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## Introduction

- 6.1 **Chapter 6: Scoping and Consultation**, of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report sets out the Scoping process that was 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.
- 6.2 The following Technical Appendices associated with **Chapter 6** of the EIA Report remain valid:
- **Technical Appendix 6.1: Scoping Response Comments.**

## Post Submission Consultee Responses

- 6.3 Since submission of the application in August 2023, responses have been received from consultees on various aspects of the Proposed Development. Where required, responses have been issued (prior to this Supplementary Environmental Information (SEI) Report) to the relevant consultees in order to address questions and concerns. Where considered appropriate, consultee responses have been included and addressed within the relevant chapters of this SEI Report (**SEI Chapters 7 to 15**).
- 6.4 As noted in **SEI Chapter 1** and **SEI Chapter 2**, this SEI Report has primarily been produced in order to address consultee comments from The Highland Council (THC), NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). The consultee responses that have resulted in the production of this SEI Report are detailed in **Table 6-1**.

**Table 6-1: Post Submission Key Consultee Comments**

| Consultee  | Summary of Consultee Response   | Where Addressed in this SEI   |
|------------|---|---|
| NatureScot | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vantage Point Data<br/>Requested an additional year of vantage point survey to cover Turbine 1 (T1) and Turbine 2 (T2) due to perceived gaps in data collection. The Applicant obtained additional data from the adjacent Edinbane Repowering Wind Farm collected in 2023 to 2024 to supplement the data gathered and presented in the EIA Report; and NatureScot confirmed that the Applicant has now demonstrated that there is sufficient recent vantage point data covering T1 and T2.</li> <li>• Removal of T1<br/>Advised that removing T1 would be likely to significantly reduce the collision risk from the Proposed Development.</li> <li>• Collision Risk Modelling<br/>The Collision Risk Modelling should be updated for any redesign of the Proposed Development.</li> <li>• Cumulative Development Update<br/>Recommend that the cumulative assessment is updated to reflect the most up to date development footprints of all proposed wind farms. In relation to white-tailed eagle and golden eagle this includes all wind farms in NHZ6.</li> </ul> | <p><b>SEI Chapter 9: Ornithology</b></p> <p><b>SEI Chapter 2: Site Design</b></p> <p><b>SEI Chapter 9: Ornithology</b><br/><b>Confidential SEI TA9.3: Collision Risk Modelling Update</b></p> |

| Consultee | Summary of Consultee Response   | Where Addressed in this SEI   |
|-----------|---|---|
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protected Species Survey</li> </ul> <p>Recommend that any areas proposed for habitat restoration or enhancement are covered by appropriate survey and assessment for protected species and breeding and roosting birds, including Schedule 1 birds.</p> <p>It was agreed (with NatureScot and THC) during further discussions that these surveys could be undertaken prior to construction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bats</li> </ul> <p>Recommend pitching the turbine blades out of the wind ("feathering") to reduce rotation speeds below 2rpm while idling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat Management Plan (HMP)</li> </ul> <p>Recommend that a revised HMP is submitted which includes additional areas of peatland restoration and enhancement to be in line with NatureScot's guidance<sup>1</sup>.</p>   | <p><b>SEI Chapter 8: Ecology</b></p> <p><b>SEI TA8.5: OHMP Update</b></p>   |
| RSPB      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cumulative Update</li> </ul> <p>Request a revised cumulative assessment for both eagle species to include the Ben Aketil Repowering and Extension and Glen Ullinish II Wind Farms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population Viability Analysis</li> </ul> <p>Request a Population Viability Analysis for both eagle species to be undertaken by calculating and presenting both the counterfactual of population growth rate and population size metrics after 10 years of operation, alongside those after 40 years (in a model without density dependence).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Golden Eagles</li> </ul> <p>Request that information on Golden Eagle nest locations should be requested from the Ben Aketil developer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation</li> </ul> <p>Request that further mitigation is committed to for eagle species and consider the reduction in turbine numbers. Consider removal of T1/T2 or T3/T5.</p> <p>Consider further ways to reduce collision risk, for example, painting a blade black on each turbine and monitor, as per recent research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat Management Plan (HMP)</li> </ul> <p>Revise the Outline HMP to include actions to provide foraging habitat away from the proposed turbine array.</p> | <p><b>SEI Chapter 9: Ornithology</b></p> <p><b>Confidential SEI TA9.3: Collision Risk Modelling Update</b></p> <p><b>SEI TA8.5: OHMP Update</b></p> |
| SEPA      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peat Survey</li> </ul> <p>Initially objected due to lack of information on peat and peatland. Requested additional peat probing in the following areas:</p>  | <b>SEI Chapter 2: Site Design</b>   |

<sup>1</sup> NatureScot (2023). Advising on peatland, carbon-rich soils and priority peatland habitats in development management, Published: June 2023, Revised November 2023.

| Consultee | Summary of Consultee Response  | Where Addressed in this SEI  |
|-----------|--|--|
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed Track Alignment A2</li> <li>The track north of T5</li> <li>The turning spur south of T5</li> <li>The track north of T8</li> <li>The track spur to the Met Mast</li> <li>Location of Met Mast</li> </ul> <p>Amendments to Track Alignment and Infrastructure</p> <p>Requested the following track and infrastructure alignments are rearranged if possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crane hardstanding for T7</li> <li>Turbine infrastructure for T10</li> </ul> <p>Noted that track Option A was preferred due to the shorter length of track resulting in less peat disturbance. Requested reconsideration of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A track directly to T1 with a spur to the substation/BP4 area.</li> <li>A track directly from T1 to T2 and repositioning of BP1.</li> <li>Removal of the spur track to T3, T6, T5 and T9 and include infrastructure on main track.</li> </ul> <p>Requested confirmation of any floating track.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peatland Condition</li> </ul> <p>Requested peatland condition maps to be presented demonstrating how the layout has avoided any areas of near natural habitat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Substation Relocation to Borrow Pit 3</li> </ul> <p>No additional peat probing required in this area prior to determination. Generally, this is considered to be a better option than locating the substation in an alternative undisturbed area. The PMP should be updated to account for the change.</p> | <p><b>SEI Chapter 3: Description of the Development</b></p> <p><b>SEI Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Soils</b></p> <p><b>Annex 10.2A</b> of the outline PMP has been updated as part of the SEI Report and is presented in <b>SEI Annex 10.2A</b>.</p> <p><b>SEI Figure 8.3: Peatland Condition</b></p> <p><b>SEI Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Soils</b></p> <p><b>Annex 10.2A</b> of the outline PMP has been updated as part of the SEI Report and is presented in <b>SEI Annex 10.2A</b>.</p> |
| THC       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design Review</li> </ul> <p>THC requested a review of the location of T3, T5 and T8 due to their more elevated positioning within the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application Boundary</li> </ul> <p>Requested that the application boundary is widened between the existing Ben Aketil Wind Farm access track and the Proposed Development site to ensure that access can be achieved to the site, either via the alignment of the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm track (the 'proposed link') or via the proposed Ben Sca Redesign Wind Farm track.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cumulative Update</li> </ul> <p>Request that the cumulative assessment is updated to reflect the most up to date development footprints of all proposed wind</p>  | <p><b>SEI Chapter 2: Site Design</b></p> <p><b>SEI Chapters 1 to 16</b></p> <p><b>SEI Chapter 5: EIA</b></p> <p><b>SEI Chapters 7 to 15 as appropriate.</b></p>  |

| Consultee | Summary of Consultee Response  | Where Addressed in this SEI  |
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|           | <p>farms in the local vicinity to the site. This should include Glen Ullinish II, Ben Aketil Repowering and Extension and Edinbane Repowering.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SEI Report</li></ul> <p>Requested a SEI for the Balmeanach Wind Farm application and a separate cumulative assessment of Balmeanach and Ben Sca Redesign Wind Farms, focusing on the combined effects of both wind farms should they both be consented and built.</p> | <b>SEI Volume 5:<br/>Combined<br/>Assessment of<br/>Balmeanach and Ben<br/>Sca Redesign Wind<br/>Farms</b> |