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Cowal and Trossachs District Wind Farm - Bachan Burn

Electricity Act 1989 - S36 Application to Scottish Government Local Energy Consents Unit: Gatecheck Report

Prepared by LUC
July 2016

Project Title: Cowal and Trossachs District Wind Farm - Bachan Burn: Gatecheck Report

Client: Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners

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Planning & EIA
Design
Landscape Planning
Landscape Management
Ecology
Mapping & Visualisation

LUC GLASGOW
37 Otago Street
Glasgow
G12 8JJ
T +44 (0)141 334 9595
glasgow@landuse.co.uk

Offices also in:
London
Bristol
Edinburgh



FS 566056 EMS 566057

Land Use Consultants Ltd
Registered in England
Registered number: 2549296
Registered Office:
43 Chalton Street
London NW1 1JD
LUC uses 100% recycled paper

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners (hereafter referred to as 'Brookfield') will seek consent from Scottish Ministers under Section 36 of the Electricity Act (1989) for the construction and operation of the Cowal and Trossachs District Wind Farm - Bachan Burn (hereafter referred to as 'the Development'). An application for deemed planning permission under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended by The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006) will also be submitted.
- 1.2 The Development, for 17 wind turbines, is located to the west of the A815 road, near the town of Dunoon. The site is situated on the spine of the Cowal Peninsula above the Firth of Clyde and extends across an undulating plateau encompassing Corlarach, Garrowchorran and several other hills, as shown on **Figure 1.1**. The proposed windfarm layout is shown on **Figure 1.2**.
- 1.3 This report has been prepared on behalf of Brookfield by LUC, planning and environmental advisors to the project, as part of the Gatecheck procedure for applications under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989.
- 1.4 The potential for construction of a wind farm at the site was previously explored by West Coast Energy Ltd. A planning application was submitted to Argyll and Bute Council in April 2007 and refused in February 2008. Following a Public Inquiry in January 2009, the Council's decision was upheld.
- 1.5 This report highlights how the Development proposal has progressed from the Pre-Scoping layout of 25 turbines in July 2012, to the formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping process for a 20 turbine scheme in November 2013, culminating in the application layout of 17 turbines. It gives details of the iterations that have been made to the Development's design, and provides information on the level of consultation that has taken place, including public engagement. In addition, the report details the issues raised by consultees during the EIA Scoping process and how these issues are being addressed in the EIA. The report also provides a timeline for submission of the application and includes a proposed consultee list and proposed locations for public viewing of the Environmental Statement (ES).
- 1.6 It is understood that the Scottish Government's Local Energy Consents Unit (LECU) will issue this report to statutory consultees to seek their views on the nature of the work which has been undertaken to date. This will provide the opportunity for statutory consultees to formally comment on the level of interaction and consultation that has been undertaken with the developer and the proposed approach to addressing key consultation issues. The report will also familiarise the case officer with the detail of the application prior to submission, and will help to identify any issues which may arise during the application consultation period.
- 1.7 Brookfield understands that prior to submission of the application, a meeting, or correspondence with the project case officer will be required as part of the Gatecheck procedure. This will include representatives from Brookfield and LUC, and will provide the opportunity for the final ES and other relevant documents to be discussed, as well as a list of the documents to be submitted with the application. Publication and submission arrangements will also be agreed at this time.

2 Interaction with Consultees and Public Engagement

EIA Scoping

- 2.1 To determine which aspects of the Development are likely to give rise to significant environmental effects and to inform the content of the ES, a Scoping Report and an accompanying request for a Scoping Opinion were submitted to the Scottish Government by LUC in November 2013. The Report identified all aspects of the Development of potential environmental significance and highlighted the key environmental effects proposed for consideration in the ES.
- 2.2 The Scoping Opinion for the Development was provided by the Scottish Government on 15th April 2014. The Scoping Opinion also included an Annex detailing consultee comments relating specifically to the proposed Development.
- 2.3 In addition to the consultees contacted by the Scottish Government during the formal scoping process, a number of other stakeholders were contacted to obtain background information to further inform the EIA and allow them the opportunity to raise any concerns that they might have in relation to the Development.
- 2.4 Since the Scoping process, further survey and design work has been undertaken which has resulted in changes to the layout, and the reduction in the number of turbines now proposed (from 20 turbines to 17). These design iterations are set out in **Chapter 3** below.
- 2.5 The key issues raised by the consultees during the formal Scoping process are summarised in **Table 2.1** below. Additionally, the ways in which these issues have been addressed during the design process and subsequent assessment have also been provided.

Table 2.1: Consultee Responses to Scoping

Consultee	Topic (if stated)	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
Argyll & Bute Council	Introduction and Background	Suggested that the 'Argyll & Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study' (March, 2012) is given consideration.	To be considered in Chapter 6 of the ES (Landscape and Visual Amenity).
	Site Selection and Rationale	An outline of main alternatives, in terms of site selection, site layout and other design considerations should be included in the ES, along with reasons for choosing selected option.	To be included in Chapter 3 (Site Selection and Design Strategy).
		The principles adopted in the design process could take the form of a Design Statement as advocated in PAN 68.	A Design and Access Statement to be prepared.
		The ES should include the location of all built elements.	To be included in Chapter 4 (Scheme Description) and accompanying figures.
	Proposed Development	The ES should address construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the development.	The ES will consider all phases of the development, as relevant to the topic being assessed. Descriptions of the proposed works within construction , operation and decommissioning will be contained within Chapter 4 (scheme description)
	Landscape and Visual Impact	A cumulative impact assessment should be undertaken, taking into account turbines in a 60km radius. A more detailed analysis should be done of those within 30km (as recommended by SNH). Argyll & Bute Council have provided a list of wind farm proposals within 60km which they recommend including in the cumulative LVIA.	Cumulative sites have been finalised utilising an iterative approach, plotting sites at a 60 km radius and then focussing on only those sites which are considered likely to result in cumulative impacts in combination with the Proposed Development.
		A comprehensive list of operational wind farms in the area should be agreed with adjacent Local Authorities (LA).	We have included this process as per the above method.
		Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTVs) should extend to a minimum 30km radius and encompass main transport routes and settlements surrounding the site, key recreational assets, and views towards the site from the sea.	To be included in Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual Amenity).
		Recommended that 'Visual Representation of Windfarms: Good Practice Guidance' (SNH, 2007) is consulted for advice on appropriate methodology.	The updated version, Visual Representation of Wind farms (December, 2014) has been utilised in the approach to LVIA.
		Consequences of the development for landscape character should be assessed and detailed in a 'Landscape Character Assessment'.	To be included in Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual Amenity).
		During the assessment of impacts 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Assessment' (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2002), 'Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde' (SNH Review No. 78, Environmental Resources Management 1996) and the 'Argyll & Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study' (March, 2012) should also be consulted.	The updated version of 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Assessment' (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013) will be considered, alongside the other documents in Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual Amenity).
	Ornithology	The ES should include an assessment which addresses the presence of EC Bird Directive Annex 1 species and other species of conservation concern.	To be considered in Chapter 9 (Ornithology).
Survey work should be carried out over a minimum 12 month period as stated in the guidance 'Survey Methods for use in assessing the impact of onshore windfarms on bird communities'		Guidance will be referred to within Chapter 9 (Ornithology).	

Consultee	Topic (if stated)	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
		(SNH, 2005).	
	Ecology	A Phase 1 Habitat Survey and a vegetation study of National Vegetation Classification (NVC) level should be carried out.	This has been undertaken with the results utilised within Chapter 8 (ecology).
		The ES should attribute significance to the site in terms of European Protected Species.	To be considered in Chapter 8 (Ecology).
		Mitigation measures, including off-site habitat enhancement should be considered within the ES.	To be considered in Chapter 8 (Ecology).
	Hydrology and Soil Impact	The ES should consider hydrology and the potential impacts of drainage from the development area.	To be considered in Chapter 7 (Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat).
		Watercourses, groundwater abstractions and private springs should be avoided and private water supplies should not be adversely affected.	To be considered in Chapter 7 (Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat).
		The ES should address the sensitivity of the soil and environment damage arising from activity on the site.	To be considered in Chapter 7 (Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat).
		A Peat Slide Risk Assessment is required if areas of deep peat are encountered. Areas of peat should be mapped and assessed for depth and condition.	A PSRA has been carried out and this will be appended to the ES.
		A Construction Environmental Management Document (CEMP) is required.	The proposed development will be constructed in accordance with a site Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and relevant Construction Method Statement (CMS), the content of which will be agreed with Argyll & Bute Council and relevant statutory bodies in advance of work commencing on site.
	Waste	A Site Waste Management Plan should be prepared.	The content of any CEMP will adhere to the principles of waste management on site and where waste is identified, appropriate waste disposal practices will be identified. Systems employed will conform to all appropriate waste management regulatory controls and adhere to the SEPA 'Waste Hierarchy'.
	Archaeology, Built & Cultural Heritage	The ES should identify the locations of any heritage assets and consider the impact upon the landscape setting of heritage assets within the zone of visual influence of the development.	To be included in Chapter 11 (Cultural Heritage).
		Wireframe illustrations must be provided in cases where predicted impacts are likely to be adverse.	To be included in Chapter 11 (Cultural Heritage).
		Heritage legislation, including PAN 2/2011 (which is not mentioned in the Scoping Report) and the Council's own Development Plans policies should be taken into account.	To be considered in Chapter 11 (Cultural Heritage).
		WoSAS raised concern as the Scoping Report states ' <i>given the forested nature of the site, no on-site field work will be undertaken</i> '. This should be reconsidered and addressed during the EIA process.	A site walkover has been conducted and where reasonably practicable has investigated the Archaeology, Built & Cultural Heritage Baseline, which will be reflected in Chapter 11 (Cultural Heritage).
	Tourism, Recreation and Countryside Access	The ES should address the impact of the development on users of the countryside and tourism interest.	To be considered in Chapter 13 (Socio Economics, Tourism, Recreation and Land Use). A supporting Tourism Study and Action Plan has also been

Consultee	Topic (if stated)	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
			undertaken.
	Transport and Access	Issues considered within the ES should include off site impacts for the road network in terms of delivery routes and the transportation of abnormal loads.	To be considered in Chapter 12 (Access, Traffic and Transport). An Access Study has been carried out.
		A plan showing the proposed traffic routes, a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) and a detailed Method Statement should be provided.	Outline TMP mitigation measures to be included in Chapter 12 (Access, Traffic and Transport).
	Public Safety & Amenity	The ES should assess the impacts of noise, shadow flicker, air quality, lighting and private water supplies on surrounding residential properties.	These impacts will be considered in the relevant chapters (Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration, Chapter 7: Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat and Chapter 14: Other Considerations).
	Noise	Noise monitoring locations and methodologies should be agreed with the Council's Environmental Health Officer (EHO).	Locations agreed with EHO prior to background monitoring which has been completed. Results will be included in Chapter 10 (Noise and Vibration).
	Air Quality	If air quality is likely to be impacted upon then a Construction Management Plan should be prepared, taking into account the Scottish Executive Guidance Note ' <i>Controlling Light Pollution and Reducing Light Energy Consumption</i> '.	We note that the Scottish Executive Guidance Note ' <i>Controlling Light Pollution and Reducing Light Energy Consumption</i> ' is not relevant to Air quality however; we will refer to relevant Air Quality guidance as relevant. Air Quality impacts during construction to be considered in Chapter 14(Other Considerations). The proposed development will be constructed in accordance with a site Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and relevant Construction Method Statement (CMS), the content of which will be agreed with Argyll & Bute Council and relevant statutory bodies in advance of work commencing on site.
	Aviation	Military and civil aviation and potential impacts on radar should be assessed and included in the ES.	Details of relevant consultation to be included in Chapter 14 (Other Considerations).
	Telecommunications	Details are provided on the consultees who should be consulted to inform the EIA.	Details to be included in Chapter 14 (Other Considerations).
	Decommissioning	The environmental impact of decommissioning should be considered and included in the ES.	A brief description of the proposed decommissioning work will be provided in Chapter 4 (Scheme Description) and a decommissioning method statement will be prepared and agreed with the relevant statutory consultees prior to decommissioning of the site.
	Infrastructure	Consideration should be given within the ES of connection to the National Grid.	Information will be included in Chapter 4 (Scheme Description), although a separate application will be made relating to the grid connection.
		The borrow pits should be considered as part of the EIA process and detailed in the ES.	Borrow pit details will be included in Chapter 4 (Scheme Description) and then appraised in topic chapter where relevant.

Consultee	Topic (if stated)	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
	Further Advice	The ES should quantify the contribution which the development will make towards the attainment of national renewable energy generation targets.	This information will be included within the introductory sections of the Environmental Statement.
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park (LLTNP)	Policy Context	Provides a note of policies which should be given consideration during the EIA process.	Relevant policies to be set out in Chapter 5 (Planning and Legislative Context).
	Landscape Character	The ES should contain a review of the character of the landscapes adjacent to the boundaries of LLTNP. Recommended that the seascape character of the area and its importance to the marine gateway to LLTNP are reviewed.	To be considered in Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual Amenity).
	Relative Wildness Study	A review of the conclusions of the National Park's 'Relative Wildness Study' should be included.	To be considered in Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual Amenity).
	Landscape and Visual	The methodology should be consistent with the approach outlined in the GLVIA third Edition (2013).	LVIA methodology will be consistent with GLVIA 3 rd Edition.
		It is requested that single frame images using a 50mm lens be supplied for the viewpoints in LLTNP.	Image format agreed with SNH and Argyll and Bute Council.
		Additional viewpoints are recommended to represent views from the National Park.	Viewpoints list finalised in consultation with statutory consultees.
SEPA	Introductory	Listed key issues which should be addressed. Justification for the scoping out of topics must be set out within the ES.	Key issues raised will be addressed and justification for scoping out topics will be set out in the ES.
		SEPA would welcome the opportunity to comment on a draft of the ES.	Consultation expected to be ongoing with SEPA.
	Carbon Balance	The ES should contain a section which systematically assesses the carbon balance.	A carbon balance assessment will be carried out and reported in Chapter 14: Other Issues.
		In order for the carbon balance assessment for Section 36 wind farm applications to be validated all input data, assumptions and workings need to be provided on an Excel spreadsheet within one dedicated section of the ES.	Carbon balance assessment will be presented as requested.
	Disruption to Wetlands Including Peatlands	The ES should show how the layout and design of the proposal will avoid impact on wetlands or peatland systems present.	A survey of Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTEs) has been carried out and the design rationale in relation to these will be provided in Chapter 7 (Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat).
		A Phase 1 should be carried out and a NVC for any wetlands identified. Results, including a map clearly showing areas of impact should be included in the ES.	Extended Phase 1 and NVC surveys were undertaken and are described in Technical Appendices 8.1 and 8.2 respectively. The results are mapped on Figures 8.2 and 8.3 respectively.
		Infrastructure should not be within 100m of an area of GWDTEs and borrow pits should not be within 250m of the same. If these buffers cannot be adhered to then the full impact on ecosystems to be assessed. The results and mitigation measures should be included in the ES.	Assessment and mitigation associated with GWDTEs will be considered in Chapter 7 (Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat).
		Detailed information on waste management is required and should be detailed within the Construction Environmental Management Document (CEMP).	The content of any CEMP will adhere to the principles of waste management on site and where waste is identified, appropriate waste disposal practices will be identified. Systems employed will conform to all appropriate waste

Consultee	Topic (if stated)	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
			management regulatory controls and adhere to the SEPA 'Waste Hierarchy'.
	Disturbance and Re-use of Excavated Peat	The ES should include a Peat Management Plan, outlining how any surplus peat will be managed within the site.	Outline Peat Management Plan to be included in Chapter 7 (Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat).
		The disturbing of peat should be minimised where possible.	This forms part of the design criteria.
		If it is proposed to use some excavated peat within borrow pits or bunding then details should be outlined in the ES.	This will be considered in the Outline Peat Management Plan to be included in Chapter 7 (Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat).
	Forest Removal and Forest Waste	'Key holing' is the preferred option for the site, however SEPA would be supportive of felling in areas where planting previously took place on deep peat.	Noted.
		A Habitat Management Plan, specifically referencing the reinstatement of peat-forming habitats should be included in the ES.	An outline Habitat Management Plan (HMP) is provided in Technical Appendix 8.9. The HMP will be finalised and then approved with the Local Authority and SNH prior to construction commencement.
		The ES should explain how the SEPA waste hierarchy has been applied in a way which delivers the best overall environmental outcome.	The content of any CEMP will adhere to the principles of waste management on site and where waste is identified, appropriate waste disposal practices will be identified. Systems employed will conform to all appropriate waste management regulatory controls and adhere to the SEPA 'Waste Hierarchy'.
	Existing Groundwater Abstractions	Details on groundwater abstractions within and outwith the site boundary, (within a radius of 100m from roads, tracks and trenches and 250m from borrow pits and foundations) should be provided.	Details will be provided in Chapter 7 (Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat).
	Engineering Activities in the Water Environment	Engineering activities in the water environment should be avoided wherever possible.	This forms part of the design criteria.
		If works proposed are likely to increase the flood risk then a Flood Risk Assessment must be undertaken.	No increase in flood risk is anticipated and consequently a Flood Risk Assessment is not required.
		A site survey of existing water features and a map of locations of all proposed engineering activities in the water environment should be included along with justification and proposed mitigation measures. A photograph of each affected water body along with its dimensions should also be included.	Details will be provided in Chapter 7 (Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat).
	Water Abstraction	If water abstraction is proposed the ES should detail if a public or private source will be used.	Water abstracting is not a project requirement; therefore this issue is not relevant.
		It may be necessary to assess the cumulative impact upon the water environment, depending on other developments present within the catchment area.	Cumulative effects will be considered in Chapter 7 (Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat).
	Pollution Prevention and Environmental Management	Potential pollution risks and preventative measures and mitigation should be identified. A draft Schedule of Mitigation should be produced which will form the basis of the Construction Environmental Management Plan.	Details, including clear mitigation measures will be described in Chapter 7 (Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat).
		Reference should be made to the best practice advice 'Good Practice During Windfarm Construction'. The Highland Council guidance note 'Construction Environmental Management	This guidance will be considered during the design

Consultee	Topic (if stated)	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
		<i>Process for Large Scale Projects'</i> should also be considered.	and assessment process.
	Borrow Pits	The impact of such facilities, including dust, blasting and impact on water, should be contained in the ES.	Borrow pits will be discussed in Chapter 4 (Scheme Description). A more detailed Borrow pit report would be proposed alongside a Construction Method Statement.
		Where borrow pits are proposed information regarding their location, size and nature should be included.	Borrow pits will be discussed in Chapter 4 (Scheme Description). A more detailed Borrow pit report would be proposed alongside a Construction Method Statement.
		Reference should be made to Planning Advice Note PAN 50 Controlling the Environmental Effects of Surface Mineral Workings.	Borrow pits will be discussed in Chapter 4 (Scheme Description). A more detailed Borrow pit report would be proposed alongside a Construction Method Statement.
	Flood Risk	The site should be assessed for flood risk from all sources in line with Scottish Planning Policy.	No flood risk has been identified.
		If a flood risk is identified then a Flood Risk Assessment should be carried out in line with SEPA guidance.	A Flood Risk Assessment is not deemed necessary.
SNH	Ornithology	It is advised that FCS is consulted on nearby Forest Management Plans.	FCS has been consulted in relation to the project proposal.
	Ecology	SNH recommend that a wildcat survey is carried out. It is also recommended that the geographical scope of the otter survey is informed by SNH guidance.	Wildcat, otter and other protected species surveys have been carried out. The methods and results are provided in Technical Appendix 8.4.
	Landscape and Visual	Consideration of alternatives, the evolution of the selected design and the issue of scale should be fully addressed within the ES.	This information will be included in Chapter 3 (Site Selection and Design Strategy).
		Impacts on the setting of LLTNP and the transition to the Highlands should be fully assessed.	To be considered in Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual Amenity).
		Cumulative issues need to be given careful consideration, with proposal design taking in to account turbine size, layout and relationship with key landscape characteristics.	To be considered in Chapter 3 (Site Selection and Design Strategy) and Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual Amenity).
		Provides list of guidance which should be referred to throughout the LVIA process.	To be considered in Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual Amenity).
		SNH identifies key issues which should be addressed within the ES. These include the proximity to highly sensitive coastal locations, the impact on the distinctive profile of Cowal and the potential for the scheme to impact on wild land character.	To be considered in Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual Amenity).
		The study area for the LVIA should extend to a radius of 35 km.	A 35km study area has been adopted for the assessment.
		A Design Statement should be included in the ES in accordance with SNH guidance.	This information will be included in Chapter 3 (Site Selection and Design Strategy)
		The LVIA should take account of the ' <i>Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde</i> ' SNH Review No. 78, Environmental Resources Management 1996.	To be considered in Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual Amenity).
Direct impacts on the physical landscape features of the site should be described and assessed.	To be considered in Chapter 6 (Landscape and		

Consultee	Topic (if stated)	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
			Visual Amenity).
		All visualisations, ZTVs etc. should be in accordance with the 'Visual Representation of Wind Farms Good Practice Guidance', 2006.	The updated version of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Assessment' (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013) will be considered, alongside the other documents in Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual Amenity).
		Key road and ferry routes, and long distance routes such as the National Cycle Routes, Cowal Way etc. should form part of the consideration of cumulative impacts on key routes to be included within the ES.	To be considered in Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual Amenity).
	Cumulative Landscape and Visual Assessment	SNH note 'Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments' (March 2012) should be followed.	To be considered in Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual Amenity).
		The cumulative LVIA should include, and distinguish between the following, as defined in the guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative landscape effects. • Cumulative visual effects. • Static combined effects. • Static successive effects. • Sequential effects. Routes to be assessed should be selected and verified following consideration of the cumulative ZTVs. 	To be considered in Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual Amenity).
	Effects on Valued and Designated Landscapes	Assessment should be included, of potential impacts on the qualities/ integrity for which each of these areas are designated or valued: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LLTNP • National Scenic Areas • Search Area for Wild Land/ Core Area for Wild Land • Area of Panoramic Quality • Regional Parks and Scenic Areas • Gardens and Designed Landscapes 	To be considered in Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual Amenity).
	Associated Infrastructure and Offsite Development	If aviation obstruction lighting is installed to turbines, its visual impact at night will have to be assessed in the ES.	All Aviation consultation will be captured within Chapter 14 (Other Considerations). It is noted that Aviation lighting is not often required for turbines below 150 m.
	Method Statement	The EIA should include a Method Statement for all infrastructures, including any borrow pits and track construction.	A description of all infrastructure will be included in Chapter 4 (Scheme Description).
	Forestry and Woodlands	Reference should be made to the 'Control of Woodland Removal Policy' and FC documents on good forestry practice.	To be considered within Chapter 4: Scheme Description and related forestry appendices.
	Format of ES	SNH require 4 copies of the ES (including confidential annexes) on CD (with file sizes of less than 10MB per pdf), plus a full duplicate hard copy.	Noted.
Forestry Commission	Policy Context	Consideration should be given to the Scottish Government's aim to decrease the loss of existing woodland and create further opportunities for expansion.	To be considered within Chapter 4: Scheme Description and related forestry appendices.
	Climate Change	Proposed mitigation (either compensatory planting and or other restorable habitats) should be considered in terms of its social, economic and environmental value.	To be considered within Chapter 4: Scheme Description and related forestry appendices.
		An assessment should be carried out on the implications of the wind farm on water, soil and air resources.	To be considered within Chapters 7 (Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat) and 14 (other considerations)

Consultee	Topic (if stated)	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
		The UKFS Forests & Water Guidelines, and pollution regulations related to the safeguarding of water quality, should be adhered to.	To be considered within Chapter 4: Scheme Description and Chapter 7 (Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat).
	Felling and Retention	The ES should recognise the social, economic and environmental values of the forest and the woodland habitat.	To be considered within Chapter 4: Scheme Description and related forestry appendices.
		The ES should clearly indicate proposed areas of woodland for felling. The proposed scale and phasing of felling must be supported and design approaches which reduce the scale of felling required should be considered.	To be considered within Chapter 4: Scheme Description and related forestry appendices.
		The ES should describe any change of land use in detail.	To be considered within Chapter 4: Scheme Description.
		If proposed to install turbines into a forested area (including keyholing), a full description of the topography of the site is necessary.	To be considered within Chapter 4: Scheme Description and related forestry appendices.
		If timber is to be disposed of on site the methodology for this should be clearly indicated.	To be considered within Chapter 4: Scheme Description and related forestry appendices.
	Landscape and Visual Assessment	A description of the landscape character and a statement of the landscape and visual sensitivities that may be affected by the proposed development should be included. An assessment of the cumulative landscape and visual impacts should also be carried out.	This will be included in Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual Amenity).
		The 'Guidelines for LVIA' (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, third edition, Routledge, 2013) should be followed.	GLVIA 3 rd Edition will be followed.
	Biodiversity and Priority Habitats	Advised that the ES consider the wildlife implications of any tree felling. Any impacts on the water environment, with particular attention paid to acidification and nutrient leaching should also be assessed.	To be considered in Chapter 7 (Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat) and Chapter 8 (Ecology).
		The ES should contain a detailed assessment of the implications of the wind farm on biodiversity.	To be considered in Chapter 8 (Ecology).
	Historic Environment of Forests and Woodlands	Consideration of the historic environment within ES should include a professional archaeological prospective ('walkover') survey.	A walkover survey has been conducted by qualified archaeologists.
	Management Plan	A long term management plan should be prepared in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.	To be considered within Chapter 4: Scheme Description and related forestry appendices.
	Compensatory Planting Plan	A Compensatory Planting Plan, including the specifics of the proposed mitigation should be included in the ES.	To be considered within Chapter 4: Scheme Description and related forestry appendices.
Historic Scotland	Introductory	Pre application consultation should be undertaken with Historic Scotland.	Consultation with Historic Scotland is ongoing.
		Impacts upon assets and their settings should be detailed.	Impact assessment conclusions will be set out in Chapter 11 (Cultural Heritage).
	Potential Direct Impacts	Advised the direct impact on Creag Bhreac cairn is minimised.	Considered in design development/refinement and will be discussed in Chapter 11 (Cultural Heritage).
	Potential Setting Impacts	Advised the assessment should focus on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creag Bhreac, cairn • Knockamillie Castle 	Features listed will be considered in the cultural heritage assessment and reported in Chapter 11 (Cultural Heritage).

Consultee	Topic (if stated)	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Castle Toward Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape Toward Castle Tollard House, rock carvings Dunoon Castle Dunloskin Wood, platforms Ardnadam, chapel and enclosure Adam's Cave, chambered cairn, Ardnadam 	
	Potential Cumulative Impacts	HS advise that the proposal is considered in conjunction with other wind energy developments in the area.	A cumulative assessment will be undertaken and reported in Chapter 11 (Cultural Heritage).
Marine Scotland	Fish and Fisheries	The ES should consider the impact of the following, on fish and fisheries, during construction, operation and decommissioning: construction of turbine foundations, excavation of borrow pits, road construction/upgrading, cable laying, water abstraction and discharge.	It is assumed that protection of watercourses will be included within the proposals and as a result no impacts upon fish and fisheries are expected.
		Site specific mitigation measures and/or enhancement programmes to protect and/or compensate freshwater habitats should always be included in the ES.	No effects predicted.
		Where local salmonid and eel populations are present and the development has the potential to have an impact on the freshwater environment MSS FL requests that a baseline study be carried out at least one year prior to construction.	No effects predicted.
		Methods of analysis, reporting mechanisms and links to site management should be clearly identified.	No effects predicted.
		If no significant impacts are predicted and no monitoring will be required this should be clearly presented in the ES, along with supporting data and information.	No effects are predicted due to the reasons as stated above, however justification for the exclusion of impact assessment and monitoring will be contained within Chapter 8 (Ecology).
	Hydrology	A buffer zone of at least 50m should be established around water bodies and water courses.	A 50m buffer zone has been established as part of the constraints mapping exercise to inform the design.
		Surface water run off must be discharged in such a way to minimise the risk of pollution to the water environment. SEPA guidance should be referred to.	To be considered in Chapter 7 (Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat).
Peat	The disturbance of peat should be avoided as far as is reasonably possible.	Areas of deeper peat have been avoided as far as possible.	
Transport Scotland	Site Access	The ES should identify the expected Port of delivery for turbine components and provide an assessment of the route to the site in terms of its suitability for the transportation of abnormal loads.	To be considered in Chapter 12 (Access, Traffic and Transport)
	Assessment of Impacts	The ES should provide information with regard to the construction stage including preferred route options for the movement of any heavy loads, an estimate of vehicle trip generation from the site and an indication of distribution/assignment of these trips. The report should also identify potential environmental impacts on the trunk road once the development is operational.	To be considered in Chapter 12 (Access, Traffic and Transport).
		Planning Advice Note 1/2013 should be referred to.	PAN 1/2013 has been taken into consideration.
	Noise and Vibration	The ES should consider potential impacts to identified trunk road receptors, in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predicted noise levels from construction traffic. Any increases to road traffic attributed to the proposed development. 	To be considered in Chapter 10 (Noise and Vibration).

Consultee	Topic (if stated)	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
	Air Quality	The reasons for the scoping out of air quality should be clearly identified in the ES.	Reasons will be set out in the ES.
Association Salmon Fishery Board		Recommend that ASFB guidance is followed throughout the planning, construction and monitoring phases of the proposed development.	Noted.
BT		No response was received.	N/A
CAA Airport		Suggests NATS is consulted in addition to the stakeholders mentioned in the Scoping Report.	All Aviation consultation will be captured within Chapter 14 (Other Considerations). It is noted that Aviation lighting is not often required for turbines below 150 m.
Defence Infrastructure Organisation		If approved the Defence Geographic Centre must be informed of locations, heights and lighting status of turbines and met masts.	Noted.
	Lighting	MoD requests that turbines are fitted with 25 candela omni-directional red lighting or infrared aviation lighting with an optimised flash pattern of 60 flashes per minute of 200ms to 500ms duration.	Noted.
		Defence Infrastructure Organisation Safeguarding requests to be consulted and notified of the progression of planning applications and submissions relating to this proposal to verify that alterations will not adversely affect defence interests.	Noted.
JRC		No problems foreseen.	N/A
NATS		Generic response given.	N/A
RSPB Scotland	Bird and Designated Site Considerations	Advise that the Argyll Raptor Study group should be contacted in relation to data and comments on this proposal.	As part of ongoing consultation the Argyll Raptor Study group have been contacted
	Ornithology	The ES should include a study of bird use for the period surveyed so far and for an additional breeding season. The standard ornithological requirements/techniques outlined by Scottish Natural Heritage Guidance (2013) should be adhered to.	Surveys were conducted following SNH guidance. The methods and results will be reported in the ornithology chapter and supporting technical appendices. Impacts will be assessed in full in Chapter 9 (Ornithology).
		Recommend additional VPs north of the site, looking south, to ensure coverage of sensitive species.	The vantage points are considered to provide good coverage of the areas of development.
		If black grouse are recorded during survey work then lek surveys should be carried out. It is advised that no turbine is located within 500m of a known lek site.	No black grouse were recorded during surveys.
	Access	An assessment of access routes and construction and maintenance tracks is necessary. The grid connection should also be considered in conjunction with the ES.	To be considered in Chapter 4 (Scheme Description) and Chapter 12 (Access, Traffic and Transport).
	Habitat Management/Mitigation	A full survey, impact assessment and proposals for mitigation/enhancement in relation to important habitats and species on this site necessary.	Extended Phase 1 and NVC surveys were undertaken and are described in Technical Appendices 8.1 and 8.2 respectively. Important habitats are assessed in Chapter 8 (Ecology)
A detailed Habitat Management Plan is required.		An Outline Habitat Management Plan (HMP) is provided in Technical Appendix 8.9. The HMP will be finalised and then approved with the Local Authority and SNH prior to construction commencement.	

Consultee	Topic (if stated)	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
		A full assessment of the environmental impacts of any compensatory planting should be presented in the ES.	Noted.
	Cumulative Impacts	An assessment of cumulative bird impacts in relation to other projects (not just wind energy), within this natural heritage zone should be undertaken (SNH guidance ' <i>Assessing the Cumulative Effects of Onshore Wind Energy Developments</i> ').	Cumulative impacts will be assessed at appropriate scales (including NHZ) and in relation to other developments considered likely to contribute to potential cumulative impacts.
Scottish Water		Plans for the site area must be consulted, as there are water mains in the area, and it is advised that the list of precautions provided by Scottish Water is adhered to.	Consultation undertaken as part of the hydrological assessment.
		A detailed Method Statement and Risk Assessment must be submitted to Scottish Water.	This will be provided post-consent.
The Crown Estate		No comment to make.	N/A
Visit Scotland		Any potential detrimental impact of the proposed development on tourism, whether visually, environmentally or economically, should be identified and considered in full within the ES.	A Tourism Study and Action Plan has been produced and will be reported in the ES.
Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board/Argyll Fisheries Trust		Location and design of all stream crossings to be detailed.	To be considered in Chapter 7 (Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat).
Argyll Raptor Study Group		No response received.	N/A
BAA Glasgow		Turbine details to be finalised before a detailed response is made.	Noted.
Glasgow Prestwick Airport		No recommendations.	N/A
John Muir Trust		No response received.	N/A
Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)		Suggest the inclusion of a viewpoint representing the Bishop's Glen path network and a viewpoint on the Greenock or Kelly Cuts, as these historic aqueducts are both promoted by the Heritage Paths project.	Viewpoints representing the Bishop's Glen Path and Greenock Aqueduct have been included within the LVIA.
Scottish Wildlife Trust		No comment made.	N/A
The British Horse Society		No response received.	N/A
West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS)		Planning Advice Note 2/2011, to be included and referred to under relevant heritage legislation.	Considered as part of Chapter 11 (Cultural Heritage).
		Inverclyde Council's Local Plan policies relating to the protection of the historic environment should be taken into account in any assessment.	Considered as part of Chapter 11 (Cultural Heritage).
		A field reconnaissance survey should be conducted, across the whole area of the proposed development.	Field survey conducted.
Inverclyde Council		Raise concerns but do not outline issue for inclusion in ES.	N/A

Pre and Post-Scoping Consultation with Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultees

- 2.7 Meetings have been held with a number of statutory and non-statutory consultees during both the pre and post scoping stages of the project, to inform the consultees of progress with the project, to enable any potential issues or concerns raised by the consultees to be discussed, and to ensure the assessment process is transparent.
- 2.8 Meetings were held with the following (in chronological order):

Table 2.2: Pre Scoping Meetings with Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultees

Date	Attendees
28 th February 2011 12 th May 2011 23 rd June 2011 23 rd August 2011	Hosted by FCS and attended by representatives from Brookfield, SNH and SEPA.
23 rd September 2011	Brookfield and SNH
27 th September 2011	Hosted by FCS and attended by representatives from Brookfield, SNH and SEPA.
22 nd November 2011	Brookfield and Argyll & Bute Council
5 th December 2011 26 th January 2012	Hosted by FCS and attended by representatives from Brookfield, SNH and SEPA.
27 th March 2012	Brookfield and Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Authority
18 th April 2012 12 th July 2012 25 th October 2012 31 st January 2013	Brookfield and FCS
6 th March 2013	Brookfield and Argyll & Bute Council
6 th March 2013	Brookfield and SNH
May 2013	Brookfield and FCS
September 2013	Brookfield and SEPA
October 2013	Brookfield and Energy Consents & Deployment Unit
3 rd October 2013 (Formal pre application advice: 13/02213/PREAPP)	Brookfield and Argyll & Bute Council

Post Scoping Meetings with Statutory and Non Statutory Consultees

- 2.9 Post scoping, a meeting was held with Argyll and Bute Council on 21st August, 2014 in Lochgilphead, to provide the Council with a project update and discuss relevant policy issues. Two meetings have also occurred with local Councillors, one in Lochgilphead on 12th May 2014, and one on 8th August 2014.
- 2.10 Brookfield have also consulted with a number of consultees, including Dunoon Business Improvement District (BID), Bute Community Power and Holy Loch Marina. Further details of these consultations will be provided where appropriate, in the relevant specialist topic assessment chapters of the ES.

Public Engagement

- 2.11 Public consultation has formed a key component of the iterative EIA process. Brookfield has undertaken consultation with the relevant Community Councils and held public information events to allow members of the public to make comments in relation to the Development as part of the pre-application consultation process.
- 2.12 Brookfield held a public 'drop in' session for local residents in Queen's Hall, Dunoon on 2nd October 2013 from 2pm to 8pm. This was advertised via a letter inviting stakeholders to the event.
- 2.13 The first rounds of Public Consultation Exhibitions were held in Queen's Hall, Dunoon on 26th March 2014, from 3pm to 8pm and in Rothesay Pavilion, Rothesay on 27th March 2014, from 11am to 3pm. These events were advertised in the Dunoon Observer and The Buteman, and posters were displayed in appropriate local venues within Dunoon and on Bute. In advance of the public information events, approximately 6,000 households and businesses in the area received a newsletter. In addition the Community Liaison Group (CLG) was notified and the website of the wind farm updated.
- 2.14 Exhibition boards were used to display information about the Development and associated EIA. Brookfield representatives were present at the events to answer any queries and questions from members of the public.
- 2.15 Following a meeting with the event manager on 6th July 2014, Brookfield representatives also attended the Cowal Gathering on 30th August 2014, to further undertake community consultation.
- 2.16 In addition to this, an interim newsletter was distributed to 6,000 households in October 2014, updating local residents on the project progress.
- 2.17 Two meetings with the CLG have also been undertaken in Dunoon, on the 18th March 2014, and the 19th May 2014. Further meetings with various interested local residents have also occurred (29th May 2014, Dunoon, 6th July 2014, Castle Toward, 24th and 25th September 2015, Dunoon and surrounding areas, 25th November, Dunoon).
- 2.18 Brookfield has attended meetings with the following Community Councils which represents those whose areas are within or adjoining the Development Area. Further opportunities to meet will be offered prior to the submission of the application:
- Bute Community Council: Meeting took place on Bute, on 16th July 2014.
 - South Cowal Community Council: Meetings took place in Dunoon, on 21st January and 11th February, 2015.

Ongoing and Future Consultation

- 2.19 The following correspondence and consultation is ongoing or planned:
- FAQ document with accompanying letter issued to stakeholders. This has also been published online.
 - Interim newsletter distributed to households updating them on the project and notifying them of the FAQ available on the project website.

- Ongoing liaison with stakeholders regarding project update meetings.
- Consultation is ongoing with Dunoon Mountain Bike Group regarding the feasibility of mountain bike tracks within site boundary.
- Media and political engagement continues to take place and will continue throughout the development of the project.
- A second round of public exhibitions to be held displaying finalised design, further info on surveys undertaken and photomontages. A 3D model will also be available to view.
- A newsletter will be distributed prior to the exhibitions taking place notifying residents of the event.
- Consultation will continue to take place with all stakeholders with the offer to meet and ensure all local groups remain updated on the project plans.

3 Iterations of the Development Design

The Development Area and its Surroundings

- 3.1 The Development Area is located to the west of the A815 road, near the town of Dunoon. The site is situated on the spine of the Cowal Peninsula above the Firth of Clyde encompassing Corlarach, Garrowchorran and several other hills.
- 3.2 The Development Area comprises undulating upland plateau of mature coniferous forest plantation, with small areas of open moorland and rocky outcrops and lies wholly within the boundary of Argyll & Bute Council administrative area.

Design Strategy

- 3.3 Preliminary feasibility work was undertaken by landscape architects from LUC for the proposed wind farm in July 2012, which explored the potential landscape and visual constraints related to development of a wind farm within an agreed land option boundary. This preliminary review identified objectives for avoiding and reducing potential landscape and visual effects, and would shape the proposed design strategy for the Bachan Burn site.

Scope and Objectives of the Design Strategy

- 3.4 Subsequent to the initial design concept, the design strategy sets out the overall approach to the progression of the design of the Development. It describes the objectives for the windfarm design and subsequent alterations to the layout that were made in response to environmental constraints which emerged through the EIA process. During each design iteration, careful consideration was given to minimising effects on environmental features, whilst maintaining the objectives of the design strategy.
- 3.5 The objectives of the design strategy were as follows:
 - to develop a cohesive layout which would be legible in key views as experienced from the surrounding landscape;
 - to develop a layout that responds to the landform and takes advantage of topographical screening where possible;
 - to develop a layout and use a turbine that seeks to respond to the scale of the landscape;
 - to develop a layout that relates to other wind farms in the local area, as well as being coherent in its own right;
 - to develop a layout which minimises effects on nationally and locally designated areas;
 - to locate turbines towards the north and east of Corlarach Hill, to maximise screening by Corlarach Hill and Black Craig Hill, and limit theoretical visibility to the west and south-west;
 - to give careful consideration to how the wind farm will be experienced from Dunoon, particularly by residential and recreational receptors;
 - from locations where it is not possible to screen the development, such as the eastern shore of the Firth of Clyde, give careful consideration to how the wind farm will be experienced;
 - to design the access tracks in a way that avoids steep terrain, maximises screening through existing landform and vegetation, and to utilise existing access roads and tracks wherever possible, to minimise visibility of these project components; and

- to develop a layout that fulfils the above objectives whilst respecting other environmental constraints including ecological, hydrological and ground conditions (including peat) related constraints identified during the EIA process.

Key Design Considerations

- 3.6 In addition to the main objectives of the design strategy, a number of other environmental characteristics have been identified as key environmental considerations during the EIA process which have led to the evolution of the design layout in its current form. These considerations are listed here:
- the presence of ecological resources comprising priority habitats and protected species;
 - peat depth;
 - the presence of watercourses;
 - the presence of archaeological features;
 - the presence of ornithological resources comprising breeding birds of conservation concern ;
 - the proximity of noise sensitive receptors i.e. residential properties.
- 3.7 The principles of the design strategy were to arrange turbines and other infrastructure to maximise energy yield whilst minimising environmental effects. This was achieved through preliminary assessments of the environmental effects, including viewpoint assessment to take into account visual effects and effects on the landscape, as well as effects on priority habitats and other onsite environmental features.
- 3.8 The process of the design and development of the layout has been undertaken through a number of iterations. The process has been summarised as three discrete layout iterations (as can be seen in **Figure 3.1**), although a number of refinements have been made in between. These are Layout 1: Pre Scoping Layout, Layout 2: Scoping Layout, Layout 3: Application Layout, on which the EIA and S36 application is based.

Layout 1: Pre-Scoping Layout

- 3.9 The initial pre-scoping layout consisted of 25 turbines, with a blade tip height of 126.5m, and a hub height of 80m.
- 3.10 This layout aimed to maximise the technical potential and wind yield of the site, focusing on the area of the site considered suitable for development, when taking into account initial landscape and visual constraints.

Layout 2: Scoping Layout

- 3.11 The layout taken forward for consultation in the Scoping Report of November 2013 saw a reduction in the number of turbines from 25 turbines to 20 turbines, and reduction in tip height from 126.5m to 110m. The hub height was dropped to 69m.
- 3.12 Turbines were removed from the highest area of ground in the west of the site, to reduce potential visibility, particularly from Isle of Bute. Views to the potential development from the settlements and ferry routes on the eastern coast of the Firth of Clyde were also considered, with the aim of this layout to produce a balanced array when viewed from these locations.

Layout 3: Application Layout

- 3.13 Following the design of Layout 2, localised environmental data was gathered in relation to the infrastructure layout. A further, iterative design exercise was then carried out to address additional issues arising from these survey findings, requiring a number of iterations to the layout.
- 3.14 The number of turbines was reduced from 20 to 17; however the tip height was increased slightly to 119m, with a 78m hub height.

Conclusions

- 3.15 The design process has resulted in a layout which is considered to:
- minimise landscape and visual effects whilst maximising production of renewable energy;
 - minimise loss of priority habitats whilst maximising production of renewable energy;
 - respond to ornithology, nature conservation interests, archaeological interests and other environmental qualities of the Development Area and its surroundings;
 - conform to industry best practice in terms of spacing turbines for safety.
- 3.16 This layout is considered to represent an optimum fit within the technical and environmental parameters of the project and its design constraints. The ES and its conclusions relating to the environmental effects of the Development will constitute the outcome of the application of the design strategy and objectives.

4 Timeline for Submission of the Application

4.1 **Diagram 4.1** shows the outstanding tasks up to and including submission of the Section 36 application, based on the LECU's Good Practice Guidance.

4.2 It is anticipated that the application will be submitted in September 2016 with the Gatecheck meeting likely to be held in July 2016.

Diagram 4.1: Timeline for Submission



Proposed Press Advertisement Dates

4.3 The proposed advertisement dates will be confirmed at the Gatecheck meeting or by other correspondence, and are anticipated to be during September 2016, following submission of the application.

Agreed Consultee List

4.4 The agreed consultee list is as follows:

- Argyll and Bute Council:
 - Landscape Architect;
 - Biodiversity Officers;
 - Environmental Health Officer;
 - Conservation Officers;
 - Roads Department.
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH);
- The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA);
- Scottish Water;
- The Scottish Government Internal Teams (Ecology, Research and GIS Unit; the Protected Species Team and Marine Scotland);
- The Scottish Wildlife Trust;
- The Bat Conservation Trust;
- The Association of Salmon Fishery Boards;
- Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board/Argyll Fisheries Trust;
- The Argyll Raptor Study Group;
- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB);
- Historic Environment Scotland;
- The West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS);
- Local archaeological interest groups (as appropriate);
- Transport Scotland;
- VisitScotland - Dunoon Visitor Centre;
- The Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society;
- The British Horse Society;
- Local recreational groups (as appropriate);
- South Cowal Community Council;
- Bute Community Council;
- Colintrave & Glendaruel Community Council;
- Dunoon Community Council;
- Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council;
- NATS
- Glasgow Airport;
- Any civil airfields which may be affected by the site;
- The Joint Radio Company (JRC);
- The BBC and Arqiva;
- The UK Office of Communications (Ofcom) (Scotland) and relevant telecommunication operators identified by Ofcom;

- British Telecom; and
- Atkins Global.

Proposed Locations for Public Viewing

- 4.5 The proposed locations for public viewing of the ES will be confirmed at the Gatecheck meeting, or by correspondence.

Figures