



Chapter 6

Scoping and consultation

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Chapter 6

Scoping and consultation

6.1 Introduction

1. This Chapter sets out the Scoping process that has been undertaken as part of the EIA for the proposed Development. It also details additional consultation that has been undertaken in respect of the proposed Development with consultees.
2. The purpose of scoping and consultation is to:
 - ensure that statutory consultees and other bodies with a particular interest in the environment are informed of the proposed Development and provided with an opportunity to comment at an early stage in the EIA process;
 - obtain baseline information regarding existing environmental Site conditions;
 - establish key environmental issues and identify potential effects to be considered during the EIA;
 - identify those issues which are likely to require more detailed study and those which can be justifiably excluded from further assessment; and
 - provide a means of confirming the most appropriate methods of assessment.

6.2 Scoping report

3. The Scoping Report was submitted to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) on 29 October 2018 to accompany a request for the Scottish Ministers to adopt a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 15 of the EIA Regulations 2017. The list of those organisations consulted, if they responded and the date of the response is shown in **Table 6-1**.

Consultee	Response Received	Date of Response
Bardrochat and Knockdolian Estates, Colmonell, Ayrshire	Yes	December 2018
British Telecom (BT)	Yes	01/11/18
British Horse Society	Yes	20/11/18
Colmonell & Lendalfoot Community Council	Yes	29/11/18
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Yes	03/12/18
Fisheries Management Scotland	Yes	31/10/18
Forestry Commission Scotland	Yes	21/01/19
Historic Environment Scotland	Yes	28/11/18
Joint Radio Company	Yes	06/11/18
Marine Scotland	Yes	26/11/18
MoD	Yes	07/11/18
National Air Traffic Services (NATS) Safeguarding	Yes	06/11/18
Network Rail	Yes	29/11/18
New Luce Community Council	Yes	28/11/18
RSPB Scotland	Yes	29/11/18

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	Yes	10/12/18
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)	Yes	29/11/18
Scottish Water	Yes	02/11/18
South Ayrshire Council	Yes	20/11/18
Transport Scotland	Yes	23/11/18
Visit Scotland	Yes	02/11/18
West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WOSAS) (response is included in South Ayrshire Council response)	Yes	20/11/18
Winds of Justice	Yes	30/11/18
Ayrshire Rivers Trust	No	-
Ayrshire Roads Alliance	No	-
Ballantrae Community Council	No	-
Barrhill Community Council	No	-
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	No	-
Cree Valley Community Council	No	-
Crown Estate Office	No	-
John Muir Trust	No	-
Mountaineering Council of Scotland	No	-
Ofcom	No	-
Pinwherry & Pinmore Community Council	No	-
Prestwick Airports Ltd	No	-
River Stinchar Salmon Fisheries board	No	-
Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (Scotways)	No	-
Scottish Wild Land Group	No	-
Scottish Wildlife Trust	No	-

Table 6.1: Scoping Consultees

4. A Scoping opinion was received from the ECU on 6 February 2019. A summary of the key issues raised in the Scoping Opinion is provided in **Technical Appendix 6.1**. The Scoping Opinion is detailed in the consultation tables contained within each EIA Report **Chapters 7 to 16**, with reference to how the comments have been addressed.

6.3 Further consultation

5. In addition to the formal scoping that was undertaken additional consultation was undertaken with a number of consultees regarding specific issues. This is detailed in the technical Chapters and is not repeated here.
6. Several meetings were held with key consultees over the course of the EIA for the proposed Development. A summary of the issues discussed at these meetings is provided in **Technical Appendix 6.2: Consultee Meetings Key Issues**.

6.4 Public Information Days (PIDs) and community consultation

7. Public consultation is a key element of the environmental assessment process; therefore as part of the wider consultation process, attention was given to community engagement in cognisance of Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010: Community Engagement. Local community councils were contacted during development of the proposals.
8. In addition to the consultation as part of the scoping process consultation has been undertaken with the local communities in the form of Public Information Days (PIDs) and meetings.
9. SPR informed the following Community Councils of the proposed Development by letter in October 2018:
 - Colmonell and Lendalfoot Community Council;
 - Barrhill Community Council;
 - Ballantrae Community Council;
 - Cree Valley Community Council;
 - New Luce Community Council; and
 - Pinwherry & Pinmore Community Council.
10. In November 2018, two PIDs were undertaken to establish dialogue with the local community regarding the proposed Arecleoch Windfarm Extension. The proposed Development was in the early stages of environmental assessment and SPR wanted to maintain its commitment to working with the community and gaining feedback to feed into the development process.
11. SPR invited both Barrhill Community Council and Colmonell & Lendalfoot Community Council to a private viewing of the PID exhibitions. This was to allow the Community Councils an in depth look at the proposals and a chance to discuss these, in detail, with representatives from SPR and SLR. Barrhill Community Council accepted this offer, with members attending a private viewing on 14 November 2018.
12. Two further PIDs were held in February 2019 to provide an update on the project design. SPR provided an explanation on the design process, infrastructure/layout and work completed to date, including work on peat, geology, transport, archaeology, landscape and visual and noise. These contained displays of more advanced plans of turbine layouts and allowed members of the local community to ask any questions specific to the development.
13. Further details of the PIDs held are contained in the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report submitted as part of the application for consent for the proposed Development.
14. In September 2018 SPR requested to attend meetings with the Community Councils, detailed in paragraph nine, so that the proposed Development and any concerns that the Community Councils may have could be discussed. A meeting was undertaken with Barrhill Community Council on 31 January 2019 to provide background on the proposed development and the wider context of SPR operations and an update on project design. SPR provided an explanation on the design process, infrastructure layout/evolution and work completed to-date, including work on peat, geology, transport, archaeology, landscape and visual and noise.

6.5 Gate check

15. A Gatecheck Report was sent to the ECU in March 2019. The report provides detail on how consultee scoping responses have been addressed by the EIA process and the design of the proposed Development. Further responses to the Gatecheck Report were received from five consultees on 29 April 2019.
16. Of the five consultees that responded to the Gatecheck Report, Historic Environment Scotland, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and Dumfries & Galloway Council were all satisfied that their views had been considered and specified concerns addressed. South Ayrshire Council provided additional views on Private Water Supply risk modelling and Viewpoints for assessing landscape and visual impacts which have both been considered in the EIA Report.

6.6 References

SPR (October 2018). Arecleoch Windfarm Extension, Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report.

Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (06 February 2019). Scoping Opinion for Arecleoch Windfarm Extension.