ESB Asset Development UK Ltd

Millmoor Rig Wind Farm

Further Environmental Information – Chapter 1 Introduction

663320

AUGUST 2025

RSK GENERAL NOTES

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PREFACE

This is a Further Environmental Information (FEI) Report to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm, hereafter referred to as "the Proposed Development", which is proposed on a Site located at Wauchope Forest, south of Bonchester Bridge in the Scottish Borders. The Applicant, ESB Asset Development UK Ltd, submitted the EIA Report to accompany the application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 ("the 1989 Act") and deemed planning permission under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1997 (as amended) to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in November 2022. This FEI Report is submitted by the Applicant following receipt of consultation responses and discussions with statutory consultees. It contains the following supplementary environmental information:

- Reply to consultation response from Historic Environment Scotland and the Scottish Borders archaeologist (including further design information relating to access and bridge crossings);
- Response to landscape and visual consultees and updated landscape and visual effects, including cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment and aviation lighting assessment;
- Updated species and habitats reporting, including fish/aquatic surveys along nearby watercourses;
- Enhanced Outline Habitat Management Plan;
- Reply to ornithology comments; and review of likely significant effects;
- Reply to consultation responses from Ironside Farrar and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and updated assessment of impacts on peat and groundwater dependant terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE);
- Abnormal Load Route Assessment (ALRA) from the proposed Port of Entry at the Port of Blyth;
- Clarifications relating to MoD and NATS mitigation and Eskdalemuir Seismic Array; and
- Updated wind farm felling and restock plans.

A separate Planning Statement is to be submitted in conjunction with this FEI Report covering relevant planning matters.

A copy of the FEI Report, will be available for inspection in person, free of charge during normal opening hours at the following locations:

- Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newton, St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA (Monday to Thursday 8.00 am to 5.00 pm, Friday 8.00am to 4.00 pm)
- Printed copies of the application have also been provided to Southdean and Hobkirk Community Councils.

An electronic copy of the FEI Report is available for public inspection, free of charge on the application webpage: https://www.esbenergy.co.uk/millmoor-rig-wind-farm or the Scottish Government Energy Consents website at: www.energyconsents.scot, under application reference ECU00003426.

Copies of the information may be obtained from ESB Asset Development UK Limited (email: 'millmoorrig@esb.ie') at a charge of £1000 hard copy and $15 on USB. Copies of a short Non-Technical Summary are available free of charge.

Any representations to the application may be submitted via:

- the Energy Consents Unit website at: www.energyconsents.scot/Register.aspx;
- by email to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit mailbox at representations@gov.scot or
- by post to: Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 BLU, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation. Please note that there may be a delay in the Energy Consents Unit receiving representations by post.

  Written or emailed representations should be dated, clearly stating the name (in block capitals), full return email and postal address of those making representations. Only representations sent by email to representations@gov.scot will receive acknowledgement.

CONTENTS

GLOSSARY

air quality standard	concentration of a pollutant, over a specified period, above which adverse effects on health and/or the environment may occur, and which should not be exceeded
alternatives	different design, layout and technological possibilities that could be considered during project development that have potential to fulfil the project objectives
ambient	of or relating to the immediate surroundings of something (e.g. ambient noise level)
Amended Layout	the modified proposed site layout
ancient woodland	woodland that has existed continuously since at least AD 1600
appropriate assessment	process whereby projects, either alone or in combination, are considered to see if it can be ascertained that they will not adversely affect the integrity of a European protected site
assessment	process by which information about effects of a proposed plan, project or intervention is collected, assessed and used to inform decision making
avoidance	form of mitigation consisting in preventing the impact from happening. E.g. placement of access roads outside of rare habitats.
baseline conditions	environment as it appears (or would appear) immediately prior to the implementation of the project together with any known or foreseeable future changes that will take place before completion of the project
baseline studies	work done to determine and describe the environmental conditions against which any future changes can be measured or predicted and assessed
biodiversity	variety of life forms; different plants, animals and microorganisms; the genes they contain; and the ecosystems they form
catchment	drainage/basin area within which precipitation drains into a river system and eventually into the sea
committed development	development projects that are either under construction or have valid planning permissions/consents
compensation	measures taken to offset the unavoidable negative environmental impacts of a development by counterbalancing them with environmental gains, aiming to achieve a net neutral or beneficial outcome
competent authority	authority responsible for determining the application for consent, permission, licence or other authorisation to proceed with a development
construction phase	period during which the building or assembling of a proposed development and its infrastructure is undertaken
consultation	process by which those organisations or individuals with an interest in the area associated with the Proposed Development are identified and engaged as part of the EIA process
consultation bodies	organisations that the competent authority is required to consult by virtue of the EIA Regulations

Controlled Activities Regulations	Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR), also known as the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, apply regulatory controls over activities which may affect Scotland's water environment. SEPA risk assesses the proposed activities before granting an authorisation if it is appropriate. The type of authorisation depends on the environmental risk, and could be General Binding Rules, registration, or a licence.
controlled waters	surface waters, ground waters and coastal waters to which UK pollution legislation applies
culvert	pipe or box-type conduit through which water is carried under a structure
cumulative impact	impacts that result from incremental changes caused by other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions together with the project. cumulative impact may arise as the result of (a) the combined impact of a number of different environmental topic-specific impacts from a single environmental impact assessment project on a single receptor/ resource or (b) the combined impact of a number of different projects within the vicinity (in combination with the environmental impact assessment project) on a single receptor/resource.
decommissioning	period during which a development and its associated infrastructure are removed from active operation
design event	event such as a rainstorm or flood of given magnitude and probability (usually derived from previous records)
do-nothing scenario	the conditions that would persist in the absence of the implementation of a development
effect	term used to express the consequence of an impact (expressed as the 'significance of effect'), which is determined by correlating the magnitude of the impact with the importance (or sensitivity) of the receptor or resource in accordance with defined significance criteria. For example, land clearing during construction results in habitat loss (impact), the effect of which is the significance of the habitat loss on the ecological resource.
EIA Layout	the original proposed site layout
EIA Regulations	collective term for the various statutory instruments through which the previous Directives on Environmental Assessment have been implemented in the UK
embedded mitigation	Measures incorporated into the design of a project to avoid or reduce environmental effects.
emission standard	maximum amount or concentration of a pollutant allowed to be emitted from a particular source
emissions inventory	collection of data relating to the characteristics of processes or activities that release pollutants into the atmosphere
Energy Consents Unit	part of the Scottish Government's Energy Division, the unit processes and administers energy infrastructure applications for Scottish Ministers under the 1989 Electricity Act; the unit is made up of two teams, the Section 36 team and the Section 37 team,
enhancement	measure that seek to improve an environmental condition and is over and above what is required to mitigate the adverse effects of a project

environmental assessment	method and a process by which information about environmental effects is collected, assessed and used to inform decision-making. Assessment processes include strategic environmental assessment, assessment of implications on European sites, and environmental impact assessment.
environmental impact assessment	statutory process by which certain planned projects must be assessed before a formal decision to proceed can be made. Involves the collection and consideration of environmental information, which fulfils the assessment requirements of the EIA Regulations, including the publication of an EIA Report.
Environmental Impact Assessment Report	otherwise known as an EIA Report. Document produced in accordance with the EIA Regulations that reports the outcomes of the EIA process
environmental information	information that must be taken into account by the decision maker (the competent authority) before granting any kind of authorisation in any case where the EIA process applies. It includes the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, including any further information, any representations made by any body required by the Regulations to be invited to make representations, and any representations duly made by any other person about the environmental effects of the development
environmental management plan	structured plan that outlines the mitigation, monitoring and management requirements arising from an environmental impact assessment
estuary	downstream part of a river where it widens to enter the sea
European protected species	all the plant and animal species included in the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) Schedule 2 and Schedule 4
European site	sites that make up the European ecological network (also known as Natura 2000 sites). These include sites of community importance (SCIs), special protection areas (SPAs) and potential SPAs (pSPAs), special areas of conservation (SACs) and candidate or possible SACs (cSACs or pSACs), and Ramsar sites.
evaluation	determination of the significance of effects. Evaluation involves making judgements as to the value of the receptor/resource that is being affected and the consequences of the effect on the receptor/resource based on the magnitude of the impact.
existing environment	see ‘baseline conditions’
Gate check	Procedure adopted by the Energy Consents Unit to review work undertaken by the applicant for a Section 36 or Section 37 development prior to submission of their EIA Report and consent application.
Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem	Terrestrial habitat that relies on groundwater to maintain ecological functions
Habitats Regulations	The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 (most recently amended in 2012), is more commonly known as the Habitats Regulations. The Habitats Regulations cover requirements for sites that are internationally important for threatened habitats and species (e.g. Natura sites), species that require strict protection (e.g. European protected species), and other aspects of the previous Habitats Directive.

Habitats Regulations assessment	assessment of the impacts of implementing a plan or policy on a European site, the purpose being to consider the impacts of a project against conservation objectives of the site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of the site
hydraulics	processes and regimes of water flow (velocities, volumes, duration, frequency etc) in hydrological systems such as surface waters and groundwater
hydrodynamics	mechanical properties of fluids, such as those concerned with flow
hydrogeology	study of the distribution and movement of groundwater
impact	change that is caused by an action; for example, land clearing (action) during construction that results in habitat loss (impact)
intertidal	area of land between mean high water and mean low water
invertebrates	animals without backbones
local development	development type identified as local under the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009
major development	development type identified as major under the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009
mean (high/low) water	highest/lowest average level water reaches on an outgoing tide
method statement	document that sets out intended working or survey practices
mitigation	measures intended to avoid, reduce and compensate adverse environmental effects
monitoring	continuing assessment of the performance of the project, including mitigation measures. This determines if effects occur as predicted or if operations remain within acceptable limits, and if mitigation measures are as effective as predicted.
national development	development type identified as national under the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009
National Planning Framework 4	Scotland's national spatial strategy and overarching planning policy document.
non-statutory consultee	organisations and bodies that may be consulted on relevant planning applications
non-technical summary	information for the non-specialist reader to enable them to understand the main predicted environmental effects of the proposal without reference to the main EIA Report
operation	functioning of a development on completion of construction
Onshore Wind Policy Statement	National policy setting an ambition to deliver at least 20 GW of installed onshore wind capacity in Scotland by 2030.
pasture	grassland maintained primarily for and by grazing, and on which grazing stock is kept for a large part of the year
phase 1 habitat survey	Recognised methodology used for collating information on the habitat structure of a particular site.
photomontage	superimposing of an image onto a photograph to create a realistic representation of proposed or potential changes to a view
piling	installation of bored and driven piles into the ground
planning authority	local authority that is empowered by law to exercise planning functions for a particular area of the United Kingdom
pollution	any increase of matter or energy to a level that is harmful to living organisms of their environment (when it becomes a pollutant)

preferred option	chosen design option that most successfully achieves the project objectives and becomes subject to further design and assessment
programme	series of steps that have been identified by the applicant, or series of projects that are linked by dependency
project	One (or more) aspect of a programme or plan that has been identified by the applicant and usually involves a direct physical intervention
project objectives	objectives of the project, set by the applicant
Proposed Development	a plan or project that the applicant or promoter seeks to implement
Ramsar	areas designated by the UK Government under the International Ramsar Convention (the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance)
receptor	defined individual environmental feature usually associated with population, fauna, flora, water bodies, soils, landscapes and cultural heritage features with the potential to be affected by a project
residual effect	those effects that remain following the implementation of mitigation measures
resource	defined, but generally collective, environmental feature usually associated with soil, water, air, climatic factors, landscape, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage that has potential to be affected by a project
roosting site (birds)	place where birds rest or sleep
roosting site (bats)	place where bats live (e.g. built structures and trees)
run-off	precipitation that flows as surface water from a site, catchment or region water bodies such as rivers and lakes and ultimately flows to the sea
Scheduled Monument	A nationally important archaeological site or historic building given legal protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
Section 36 Application	in Scotland, the construction and operation of power stations of a certain capacity requires an application to be made to Scottish Ministers under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. Applications to the Scottish Ministers need to be accompanied by an EIA Report. The Energy Consents Unit's Section 36 team will process applications for on-shore power station applications, including wind farms over 50 MW and hydro developments over 1 MW.
Section 37 Application	in Scotland, applications for powerlines and wayleaves should be made to Scottish Ministers under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989. Applications to the Scottish Ministers need to be accompanied by an EIA Report. The Energy Consents Unit's Section 37 team will process applications for off-shore power station applications, transmission lines, necessary wayleaves, and compulsory purchase orders for electricity lines and gas pipelines.
Schedule 1 project	plans or projects listed Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations
Schedule 2 project	plans or projects listed in Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations
Scoping	process of identifying the issues to be addressed by the environmental impact assessment process. It is a method of ensuring that an assessment focuses on the important issues and avoids those that are considered not significant.
Scoping opinion	opinion provided by a competent authority that indicates the issues an environmental impact assessment of a proposed development should consider

screening	formal process undertaken to determine whether it is necessary to carry out a statutory environmental impact assessment and publish an Environmental Impact Assessment Report in accordance with the EIA Regulations
sediment	organic and inorganic material that has precipitated from water to accumulate on the floor of a water body, watercourse or trap
semi-natural	habitat, ecosystem, community, vegetation type or landscape that has been modified by human activity but consists largely of native species and appears to have similar structure and functioning to a natural type
significance	see 'significance of effect'
significance of effect	measure of the importance or gravity of the environmental effect, defined by either generic significance criteria or criteria specific to the environmental topic
significant environmental effect	environmental effect considered material to the decision-making process
site	to indicate both the turbine area and the access area
Site Access alignment	The planned route or layout that determines how vehicles, equipment, and personnel will enter and access a construction or development site
sites of special scientific interest	main national conservation site protection measure in Britain designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
special area of conservation	international designation implemented under the Habitats Regulations for the protection of habitats and (non bird) species
special protection area	sites designated under the previous EU Directive (79/409/EEC) for the conservation of wild birds
stakeholder	organisation or individual with a particular interest in the project
study area	spatial area within which environmental effects are assessed (i.e., extending a distance from the project footprint in which significant environmental effects are anticipated to occur). This may vary between the topic areas.
The turbine area	refers to everything within the application red line boundary for the wind turbine array (i.e. everything but the access track area)
the access area	refers to everything within the application red line boundary for the route from A6088 to the turbine area
topography	The physical features of the surface of the land
threshold	specified level in grading effects (e.g. the order of significance)
visual amenity	value of a particular view or area in terms of what is seen
vehicle movement	movement of project vehicles only
visualisation	computer generated wireline or photomontage illustrating change over time of the landscape where the Proposed Development will be located
wildlife corridor	linear habitats/landscape features such as hedgerows that may increase connectivity by acting as routes between habitat patches
worst case	principle applied where environmental effects may vary (e.g. owing to seasonal variations) to ensure the most severe effect is assessed
Zone of Theoretical Visibility	the area from which any part of a proposed development may be visible.

ABBREVIATIONS

AA	appropriate assessment
AIL	Abnormal Indivisible Load
AIFCL	Aviation Investment Fund Company Limited
ALARP	as low as reasonably practicable
ALRA	Abnormal Load Route Assessment
AOD	above Ordnance Datum
ATC	Air Traffic Control
BAP	biodiversity action plan
BAT	best available techniques
BEMP	Biodiversity Enhancement Plan
BDMP	Bird Disturbance Management Plan
bgl	below ground level
BGS	British Geological Survey
BS	British Standard
BoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
CA	competent authority
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
CAR	Controlled Activities Regulations
CCoP	construction code of practice
CD	chart datum
CEMP	construction (or contract) environmental management plan
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Centre
COSHH	control of substances hazardous to health
CRTN	calculation of road traffic noise
dB(A)	decibel (A-weighted), a unit of noise measurement
DBA	desk-based assessment
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
ECoW	Environmental Clerk of Works
EcIA	ecological impact assessment
EHO	environmental health officer
EIA	environmental impact assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report or EIA Report
EPR	Environmental Permitting Regulations
EPS	European protected species
EQS	Environmental Quality Standards
EWTTF	Electronic Warfare Threat Training Facility
EU	European Union
FEI	Further Environmental Information
FBA	Freshwater Biological Association

FRA	flood risk assessment
GDL	garden and designed landscapes
GIS	geographic information system
GPS	global positioning system
GWDTE	Groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems
GLVIA	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
GLVIA3	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition
GW	GigaWatt
ha	hectare
HAP	habitat action plan
HAZID	hazard identification
HDV	heavy duty vehicle
HER	Historic Environment Record
HGV	heavy goods vehicle
HIA	health impact assessment
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
ILP	Institute of Lighting Professionals
IOF	Important Ornithological Feature
IPP	Independent Power Producer
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
km	kilometre
kV	Kilovolt
LCA	landscape character area
LCT	landscape character types
LAQM	local air quality management
LBAP	local biodiversity action plan
LBRSG	Lothian and Borders Raptor Study Group
LDP	local development plan
LDP1	Local Development Plan 1
LDP2	Local Development Plan 2
LGV	light goods vehicle
LI	Landscape Institute
LiDAR	Light detection and ranging
LNR	local nature reserve
LTP	local transport plan
LVIA	landscape and visual impact assessment
m	metre
MAGIC	Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MV	Medium Voltage
MW	Megawatts
NATS	National Air Traffic Services

NS	NatureScot
NSA	National Scenic Area
NE	Natural England
NER	Neutral Earth Resistor
NID	National Infrastructure Directorate
NNP	Northumberland National Park
NNR	national nature reserve
NO_x	oxides of nitrogen
NPF	National Planning Framework
NPF3	National Planning Framework 3
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
NTS	non-technical summary
NVC	National Vegetation Classification
OHMP	Outline Habitat Management Plan
OS	Ordnance Survey
OWPS	Onshore Wind Policy Statement
PA	Planning authority
PAC	pre-application consultation
PAN	proposal of application notice
PCS	power conversion systems
PM_{10}	Particulate matter (with an aerodynamic diameter below 10 µm)
PWS	Private Water Supply
RCAHMS	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments Scotland
RCS	river corridor survey
RHS	river habitat survey
RIGS	regionally important geological and geomorphological site
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	special area of conservation
SBC	Scottish Borders Council
SCADA	Supervisory control and data acquisition
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SSGEP	South Scotland Golden Eagle Project
SINC	site of importance for nature conservation
SIL	Standard Impact Limit
SLA	special landscape area
SM	scheduled monument
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SoCC	statement of community consultation
SoS	Secretary of State
SPA	special protection area
SPP	Scottish Planning Policy
SSR	Secondary Surveillance Radar
SSSI	site of special scientific interest
SuDS	sustainable drainage system

SWT	Scottish Wildlife Trust
SWMP	Surface Water Management Plan
TA	transport assessment
TIA	traffic impact assessment
TMP	traffic management plan
TNO	Transmission Network Operator
TPO	tree preservation order
TRICS	Trip Rate Information Computer System
TTA	Tactical Training Area
UK	United Kingdom
VAR	volt-ampere reactive
VEC	valued ecological component
VER	valued ecological receptor
WEBS	Wetland Bird Survey
WFD	Water Framework Directive
ZTV	zone of theoretical visibility

1 INTRODUCTION

Background

1.1 This is a Further Environmental Information (FEI) Report to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for the Millmoor Rig Wind Farm, hereafter referred to as "the Proposed Development", which is proposed on a Site located at Wauchope Forest, south of Bonchester Bridge in the Scottish Borders. The Applicant, ESB Asset Development UK Ltd, submitted the EIA Report to accompany the application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 ("the 1989 Act") and deemed planning permission under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1997 (as amended), as submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in November 2022 (Ref. ECU00003426) ('the original application').

1.2 This FEI Report is submitted as supplementary information under Regulation 19 of The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and is relevant to enable the Scottish Ministers to reach a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the development on the environment. This FEI Report is submitted by the Applicant as a reply to consultation responses on the proposals; provide additional baseline data, and present minor amendments to the Proposed Development ('the Amended Development') to allow for comprehensive consideration of environmental matters related to construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. This FEI Report contains the following updated and additional environmental information:

- Reply to consultation response from Historic Environment Scotland and the Scottish Borders archaeologist (including further design information relating to access and bridge crossings);
- Response to landscape and visual consultees and updated landscape and visual effects, including cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment and aviation lighting assessment;
- Updated species and habitats reporting, including fish/aquatic surveys along nearby watercourses;
- Enhanced Outline Habitat Management Plan;
- Reply to ornithology comments; and review of likely significant effects;
- Reply to consultation responses from Ironside Farrar and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and updated assessment of impacts on peat and groundwater dependant terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE);
- Abnormal Load Route Assessment (ALRA) from the proposed Port of Entry at the Port of Blyth;
- Clarifications relating to MoD and NATS mitigation and Eskdalemuir Seismic Array; and
- Updated wind farm felling and restock plans.

1.3 It is not considered that there would be material changes to the assessment or requirement for additional information relating to other EIA factors not covered above.

1.4 Any figures that have been updated from the original EIA Report are clearly marked as revisions to those figures. Where new figures have been included in this Report, the numbering follows the format and sequence of presentation in the EIA Report.

1.5 A separate Planning Statement has been prepared to accompany this FEI Report. It details the context of the Site and surrounding area, outlines the need for the Proposed Development, and presents an assessment of how it accords with relevant national and local planning policies, as well as other planning material considerations.

Modifications to the Proposed Development

1.6 The Applicant had undertaken a robust iterative design process pre-application that sought to minimise potential impacts. In response to consultee comments on the EIA Report the original proposed site layout (EIA Layout) has since been modified (FEI Layout) as now described:

- **Re-alignment of the site access at Carter Burn** – Historic Environment Scotland (HES) raised concerns of the potential for direct impacts on Scheduled Monuments along the site access and requested more detail on the proposed crossing of the Carter Burn.
- Following further design work, the Applicant determined that it was not practical to use the existing track and Carter Burn watercourse crossing without impacting the Martinlee Sike Scheduled Monument The Applicant proposed a new site access design which aimed to minimise direct impacts on any culturally significant aspects of this Scheduled Monument and subsequently shared the redesign with HES for comment HES responded that it was of the view that the realigned site access would still result in direct impacts on the Scheduled Monument and would be contrary to national policy.
- The Applicant undertook further surveys and redesigned the site access to bypass the Scheduled Monument. This route was ground-truthed during a joint site visit with HES. With the newly re-aligned site access, the Applicant has demonstrated that direct impacts on the Scheduled Monument would be avoided and that the proposed re-alignment of the site access was not incompatible with national policy. Further detail is provided in **Chapter 2, FEI Report.** This new watercourse crossing of the Carter Burn has resulted in the requirement for new access track, through a commercial forestry compartment, to link back to the forestry tracks proposed for site access.
- **Re-alignment of the site access at Black Burn** – The Applicant undertook further design of the watercourse crossing at Black Burn. This has resulted in the crossing of the Black Burn being moved further south, and an alternative track alignment that utilises more of the existing track.
- **Re-positioning of T9, T11 and T13** – Turbine T9, T11 and T13 have been repositioned in response to consultee comments on the EIA Layout. HES objected to the location of turbine T11 as it could have direct impacts on the Scheduled Monument section of the Wheel Causeway and requested that it was moved beyond topple distance, while the Scottish Border Council Landscape Officer's consultation response noted that minor amendments to the location of turbines T9 could improve the composition of the turbine layout from certain viewpoints.
- Following field surveys and consideration of constraints, turbine T9 has been moved 140 m south (now 360574, 606693) and turbine T11 175 m east south east (now 361145, 605742). Following these changes, turbine T13 was moved

55 m north (now 361667, 606249) to provide adequate inter-turbine spacing. These modifications to the EIA Layout have also resulted in a reduction in the number of turbines requiring visible aviation warning lighting from six to five (now T01, T03, T08, T09 and T12), as agreed with the Civil Aviation Authority (see **Appendix 6.11**, **FEI Report**). Further detail is provided in **Chapters 6**, **FEI Report**.

- **Modifications to ancillary infrastructure** – the repositioning of turbines necessitated minor modifications to the design of ancillary infrastructure to improve buildability. Firstly, the crane pad at T5 was flipped on the long edge (moving it slightly east) and secondly, the mobilisation compound at the site access was realigned.
- **Biodiversity enhancement** - NatureScot (NS) responded to the Section 36 Application in March 2023 and stated "The Outline Habitat Management Plan (OHMP) presents a very limited range of habitat enhancement and management measures on-site. These should be broader in scope and larger in area". Updated Technical Appendix 8.5 provides a wide range of biodiversity enhancement and habitat management plans to address NatureScot's comments.
- **Wind farm forestry plans** – following the changes described above and to the baseline conditions since the EIA, the proposed wind farm felling and restock plans have been amended as shown on **Updated Figures 17.1—17.4, FEI Report** and **New Figure 17.5, FEI Report**.

1.7 The FEI Layout is shown on **Updated Figure 2.2, FEI Report** with a comparison to the EIA Layout shown on **Updated Figure 2.3b, FEI Report**. Following these changes the application boundary has been amended to include the new watercourse crossing at the Carter Burn as shown on **Updated Figure 2.1, FEI Report**.

Structure of the FEI Report

1.8 The FEI Report is presented as follows:

- Volume 1 – Main Text
- Chapter 2: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
- Chapter 3: Landscape and Visual
- Chapter 4: Geology, Hydrogeology, Hydrology and Peat;
- Chapter 5: Ornithology;
- Chapter 6: Ecology;
- Chapter 7: Aviation;
- Chapter 8: Forestry; and
- Chapter 9: Conclusion, including:
- Changes to Findings of EIA; and
- Changes to Schedule of Environmental Commitments.
- Volume 2 – Figures and Visualisations
- Volume 3 – Technical Appendices
- New Technical Appendix 6.11 - Report on Light Propagation from the Aviation Warning Lights;
- New Technical Appendix 6.12 – Comparative Wirelines;
- Addendum to Technical Appendix 8.1 - Habitat Survey Report of Additional Site Access Area;

- Addendum to Technical Appendix 8.2 - Protected Species Survey of Additional Site Access Area;
- Updated Technical Appendix 8.5 - Outline Biodiversity Enhancement and Habitat Management Plan and Addendum to Updated Technical Appendix 8.5 - Walkover Survey for Millmoor Rig OHMP;
- New Technical Appendix 8.6 - Fish Survey Report;
- New Technical Appendix 13.2 - Revised Aviation Lighting Scheme Letter from CAA;
- Updated Technical Appendix 17.1 - Forestry Site Visit; and
- Updated Technical Appendix 17.2 – Timber Volume Calculations.

Terminology

1.9 To ensure clarity, the following terms and descriptions presented in **Table 1.1** below are used.

Table 1.1: FEI Report Terminology

Term	Definitions/descriptions
"The Proposed Development"	refer to the proposed wind farm development
"The turbine area"	refer to everything within the application red line boundary for the wind turbine array (i.e. everything but the access track area)
"The access area"	refers to everything within the application red line boundary for the route from the A6088 to the turbine area
"Land within the application boundary" OR "site".	to indicate both the turbine area and the access area

FEI Project Team

1.10 RSK Environment Ltd (RSK) has undertaken the EIA and preparation of this EIA Report on behalf of the applicant.

1.11 The relevant expertise and qualifications of the experts involved in the preparation of this EIA Report are detailed in **Table 1.2** below.

Table 1.2: EIA Team Responsibilities

Name	Qualifications	Company	Role
EIA project management team			
Joe Somerville	MA (Hons), MSc	RSK	Project Director
Robert Beck	BA (Hons), MEnvS, PGDip, FISEP, CEnv	RSK	Senior EIA Project Director
Adam Paterson	BSc (Hons), MSc, PISEP, REnvP	RSK	EIA Project Manager
EIA technical specialists			

Name	Qualifications	Company	Role
David Gooch	MA, CMLI	Pegasus	Technical lead – Landscape and Visual
Fraser McFarlane	MA, MLitt	Headland Archaeology	Technical lead - Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
Leanne Cooke	BSc	RSK Biocensus	Technical lead - Ecology
Sarah Sanders	BSc	Mc Arthur Green	Technical lead - Ornithology
Catherine Isherwood	MA, MSci, MSc, PhD, Chartered Geologist, Fellow of the Geological Society of London, Professional Graduate of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining	RSK WRc	Technical lead - Geology, Hydrogeology, Hydrology and Peat
Jon Hassel	BEng (Hons), Member of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation, Member of the Transport Planning Society	RSK SCP	Technical lead – Traffic and Transportation
Ian Fletcher	BEng	Wind Business Support	Technical lead - Aviation