

Craiginmoddie Wind Farm

Environmental Impact Assessment Report Chapter 1: Introduction

December 2020

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1 INTRODUCTION

Introduction

- 1.1 This Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) is submitted in support of a section 36 (s.36) application by Energiekontor UK Limited (the “Applicant”) to the Scottish Government’s Energy Consents Unit (“ECU”) for a wind farm consisting of 14 wind turbines and associated infrastructure (the “Proposed Development”) at Craiginmoddie (“the Site”), approximately 4km to the north/east of the village of Barr and 4km south of the village of Daily in South Ayrshire.
- 1.2 This EIA Report has been prepared on behalf of Energiekontor UK Limited and sets out the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Proposed Development.
- 1.3 The EIA Report includes a description of the Proposed Development, the Site and its design; summarises the findings of a comprehensive study of potential environmental impacts; 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 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 in the EIA Report.

The Applicant – Energiekontor UK Ltd

- 1.1 Energiekontor UK Ltd (EK) is a renewable energy development company with offices in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Leeds. The company was formed in 1999 and develops small to medium-sized onshore wind farms throughout the United Kingdom. The company operates eight wind farms in the UK with many more in the pipeline.
- 1.2 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, The Netherlands, Portugal, the USA and the UK. The company has built more than 100 onshore wind farms in Europe.
- 1.4 The following chapters and technical assessments have been undertaken by the Applicant:
 - Volume I - Chapter 1: Introduction;
 - Volume I - Chapter 2: Approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment;
 - Volume I - Chapter 3: Project Description and Construction Methods;
 - Volume I - Chapter 4: Design Evolution;
 - Volume I - Chapter 5: Renewable Energy and Planning Policy;
 - Volume I – Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual

- Volume I – Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
- Volume I – Chapter 8: Ornithology
- Volume I – Chapter 9: Ecology
- Volume I – Chapter 10: Noise
- Volume I – Chapter 11: Traffic and Transportation
- Volume I – Chapter 12: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology
- Volume I – Chapter 13: Forestry
- Volume I – Chapter 14: Infrastructure and Human Health
- Volume I – Chapter 15: Social Economics

1.5 The suite of EIA Report documents have also benefitted from the assistance of expert contributions from specialist consultants detailed in Table 1.1:

Table 1.1: External EIA Report Contributors

Technical Area	Organisation
Landscape Character and Visual Amenity	Stephenson Halliday
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	Wood Group
Ornithology	Gavia
Ecology	Gavia
Traffic and Transportation	Wood Group and Systra
Geology, Hydrology and Geohydrology	Natural Power
Noise	Wood Group
Forestry	Wood Group

The Proposed Development

1.6 The Proposed Development is described in detail in Chapter 3: Project Description and Construction Methods. It includes the following principal elements:

- 14 turbines up to 200m to blade tip;
- Associated turbine transformers;
- Associated turbine foundations;
- Hardstanding areas for erecting cranes at each turbine location;
- On-site tracks connecting each turbine;
- Underground cables linking the turbines to the substation;
- A temporary construction compound;
- On-site substation;
- Battery storage Compound;
- Borrow pit search area;
- New access;
- Forestry felling and replanting; and
- Off-site access works.

- 1.7 The Site Layout Plan is provided at Figure 3.1
- 1.8 Consent is sought for 35 years of the operational phase of the wind farm. After the expiration of this period the turbines would be decommissioned and removed. Any alternative course of action would require a fresh planning application to be submitted.

Background to the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report)

- 1.9 The Proposed Development falls within Category 3 (i) of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations and is defined as:
- i) 'Installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms)'.
- 1.10 The EIA is an important procedure aimed at ensuring that significant effects on the environment, likely to be caused by a new development proposal, are taken into account within the decision making process. Thus, this EIA Report has been carried out pursuant to the EIA Regulations.
- 1.11 Throughout each respective chapter of this EIA Report, an overview of the methodology adopted for each technical study is provided along with a statement from the chapter author stating their technical competence to undertake the assessment.

Structure of the EIA Report

- 1.12 The EIA Report for the Proposed Development is presented in four volumes, as follows:
- Volume I: Written text (this document);
 - Volume II: Figures and Visualisations;
 - Volume III: Technical Appendices;
 - Volume IV: Non-Technical Summary (NTS).
- 1.13 In support of the s.36 submission, the following documents have also been submitted:
- Planning Statement
 - Design and Access Statement

Contact for Further Information and Commenting

- 1.14 The full EIAR, together with the application for consent and associated documents, will be available for viewing on the application website at <https://www.energiekontor.co.uk/our-projects/craiginmoddie> or the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit at www.energyconsents.scot.
- 1.15 For additional copies, a charge of £15 will be made for a full electronic copy of the EIAR on CD. Costs of paper copies are as follows:
- Volume I – Written Text: £100

- Volume II – Figures and Visualisations: £600
- Volume III – Technical Appendices: £600
- Volume IV – Non-Technical Summary: free

1.16 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 the Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation.