

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	11-1
CONSULTEE RESPONSES TO THE 2022 KIRKTON APPLICATION	11-1
DESIGN AMENDMENTS	11-2
REVISED FIGURES	11-2
CUMULATIVE BASELINE UPDATE	11-2
ASSESSMENT OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS	11-3
SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS	11-3
Design Amendment Effects.....	11-3
Updated Cumulative Effects	11-4
CONCLUSIONS	11-4

INTRODUCTION

- 11.1 **Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology**, of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report presents the findings of the assessment of the potential effects, on cultural heritage assets, resulting from the proposed development.
- 11.2 This Supplementary Environmental Information (SEI) Chapter supplements **Chapter 11** of the EIA Report. The methodology employed in this SEI is as set out in EIA Report **Chapter 11** of the EIA Report.
- 11.3 The following key documents should be read in conjunction with this SEI:
- EIA Report Volume 2 - **Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology**;
 - EIA Report Volume 3d - Chapter 11 Plan Figures and Wirelines; and
 - EIA Report Volume 4b – Chapter 11 Technical Appendices.

CONSULTEE RESPONSES TO THE 2022 KIRKTON APPLICATION

- 11.4 **Table 11-1** below provides a summary of the cultural heritage and archaeological related responses to the 2022 Kirkton Energy Park application, received from key consultees. A reply to the consultee responses is also provided in **Table 11-1**.

Table 11-1: Consultation Responses

Consultee	Comments	Response
Historic Environment Scotland (HES) 26 January 2023	We do not object to the application. However, we are concerned about the level of effects on the setting of Halladale Bridge, hut circles 670m NE of, on banks of Giligill (SM3304). These effects could be mitigated by the relocation of turbines 1, 2 & 3. Our detailed comments on the application and the EIA Report are contained in the annex to this letter.	Noted. It is not proposed to remove or relocate Turbines No. 1, 2 or 3.
THC Historic Environment Team (THCHET) 15 December 2022	The application area is considered to have medium to high archaeological potential with direct impacts predicted on at least four undesignated sites; Township SLR13, a mound SLR24 and two prehistoric houses SLR34 and SLR35. It is considered appropriate to recommend that paleoenvironmental survey is carried out to complete the baseline recording of this area. A Programme of Archaeological Works will be required, to include evaluation of the four sites and likely also excavation and precautionary watching briefs (dependent on the evaluation	Noted. The design amendments below would not alter this and have no further direct impact on known cultural heritage assets (SEI Figure 11.1).

	results). In addition, monitoring of the access road construction/widening and turbine bases will be required as a precaution as buried features, possibly associated with the extensive prehistoric settlement remains, may still be present. The applicant will need to submit a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation to agree these works	
--	--	--

DESIGN AMENDMENTS

11.5 As outlined in **SEI Chapter 3: Description of Development**, the only design amendments from the site layout of the 2022 Kirkton Energy Park application (as detailed in the 2022 EIA Report) are the repositioning of Turbine No.7 (and associated crane pad) approximately 53m north, and the realignment of proposed access track to Turbines No.5 - 11. These relatively minor amendments have been undertaken in order to accommodate requests from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and NatureScot (see **SEI Chapter 2** and **SEI Chapter 10**). The repositioning of Turbine No.7 and realignment of track has not been as a result of any Cultural Heritage and Archaeology related responses from consultees.

REVISED FIGURES

11.6 **Figures 11.1 - 11.6** of the EIA Report have been updated to outline the design amendments and are therefore superseded by:

- **SEI Figure 11.1: Gazatteer Sites;**
- **SEI Figure 11.2: Cultural Heritage Designations;**
- **SEI Figure 11.3a-c: Viewpoint 1 The Borg** (wireline);
- **SEI Figure 11.4a-b: Viewpoint 2 Leathad Carnaich** (wireline);
- **SEI Figure 11.5a-b: Viewpoint 3 Milburn** (wireline); and
- **SEI Figure 11.6a-d: Viewpoint 4 Halladale Bridge** (wireline).

CUMULATIVE BASELINE UPDATE

11.7 Since the production of the 2022 Kirkton Energy Park application, the cumulative wind farm situation in the study area has changed. The relevant changes to the cumulative context since the 2022 Kirkton Energy Park application are as follows:

- Melvich Wind Energy Hub application;
- Armadale Wind Farm revised application;
- Pentland Offshore Wind Farm consented; and

- West of Orkney Offshore scoping (as noted in previous SEI chapters, this project has now seen a full application submitted, however it is not considered that the full application would change the conclusions of the assessment on cumulative effects presented in this SEI chapter).

ASSESSMENT OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

11.8 The consideration of projects which could result in potential cumulative effects is based on the results of the Cultural Heritage and Archaeology assessment and the judgement of the specialist consultant. Projects which overlap the proposed development study area are considered to have the potential to result in cumulative effects for cultural heritage receptors. Chapter 11 of the EIA Report, has presented an assessment of the potential cumulative impacts for those projects identified to be relevant at the time of the assessment, as listed below:

- Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm;
- Bettyhill Wind Farm Extension;
- Limekiln Wind Farm S36 Variation;
- Limekiln Wind Farm Extension;
- Strathy South Wind Farm;
- Strathy Wood Wind Farm; and
- Armadale Wind Farm.

11.9 Since the submission of the application, it has been confirmed that additional projects require consideration as part of the cumulative impact assessment. These projects have been identified in paragraph 11.7.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS

Design Amendment Effects

11.10 As per the methodology in Chapter 11 of the original EIA Report, the following assets were assessed for changes to their effects by the proposed development:

- Halladale Bridge (**SM3304**);
- Leathad Carnaich (**SM1876**);
- Millburn Barrows (**SM13622**);
- Bighouse and associated buildings including Garden Pavilion and Walled Garden (**LB7159/LB7160**);
- The Borg (**SM1839**);

- Smigel Bridge (**LB12915**); and
- Smigel Mill (**LB7141**).

11.11 Due to the small distance of the relocation of Turbine No.7, and that the linear layout of the site layout is retained, there are no Cultural Heritage or Archaeology effects, as presented in Chapter 11 of the EIA Report, that are considered to be altered by the design amendments to the proposed development, (**SEI Figure 11.2**).

Updated Cumulative Effects

11.12 Using the same method applied in Chapter 11 of the EIA, an updated cumulative assessment has been carried out.

11.13 Due to the concerns of HES outlined in their application response on the potential impact of Halladale Bridge (**SM3304**), a cumulative assessment in line with this has been carried out.

11.14 The addition of Melvich Wind Energy Hub (2.8km to the east of the asset) and West of Orkney Offshore Wind (6km to the north of the asset) would add further renewable infrastructure to the area surrounding **SM3304**, (**SEI Figure 11.6**).

11.15 Whilst the impacts from the introduction of Melvich Wind Energy Hub and West of Orkney Offshore Wind are dealt with within their respective applications, the addition of the proposed development would remain Minor. The impact on Halladale Bridge SM3304 would remain as was assessed in the EIA report and the cumulative impact would be None. As is outlined in the Kirkton Energy Park EIA Report (2022), the proposed development occupies the periphery of the setting which contributes to the significance of the monument and as such no significant cumulative impact is predicted.

CONCLUSIONS

11.16 The design amendments will not result in any change to the significance of effects as presented in Chapter 11 of the EIA Report.

11.17 This SEI chapter has included the additional projects as requested by THC and completed an assessment of the updated cumulative impacts. The significance of the cumulative effects remains as presented in Chapter 11 of the EIA Report.