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## INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 **Chapter 3: Description of Development**, of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report sets out the components of the proposed development for which Section 36 consent is being sought and which have been assessed in the EIA Report.
- 3.2 This Supplementary Environmental Information (SEI) Chapter provides further information in relation to the proposed amendments to the proposed development. The proposed description of the development remains largely unchanged from the EIA Report, with only minor amendments which are detailed in this SEI Chapter. All the information contained in Chapter 3 of the EIA Report remains valid unless stated otherwise in this SEI Chapter.
- 3.3 As detailed in **SEI Chapter 2**, the following amendments to the site layout are proposed:
- relocating Turbine No.7 and its associated crane pad approximately 53m north, from 287881, 959083 to 287885, 959140; and
  - amending the route of the track to Turbines No.5 – 11 (and amending the amount of track to be floated from 446.95m to 536.97m).
- 3.4 No other changes to the site layout (turbines and associated infrastructure) are proposed.
- 3.5 **SEI Figure 3.1: Site layout**, shows the changes that have been made to the proposed infrastructure (relocation of Turbine No.7 and associated crane pad, and realignment of track to Turbines No.5 – 11). **Figure 3.1** of the EIA Report is now superseded by **SEI Figure 3.1**. All other Figures associated with Chapter 3 of the EIA Report remain unchanged and valid.
- 3.6 The following Technical Appendices associated with Chapter 3 of the EIA Report remain valid:
- **Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP);**
  - **Technical Appendix 3.2: Forestry;** and
  - **Technical Appendix 3.3: Turning Areas Safety Audit.**

## WIND TURBINE NO.7 RELOCATION

- 3.7 Due to reasons outlined in **SEI Chapter 2**, Turbine No.7 (and its associated crane pad) has been relocated approximately 53m north of its previous location. The amended coordinates for Turbine No.7 are 287885, 959140. The amended Turbine No.7 location is shown on **SEI Figure 3.1**. There are no other changes to Turbine No.7 from what was presented in the EIA Report.
- 3.8 There are no other changes to any other turbine locations or turbine specifications (include hub height and tip height) from what was presented in the EIA Report.

## SEI DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT 3

- 3.9 **Table 3-1** provides the amended turbine coordinates and specifications for the proposed development (only the coordinates for Turbine No.7 have changed from what was presented in the EIA Report – these have been highlighted green in **Table 3-1** below).

**Table 3-1: Turbine Coordinates and Specifications**

Turbine No.	Easting	Northing	Hub Height	Tip height	Rotor Diameter
T1	288041	960971	83.4m	149.9m	133m
T2	287925	960642	83.4m	149.9m	133m
T3	287835	960291	83.4m	149.9m	133m
T4	287802	960002	83.4m	149.9m	133m
T5	287822	959704	83.4m	149.9m	133m
T6	287828	959426	83.4m	149.9m	133m
T7	287885	959140	83.4m	149.9m	133m
T8	287915	958740	83.4m	149.9m	133m
T9	287934	958463	83.4m	149.9m	133m
T10	287934	958170	83.4m	149.9m	133m
T11	287934	957909	83.4m	149.9m	133m

- 3.10 **SEI Figure 2.10** and **SEI Figure 2.11** show the amended Turbine No.7 location in relation to habitats and peat depth respectively.
- 3.11 **SEI Chapters 7 to 15** consider the relocation of Turbine No.7, and if there are any changes to the effects as predicted in the EIA Report.

### AMENDING TRACK ROUTE TO TURBINES NO.5 – 11

- 3.12 Due to reasons outlined in **SEI Chapter 2**, the route of the proposed track to Turbines No.5 – 11 has been amended. The amended track layout proposed is shown on **SEI Figure 3.1**.
- 3.13 **Table 3-2** details the changes in terms of overall proposed track length and the amount of track to be floated, when comparing the previous and amended track layouts.

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**Table 3-2: Proposed Track Length Comparison**

Previous Length of Track Proposed <sup>1</sup>		Amended Length of Track Proposed	
Upgraded Track	2.03km	Upgraded Track	2.03km
New Track	5.48km	New Track	5.47km
Floated Track	446.95m	Floated Track	536.97m
<b>Total New and Upgraded Track</b>	<b>7.51km</b>	<b>Total New and Upgraded Track</b>	<b>7.50km</b>

- 3.14 The amended track alignment to Turbines No.5 – 11, is shown in **SEI Figures 2.13 to 2.16**, in relation to NVC / Phase 1 habitats, peat depth, slope and forestry.
- 3.15 **SEI Chapters 7 to 15** consider the amended track alignment to Turbines No.5 – 11, and if there are any changes to the effects as predicted in the EIA Report.

### FORESTRY

- 3.16 Scottish Forestry responded to the Kirkton Energy Park application consultation, requesting further detail on the proposed compensatory planting associated with the proposed development.
- 3.17 **Table 3-3** details the relevant consultee responses from NatureScot and SEPA.

**Table 3-3: Scottish Forestry Consultation Response**

Consultee	Date	Consultee Response
Scottish Forestry	21 March 2023	<p>Scottish Government’s policy on control of woodland; implementation guidance. <a href="https://forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations/control-of-woodland-removal">https://forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations/control-of-woodland-removal</a> advises that when planning conditions and agreements are used to mitigate the environmental impacts arising from development, proposed compensatory planting must be fully explained and conditioned within the planning approval and should not be left to post-consent agreements.</p> <p>Details of the proposed on-site and off-site mitigation measures must be referenced in the conditions of the planning consent. This includes the location, size and timing of the off-site compensatory planting and must flesh out all the details of the proposed planting, including its maintenance over the entire life-span of the development.</p>

<sup>1</sup> As per EIA Report

## SEI DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT 3

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- 3.18 In order to address the consultee response detailed in **Table 3-3**, **SEI Figure 3.13** has been produced to show indicative compensatory planting. Whilst the areas for compensatory planting shown in **SEI Figure 3.13** are indicative only, the aim of the Figure is to show that it is possible to achieve the required 13.28ha of compensatory planting within the application boundary of the proposed development (including avoiding constraints e.g. deep peat).
- 3.19 The applicant has an agreement in place with the landowner to allow for 13.28ha of compensatory planting within the application boundary of the proposed development.
- 3.20 It is proposed that the compensatory planting would take place following the completion of the construction works.
- 3.21 **Technical Appendix 3.2: Forestry** as submitted with the EIA Report remains unchanged and valid. A summary of the main principles as detailed in **Technical Appendix 3.2** are as follows:
- the felling of 70.75ha of commercial forest at Kirkton Plantation;
  - the felling of 3.58ha of native woodland to accommodate construction of the energy park and associated infrastructure and Habitat Management Plan; and
  - compensatory planting extending to approximately 13.28ha of native woodland.
- 3.22 Compensatory Planting for the entire Kirkton Plantation area of 70.75ha is not considered appropriate due to the ecological benefits delivered through felling, however 9.7ha of the plantation are considered to be outwith the holdback area where felling would provide benefits to the Caithness and Sutherland Special Protection Area (SPA). While these 9.7ha are considered to be capable of being restocked under current guidelines, such restocking is considered to be potentially detrimental to adjacent habitat enhancement operations. Therefore, the area of 9.7ha of woodland beyond the holdback from the SPA will not be restocked but will be compensatory planted by native woodland in the Kirkton Farm area, to strengthen the existing native woodland habitat network.
- 3.23 When this area, 9.7ha, is added to the 3.58ha of native woodland to be felled in order to accommodate construction of the energy park, the figure of 13.28ha of compensatory planting is arrived at.

### REFERENCES

The Scottish Forestry Commission (2009). The Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal.