



ESB Asset Development UK Ltd

Millmoor Rig Wind Farm

Further Environmental Information – Chapter 8 Forestry

663320

AUGUST 2025



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8 FORESTRY

- 8.1 This Further Environmental Information (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.
- 8.2 Following the EIA Report submission, the Applicant received a response from Scottish Forestry on 8/12/2022 stating:
- “The EIA Forestry chapter is detailed and well written. However, there are clarifications required with regards to para 17.4.8, table 17.11 and para 17.7.2. All access tracks, storage areas and infrastructure associated with the development are subject to compensatory planting as there must be no loss of woodland cover in line with SG policy. This means therefore that the minimum area for compensatory planting will be 81.96 ha and not 67.62 ha, plus any access tracks losses that have not yet been finalised. I also require further clarification around compensatory planting location, as enrichment planting of the natural reserve area mentioned does not constitute compensatory planting.”*
- 8.3 The Applicant responded to Scottish Forestry by email (dated 27th January 2023) to say:
- “We accept your points regarding restocking and enrichment planting not counting towards the compensatory planting proposals. In relation to your comment on the compensatory planting location, we would look to finalise the compensatory planting proposals once the necessary agreements and arrangements are in place and would consult further with Scottish Forestry at this point. Following feedback from the forest manager of the site, we are going to be updating our plans and will make a further submission through the ECU in due course, this will confirm the total area of compensatory planting taking account the points you’ve made”.*
- 8.4 The FEI Layout has altered the areas where felling is required for construction and operation of the Proposed Development. In addition, following further consultation with the landowners and changes in the baseline conditions since the EIA submission has resulted in changes to the areas of felling required to maintain a wind firm edge. A further forestry site visit was undertaken in 2025 to gather mensuration data in the new areas of felling, as shown in **Technical Appendix 17.1, FEI Report**.
- 8.5 The revised forestry plans are shown on **Updated Figures 17.1-4** and **New Figure 17.5, FEI Report**. The changes have resulted in a revised felling area of 107.2 ha as shown on **Table 8.1**. Of this felling, 63.5 ha will be permanent and 43.7 ha will be restocked in situ, leaving a compensatory planting requirement of 63.5 ha (i.e., to account for the area being felled and left unplanted).
- 8.6 The applicant now has arrangements in place for compensatory planting and undertakes to provide a compensatory plan to the ECU under conditions post-consent. The compensatory plan will meet the requirements of Uk Forestry Standard (UKFS).

- 8.7 In addition to the compensatory planting, the Applicant is committed to creating nature networks through planting native trees within the Application Site, as detailed in **Updated Technical Appendix 8.5, FEI Report**. However, given this doesn't require felling and will take place on the edge of forestry blocks it is not considered woodland creation so has not been included on the wind farm forestry plans.

Table 8-1: Revised Felling Areas compared to EIA

Reason for Felling	FEI Area (ha)	EIA Area (ha)
Site Access - Permanent	0.6	0.5
Site Access Temporary	3.2	3.6
Turbine Area - Permanent	62.9	68.7
Turbine Area - Temporary	40.5	9.1
Total Temporary Felling for Restocking	43.7	12.7
Total Permanent Felling Requiring Compensatory Planting	63.5	69.2