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1. Introduction

1.1. Project Background

- 1.1.1. SETT Wind Development Limited Ltd (the Applicant) submitted an application to the Scottish Ministers under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) to construct, operate and decommission 19 wind turbines (the 'Proposed Development') in December 2018. The Proposed Development is located within the Smittons and Craigengillan plantations, approximately 5 kilometres (km) east of Carsphairn, in Dumfries and Galloway. This application was accompanied by the Shepherds' Rig Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) (November 2018), prepared under the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations).
- 1.1.2. Following the submission of the application, the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) consulted a range of relevant organisations. A summary of all response received is provided in Chapter 6 with further details in each technical section. On receipt of consultation responses, the Applicant has considered matters raised and has undertaken further design and assessment work, where appropriate.
- 1.1.3. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) raised concerns regarding effects upon the setting of the Scheduled Craigengillan Cairn (SM2238) and Stroanfreggan Craig Fort (SM1095). In regards to Craigengillan Cairn, Turbine 3 (T3), T5, T7, T9 and T11 were identified as having a significant adverse effect upon the key characteristics of the setting of the cairn, including its prominent position in the valley and its relationship with the surrounding fertile land and route along the river on the valley floor which includes Stroanfreggan Craig Fort and Stroanfreggan Bridge Cairn. In response to these comments, the site layout has been re-designed. In summary, T7 and T11 have been removed from the scheme along with the associated access tracks and infrastructure, and T9 has been re-sited further west to maintain the setting and relationship of the Scheduled Monuments.
- 1.1.4. Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) raised concerns about infrastructure located in areas of deep peat (> 1 metre [m] depths). Most notably, SEPA requested further information in regards to how impacts to peat were minimised during design in regards to the placement of T4, T6, T8, T9, T10, T13, and T16. In response to these comments, the site layout has been re-designed to re-site these turbines and associated infrastructure in areas outwith deep peat or in shallower peat depths.
- 1.1.5. The re-design process has involved site evaluation, environmental appraisal and further consultation with both HES and SEPA, resulting in a Revised Development. Additional studies have been commissioned by the Applicant to inform the re-design process, to assess the environmental effects associated with the revised scheme, and to address concerns raised by consultees. The principles of the EIA Report (November 2018) remain valid and appropriate and therefore have not been reassessed for this Additional Environmental

Information (AEI) submission, unless otherwise stated. As such, the AEI supplements the EIA Report (November 2018) and should be read in conjunction with it.

1.2. Overview of the Revised Development

1.2.1. The main changes to the Proposed Development, as detailed in the EIA Report (November 2018), are as follows:

- Deletion of T7 and T11 and re-siting of T9 approximately 120m further to the west, primarily to reduce impacts on Craigengillan Cairn Scheduled Monument;
- Deletion of the track sections leading to T7 and T11 and the re-alignment of the track following the deletion of T7 to increase separation from Craigengillan Cairn; and
- Re-siting of the following turbines on the western side of the layout to position them in shallower peat: T4; T6; T8; T10; T13 and T16. The maximum re-siting distance is approximately 80 m. In most cases the turbines have been re-located along the original track alignment resulting in minimal changes to the track alignment.

1.2.2. The Revised Development, as detailed above, is presented in **AEI Figure 4.1**.

1.2.3. The remainder of the Proposed Development is unchanged. There are no changes to the turbine dimensions or assessment candidate turbine types. Due to the deletion of the two turbines, the total output has reduced by 8.4 MW and consequently the estimated maximum installed capacity of the Revised Development is now 76.2 MW, comprising 70.2 MW from the wind turbines and 6 MW from the battery energy storage facility.

1.2.4. The main components of the Revised Development are therefore:

- 17 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 149.9 m and 2 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 125 m, together with associated turbine foundations, wind turbine hard-standings, and crane pads;
- a series of onsite access tracks connecting each of the turbine locations;
- a network of underground cables linking the turbines to an onsite electricity substation and control/maintenance building;
- a battery energy storage array located within the onsite electricity substation;
- two temporary borrow working areas;
- an access junction at the existing forestry track into the plantation from the B729 between Muirdrochwood and Smittons;
- a temporary construction compound; and
- a permanent anemometer mast to measure wind speed and wind direction.

1.3. Structure of the Additional Environmental Information Report

- 1.3.1. This AEI Report provides details of the application consultation responses, description of changes to the Proposed Development layout assessed in the EIA Report (November 2018), description of any changes to the baseline, assessment methodology or policy context where relevant, and reports on the resultant changes to any predicted significant effects compared to those described in the original EIA Report.
- 1.3.2. The AEI Report comprises the following documents:
- Non-Technical Summary;
 - Volume 1 – Written Statement;
 - Volume 2 – Figures;
 - Volume 3 – Landscape and Visual and Cultural Heritage Visualisations; and
 - Volume 4 – Appendices.
- 1.3.3. The chapters of the written statement of this AEI Report follow the same number, order, and title as in the EIA Report (November 2018).
- 1.3.4. Each technical chapter is structured in the following way and has the following subheadings:
- Introduction;
 - Methodology;
 - Baseline conditions;
 - Changes in effects;
 - Mitigation;
 - Cumulative effects;
 - Summary; and
 - Statement of Significance.
- 1.3.5. The figures in Volume 2 largely consist of the corresponding original EIA report figures amended to reflect the Revised Development. Where a figure has not changed, it has not been re-provided.
- 1.3.6. As a result of the deletion of two turbines and the re-siting of others, all of the landscape and visual and cultural heritage visualisations in the original EIA report have been revised and are provided in Volume 3.
- 1.3.7. The Non-Technical Summary has been amended and re-issued in its entirety so that there is an up to date comprehensive summary of the EIA findings.

1.4. The Environmental Impact Assessment Team

- 1.4.1. AEI Table 1.1 below sets out the consultancy responsible each assessment topic and chapter of AEI Report.

AEI Table 1.1: AEI Topics and Contributors

| Chapter | Assessment Topic | Contributor |
|---------|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Introduction | Infinergy |
| 2 | Site Description | Infinergy |
| 3 | Alternatives and Scheme Evolution | Infinergy |
| 4 | Description of the Revised Development | Infinergy |
| 5 | Policy Context | Savills |
| 6 | EIA Methodology and Consultation | Arcus |
| 7 | Forestry | DGA |
| 8 | Landscape and Visual | Pegasus |
| 9 | Ecology | Arcus |
| 10 | Ornithology | NRP |
| 11 | Cultural Heritage | Headland Archaeology |
| 12 | Geology and Peat | Arcus |
| 13 | Hydrology and Hydrogeology | Arcus |
| 14 | Noise | Arcus |
| 15 | Traffic and Transport | Arcus |
| 16 | Aviation | WPAC |
| 17 | Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation | Biggar |
| 18 | Shadow Flicker | Arcus |
| 19 | Telecommunications and Utilities | Arcus |
| 20 | Health and Safety | Arcus |
| 21 | Climate Change and Carbon Balance | Arcus |

1.5. Obtaining Further Information

- 1.5.1. The AEI Report and accompanying updated documentation are available online; please visit the dedicated project website for Shepherds' Rig Wind Farm at www.shepherdsrigwindfarm.co.uk. Copies of the Non-Technical Summary and a DVD comprising the AEI submission and the EIA Report (November 2018) in Adobe pdf format may be obtained free of charge while stocks last.

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- 1.5.2. Similarly, paper copies of the AEI Report may be obtained at a cost of £500+ P&P. Please email the Applicant at info@shepherdsrigwindfarm.co.uk or write to Freepost Infinergy Ltd (no further details or stamps required) to request a copy. Below is the Applicant's address:

Infinergy Ltd
16 West Borough
Wimborne
Dorset
BH21 1NG

Freephone 0800 980 4299

- 1.5.3. Hard copies of the AEI Report will also be made available for public viewing at the Carsphairn Shop and Tearoom, Dumfries and Galloway Council Planning Department, and the Scottish Government Library.