



ESB Asset Development UK Limited

Millmoor Rig Wind Farm

Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Volume 3)

Appendix 6.9 – Cumulative Effects of Scoping Sites

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NOVEMBER 2022

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RSK GENERAL NOTES

Project No.: 2481817
Title: Millmoor Rig Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Volume 3)
Client: ESB Asset Development UK Limited
Date: 15th November 2022
Office: Glasgow
Status: Draft

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Date:	<u>15/11/22</u>	Date:	<u>15/11/22</u>

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1 APPENDIX 6.9 – CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF SCOPING SITES

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This appendix provides a consideration of the potential cumulative landscape and visual effects that may arise as a result of schemes which have been subject to an EIA Scoping Request, but where no planning application has yet come forward. The Appendix should be read in conjunction with the assessment of Cumulative Effects set out in section 6.8 of the LVIA Chapter (Chapter 6 of the EIA Report). Schemes that are at scoping or at the pre-planning stage have not been considered in the main LVIA Chapter due to the uncertainty that these schemes will come forward and the lack of adequate information about project details.
- 1.1.2 At the time of preparing this LVIA, there is one Scoping Stage Scheme within 25km of the site which has a Scoping Request made in the last 5 years, the proposed variation to the consented Windy Edge Wind Farm. This proposal was set out as being for 12no. 200m turbines, which if consented would replace the consented 9no. turbines, ranging between 110m and 125m.
- 1.1.3 It is acknowledged that there have also been Scoping Requests made for other schemes in the vicinity of the site at Cliffhope and Wauchope/Newcastleton. However, given the time which has passed since these requests were made, it is understood that there is no longer a reasonable expectation that any scheme is to be progressed at these sites and they are therefore not considered further in this Appendix. Should a scheme come forward at either of these sites in due course, the onus would be on the applicant to ensure they undertake a detailed cumulative assessment which would be required to consider the proposed Millmoor Rig scheme (the Proposed Development), if the scheme were to be operational, consented, or still subject to a valid planning application at that time,

1.2 Consideration of Windy Edge Wind Farm Scoping Proposal

- 1.2.1 The Windy Edge Wind Farm site is located 14.1km to the south-west of the Proposed Development. No significant cumulative landscape or visual effects have been identified in relation to the consented Windy Edge scheme in the assessment set out in section 6.8 of the LVIA Chapter. A review has therefore been undertaken to establish whether the revised proposals for Windy Edge might give rise to additional effects that have not been considered as part of the cumulative assessment.
- 1.2.2 This assessment therefore serves as a third scenario to the cumulative assessment which assumes that other consented (but as yet unbuilt) wind farms and all schemes in planning are operational, as is the revised Windy Edge scheme.
- 1.2.3 A Cumulative ZTV (CZTV) has been produced to illustrate the theoretical visibility of the revised Windy Edge scheme with the Proposed Development (Figure 6.39). When this is compared with the CZTV for the consented Windy Edge scheme (Figure 6.37) it can be seen that there is relatively little difference in the extent of those areas which might have

potential for views of both the Proposed Development and the consented Windy Edge scheme and the Proposed Development and the revised Windy Edge scheme.

- 1.2.4 It is acknowledged that the revised Windy Edge scheme is for 3 additional turbines and the turbine height would increase by up to 90m. However, noting the 14.1 km separation between the sites in the landscape it is not considered that there would be any notable cumulative effects than those which would arise in relation to the existing scheme which has already been consented. These effects are not considered to be significant.
- 1.2.5 Consideration has also been given to the overall totality of the effect. It is acknowledged that the combined overall effect of wind energy would increase were the revised Windy Edge scheme to be operational rather than the currently consented scheme. However, it would not be the case that wind energy would become the single dominant characteristic of the landscape so as to prevent an understanding and appreciation of its character. There would also remain a considerable spacing between the Proposed Development and the other schemes which would ensure that the overall cumulative impact of turbines would not be dominant or oppressive in views