

# TECHNICAL APPENDIX 6.2: CONSULTEE MEETINGS: KEY ISSUES

**Arcleoch Windfarm Extension**  
Prepared for: ScottishPower Renewables

SLR Ref: 405.00481.000049  
Version: 1  
June 2019



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6.1 Meetings were held with key consultees to discuss the design and focus on the scope of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) as follows:

- 14 August 2018 – attended by Energy Consents Unit (ECU);
- 17 September 2018 – attended by Scottish Forestry;
- 19 December 2018 – attended by Energy Consents Unit (ECU);
- 15 January 2019 – attended by South Ayrshire Council (SAC) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH); and
- 20 May 2019 – attended by Energy Consents Unit (ECU).

6.2 A summary, taken from the notes of the meeting, of the key issues discussed at these consultee meetings is provided in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Key Issues at Consultee Meetings**

Consultees in Attendance	Date	Summary of Key Issues Raised
ECU	14 August 2018	<p><b>The proposed Development</b></p> <p>The proposed development would seek to maximize the reuse of infrastructure as far as possible. The existing crossing of the railway line will be utilized. The proposed development would include batteries or ancillary grid services equipment.</p> <p><b>Lifetime of Consent</b></p> <p>SPR are keen to explore the potential for the proposed Development not to be time limited (i.e. in perpetuity). It was agreed that this possibility should be set out in the scoping report.</p> <p><b>Scoping</b></p> <p>SPR advised that the scoping report will look to identify matters that did not have significant impacts on the case of Arecleoch or Kilgallioch Windfarms and scope these out where appropriate – e.g. in respect of access.</p> <p>ECU highlighted they are keen to encourage pre-scoping discussion and the submission of a draft scoping document for comment where it is possible. SPR advised they will consider this approach.</p> <p>Noise for the site requires careful consideration and agreement on the approach will be required. The use of existing information and the potential for new survey work is being considered. Agreed that consultation will be undertaken with SAC and it is understood that they use ACCON as advisors. Agreed that ECU will be kept notified of all discussions with regards to scoping.</p> <p>Agreed that the scoping report should include direct questions for consultees.</p> <p><b>Engagement with Consultees</b></p> <p>ECU advised that the consultees should include Dumfries and Galloway as the access point for turbines may well be Dumfries. SPR advised that Cairnryan will also be considered as a turbine delivery entry port.</p> <p><b>Survey Work</b></p> <p>SPR advised that Ecology and Ornithology work has been undertaken and the Ornithology work will continue into 2019. Also advised that peat work will be undertaken in the coming weeks to gain an understanding of the peat which is present on the site.</p> <p>ECU advised that it would be good to understand what was done in the way of HMP for Arecleoch and consider that as the proposed development evolves.</p>
Scottish Forestry	17 September 2018	<p><b>General</b></p> <p>Discussed that although there are many examples of applications for turbines of 200+ metres, as of yet there have been none consented in the UK. It was also highlighted that from a Landscape &amp; Visual point of view, larger turbines in front of smaller ones (existing Arecleoch) could be challenging.</p> <p>Scottish Forestry advised they want to keep the cables (from substation) on same side of tracks as the existing Arecleoch Windfarm cables to allow stacking of trees on opposite side. SPR advised need to review spacing/verge to determine suitability to put cables onsite.</p>

Consultees in Attendance	Date	Summary of Key Issues Raised
		<p>Discussed that Aviation lighting would be required as +150m structure. Also discussed potential for using radar activated lighting, which isn't CAA approved as yet, but trials nearing completion.</p> <p>Scottish Forestry highlighted that there is a Flight Training area for MOD along A714.</p> <p><b>Forestry/Land Management Plan</b></p> <p>Scottish Forestry advised it is best to fell a larger area for keyhole's to maintain forestry (not wanting 20yr old trees with 5yr old trees - donut effect).</p> <p>Discussed that SPR need to know future re-stocking areas/plan in order to allow for compensatory planting. DGA to work on new Forestry plan with Scottish Forestry once Scottish Forestry have allocated the plan.</p> <p>Scottish Forestry have advised they would like to keep substation cable on west side of Arecleoch development site and follow Kilgallioch cable route below railway line.</p> <p>SPR/DGA advised that increased tip height is good regarding re-planting of trees as would be able to plant closer to the turbines, subject to hub heights and blade lengths.</p> <p>Scottish Forestry advised that they now require underground cabling through national forest estates.</p>
ECU	19 December 2018	<p><b>Tourist Economy</b></p> <p>ECU advised that they would not like to see the proposed Developments effects on the tourist economy scoped out completely.</p> <p><b>Noise</b></p> <p>Discussed that it is important to have discussion with SAC on noise assessment approach and methodology. At this stage it has not been possible to arrange discussions.</p> <p><b>Landscape (including night time assessment and RVAS)</b></p> <p>Discussed that it is important to have discussion with SAC on appropriate viewpoints and also their thoughts on night time assessment approach. At this stage it has not been possible to arrange discussions.</p> <p><b>Cultural Heritage</b></p> <p>West of Scotland Archaeological Service (WoSAS) Scoping response requested a range of alterations to assessment methodology in order to widen scope and detail. SLR to discuss further with WoSAS and push back slightly on certain points.</p> <p><b>Length of Consent</b></p> <p>Discussed that only one consultee (so far) has referred in their Scoping response to the intention to submit the proposal with a lifespan 'in perpetuity'.</p>
SAC & SNH	15 January 2019	<p><b>Scoping Response</b></p> <p>SAC advised that they intent to submit a further response to Scoping which will include input on landscape (VP and night time assessment) and noise from specialists.</p> <p><b>Programme</b></p> <p>SPR advised that final site survey work is being undertaken this month and next and this will include the final checking of the design chill before reaching a design freeze. This will include the phase 2 peat work and the investigation on potential GWDTE sites. The design freeze is anticipated in early February.</p> <p>Submission is planned for June 2019.</p> <p><b>Landscape Capacity Study (LCS)</b></p> <p>Discussed that the site is within the Plateau Moorland with Forestry and Wind Turbines character type and that the LCS text notes "some limited scope for the very large typology (turbines&gt;130m) to be accommodated within this landscape ...".</p> <p>SNH observed that the existing Arecleoch Windfarm is identified as having potential for repowering in the LCS (potentially 200m turbines). Repowering is not part of the this proposed Development however SPR are considering repowering across their portfolio and it may come forward in the future. The proposed extension will be considered on its own merits.</p> <p><b>Constraints</b></p> <p>SPR advised that the constraints which have been mapped include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peat – some areas of deep peat and SNH property peatland are included as constraints;</li> <li>• Water courses;</li> </ul>

Consultees in Attendance	Date	Summary of Key Issues Raised
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GWDTE locations – these need to be confirmed and this will be done as part of the hydro survey work;</li> <li>• Noise – this is challenging with the cumulative position. Altercannoch Windfarm remains undetermined at present time;</li> <li>• Size of turbines – which will require lighting;</li> <li>• Existing infrastructure – to be used as far as possible but there are also quite a lot of buffers on power lines and cables within the site; and</li> <li>• Slope.</li> </ul> <p>SPR advised they are aware of the new bat guidance from SNH and the survey work has been undertaken in accordance with that. The EIA Report may need to consider a bat mitigation plan with some form of curtailment in certain conditions.</p> <p><b>Landscape Design Objectives</b></p> <p>SNH advised that the design should have regard to the SNH siting and design guidance. SNH also advised that as an extension the proposed Development should look to echo the existing windfarm. The proposed turbines should be compatible with those of the existing turbines.</p> <p>Design objectives discussed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationship with landform of Site and surrounding area – the existing Arecleoch Windfarm turbines are on higher ground. The Site is generally flat on a plateau;</li> <li>• Relationship with nearby operational turbines at Arecleoch Windfarm (60 turbines became operational 8 years ago, consented higher than they were built 135m v 118m) and Kilgallioch (96 turbines recently became operational 146.4m to tip). SLR advised that smaller turbines help with views from the north and west which look across the proposed Site to the existing turbines;</li> <li>• Relationship with consented Chirmorie turbines – these are consented but not constructed (21 turbines at 146.5M tip);</li> <li>• Wider cumulative context, including Mark Hill;</li> <li>• Proximity to residential properties – this includes Barrhill and properties to the east and north;</li> <li>• Visibility from Barrhill;</li> <li>• Visibility from Stincher and Duisk Valleys;</li> <li>• Effects on the South Ayrshire Scenic Area; and</li> <li>• Effects on the Galloway Dark Skies Park.</li> </ul> <p><b>View Points</b></p> <p>SNH advised that it is the role of the LVI assessor to define the VPs but SNH feel that the approach which has been presented is sensible.</p> <p>Agreed that the Merrick should be a VP with a photomontage despite the fact that it is over 20km from the proposed turbines. This will cover the forest park and wild land area.</p> <p><b>Night Time Assessment</b></p> <p>SNH confirmed that there is currently no guidance on this and that although work is in progress it has been delayed to the next budget year.</p> <p>This needs to be carefully defined and the potential for significant effects understood in order that the assessment is proportionate. There is some useful information now publicly available in respect of other schemes including Windy Standard 2 (at PLI), Clash Gour (section 36 application) and Crystal Rigg IV (section 36 application).</p> <p>There is the potential for smart radar lighting to be included within the turbine lighting and the potential for this is being considered by SPR.</p> <p>The angle from which the lighting would viewed also requires to be considered.</p> <p>It was agreed that it would be sensible to look at a comparator as part of the assessment – reference was made to the approach at Windy Standard for the Reporter. For this a light was fitted to one of the existing turbines at an appropriate height. Also SPR advised that need to look at the theoretical visibility in the Dark Skies Park.</p>
ECU	20 May 2019	<p><b>Documentation</b></p> <p>Agreed that smaller volumes of LVIA figures are preferable. Also advised by ECU that precaution to be taken over Confidential Appendices and who these are to be provided to.</p> <p><b>Submission</b></p>

Consultees in Attendance	Date	Summary of Key Issues Raised
		<p>Application documentation to be uploaded to both host LPAs (SAC and D&amp;GC). Alternatively, D&amp;GC could provide a link to the ECU website.</p> <p>ECU advised that their naming convention to be used where possible – with the key being to ensure that all the documents are named in a way that is easily understood by the public.</p> <p>Attempt to keep file sizes at 10MB maximum in order to facilitate smooth upload.</p> <p><b>Consultation</b></p> <p>Agreed that consultation period should be longer than statutory 30 days in order to allow for school holiday period.</p> <p>Public copies to be located:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Government library;</li> <li>• D&amp;GC Planning office;</li> <li>• SAC Planning office;</li> <li>• Barhill; and</li> <li>• Colmonell.</li> </ul> <p>To be advertised in the Ayrshire Post, Glasgow Herald, Galloway Gazette and Edinburgh Gazette.</p> <p><b>Gatecheck Responses</b></p> <p>Species Protection Plan request from SNH – SPR intention is to hold off preparing a SPP until pre-construction when information and timings are valid and SLR will confirm with SNH and provide some more commentary in Ch8 Ecology if necessary.</p> <p>Private Water Supplies request from SAC Environmental Health team for conceptual site model – intention is to provide as a Technical Appendix to Ch10 that meets this requirement.</p> <p><b>Night-time Visualisations</b></p> <p>Four night-time visualisations are being prepared by OPEN including an extra VP for the minor road between Lendalfoot and Colmonell.</p> <p><b>Aviation Lighting</b></p> <p>SNH ZTV guidance –Confirmed that SNH do not intend to update draft guidance on ZTVs/aviation lighting until more industry best-practice has been gathered.</p> <p>CAA guidance on radar activated lights – CAA intend to consult this summer; aviation lighting has been assessed as worst case (2000 candela; 200 in atmospheric conditions) in the EIA Report.</p>

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