where an assessment reveals a technical impact on a specific NATS' RADAR, the users of that RADAR are consulted to ascertain whether the anticipated impact is acceptable to their operations or not.

Unit or role	Comment
Prestwick Centre ATC	<b>Unacceptable</b>
Engineering	<b>Unacceptable</b>

*Note: The technical impact, as detailed above, has also been passed to non-NATS users of the affected RADAR, this may have included other planning consultees such as the MOD or other airports. Should these users consider the impact to be unacceptable it is expected that they will contact the planning authority directly to raise their concerns.*

## 4.2. En-route Navigational Aid Assessment

### 4.2.1. Predicted Impact on Navigation Aids

No impact is anticipated on NATS' navigation aids.

## 4.3. En-route Radio Communication Assessment

### 4.3.1. Predicted Impact on the Radio Communications Infrastructure

No impact is anticipated on NATS' radio communications infrastructure.

## 5. Conclusions

### 5.1. En-route

The proposed development has been examined by technical and operational safeguarding teams. A technical impact is anticipated, this has been deemed to be unacceptable.

## Appendix A – Background RADAR Theory

### Primary RADAR False Plots

When RADAR transmits a pulse of energy with a power of  $P_t$  the power density,  $P$ , at a range of  $r$  is given by the equation:

$$P = \frac{G_t P_t}{4\pi r^2}$$

Where  $G_t$  is the gain of the RADAR's antenna in the direction in question.

If an object at this point in space has a RADAR cross section of  $\sigma$ , this can be treated as if the object re-radiates the pulse with a gain of  $\sigma$  and therefore the power density of the reflected signal at the RADAR is given by the equation:

$$P_a = \frac{\sigma P}{4\pi r^2} = \frac{\sigma G_t P_t}{(4\pi)^2 r^4}$$

The RADAR's ability to collect this power and feed it to its receiver is a function of its antenna's effective area,  $A_e$ , and is given by the equation:

$$P_r = P_a A_e = \frac{P_a G_r \lambda^2}{4\pi} = \frac{\sigma G_t G_r \lambda^2 P_t}{(4\pi)^3 r^4}$$

Where  $G_r$  is the RADAR antenna's receive gain in the direction of the object and  $\lambda$  is the RADAR's wavelength.

In a real world environment this equation must be augmented to include losses due to a variety of factors both internal to the RADAR system as well as external losses due to terrain and atmospheric absorption.

For simplicity these losses are generally combined in a single variable  $L$ .

$$P_r = \frac{\sigma G_t G_r \lambda^2 P_t}{(4\pi)^3 r^4 L}$$

## Secondary RADAR Reflections

When modelling the impact on SSR the probability that an indirect signal reflected from a wind turbine has the signal strength to be confused for a real interrogation or reply can be determined from a similar equation:

$$P_r = \frac{\sigma G_t G_r \lambda^2 P_t}{(4\pi)^3 r_t^2 r_r^2 L}$$

Where  $r_t$  and  $r_r$  are the range from RADAR-to-turbine and turbine-to-aircraft respectively. This equation can be rearranged to give the radius from the turbine within which an aircraft must be for reflections to become a problem.

$$r_r = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda^2}{(4\pi)^3}} \sqrt{\frac{\sigma G_t G_t P_t}{r_t^2 P L}}$$

## Shadowing

When turbines lie directly between a RADAR and an aircraft not only do they have the potential to absorb or deflect, enough power such that the signal is of insufficient level to be detected on arrival.

It is also possible that azimuth determination, whether this done via sliding window or monopulse, can be distorted giving rise to inaccurate position reporting.

## Terrain and Propagation Modelling

All terrain and propagation modelling is carried out by a software tool called ICS Telecom (version 11.1.7). All calculations of propagation losses are carried out with ICS Telecom configured to use the ITU-R 526 propagation model.

## Appendix B – Diagrams

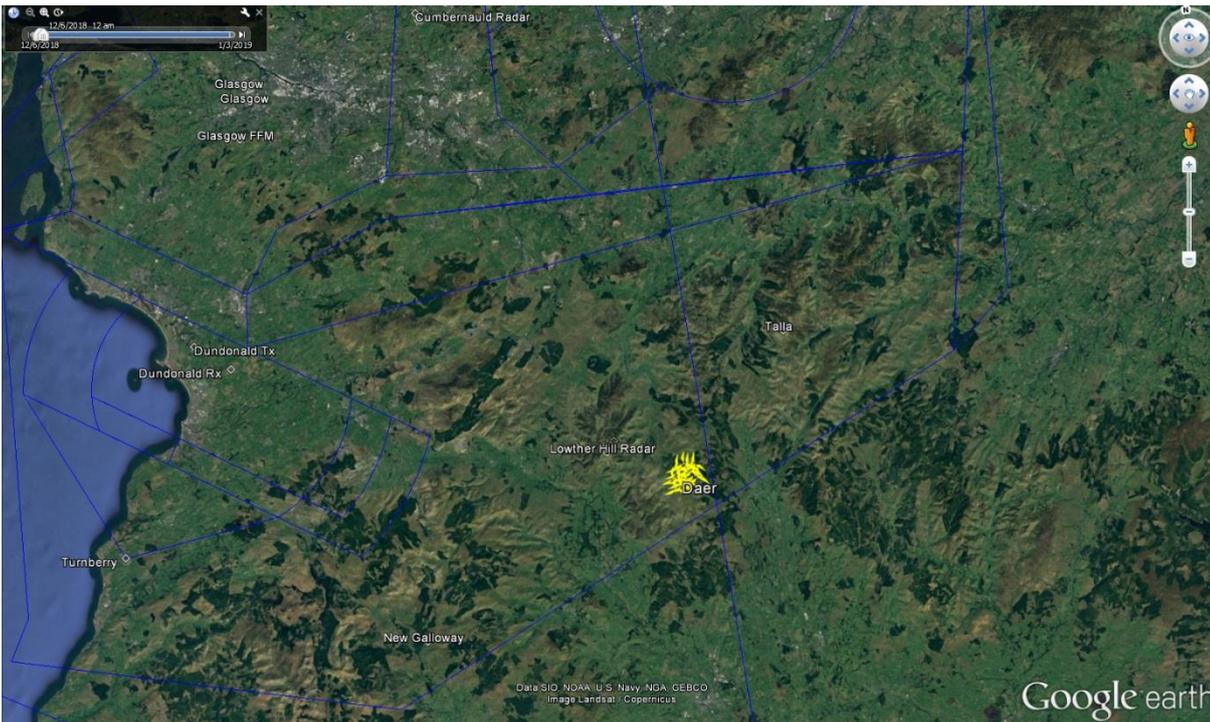


Figure 1: Proposed development location shown on an airways chart

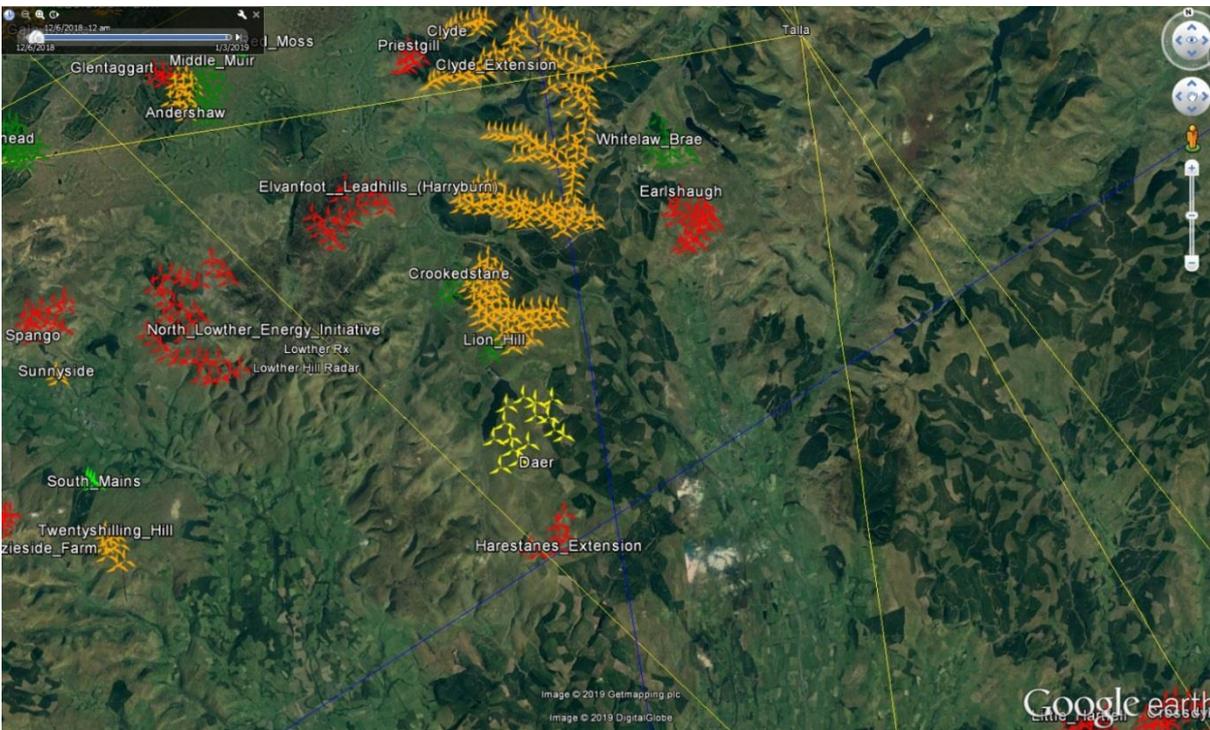


Figure 2: Proposed development shown alongside other recently assessed applications

- consented/built
- impact –accepted
- impact –objection
- mitigated
- mitigation –proposed
- no impact
- refused/withdrawn



**RSPB Scotland**

Theresa McInnes  
 On-shore Wind Policy Officer  
 Scottish Government,  
 Energy Industries Division  
 Directorate for Energy and Climate Change  
 Tel: 0131 244 1232 / 07827553589  
[Theresa.McInnes@gov.scot](mailto:Theresa.McInnes@gov.scot)

6<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Ms McInnes

**ELECTRICITY ACT 1989  
 THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND)  
 REGULATIONS 2017**

**SCOPING OPINION REQUEST FOR PROPOSED SECTION 36 APPLICATION FOR DAER WIND FARM IN THE LOWTHER HILLS ADJACENT TO THE DAER RESERVOIR IN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AREAS OF SOUTH LANARKSHIRE AND DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY**

Thank you for consulting RSPB Scotland on the Scoping Report for the proposed Daer wind farm. This development is to comprise of 15 wind turbines, at up to 170 m in height to blade tip, on a site that is largely upland heather moorland, purple moor grass and, on the lower slopes, acid grassland and bracken.

RSPB Scotland is supportive of the use of renewable technology but believes locations must be carefully selected to avoid negative impacts on sites and species of conservation importance.

**RSPB Scotland has concerns about the potential impact of this development on a range of upland breeding birds, in particular black grouse and curlew.**

Further detailed comments are provided below:

1. Previous surveys have indicated that the site holds regionally important numbers of upland breeding birds, including curlew and black grouse. We are concerned that there is the potential for the proposed windfarm to have negative effects on these species through displacement and risk of collision. The Environmental Statement must assess and present these impacts in the context of regional numbers and trends of these species. In particular, the location of turbines should seek to avoid key foraging areas for raptors and areas with high wader numbers. Cumulative impacts should be examined.

**South and West Scotland  
 Regional Office**  
 10 Park Quadrant  
 Glasgow  
 G3 6BS

**Tel** 0141 331 0993  
**Fax** 0141 331 9080

[rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk)



2. We wish to see the potential for a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) to off-set some of the ecological impacts, explored through the EIA process. Opportunities for off-site enhancement should be considered. A draft version of the HMP (including a clear plan showing the identified HMP area) should be submitted along with the Environmental Statement. We would welcome an opportunity to advise on the details of this.

3. We note that the surveys have indicated peatland across the site. Peat is an important carbon store and we would expect turbines and associated infrastructure to avoid areas of peat over 0.5m.

Responding to the specific questions posed in the Scoping Report:

*Do consultees have any comment with regard to the proposed baseline non-breeding and breeding season ornithological survey programme?*

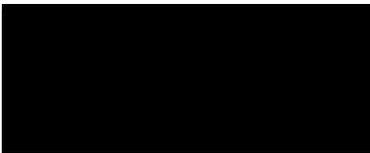
We are generally satisfied with the proposed baseline non-breeding and breeding season ornithological survey programme. As above, we wish to see cumulative effects on species assessed.

*Do consultees have any comment with regard to the features and potential effects identified as likely to require consideration for the proposed development?*

We could not see any specific mention of assessing the impacts on peatland and wish to see this included.

I hope these comments are useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information or explanation.

Yours sincerely



Toby Wilson  
Senior Conservation Officer (Strathclyde and Ayrshire)

Cc Lyndsey Kinnes SNH  
Chris Waltho South Lanarkshire Council

Our ref: PCS/163264  
Your ref:

If telephoning ask for:  
Nicki Dunn

31 January 2019

Theresa McInnes  
Scottish Government

By email only to: [Theresa.McInnes@gov.scot](mailto:Theresa.McInnes@gov.scot)

Dear Madam

**The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017**  
**Daer Wind Farm**  
**The Lowther Hills Adjacent to the Daer Reservoir In The Local Authority Areas of South Lanarkshire and Dumfries Galloway**

Thank you for consulting SEPA on the scoping opinion for the above development proposal by your email received 14 January 2019.

We consider that the following key issues must be addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment process. To **avoid delay and potential objection**, the information outlined below and in the attached appendix must be submitted in support of the application.

- a) Map and assessment of all engineering activities in or impacting on the water environment including proposed buffers, details of any flood risk assessment and details of any related CAR applications.
- b) Map and assessment of impacts upon Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems and buffers.
- c) Map and assessment of impacts upon groundwater abstractions and buffers.
- d) Peat depth survey and table detailing re-use proposals.
- e) Map and table detailing forest removal.
- f) Map and site layout of borrow pits.
- g) Schedule of mitigation including pollution prevention measures.
- h) Borrow Pit Site Management Plan of pollution prevention measures.



Chairman  
Bob Downes

Chief Executive  
Terry A'Hearn

**Angus Smith Building**

6 Parklands Avenue, Eurocentral,  
Holytown, North Lanarkshire ML1 4WQ  
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[www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk) • customer enquiries 03000 99 66 99

- i) Map of proposed waste water drainage layout.
- j) Map of proposed surface water drainage layout.
- k) Map of proposed water abstractions including details of the proposed operating regime.
- l) Decommissioning statement.

Further details on these information requirements and the form in which they must be submitted can be found in the attached appendix. We also provide site specific comments in the following section which can help the developer focus the scope of the assessment.

## **1. Site specific comments**

- 1.1 The turbines have not been numbered on Figure 3: Site Constraints, however, three of them appear to be on areas of deep peat and two appear to be within the 50m buffer for watercourses.
- 1.2 The applicant should note that infrastructure should be placed outwith the buffer zones for watercourses and water supplies (private or public) as per our guidance. Additionally infrastructure on deep peat should be avoided.

## **Regulatory advice for the applicant**

### **2. Regulatory requirements**

- 2.1 Authorisation is required under The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (CAR) to carry out engineering works in or in the vicinity of inland surface waters (other than groundwater) or wetlands. Inland water means all standing or flowing water on the surface of the land (e.g. rivers, lochs, canals, reservoirs).
- 2.2 Management of surplus peat or soils may require an exemption under The Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Regulations 2011. Proposed crushing or screening will require a permit under The Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012. Consider if other environmental licences may be required for any installations or processes.
- 2.3 A Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) construction site licence will be required for management of surface water run-off from a construction site, including access tracks, which:
  - is more than 4 hectares,
  - is in excess of 5km, or
  - includes an area of more than 1 hectare or length of more than 500m on ground with a slope in excess of 25.

See SEPA's [Sector Specific Guidance: Construction Sites \(WAT-SG-75\)](#) for details. Site design may be affected by pollution prevention requirements and hence we strongly encourage the applicant to engage in pre-CAR application discussions with a member of the regulatory services team in your local SEPA office.

- 2.4 Below these thresholds you will need to comply with [CAR General Binding Rule 10](#) which requires, amongst other things, that all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the discharge does not result in pollution of the water environment. The detail of how this is achieved may be required through a planning condition.
- 2.5 Details of regulatory requirements and good practice advice for the applicant can be found on the [Regulations section](#) of our website. If you are unable to find the advice you need for a specific regulatory matter, please contact a member of the regulatory services team in your local SEPA office at:

Angus Smith Building  
6 Parklands Avenue  
Eurocentral  
Holytown  
North Lanarkshire  
ML1 4WQ

Tel: 01698 839000

If you have any queries relating to this letter, please contact me by telephone on 01698 839000 or e-mail at [planning.sw@sepa.org.uk](mailto:planning.sw@sepa.org.uk).

Yours faithfully

Nicki Dunn  
Senior Planning Officer  
Planning Service

*Disclaimer*

*This advice is given without prejudice to any decision made on elements of the proposal regulated by us, as such a decision may take into account factors not considered at this time. We prefer all the technical information required for any SEPA consents to be submitted at the same time as the planning or similar application. However, we consider it to be at the applicant's commercial risk if any significant changes required during the regulatory stage necessitate a further planning application or similar application and/or neighbour notification or advertising. We have relied on the accuracy and completeness of the information supplied to us in providing the above advice and can take no responsibility for incorrect data or interpretation, or omissions, in such information. If we have not referred to a particular issue in our response, it should not be assumed that there is no impact associated with that issue. For planning applications if you did not specifically request advice on flood risk, then advice will not have been provided on this issue. Further information on our consultation arrangements generally can be found on our [website planning pages](#).*

## Appendix 1: Detailed scoping requirements

This appendix sets out our scoping information requirements. There may be opportunities to scope out some of the issues below depending on the site. Evidence must be provided in the submission to support why an issue is not relevant for this site in order **to avoid delay and potential objection**.

If there is a delay between scoping and the submission of the application then please refer to our website for our latest information requirements as they are regularly updated; current best practice must be followed.

We would welcome the opportunity to comment on the draft submission. As we can process files of a maximum size of only 25MB the submission must be divided into appropriately named sections of less than 25MB each.

### 1. Site layout

- 1.1 All maps must be based on an adequate scale with which to assess the information. This could range from OS 1: 10,000 to a more detailed scale in more sensitive locations. Each of the maps below must detail all proposed upgraded, temporary and permanent site infrastructure. This includes all tracks, excavations, buildings, borrow pits, pipelines, cabling, site compounds, laydown areas, storage areas and any other built elements. Existing built infrastructure must be re-used or upgraded wherever possible. The layout should be designed to minimise the extent of new works on previously undisturbed ground. For example, a layout which makes use of lots of spurs or loops is unlikely to be acceptable. Cabling must be laid in ground already disturbed such as verges. A comparison of the environmental effects of alternative locations of infrastructure elements, such as tracks, may be required.

### 2. Engineering activities which may have adverse effects on the water environment

- 2.1 The site layout must be designed to avoid impacts upon the water environment. Where activities such as watercourse crossings, watercourse diversions or other engineering activities in or impacting on the water environment cannot be avoided then the submission must include justification of this and a map showing:
  - a) All proposed temporary or permanent infrastructure overlain with all lochs and watercourses;
  - b) A minimum buffer of 50m around each loch or watercourse. If this minimum buffer cannot be achieved each breach must be numbered on a plan with an associated photograph of the location, dimensions of the loch or watercourse and drawings of what is proposed in terms of engineering works;
  - c) Detailed layout of all proposed mitigation including all cut off drains, location, number and size of settlement ponds.
- 2.2 If water abstractions or dewatering are proposed, a table of volumes and timings of groundwater abstractions and related mitigation measures must be provided.

- 2.3 Further advice and our best practice guidance are available within the water [engineering](#) section of our website. Guidance on the design of water crossings can be found in our [Construction of River Crossings Good Practice Guide](#).
- 2.4 Refer to Appendix 2 of our [Standing Advice](#) for advice on flood risk. Watercourse crossings must be designed to accommodate the 0.5% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flows, or information provided to justify smaller structures. If it is thought that the development could result in an increased risk of flooding to a nearby receptor then a Flood Risk Assessment must be submitted in support of the planning application. Our [Technical flood risk guidance for stakeholders](#) outlines the information we require to be submitted as part of a Flood Risk Assessment. Please also refer to [Controlled Activities Regulations \(CAR\) Flood Risk Standing Advice for Engineering, Discharge and Impoundment Activities](#).
- 3. Disturbance and re-use of excavated peat and other carbon rich soils**
- 3.1 Scottish Planning Policy states (Paragraph 205) that "Where peat and other carbon rich soils are present, applicants must assess the likely effects of development on carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. Where peatland is drained or otherwise disturbed, there is liable to be a release of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere. Developments must aim to minimise this release."
- 3.2 The planning submission must a) demonstrate how the layout has been designed to minimise disturbance of peat and consequential release of CO<sub>2</sub> and b) outline the preventative/mitigation measures to avoid significant drying or oxidation of peat through, for example, the construction of access tracks, drainage channels, cable trenches, or the storage and re-use of excavated peat. There is often less environmental impact from localised temporary storage and reuse rather than movement to large central peat storage areas.
- 3.3 The submission must include:
- a) A detailed map of peat depths (this must be to full depth and follow the survey requirement of the Scottish Government's [Guidance on Developments on Peatland - Peatland Survey \(2017\)](#)) with all the built elements (including peat storage areas) overlain to demonstrate how the development avoids areas of deep peat and other sensitive receptors such as Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems.
  - b) A table which details the quantities of acrotelmic, catotelmic and amorphous peat which will be excavated for each element and where it will be re-used during reinstatement. Details of the proposed widths and depths of peat to be re-used and how it will be kept wet permanently must be included.
- 3.4 To avoid delay and potential objection proposals must be in accordance with [Guidance on the Assessment of Peat Volumes, Reuse of Excavated Peat and Minimisation of Waste](#) and our [Developments on Peat and Off-Site uses of Waste Peat](#).
- 3.5 Dependent upon the volumes of peat likely to be encountered and the scale of the development, applicants must consider whether a full Peat Management Plan (as detailed in the above guidance) is required or whether the above information would be best submitted as part of the schedule of mitigation.

- 3.6 Please note we do not validate carbon balance assessments except where requested to by Scottish Government in exceptional circumstances. Our advice on the minimisation of peat disturbance and peatland restoration may need to be taken into account when you consider such assessments.

#### **4. Disruption to Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE)**

- 4.1 GWDTE are protected under the Water Framework Directive and therefore the layout and design of the development must avoid impact on such areas. The following information must be included in the submission:

- a) A map demonstrating that all GWDTE are outwith a 100m radius of all excavations shallower than 1m and outwith 250m of all excavations deeper than 1m and proposed groundwater abstractions. If micro-siting is to be considered as a mitigation measure the distance of survey needs to be extended by the proposed maximum extent of micro-siting. The survey needs to extend beyond the site boundary where the distances require it.
- b) If the minimum buffers above cannot be achieved, a detailed site specific qualitative and/or quantitative risk assessment will be required. We are likely to seek conditions securing appropriate mitigation for all GWDTE affected.

- 4.2 Please refer to [Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development Proposals on Groundwater Abstractions and Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems](#) for further advice and the minimum information we require to be submitted.

#### **5. Existing groundwater abstractions**

- 5.1 Excavations and other construction works can disrupt groundwater flow and impact on existing groundwater abstractions. The submission must include:

- a) A map demonstrating that all existing groundwater abstractions are outwith a 100m radius of all excavations shallower than 1m and outwith 250m of all excavations deeper than 1m and proposed groundwater abstractions. If micro-siting is to be considered as a mitigation measure the distance of survey needs to be extended by the proposed maximum extent of micro-siting. The survey needs to extend beyond the site boundary where the distances require it.
- b) If the minimum buffers above cannot be achieved, a detailed site specific qualitative and/or quantitative risk assessment will be required. We are likely to seek conditions securing appropriate mitigation for all existing groundwater abstractions affected.

- 5.2 Please refer to [Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development Proposals on Groundwater Abstractions and Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems](#) for further advice on the minimum information we require to be submitted.

#### **6. Forest removal and forest waste**

- 6.1 Key holing must be used wherever possible as large scale felling can result in large amounts of waste material and in a peak release of nutrients which can affect local water quality. The supporting information should refer to the current Forest Plan if one exists and measures should comply with the Plan where possible.

- 6.2 Clear felling may be acceptable only in cases where planting took place on deep peat and it is proposed through a Habitat Management Plan to reinstate peat-forming habitats. The submission must include:
- a) A map demarcating the areas to be subject to different felling techniques.
  - b) Photography of general timber condition in each of these areas.
  - c) A table of approximate volumes of timber which will be removed from site and volumes, sizes of chips or brash and depths that will be re-used on site.
  - d) A plan showing how and where any timber residues will be re-used for ecological benefit within that area, supported by a Habitat Management Plan. Further guidance on this can be found in [Use of Trees Cleared to Facilitate Development on Afforested Land – Joint Guidance from SEPA, SNH and FCS](#).

## 7. Borrow pits

- 7.1 Scottish Planning Policy states (Paragraph 243) that “Borrow pits should only be permitted if there are significant environmental or economic benefits compared to obtaining material from local quarries, they are time-limited; tied to a particular project and appropriate reclamation measures are in place.” The submission must provide sufficient information to address this policy statement.
- 7.2 In accordance with Paragraphs 52 to 57 of Planning Advice Note 50 [Controlling the Environmental Effects of Surface Mineral Workings](#) (PAN 50) a Site Management Plan should be submitted in support of any application. The following information should also be submitted for each borrow pit:
- a) A map showing the location, size, depths and dimensions.
  - b) A map showing any stocks of rock, overburden, soils and temporary and permanent infrastructure including tracks, buildings, oil storage, pipes and drainage, overlain with all lochs and watercourses to a distance of 250 metres. You need to demonstrate that a site specific proportionate buffer can be achieved. On this map, a site-specific buffer must be drawn around each loch or watercourse proportionate to the depth of excavations and at least 10m from access tracks. If this minimum buffer cannot be achieved each breach must be numbered on a plan with an associated photograph of the location, dimensions of the loch or watercourse, drawings of what is proposed in terms of engineering works.
  - c) You need to provide a justification for the proposed location of borrow pits and evidence of the suitability of the material to be excavated for the proposed use, including any risk of pollution caused by degradation of the rock.
  - d) A ground investigation report giving existing seasonally highest water table including sections showing the maximum area, depth and profile of working in relation to the water table.
  - e) A site map showing cut-off drains, silt management devices and settlement lagoons to manage surface water and dewatering discharge. Cut-off drains must be installed to maximise diversion of water from entering quarry works.

- f) A site map showing proposed water abstractions with details of the volumes and timings of abstractions.
- g) A site map showing the location of pollution prevention measures such as spill kits, oil interceptors, drainage associated with welfare facilities, recycling and bin storage and vehicle washing areas. The drawing notes should include a commitment to check these daily.
- h) A site map showing where soils and overburden will be stored including details of the heights and dimensions of each store, how long the material will be stored for and how soils will be kept fit for restoration purposes. Where the development will result in the disturbance of peat or other carbon rich soils then the submission must also include a detailed map of peat depths (this must be to full depth and follow the survey requirement of the Scottish Government's [Guidance on Developments on Peatland - Peatland Survey \(2017\)](#)) with all the built elements and excavation areas overlain so it can clearly be seen how the development minimises disturbance of peat and the consequential release of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- i) Sections and plans detailing how restoration will be progressed including the phasing, profiles, depths and types of material to be used.
- j) Details of how the rock will be processed in order to produce a grade of rock that will not cause siltation problems during its end use on tracks, trenches and other hardstanding.

## **8. Pollution prevention and environmental management**

- 8.1 One of our key interests in relation to developments is pollution prevention measures during the periods of construction, operation, maintenance, demolition and restoration. A schedule of mitigation supported by the above site specific maps and plans must be submitted. These must include reference to best practice pollution prevention and construction techniques (for example, limiting the maximum area to be stripped of soils at any one time) and regulatory requirements. They should set out the daily responsibilities of ECOWs, how site inspections will be recorded and acted upon and proposals for a planning monitoring enforcement officer. Please refer to [Guidance for Pollution Prevention \(GPPs\)](#).

## **9. Life extension, repowering and decommissioning**

- 9.1 Proposals for life extension, repowering and/or decommissioning must demonstrate accordance with [SEPA Guidance on the life extension and decommissioning of onshore wind farms](#). Table 1 of the guidance provides a hierarchical framework of environmental impact based upon the principles of sustainable resource use, effective mitigation of environmental risk (including climate change) and optimisation of long term ecological restoration. The submission must demonstrate how the hierarchy of environmental impact has been applied, within the context of latest knowledge and best practice, including justification for not selecting lower impact options when life extension is not proposed.
- 9.2 The submission needs to demonstrate that there will be no discarding of materials that are likely to be classified as waste as any such proposals would be unacceptable under waste management licensing. Further guidance on this may be found in the document [Is it waste - Understanding the definition of waste](#).



Scottish Natural Heritage  
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba  
**nature.scot**

Nicola Soave  
The Scottish Government  
Energy Consents Unit  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlantic Quay  
150 Broomielaw  
Glasgow  
G2 8LU

Date: 05 February 2019  
Our ref: CDM153884  
Your ref: ECU00000740

Dear Ms Soave

**Electricity Act 1989  
The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations  
2017**

**Scoping Opinion request for proposed Section 36 application for Daer Wind Farm in the Lowther Hills adjacent to the Daer Reservoir in the Local Authority areas of South Lanarkshire and Dumfries & Galloway**

Thank you for consulting us on the above. Please find comments below as they relate to various sections in the Scoping Report.

Landscape and Visual Impact

Having reviewed the scoping report we offer comments below, we also offer a view on what we consider will be the key sensitivities and issues for the landscape and visual effects of this proposal.

Scoping Report

*'Siting and Designing Windfarms in the Landscape, Version 2, SNH May 2014'*  
This reference is out of date and should refer to version 3a – August 2017. See:

<https://www.nature.scot/siting-and-designing-wind-farms-landscape-version-3a>

**Consultees are asked to provide a suitable list of representative viewpoints, of which some could be considered for night time use. It is suggested that a total of 20 viewpoints maximum are taken forward to EIA.**

Scottish Natural Heritage, Holmpark Industrial Estate, New Galloway Road, Newton Stewart,  
Wigtownshire, DG8 6BF  
Tel: 01671 404700

[www.nature.scot](http://www.nature.scot)

Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba, Ionad Gnìomhachais Holmpark , Rathad Ghall-Ghàidhealaibh Nuaidh,  
Baile Ùr nan Stiùbhartach, DG8 6BF  
Fòn: 01671 404700

[www.nature.scot](http://www.nature.scot)

We are happy to comment on a draft list of viewpoints, but we do not supply lists for individual developments as that is for the developers consultant to do as they should have a more comprehensive understanding of the proposal and its visibility within the study area. We would be happy to comment on such a list once it is provided and particularly advise on the best location for the night time visualisations. In order to comment on the location of the night time visualisations we request a hub height ZTV to better identify those viewpoints where effects are likely to be significant.

### General Comments

The 'Rivox' part of the proposal located within SLC appears to be wholly within the Leadhills and the Lowther Hills Special Landscape Area (SLA); particular sensitivities that relate to this location include the popularity of the Daer reservoir and the access that the Southern Upland Way provides through this area. The SLA report highlights within the Conservation and Opportunities for Change section, the need to '*Discourage large scale commercial windfarm developments that could lead to significant cumulative effects with Clyde windfarm...*'<sup>1</sup>

The part of the proposal that lies within DGC is adjacent to the Thornhill uplands Regional Scenic Area and again we would have concern in relation to the proposal affecting key characteristics of this area, an important concern will be whether the proposal would affect or impinge on the setting of Queensberry Hill and views available from its summit.

We would expect a full assessment of the proposals effects upon these local landscape designations and in addition the landscape effects of lighting on these more remote /darker locations.

Cumulative effects are likely to be of particular relevance given the proposals proximity to Clyde, Lion Hill, and Crookedstane Wind Farms to the north and Harestanes to the south. Care will need to be taken that this proposal does not 'join up' these two clusters. We consider there is very little capacity remaining within this area to develop wind energy without impinging on the original design rationale for Clyde and increasing the intensity of wind development more widely within this area causing adverse effects on the underlying landscape character and visual amenity.

### Ornithology & Ecology

#### **Do consultees have any comment with regard to the proposed baseline non-breeding and breeding season ornithological survey programme?**

We discussed with Natural Power the constraints to ornithological surveys back in May 2018 and have more recently discussed 2018 breeding season results and preliminary findings of the 2018/19 non-breeding season and agreed the best way forward for the coming breeding season, including surveys to scope out.

#### **Do consultees have any comment with regard to the proposed baseline non-avian ecology survey programme?**

Work completed on desk-based surveys has prompted a range of proposed survey work which appears appropriate, as does survey effort and therefore we have no further comments on the scope of surveys at this stage.

With regard to bats we note that the initial survey effort will be based on medium risk which may be reduced if results indicate that this is justifiable. The reference to unpublished

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<sup>1</sup>Validating Local Landscape Designations, SLC, Nov 2010. P46

guidance is now out of date as this has now been published and can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.nature.scot/bats-and-onshore-wind-turbines-survey-assessment-and-mitigation>

**Do consultees have any comment with regard to the features and potential effects identified as likely to require consideration for the proposed development?**

We are content that appropriate features and potential effects have been identified.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me at this office.

John Gibson  
Operations Officer  
Southern Scotland  
[John.gibson@nature.scot](mailto:John.gibson@nature.scot)



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[Econsents\\_admin@gov.scot](mailto:Econsents_admin@gov.scot)

Theresa McInnes  
On-shore Wind Policy Officer  
Energy Industries Division  
Directorate for Energy and Climate Change  
The Scottish Government

13/02/2019

Dear Ms McInnes,

**Your ref: ELECTRICITY ACT 1989  
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)  
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017  
SCOPING OPINION REQUEST FOR PROPOSED SECTION 36  
APPLICATION FOR DAER WIND FARM IN THE LOWTHER HILLS  
ADJACENT TO THE DAER RESERVOIR IN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY  
AREA OF SOUTH LANARKSHIRE AND DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY**

Thank you for your email of 14 January 2019 requesting a scoping response for the above proposed wind energy development. We gratefully acknowledge the additional time allowed for our response.

The National Catalogue of Rights of Way (CROW) shows that SL170, SL179 and DA18 are affected by the area outlined in red, shown as the *Site boundary*, on *Figure 1: Indicative Site Layout and Location*. SL170 is recorded as a right of way whereas SL179 and DA18 are both listed in CROW as an “other” route, which means that although the routes do not meet all the criteria to be recognised as a right of way they are seen as important local routes. A map is enclosed showing right of way SL170 highlighted in orange with SL179 and DA18 highlighted in pink. Additionally right of way SL171 and “other” route SL180, both shown in bold on the enclosed map, terminate on the *Potential access route*. As there is no definitive record of rights of way in Scotland, there may be other routes that meet the criteria to be rights of way but have not been recorded as they have not yet come to our notice.

The *Heritage Paths* project promotes two routes in the vicinity of the proposed development. *Daer Water to Thornhill* uses the route marked on *Figure 1* as the *Potential access route* and *Daer Water to Kirkpatrick* in part uses SL170. Promoted for their historic interest these old routes are highlighted in green on the enclosed map. Additionally, longer routes using parts of these Heritage Paths are described in our popular book *Scottish Hill Tracks*.

The applicant is probably aware that SL179, SL180 and DA18 form part of the *Southern Upland Way* (SUW), promoted as one of *Scotland's Great Trails* by *Scottish Natural Heritage*. However, it is our understanding that the current line of the SUW may differ from the Ordnance Survey mapped line. We would strongly recommend that they contact South Lanarkshire Council's access team if they require further information on the exact line of the route.

We note that *Figure 2: Regional Context* and *Figure 3: Site Constraints* show the lines of *rights of way*. It appears that the term ‘rights of way’ used in this context also includes routes that are listed in CROW as “other” routes as noted above. While it is impossible to see the line of SL179 on *Figure 2* because of numerous overlays, it should be noted that the line

shown on *Figure 3* with regard to SL179 differs to that recorded in CROW and shown on the enclosed map.

A study area to a maximum of 45km is proposed for the ZTV: maps of a wider area than that enclosed are available from the Society if required by the applicant to inform the LVIA.

You will no doubt be aware, there may now be general access rights over any property under the terms of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. We note that the Core Paths Plan, prepared by Dumfries and Galloway Council's access staff as part of their duties under this Act, has been consulted in the preparation of this application. We would anticipate that the applicant also consult the Core Paths Plan prepared by the access team at South Lanarkshire Council.

Although we understand that there is very little guidance regarding the siting of turbines in relation to established paths and rights of way, we would like to draw your attention to the following:

***Extract from the Welsh Assembly Government's Technical Advice Note on Renewable Energy (TAN 8)***

***Proximity to Highways and Railways***

*2.25 It is advisable to set back all wind turbines a **minimum** distance, equivalent to the height of the blade tip, from the edge of any public highway (road or other public right of way) or railway line.*

In light of the above advice note the Society is concerned at the proximity of the most north-easterly turbine to SL179 and the SUW. We note that the distance advised is a **minimum** distance and would expect that for a nationally important long distance recreational route the separation should be greater. From the information available it is difficult to determine the exact distance between this turbine and the SUW, we would welcome such information from the applicant.

As we are aware of a large number of wind farm applications along this important long distance route, the Society expects the cumulative impact on the length of the SUW, as well as this individual section, to be taken into account.

I hope the information provided is useful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need more detail or if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Lynda L Grant  
Access Assistant

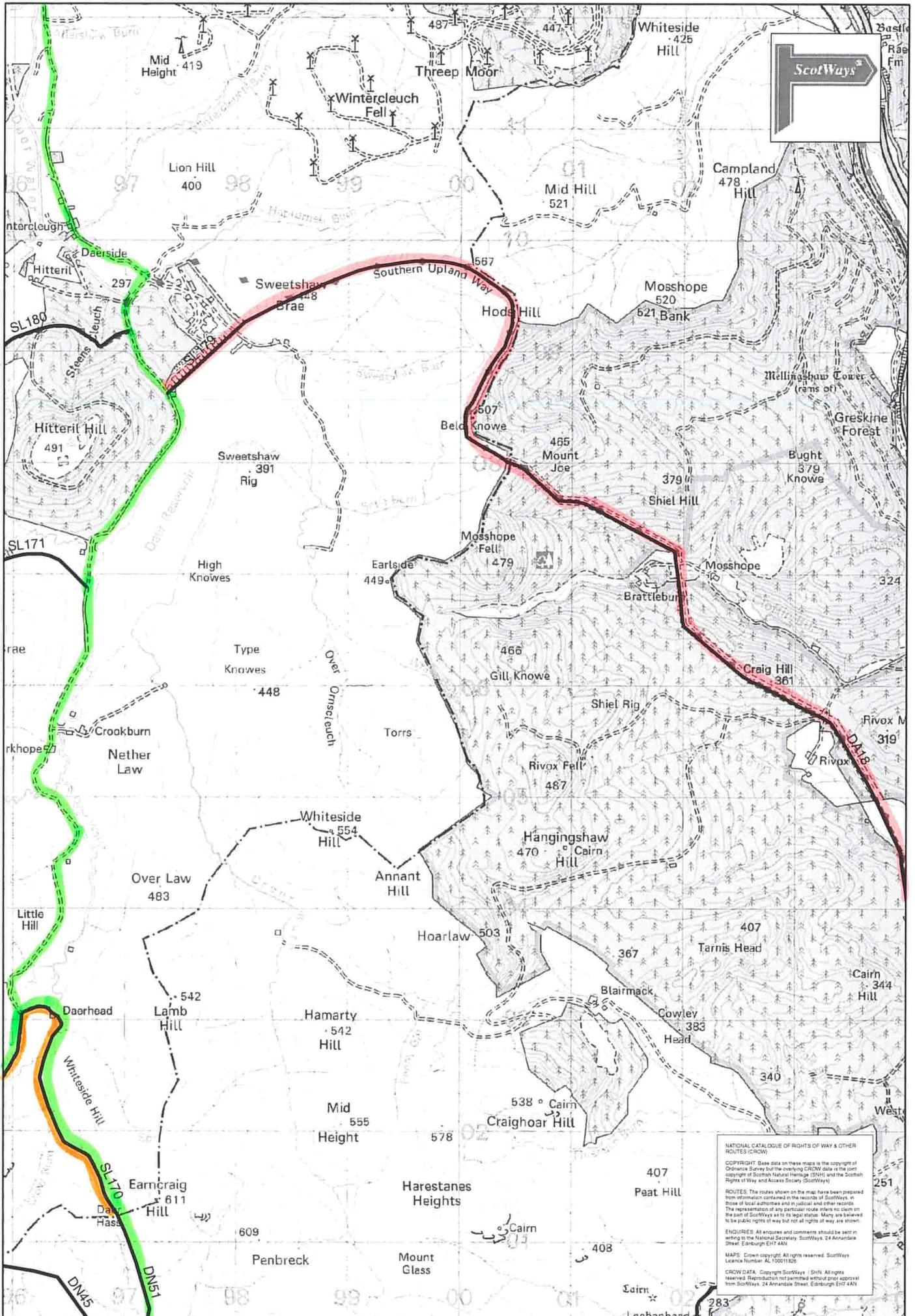
cc Jack Walton, Assistant Project Manager, Natural Power

Scoping re

The Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society 24 Annandale Street, Edinburgh EH7 4AN (Registered Office)  
Tel/Fax 0131 558 1222 e-mail: [info@scotways.com](mailto:info@scotways.com) web: [www.scotways.com](http://www.scotways.com)

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NATIONAL CATALOGUE OF RIGHTS OF WAY & OTHER ROUTES (CROW)

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ROUTES: The routes shown on the map have been prepared from information contained in the records of ScotWays, in those of local authorities and in judicial and other records. The representation of any particular route infers no claim on the part of ScotWays as to its legal status. Many are believed to be public rights of way but not all rights of way are shown.

ENQUIRIES: All enquiries and comments should be sent in writing to the National Secretary, ScotWays, 24 Arnsdale Street, Edinburgh EH7 4AN.

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23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019

The Scottish Government  
5 Atlantic Quay  
150 Broomielaw  
Glasgow  
G2 8LU



Development Operations  
The Bridge  
Buchanan Gate Business Park  
Cumbernauld Road  
Stepps  
Glasgow  
G33 6FB

Development Operations  
Freephone Number - 0800 3890379  
E-Mail -  
DevelopmentOperations@scottishwater.co.uk  
www.scottishwater.co.uk

Dear Theresa McInnes

**ML12 South Lanarkshire Daer Wind Farm Site At  
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: ECU00000740  
OUR REFERENCE: 771669  
PROPOSAL: Scoping for a proposed development of 15 wind turbines, at up to 170  
m in height to blade tip.**

**Please quote our reference in all future correspondence**

Scottish Water has no objection to this planning application; however, the applicant should be aware that this does not confirm that the proposed development can currently be serviced and would advise the following:

#### **Water**

- Unfortunately, according to our records there is no public Scottish Water, Water infrastructure within the vicinity of this proposed development therefore we would advise applicant to investigate private options.

#### **Foul**

- Unfortunately, according to our records there is no public Scottish Water, Waste Water infrastructure within the vicinity of this proposed development therefore we would advise applicant to investigate private treatment options.

**The applicant should be aware that we are unable to reserve capacity at our water and/or waste water treatment works for their proposed development. Once a formal connection application is submitted to Scottish Water after full planning permission has been granted, we will review the availability of capacity at that time and advise the applicant accordingly.**

### **Drinking Water Protected Areas**

**A review of our records indicates that the proposed activity falls within a drinking water catchment where a Scottish Water abstraction is located. Scottish Water abstractions are designated as Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPA) under Article 7 of the Water Framework Directive. Daer Reservoir supplies Daer Water Treatment Works (WTW) and it is essential that water quality and water quantity in the area are protected. In the event of an incident occurring that could affect Scottish Water we should be notified without delay using the Customer Helpline number 0800 0778 778.**

**From the indicative site layout it appears that 12 of the 15 turbines are in the catchment, with several being very close to the edge of the reservoir. The proposed access track also runs along the side of the reservoir, and no doubt there will be a lot of other infrastructure in addition to this. Therefore we deem this to be high risk as the site lies close to the reservoir so travel times of any pollution event will be short. Some baseline raw water quality monitoring will be required, especially from the feeder streams most likely to be effected by the construction activities. A program of grab samples and continuous monitoring at the main feeder streams, is required. The proximity of the Shiel Burn and Sweetshaw burn inlets to the reservoir draw off tower could be an issue if there was any contamination, which could rapidly effect raw water quality entering the works. The burns at the far end of the reservoir of slightly less concern as the dilution factor through the reservoir should be enough to buffer out any rapid changes. This is where dedicated monitoring of the feeder streams is important. In the event of any contamination issue, especially of these burns, the event should be communicated to Water Operations as quickly as possible so mitigating actions/increased monitoring can be put in place.**

**There is raw water on-line monitoring at the works and alarms levels would have to be set to catch any rapid deterioration in quality. It should be noted that the on-site potable water storage at Daer is constrained to ~8 hours, so shutting the works down for any extended period of time in the event of raw water contamination is not really an option. This is critical to maintaining supply in the Daer network. Scottish Water have produced a list of precautions for a range of activities. This details protection measures to be taken within a DWPA, the wider drinking water catchment and if there are assets in the area. Please note that site specific risks and mitigation measures will require be assessing and implementing. These documents and other supporting information can be found on the activities within our catchments page of our website at [www.scottishwater.co.uk/slm](http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/slm). We welcome that reference has been made to the Scottish Water drinking water catchment. The fact that this area is located within a drinking water catchment should be noted in future documentation. Also anyone working on site should be made aware of this during site inductions. We would request further involvement at the more detailed design stages, to determine the most appropriate proposals and mitigation within the catchment to protect water quality and quantity. We would also like to take the opportunity, to request that in advance of any works commencing on site, Scottish Water is notified at [protectdwsources@scottishwater.co.uk](mailto:protectdwsources@scottishwater.co.uk). This will enable us to be aware of activities in the catchment and to determine if a site meeting would be appropriate and beneficial.**

## **Surface Water**

For reasons of sustainability and to protect our customers from potential future sewer flooding, Scottish Water will not normally accept any surface water connections into our combined sewer system.

There may be limited exceptional circumstances where we would allow such a connection for brownfield sites only, however this will require significant justification from the customer taking account of various factors including legal, physical, and technical challenges.

In order to avoid costs and delays where a surface water discharge to our combined sewer system is anticipated, the developer should contact Scottish Water at the earliest opportunity with strong evidence to support the intended drainage plan prior to making a connection request. We will assess this evidence in a robust manner and provide a decision that reflects the best option from environmental and customer perspectives.

### **General notes:**

- **Scottish Water asset plans can be obtained from our appointed asset plan providers:**

**Site Investigation Services (UK) Ltd**

**Tel: 0333 123 1223**

**Email: [sw@sisplan.co.uk](mailto:sw@sisplan.co.uk)**

**[www.sisplan.co.uk](http://www.sisplan.co.uk)**

- Scottish Water's current minimum level of service for water pressure is 1.0 bar or 10m head at the customer's boundary internal outlet. Any property which cannot be adequately serviced from the available pressure may require private pumping arrangements to be installed, subject to compliance with Water Byelaws. If the developer wishes to enquire about Scottish Water's procedure for checking the water pressure in the area then they should write to the Customer Connections department at the above address.
- If the connection to the public sewer and/or water main requires to be laid through land out-with public ownership, the developer must provide evidence of formal approval from the affected landowner(s) by way of a deed of servitude.
- Scottish Water may only vest new water or waste water infrastructure which is to be laid through land out with public ownership where a Deed of Servitude has been obtained in our favour by the developer.
- The developer should also be aware that Scottish Water requires land title to the area of land where a pumping station and/or SUDS proposed to vest in Scottish Water is constructed.

- **Please find all of our application forms on our website at the following link <https://www.scottishwater.co.uk/business/connections/connecting-your-property/new-development-process-and-applications-forms>**

### Next Steps:

- **Single Property/Less than 10 dwellings**

For developments of less than 10 domestic dwellings (or non-domestic equivalent) we will require a formal technical application to be submitted directly to Scottish Water or via the chosen Licensed Provider if non domestic, once full planning permission has been granted. Please note in some instances we will require a Pre-Development Enquiry Form to be submitted (for example rural location which are deemed to have a significant impact on our infrastructure) however we will make you aware of this if required.

- **10 or more domestic dwellings:**

For developments of 10 or more domestic dwellings (or non-domestic equivalent) we require a Pre-Development Enquiry (PDE) Form to be submitted directly to Scottish Water prior to any formal Technical Application being submitted. This will allow us to fully appraise the proposals.

Where it is confirmed through the PDE process that mitigation works are necessary to support a development, the cost of these works is to be met by the developer, which Scottish Water can contribute towards through Reasonable Cost Contribution regulations.

- **Non Domestic/Commercial Property:**

Since the introduction of the Water Services (Scotland) Act 2005 in April 2008 the water industry in Scotland has opened up to market competition for non-domestic customers. All Non-domestic Household customers now require a Licensed Provider to act on their behalf for new water and waste water connections. Further details can be obtained at [www.scotlandontap.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandontap.gov.uk)

- **Trade Effluent Discharge from Non Dom Property:**

Certain discharges from non-domestic premises may constitute a trade effluent in terms of the Sewerage (Scotland) Act 1968. Trade effluent arises from activities including; manufacturing, production and engineering; vehicle, plant and equipment washing, waste and leachate management. It covers both large and small premises, including activities such as car washing and launderettes. Activities not covered include hotels, caravan sites or restaurants.

If you are in any doubt as to whether or not the discharge from your premises is likely to be considered to be trade effluent, please contact us on 0800 778 0778 or email [TEQ@scottishwater.co.uk](mailto:TEQ@scottishwater.co.uk) using the subject "Is this Trade Effluent?". Discharges that are deemed to be trade effluent need to apply separately for permission to discharge to the sewerage system. The forms and application guidance notes can be found using the following link <https://www.scottishwater.co.uk/business/our->

[services/compliance/trade-effluent/trade-effluent-documents/trade-effluent-notice-form-h](#)

Trade effluent must never be discharged into surface water drainage systems as these are solely for draining rainfall run off.

For food services establishments, Scottish Water recommends a suitably sized grease trap is fitted within the food preparation areas so the development complies with Standard 3.7 a) of the Building Standards Technical Handbook and for best management and housekeeping practices to be followed which prevent food waste, fat oil and grease from being disposed into sinks and drains.

The Waste (Scotland) Regulations which require all non-rural food businesses, producing more than 50kg of food waste per week, to segregate that waste for separate collection. The regulations also ban the use of food waste disposal units that dispose of food waste to the public sewer. Further information can be found at [www.resourceefficientscotland.com](http://www.resourceefficientscotland.com)

If the applicant requires any further assistance or information, please contact our Development Operations Central Support Team on 0800 389 0379 or at [planningconsultations@scottishwater.co.uk](mailto:planningconsultations@scottishwater.co.uk).

Yours sincerely

**Laura Bunton**

Development Operations Analyst

Laura.Bunton2@scottishwater.co.uk

Theresa McInnes  
Energy Consents Unit  
The Scottish Government  
5 Atlantic Quay  
150 Broomielaw  
Glasgow  
G2 8LU

Your ref:  
ECU00000740

Our ref:  
TS00538

Date:  
29/01/2019

[econsents\\_admin@gov.scot](mailto:econsents_admin@gov.scot)

Dear Sirs,

## **ELECTRICITY ACT 1989**

### **THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017**

#### **SCOPING OPINION REQUEST FOR PROPOSED SECTION 36 APPLICATION FOR DAER WIND FARM IN THE LOWTHER HILLS ADJACENT TO THE DAER RESERVOIR IN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AREAS OF SOUTH LANARKSHIRE AND DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY**

With reference to your recent correspondence on the above development, we acknowledge receipt of the Scoping Report (SR) prepared by Natural Power in support of the above development.

This information has been passed to SYSTRA Limited for review in their capacity as Term Consultant to Transport Scotland – Roads Directorate. Based on the review undertaken, we would provide the following comments.

#### **Proposed Development**

The proposed development is located in the Lowther Hills of South Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway, south-east of the Daer Reservoir and approximately 3km west of the A74(M) trunk road. The proposals consist of 15 turbines with a blade tip height of up to 170m.

#### **Delivery Route**

We note that the preferred delivery route to the site has not yet been agreed, but that a potential route has been identified as follows:

- KGV Docks in Glasgow;
- M74 on to A702;
- Southbound on the A702 to Watermeetings;
- Minor road from Watermeetings to site.

## Abnormal Loads Assessment

The SR makes no mention of an abnormal loads assessment. Transport Scotland will require a full Abnormal Loads Assessment report to be provided with the Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIAR). The abnormal loads assessment should identify the key pinch points on the trunk road network (junctions, bends, structures etc), contain swept path analysis and identify what mitigation works will be required on the trunk road network.

## Assessment of Environmental Impacts

Chapter 15 of the SR indicates that the EIAR will provide an assessment of the traffic and transport effects associated with the development. We note that the following elements will be considered:

- Baseline conditions on the adjacent public highways including suitability for construction traffic, estimated or recorded current traffic flows of ordinary and HGV traffic and identification of bottlenecks;
- Traffic movements generated during construction, operation and decommissioning, need for road improvements and/or traffic management;
- Magnitude and significance of impact of traffic movements and traffic management; and
- Management or mitigation measures, as applicable.

The proposed scope is acceptable to Transport Scotland, however, we would also state that a detailed assessment of environmental impacts associated with increased traffic will require to be carried out in accordance with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Road Traffic, using the approved thresholds. These specify that road links should be taken forward for detailed assessment if:

- Traffic flows will increase by more than 30%, or
- The number of HGVs will increase by more than 30%, or
- Traffic flows will increase by 10% or more in sensitive areas.

Where significant changes in traffic are not noted for any link, no further assessment needs to be undertaken. Where environmental impacts have been fully investigated but found to be of little or no significance, it is sufficient to validate that part of the assessment by stating in the report:

- The work that has been undertaken e.g. Transportation/ Noise / Air Quality Assessments etc;
- What this has shown i.e. what impact if any has been identified; and
- Why it is not significant.

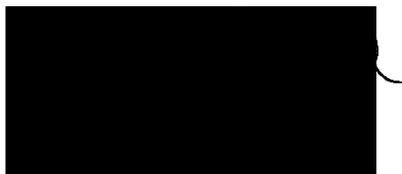
It is not necessary to include all the information gathered during the assessment of these impacts although this information should be available if requested.

## Traffic Management Plan

We note that a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) will be prepared. This is welcomed by Transport Scotland, and should include appropriate control measures to manage the level of traffic and associated effects during the construction phase of the works. The TMP should be discussed and agreed with the Area Manager for the trunk road prior to any works commencing on site.

I trust that the above is satisfactory and should you wish to discuss any issues raised in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact Alan DeVenny at SYSTRA's Glasgow Office on 0141 343 9636.

Yours faithfully



**John McDonald**

**Transport Scotland  
Roads Directorate**

cc Alan DeVenny – SYSTRA Ltd.



30 January 2019

Theresa McInnes – On-shore Wind Policy Officer  
Energy Industries Division  
Directorate for Energy and Climate Change  
Scottish Government

Dear Ms McInnes,

### **Proposed Daer Wind Farm South Lanarkshire and Dumfries & Galloway**

Thank you for giving VisitScotland the opportunity to comment on the above wind farm development.

Our response focuses on the crucial importance of tourism to Scotland's local and national economy, and of the natural landscape for visitors.

#### Background Information

VisitScotland, as Scotland's National Tourism Organisation, has a strategic role to develop Scottish tourism in order to get the maximum economic benefit for the country. It exists to support the development of the tourism industry in Scotland and to market Scotland as a quality destination.

While VisitScotland understands and appreciates the importance of renewable energy, tourism is crucial to Scotland's economic and cultural well-being. It sustains a great diversity of businesses throughout the country. According to a recent independent report by Deloitte, tourism generates £11 billion for the economy and employs over 200,000 - 9% of the Scottish workforce. Tourism provides jobs in the private sector and stimulates the regeneration of urban and rural areas.

One of the Scottish Government and VisitScotland's key ambitions is to grow tourism revenues and make Scotland one of the world's foremost tourist destinations. This ambition is now common currency in both public and private sectors in Scotland, and the expectations of businesses on the ground have been raised as to how they might contribute to and benefit from such growth.

#### Importance of scenery to tourism

Scenery and the natural environment have become the two most important factors for visitors in recent years when choosing a holiday location.

The importance of this element to tourism in Scotland cannot be underestimated. The character and visual amenity value of Scotland's landscapes is a key driver of our tourism product: a large majority of visitors to Scotland come because of the landscape, scenery and the wider environment, which supports important visitor activities such as walking, cycling wildlife watching and visiting historic sites.

The VisitScotland Visitor Experience Survey (2015/16) confirms the basis of this argument with its ranking of the key factors influencing visitors when choosing Scotland as a holiday location. In this study, over half of visitors rated scenery and the natural environment as the main reason for visiting Scotland. Full details of the Visitor Experience Survey can be found on the organisation's corporate website, here:



<http://www.visitscotland.org/pdf/Revised%20Oct%2012%20%20Insights%20Wind%20Farm%20Topic%20Paper.pdf>

#### Taking tourism considerations into account

We would suggest that full consideration is also given to the Scottish Government's 2008 research on the impact of wind farms on tourism. In its report, you can find recommendations for planning authorities which could help to minimise any negative effects of wind farms on the tourism industry. The report also highlights a request, as part of the planning process, to provide a tourism impact statement as part of the Environmental Impact Analysis. Planning authorities should also consider the following factors to ensure that any adverse local impacts on tourism are minimised:

- The number of tourists travelling past en route elsewhere
- The views from accommodation in the area
- The relative scale of tourism impact i.e. local and national
- The potential positives associated with the development
- The views of tourist organisations, i.e. local tourist businesses or VisitScotland

The full study can be found at [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/03/07113507/1](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/03/07113507/1)

#### Conclusion

Given the aforementioned importance of Scottish tourism to the economy, and of Scotland's landscape in attracting visitors to Scotland, VisitScotland would strongly recommend any potential detrimental impact of the proposed development on tourism - whether visually, environmentally and economically - be identified and considered in full. This includes when taking decisions over turbine height and number.

VisitScotland strongly agrees with the advice of the Scottish Government –the importance of tourism impact statements should not be diminished, and that, for each site considered, an independent tourism impact assessment should be carried out. This assessment should be geographically sensitive and should consider the potential impact on any tourism offerings in the vicinity.

VisitScotland would also urge consideration of the specific concerns raised above relating to the impact any perceived proliferation of developments may have on the local tourism industry, and therefore the local economy.

We hope this response is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely



Douglas Keith  
Government & Parliamentary Affairs  
VisitScotland