5 EIA Process and Methodology

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) sets out the broad approach taken to produce the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development.

5.1.2 The EIA process aims to assist Scottish Ministers in their determination of the consent application by identifying where significant environmental effects are predicted. This assessment has been carried out in consultation with statutory consultees, interested parties and the general public.

5.1.3 The structure of the ES follows the requirements of Schedule 4 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000 (as amended) and relevant good practice guidance. The ES comprises three main components – a Non-Technical Summary (NTS), the main ES text and figures (including a summary table of the predicted Environmental Effects and a Schedule of Mitigation), and the ES Appendices.

5.1.4 This chapter is structured as follows:

- overview of the relevant legislation, policy and guidance;
- an outline of the EIA process utilised;
- the scope of the assessment completed;
- details of the assessment of potential effects;
- mitigation measures;
- enhancement; and
- the assumptions made, limitations encountered and uncertainty.

5.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

5.2.1 During the EIA, a number of legislative and best practice documents were referred to in order to assist the process. The European Council Directive 85/337/EEC requires that certain projects, both public and private, must be assessed with regards to their impacts on the environment. Subsequently, this directive was amended by the European Council Directive 97/11/EC which is currently implemented in Scotland by the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000 (as amended), "the EIA Regulations".

5.2.2 The proposed development falls under Schedule 2, Category (a) of the EIA Regulations, by nature of it being classified as a generating station which requires consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. The criteria for considering whether a Schedule 2 development requires the preparation of an EIA is set out in Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations. The Applicant has recognised the likelihood that the determining authority for Electricity Act 1989 consent applications, the Scottish Ministers, would require an EIA to be completed.

5.2.3 A formal Screening Opinion has, therefore, not been sought, and the Applicant has volunteered the preparation of an EIA for the proposed development. The information provided within this ES has been prepared in accordance with the Directive and the EIA Regulations.

5.2.4 The Regulations and best practice guidance which have been followed are as set out below:

- Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000 (as amended);
- Planning Circular 3/2011, Scottish Government, 2011;
- Scottish Planning Policy, Scottish Government 2010;

- Environmental Impact Assessment: Guide to Procedures, Department of Communities and Local Governance Government (DCLG), 2000;
- Planning Advice Note (PAN) 58 Environmental Impact Assessment, Scottish Executive, 1999;
- Guidelines on the Environmental Impacts of Wind farms and Small Scale Hydroelectric Schemes, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), 2002;
- Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment, Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), 2006;
- A Handbook on Environmental Impact Assessment, (SNH), 2009; and
- Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments, (SNH), 2012.

5.2.5 Table 5.1 describes how the information required under Schedule 4 'Content of an Environmental Statement' of the EIA Regulations is provided in this ES.

Table 5.1: Information Required in the ES

Required Information (EIA Regulations)	Relevant Reference within this ES
PART I	
1. A description of the proposed development, including in particular- (a) a description of the physical characteristics of the proposed development and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases; (b) a description of the main characteristics of the production processes, for instance, nature and quantity of the materials used; (c) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, etc.) resulting from the operation of the proposed development.	The proposed development is described in Chapter 3 of the ES. Consideration of anticipated construction methods is provided in Chapter 4. The land use requirements during construction and operational phases are also described in Chapters 3 and 13. A description of the main characteristics of the production process is provided in Chapter 3, where the proposed development is described. Expected residues and emissions are addressed, where relevant, in the appropriate technical chapters of this ES.
2. A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development, including, in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter-relationship between the above factors.	The predicted individual environmental effects of the proposed development are reported in Chapters 7 to 17 inclusive. Effects on population are assessed in relation to visual impacts, socio-economic, recreation, tourism, traffic, noise and shadow flicker. Material assets are addressed through the assessment of cultural heritage effects and other chapters as appropriate.
3. A description of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the proposed development, resulting from: (a) the existence of the proposed development; (b) the use of natural resources; (c) the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances and the	The predicted significant effects of the proposed development are reported after relevant mitigation measures have been applied to an identified impact, in each of the technical chapters of the ES. Effects have been predicted in relation to the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the proposed development, including the nature of these effects and their duration. The overall approach and methods used in the

Required Information (EIA Regulations)	Relevant Reference within this ES
elimination of waste; and the description by the Applicant of the forecasting methods used to assess the effects on the environment.	assessment of environmental impacts are discussed in Section 4.7 of this chapter. Prediction methods are discussed in detail within each relevant technical chapters (7 to 17) of the ES. Cumulative effects with other consented and proposed developments are assessed and reported within each of the technical chapters (Chapters 7 to 17) as appropriate.
4. A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.	The overall approach to mitigation is discussed in Section 4.8 of this chapter. Specific mitigation measures are reported in each of the relevant technical sections of the ES.
5. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 4 above.	A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) is presented as a stand-alone document.
6. An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the Applicant in compiling the required information.	Any areas of uncertainty or limitations on the assessment, where they have been identified, are reported in the relevant technical chapters of the ES.
Part II	
1. A description of the proposed development comprising information on the site, design and size of the proposed development.	The proposed development is described in Chapter 3 of the ES, including the existing site baseline and the proposed development layout and anticipated infrastructure requirements.
2. A description of the measures envisaged in order to avoid, reduce and, if possible, remedy significant adverse effects.	Each technical chapter contains a section on the proposed mitigation measures to avoid, reduce and remedy adverse effects.
3. The data required to identify and assess the main effects which the proposed development is likely to have on the environment.	The description of the proposed development in Chapter 3 of the ES contains the proposed development details required to assess the effects of the proposed development on the environment.
4. The main alternatives studied by the Applicant and the main reasons for his choice, taking into account the environmental effects.	The design evolution process is described in Chapter 2 and details how the site was chosen and the environmental constraints taken into consideration.
5. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 4 of this Part.	A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) is presented as a stand-alone document.

5.3 Legal Framework for the ES

Overall EIA Process

5.3.1 In order for the EIA process to be as effective as possible it should be used as an iterative process throughout the design stage, rather than a single assessment performed once the design is finalised. When used as an iterative process, the findings of the EIA can be incorporated within the design of the proposed development to provide an optimum design with regard to the Applicant's requirements and the environment.

5.3.2 The findings of the EIA are presented in this ES, which has been prepared in accordance with the EIA Regulations.

5.3.3 The broad approach that has been followed in undertaking the EIA is presented in this chapter and an overview of the methodology adopted for each technical study is provided within the respective ES technical chapters (Chapters 6 to 15). The ES contains the information specified in Part I (where relevant) and Part II of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations (refer to Table 5.1).

EIA Screening

5.3.4 Screening is the process by which it is determined whether or not an EIA should be undertaken for a proposed development.

5.3.5 As the proposed development is a Schedule 2 development, the criteria set out in Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations should be considered in determining whether the proposed development is likely to have significant environmental effects and hence require a formal EIA. These criteria are:

- the characteristics of the proposed development (e.g. its size, cumulative effects with other developments, use of natural resources, resultant pollution, and waste generated);
- the environmental sensitivity of the location; and
- the characteristics of the potential impacts (including extent, magnitude, probability and duration).

5.3.6 The Applicant considered that the proposed development has the potential to result in significant environmental effects, and therefore an EIA would be required. This was voluntarily determined without consultation with the ECDU, PKC and other Statutory Consultees.

EIA Scoping

5.3.7 The EIA scoping process is undertaken to identify the potentially significant environmental issues which should be considered when assessing the potential effects of the proposed development.

5.3.8 An EIA Scoping Opinion was requested from the ECDU in November 2011. The Applicant provided an EIA Scoping Report, as prepared by the EIA Project Team, to inform the ECDU and consultees in forming their Scoping Opinion. This EIA Scoping Report contained details of the site baseline and the proposed development. It also proposed which environmental impacts would be assessed in the EIA, and the assessment methodologies that would be used.

5.3.9 The ECDU consulted with a variety of statutory and non-statutory consultees before providing an EIA Scoping Opinion in February 2012). Additional consultees contacted directly by the Applicant also provided EIA Scoping Responses.

Public Consultation

5.3.10 The European Commission issued the Public Participation Directive (PPD) (Directive 2003/35/EC) in 2003 to provide opportunities for the public to be involved in the consenting process for certain activities, through access to information, justice, and consultation on key documents.

5.3.11 The EIA Directive was therefore amended to incorporate the requirements of the PPD Directive. The 2008 amendments to the EIA Regulations reflect these changes.

5.3.12 Additional relevant policy and legislation which sets out the importance of public consultation and engagement include the following:

- Scottish Planning Policy 2010;
- PAN 81 Community Engagement; and
- Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006.

5.3.13 The Applicant considers public consultation to be an important element of the EIA and planning process. Consultation with the general public has been conducted in accordance with the above legislative and policy requirements, to ensure views were taken into account during the design phase for the proposed development. This allows information to be gathered which may otherwise have remained unknown.

5.3.14 Further details of the public consultation that was undertaken by the Applicant are provided in the pre-application consultation report.

Identification of Issues

5.3.15 As a result of the Scoping and ongoing consultation processes the following issues were assessed during the EIA and reported in the ES:

- landscape and visual impacts;
- ecology and nature conservation;
- ornithology;
- geology, hydrology, and hydrogeology;
- archaeology and cultural heritage;
- noise and vibration;
- traffic and transport.
- socio-economics, tourism, recreation and land-use;
- shadow flicker;
- Carbon balance; and
- radar, aviation and telecommunications.

5.4 The EIA Process

5.4.1 EIA is the systematic process of compiling, assessing and presenting the significant environmental effects of a proposed development. The assessment is designed to inform the decision-making process to produce an environmentally acceptable project. Identification of potentially significant adverse environmental effects then leads to the design and incorporation of appropriate mitigation measures into both the design of the development and the way in which it is constructed.

5.4.2 Throughout the assessment, a distinction has been made between the term ‘impact’ and ‘effect’. The EIA Regulations refer to the requirement to report the significance of “effects”. An impact has been defined as the physical change of the characteristics of the receiving environment as a result of the proposed development (e.g. noise from turbines), whereas an effect refers to the result of this impact in terms of significance (e.g. a significant residual noise effect on residential properties). These terms have been adopted throughout this ES to present a consistent approach to the assessment and evaluation of effects and their significance.

5.4.3 The main steps in the assessment process for the proposed development have been:

- Baseline surveys (where appropriate and where possible) to provide information on the existing environmental character of the proposed site and the surrounding area;
- Consideration has been given to the possible interactions between the proposed development and the existing and predicted future site conditions. These interactions or effects are assessed using criteria based on accepted guidance and best practice;

- Using the outline design parameters for the proposed development, prediction of the environmental effects, including direct, indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, beneficial and adverse effects;
- Identification of mitigation measures designed to avoid, reduce or off-set adverse effects and enhance beneficial effects. Reassessment of alterations to the design and determination of the effectiveness of mitigation proposals;
- Assessment of the significance of any residual effects after mitigation, in relation to the sensitivity of the feature impacted upon and the magnitude of the effect predicted, in line with the methodology identified below (refer to Section 5.7);
- Identification of any uncertainties inherent in the methods used, the predictions made and the conclusions drawn during the course and the assessment process; and
- Reporting of the results of the EIA in this ES.

5.4.4 The EIA process is iterative, with the findings of the EIA fed into the design process over the course of the assessment work.

5.5 Scope of the EIA

Technical Scope

5.5.1 The technical scope of the assessment will cover all the topics aforementioned in paragraph 5.3.15, with the following technical topics scoped out of the EIA.

5.5.2 No significant health and safety effects have been identified with respect to the construction and operation of the proposed development that would not be appropriately mitigated through good practice in construction and adherence to relevant legislation and guidance, as noted in Chapter 4 of this ES. Infrastructure including roads and properties have been appropriately buffered and are sufficiently separated from the proposed turbine locations to limit any potential health and safety concerns. Therefore, further assessment of health and safety effects has been scoped out of the EIA.

5.5.3 The proposed development is not considered likely cause any significant effects to air quality during operation, therefore, assessment of effects on operational air quality has been scoped out of the EIA.

5.5.4 Similarly, due to the distance from residential receptors and the use of industry standard measures to control potential effects on air quality during construction (e.g. dust mobilisation and construction vehicle emissions) through implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan, these effects are not considered likely to be significant. Assessment of effects on air quality during construction has, therefore, also been scoped out of the EIA.

5.5.5 It is considered unlikely that the proposed development will cause any disruption to television viewing in the area and, therefore, this topic has been scoped out of further assessment. The reason for this is that, within the area, the digital terrestrial signal is of poor strength, with no channels predicted to be available. For this reason it is predicted that local television viewers will have sourced alternative means of viewing television and will not be affected by the proposed development.

5.5.6 In terms of operational noise, due to the distance of noise sensitive receptors to the site, a simplified noise assessment has been prepared and is reported in Chapter 12 of the ES. All other technical topic areas identified in paragraph 5.3.15 have been assessed as part of the EIA process and are reported in the relevant sections of this ES.

5.5.7 Each matter has been considered to the appropriate level of detail in the ES, using the information collated during the initial scoping exercise and from the formal EIA Scoping Opinion received from ECDU and additional EIA Scoping Responses. For each impact the baseline condition has been described, with the receptor

sensitivity identified. The potential effects, including those which are cumulative, have been predicted and assessed for their significance. Where possible and applicable, mitigation measures have been identified and any potential residual environmental effects assessed.

Spatial Scope

5.5.8 The spatial scope of the EIA, i.e. the geographical coverage of the assessment undertaken, has taken account of a number of factors, in particular:

- the extent of the proposed development, as defined by the red line boundary (refer to Figures 1.2 and 1.3);
- the nature of the baseline environment, sensitive receptors and the likely impacts that could arise; and
- the distance over which predicted effects are likely to remain significant and in particular the existence of pathways which could result in the transfer of effects to a wider geographical area than the extent of proposed physical works.

5.5.9 In addition to effects arising as a result of the proposed development, the EIA is also required to assess the predicted significant cumulative effects likely to arise as a result of the proposed development in combination with other existing or proposed developments in the area. Chapter 7 of this ES lists developments within 70 km of the proposed development that may give rise to cumulative effects for certain environmental receptors – the locations of these developments are illustrated in Figure 7.50.

5.5.10 The spatial extent of the assessment of cumulative effects varies between different environmental issues, as certain environmental effects (e.g. landscape and visual) have a much greater spatial extent than others (e.g. hydrology). For the purposes of assessing cumulative landscape and visual effects, a study areas with a radius of 35 km and 70 km around the site centre were used (refer to Chapter 7 for details), albeit the nearest scheme is 40km from the site. For other assessments, a fixed geographical buffer has not been defined for identifying relevant developments to include in the assessment, rather, professional judgement and the knowledge of the project team and consultees has been used to determine the most appropriate developments to consider. The assessment of cumulative effects with other relevant consented and proposed developments is presented within each of the technical chapters as appropriate.

Temporal Scope

5.5.11 The baseline years used for the assessment of environmental effects is reported in respect of each chapter and technical discipline. This varies from 2011 through to 2014, being the periods during which baseline environmental surveys were undertaken. The assumption at this stage is that a consent application as submitted in June 2014, with an aspiration to achieve determination in 2015. If approved, construction is assumed to commence late 2016. The proposed operational life for the proposed development is 25 years, after which time it will be decommissioned.

5.5.12 For construction effects, the assessment also takes into account the time of day that works are likely to be undertaken, for example if any night time working is required to minimise disruption to road users.

5.5.13 For the assessment of cumulative effects, it has been assumed that all other relevant developments potentially giving rise to cumulative effects would be under construction, operational (whichever is the worst case scenario) or subject to valid but undetermined applications for consent.

5.6 Regulatory Consultation

5.6.1 Consultation remains a critical component of the EIA process. In order to inform the EIA, there has been on-going consultation with statutory consultees, engagement through the formal EIA Scoping process and subsequent discussions, correspondence and meetings, as required.

5.6.2 Organisations were contacted either directly by the project team or by the ECDU through the formal EIA Scoping process in relation to the EIA. Additional consultation was also undertaken post-scoping and during the design iteration process as described in Chapter 2.

5.7 Assessment of Effects

5.7.1 Within the ES, the assessment of effects for each environmental topic takes into account the environmental impacts of both the construction and operational phases of the proposed development. Furthermore, a number of criteria are used to determine whether or not the potential effects of the proposed development are likely to be 'significant'. These significance criteria vary between EIA topics but generally include:

- international, national and local designations or standards;
- sensitivity of the receiving environment;
- magnitude of impact;
- reversibility and duration of the effect; inter-relationship between effects; and
- relationship with relevant planning and energy policy.

5.7.2 Effects that are considered to be significant are identified within the ES. The significance of the resultant effects reflects judgements as to the importance or sensitivity of the affected receptor(s) and the nature and magnitude of the predicted changes. For example, a major adverse impact on a feature or site of low importance will have an effect of lesser significance than the same impact on a feature or site of high importance. Table 5.3 is used as a guide to demonstrate the relationship between the sensitivity of the identified receptor and the anticipated magnitude of an impact. Professional judgement is, however, equally important in verifying the suitability of this guiding 'formula' to the assessment of the significance of each individual effect. Therefore the table below may change between technical assessments and where this is the case it is set out in individual topic chapters.

Table 5.3 - Guide to the Inter-Relationship between Magnitude of Impact and Sensitivity of Receptor

Magnitude of Change	Sensitivity of Receptor / Receiving Environment to Change			
	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
High	Major	Moderate to Major	Minor to Moderate	Negligible
Medium	Moderate to Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
Low	Minor to Moderate	Minor	Negligible to Minor	Negligible
Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

5.7.3 The following terms are used in the ES, unless otherwise stated, to determine the level of effects predicted to occur:

- Major beneficial or adverse effect – where the proposed development would result in a substantial improvement (or deterioration) to the existing environment.
- Moderate beneficial or adverse effect – where the proposed development would result in a noticeable improvement (or deterioration) to the existing environment.
- Minor beneficial or adverse effect – where the proposed development would result in a small improvement (or deterioration) to the existing environment.

- Negligible – where the proposed development would result in no discernible improvement (or deterioration) to the existing environment.

5.7.4 Using professional judgement and with reference to the Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment (IEMA, 2004), this ES considers effects of moderate and greater significance to be significant, whilst those of moderate/minor significance and less to be non-significant.

5.7.5 Summary tables that outline the predicted effects associated with an environmental issue, the appropriate mitigation measures required to address these effects and subsequent overall residual effects are provided at the end of each technical chapter of the ES. Distinction has also been made between direct and indirect, short and long term, permanent and temporary, beneficial and adverse effects.

Cumulative Effects

5.7.6 The EIA Regulations stipulate that cumulative effects should also be considered. Cumulative effects are those which result from incremental changes caused by past, present or reasonably foreseeable future actions resulting from the introduction of the proposed development. These cumulative effects cover the combined effect of individual impacts from the proposed development and combined impacts of several developments, as noted within the guidance provided by SNH in the document "Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments" (2012). Developments considered in addition to the proposed development are existing and other proposals, covering all developments, including other wind farms (SNH, 2012).

5.7.7 The SNH 2012 guidance has been used throughout the assessment of cumulative impacts for the proposed development. Where appropriate, any additional guidance or legislative provisions consulted during the assessment of cumulative effects are detailed.

5.7.8 The spatial and temporal scopes for assessment of cumulative effects are described in Section 5.5 above. Within each technical chapter, any potential cumulative effects are assessed, and reported where significant.

5.8 Mitigation Measures

5.8.1 The EIA Regulations require the EIA to present a description of the measures proposed to avoid, reduce and, if possible, offset significant adverse effects. Wherever reasonably practicable, mitigation measures are proposed for each significant environmental effect predicted, and can take various forms including:

- changes to the proposed development design;
- physical measures applied on site; and
- measures to control particular aspects of the construction or operation of the scheme.

5.8.2 Where none of the above are deemed practicable, the detailed design of the proposed development will be required to include measures to offset any significant adverse effects.

5.8.3 Mitigation measures are presented as commitments in order to ensure a level of certainty as to the environmental effects of the proposed development. As a result, it can, therefore, be assumed that the Applicant is committed to implementing, or to require implementation of all mitigation measures identified in this ES. There are various ways in which a level of certainty can be ensured, such as through the use of planning conditions. Whilst PKC can seek to ensure the implementation of specific mitigation measures where they are deemed to address a significant environmental effect that would otherwise make the proposed development unacceptable on planning grounds, there are a range of other mitigation measures proposed in the ES which do not fall into this category but which, nonetheless, seek to ensure the most environmentally acceptable scheme. Therefore, notwithstanding any statutory mechanisms to ensure implementation, the Applicant and therefore the Contractors will be committed to implementing all mitigation measures identified in this ES relating to construction of the proposed development.

5.9 Enhancement

5.9.1 Similar to the reporting of mitigation measures, where opportunities for environmental enhancement have been identified and agreed by the Applicant, these have been included in the summary of committed measures reported at the end of each technical chapter, and in Chapter 17.

5.10 Assumptions, Limitations and Uncertainty

5.10.1 The EIA process is designed to enable informed decision-making based on the best available information about the environmental implications of a proposed development. However, there will always be some uncertainty inherent in the scale and nature of the predicted environmental effects as a result of the level of detailed information available at the time of assessment, the potential for minor alterations to the proposed project following completion of the ES and/or the limitations of the prediction processes.

5.10.2 A number of assumptions were made during the EIA process and are as detailed below:

- The principal land uses adjacent to the site remain unchanged during the course of the proposed development's lifetime.
- Current applications for wind farms are included within the assessment of cumulative effects for each technical aspect.
- Information provided by third parties, including publicly available information and databases are correct at the time of submission.

5.10.3 Further to this, more specific assumptions may be made with regards to the individual technical aspects and are detailed within each chapter.

5.10.4 The EIA has also been undertaken subject to a number of limitations, which are

- whilst baseline conditions have been assumed to be accurate at the time of surveying, due to the dynamic nature of the environment, these conditions may change during site preparation, construction and operation; and
- the assessment of cumulative effects is dependent on the availability of information on other developments.

5.10.5 There is also the potential for a degree of uncertainty as certain aspects of the proposed development may be subject to change up to the finalisation of detailed design. This uncertainty can come in the following plans:

- turbine selection;
- foundation and infrastructure design; and
- micro-siting of the turbines which may change due to investigation findings or implementation of mitigation measures.

5.10.6 Information on the construction of the proposed development has been developed by the project team based on professional judgement and outline design, subject to the most likely methods of construction, plant, access routes and working areas etc; for the purposes of the EIA. The final choice on construction methods will rest with the Contractors and may differ from those used in this assessment, with any such uncertainty stated. Although in accordance with best practice, worst case environmental impact assumptions have been implemented throughout the EIA process.

5.11 Public Consultation

5.11.1 The Applicant has carried out extensive consultation with the communities close to the site. The consultation process is described in detail in the Pre-Application Consultation Report submitted as part of the Section 36 Electricity Act 1989 consent application, and is summarised in the accompanying Pre-Application Consultation Report which details the extent of engagement, results from this and how information has been taken into account in the proposed development of the design for the proposed development.

5.11.2 The public consultation for the proposed development has used a variety of different methods during the engagement process, including direct consultation, two rounds of public exhibitions at Bridge of Gaur and Kinloch Rannoch in each case (in November 2013 and May 2014), newsletters distributed to local residents, and the setting up of a Community Liaison Group.

5.11.3 The Applicant has conducted a very extensive consultation on the proposed development. The Applicant believes strongly in adopting a best practice approach to community consultation and aims to be seen as the meeting and indeed exceeding the expected requirements of developer consultation for wind farm planning applications.

5.12 Summary

5.12.1 This chapter has detailed the background and broad methodology used to conduct the EIA and produce the ES for the proposed development. An overview of the relevant legislation and guidance documents has been provided with the main legislative document being the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000 (as amended). Following this, an outline of the EIA process is detailed, with the scope of the assessment also detailed. General assumptions, limitations and uncertainties are stated.