

Breackerie Wind Farm

Environmental Impact Assessment Report Volume 1

Chapter 1: Introduction

October 2023 (amended December 2024)

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1 INTRODUCTION

Introduction

- 1.1 This Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) is being submitted in support of an application by Energiekontor UK Ltd (the Applicant) for consent under Section 36 of The Electricity Act 1989 to install and operate a wind farm comprising 13 turbines and associated infrastructure on land approximately 8km south-west of Campbeltown (the proposed development).
- 1.2 As the proposed development has a generating capacity exceeding 50MW, consent is provided under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 however deemed planning consent would also be awarded under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended). The Applicant in this instance requests that there is a ten-year consent implementation period (instead of the usual three) to allow for any grid related delays, should the proposed development be consented.
- 1.3 The site location is contained within Figure 1.1, and full description of the proposed development is contained within Chapter 3: Project Description. For the purposes of this EIA Report, candidate turbines of up to 200m to blade tip have been assessed which would provide an associated capacity of approximately 85.8MW with an additional 5MW of battery storage capacity.
- 1.4 The approach to EIA Methodology can be understood within Chapter 2 of this Volume, whilst the Design Evolution of the proposed development is contained within Chapter 4. The planning and renewable energy policy context continues to evolve and a current snapshot is provided within Chapter 5, with an analysis of the planning and policy compliance kept separate to this EIA Report, within a standalone Planning Statement.
- 1.5 This chapter sets out details with regards to the Applicant, the aims of this EIA Report, its structure, and the brief context to the rest of its content.

The Applicant – Energiekontor UK Ltd

- 1.6 Energiekontor UK Ltd is an experienced renewable energy development company, formed in 1999.
- 1.7 It develops small to medium-sized onshore wind and solar farms throughout the United Kingdom. The company operates seven existing wind farms in the UK and has obtained planning consent for several further projects. Energiekontor also has several other wind and solar projects at various stages of the development process throughout the UK.
- 1.8 Energiekontor UK Ltd is part of the Energiekontor Group. The parent company, Energiekontor AG, was established in 1990 in Bremerhaven in Northern Germany. It has since grown to become one of the leading wind energy companies in Europe and is active in Germany, France, Portugal, the USA and the UK. The company has obtained consent

and built 118 onshore wind farms in Europe and commenced construction of the first 'no-subsidy' wind farm in the UK, Withernwick II in East Riding, Yorkshire.

Purpose of the EIA Report

- 1.9 The EIA Report includes a description of the proposed development, the location of the development, and its design evolution; summarises the findings of a comprehensive study of potential environmental effects; and, where adverse effects are identified, measures to avoid, reduce, or remedy such effects are described. At the time of the assessment for the proposed development, the EIA Report considers the likely significant effects (both beneficial and adverse) on the environment, identified in the EIA, during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases. In addition, any likely significant cumulative effects with other developments have also been considered within this EIA Report.

Structure of the EIA Report

- 1.10 The EIA Report has been presented in four volumes as follows:
- Volume 1: Written Statement, contains the main environmental assessment text, providing an assessment of the likely significant effects as per the requirements of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 ('the EIA Regulations');
 - Volume 2: Figures, contains the primary graphics, maps, drawings and illustrations to accompany Volume 1;
 - Volume 3: Visualisations is a volume which contains the visualisations provided for visual assessment to accompany Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual and Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage; and
 - Volume 4: Technical Appendices presents a volume of appendices to complement Volume 1, including technical reports, supplementary assessments and results of fieldwork.
- 1.11 The EIA Report should also be read in context with the following standalone documents:
- EIA Non-Technical Summary (NTS) which summarises the main findings of the EIA Report in accessible language;
 - Planning Statement, which provides an assessment of policy compliance in relation to the statutory Development Plan and other important material policy considerations;
 - Pre-Application Consultation Report (PAC Report) which sets out the approach and results of public engagement; and
 - Design and Access Statement (DAS) which illustrates the approach to design and access.
- 1.12 Volume 1 of the EIA Report contains the following introductory and technical chapters:
- Chapter 1: Introduction;
 - Chapter 2: EIA Methodology;

- Chapter 3: Project Description;
- Chapter 4: Design Evolution;
- Chapter 5: Renewable Energy and Planning Policy;
- Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual;
- Chapter 7: Socio-economics and Tourism;
- Chapter 8: Ecology;
- Chapter 9: Ornithology;
- Chapter 10: Geology, Hydrology and Peat;
- Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage;
- Chapter 12: Noise;
- Chapter 13: Transport and Access;
- Chapter 14: Forestry;
- Chapter 15: Other Issues; and
- Chapter 16: Schedule of Mitigation.

The EIA Team

- 1.13 As per the requirements of the EIA Regulations, the EIA Report has been prepared by competent experts in their respective fields. The introductory sections of each technical chapter (Chapter 6 to Chapter 14) have been prepared by external consultants and the expertise and credentials of these consultants is laid out.
- 1.14 The following consultancies have prepared the technical chapters listed above:
- WSP: Landscape and Visual, Cultural Heritage;
 - RPS: Ecology and Ornithology, Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat;
 - TNEI: Noise and Socio-economics and tourism;
 - Systra: Transport and Access;
 - Mckay Forestry: Forestry; and
 - Wind Power Aviation Consultants: aviation lighting design and assessment.
- 1.15 All other chapters have been prepared by the Applicant's Project Manager, Craig Potter. Craig is a Registered EIA Practitioner with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and holds an honours degree in Geography and a Masters degree in Town Planning. He has over 14 years of experience in EIA and planning.

Summary of the Proposed Development

- 1.16 The proposed development is fully described within Chapter 3: Project Description, however in brief contains the following components:
- 13 turbines;
 - Associated turbine compound areas including foundations and hardstanding areas for erecting cranes at each turbine location;

- On-site tracks connecting each turbine;
- 9 new watercourse crossings;
- On-site substation;
- Underground cables linking the turbines to the substation, typically along internal tracks;
- An Energy Storage Compound to store batteries to a 5MW capacity which would be within the construction compound footprint;
- Use of existing borrow pits for the extraction of stone on-site (indicated on Figure 3.1);
- A temporary construction compound including provision for onsite concrete batching;
- Forestry felling and restocking as proposed within Chapter 14: Forestry; and
- Outline Habitat Management provisions as proposed within **the revised** Technical Appendix 8.5 **dated 13th November 2024**.

1.17 The red line boundary provided within Figure 1.1 within Volume 2 of this EIA Report is referred to as 'the site boundary', whilst everything within that boundary is referred to as 'the Site' and occupies approximately 1371 hectares (ha). The site boundary has undergone minor amendments since EIA Scoping, particularly around the site entrance.

Contacts for Further Information and Consultation

- 1.18 Copies of the full EIA Report and its associated standalone documents can be found on the Energy Consents Unit website by searching for Breackerie Wind Farm. In addition, updates including a link to the case file are provided at www.energiekontor.com/breackerie.
- 1.19 Deposit copies of the EIA Report can be viewed at the following locations:
- Campbeltown Library, Aqualibrium, Kinloch Road, Campbeltown, PA28 6EH
- 1.20 Alternatively, the Project Manager can be contacted for copies as appropriate. There is no charge for provision of electronic documents or hard copies of the Non-Technical Summary on request.
- 1.21 Full printed copies can also be requested. Due to the size and cost of printed documents, charges for these are as follows:
- Volume 1: £50
 - Volume 2: £300
 - Volume 3: £500
 - Volume 4: £200
- 1.22 Requests should be made to Craig Potter, Project Manager, Energiekontor UK Ltd, craig.potter@energiekontor.com