

**Beaufort Wind Limited** 

# Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm Repowering

Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Volume 2)

663547





# **RSK GENERAL NOTES**

Project No.:	663547-3 (00)		
Title:	Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Volume 2)		
Client:	Beaufort Wind Limited		
Date:	June 2025		
Office:	Glasgow		
Status:	Final		
Author	Lewis Gourlay	Technical reviewer	Robert Beck
Date:	14/05/25	_ _ Date:	03/06/25
Project mana	nger Adam Paterson	_	
Date:	30/05/25		

RSK Environment Ltd (RSK) has prepared this report for the sole use of the client, showing reasonable skill and care, for the intended purposes as stated in the agreement under which this work was completed. The report may not be relied upon by any other party without the express agreement of the client and RSK. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report.

Where any data supplied by the client or from other sources have been used, it has been assumed that the information is correct. No responsibility can be accepted by RSK for inaccuracies in the data supplied by any other party. The conclusions and recommendations in this report are based on the assumption that all relevant information has been supplied by those bodies from whom it was requested.

No part of this report may be copied or duplicated without the express permission of RSK and the party for whom it was prepared.

Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work.

This work has been undertaken in accordance with the quality management system of RSK Environment Ltd.

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.1 BACKGROUND TO PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	1
1.2 PLANNING HISTORY	3
1.3 REPOWERING EXPLAINED	3
1.4 STRUCTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT	3
1.5 EIA TEAM	5
1.6 PUBLICITY OF THE EIA REPORT	7
1.7 REFERENCES	7
TABLES	
Table 1.1: Summary of key terms and descriptions	2
Table 1.2: EIA Team responsibilities, qualifications and experience	

# **GLOSSARY**

air quality standard	concentration of a pollutant, over a specified period, above which adverse effects on health and/or the environment may occur, and which should not be exceeded
alternatives	different design, layout and technological possibilities that could be considered during project development that have potential to fulfil the project objectives
ambient	of or relating to the immediate surroundings of something (e.g. ambient noise level)
ancient woodland	woodland that has existed continuously since at least AD 1600
application boundary	This relates to the site red line boundary
appropriate assessment	process whereby projects, either alone or in combination, are considered to see if it can be ascertained that they will not adversely affect the integrity of a European protected site
assessment	process by which information about effects of a proposed plan, project or intervention is collected, assessed and used to inform decision making
baseline conditions	environment as it appears (or would appear) immediately prior to the implementation of the project together with any known or foreseeable future changes that will take place before completion of the project
baseline studies	work done to determine and describe the environmental conditions against which any future changes can be measured or predicted and assessed
biodiversity	variety of life forms; different plants, animals and microorganisms; the genes they contain; and the ecosystems they form
catchment	drainage/basin area within which precipitation drains into a river system and eventually into the sea
committed development	development projects that are either under construction or have valid planning permissions/consents
competent authority	authority responsible for determining the application for consent, permission, licence or other authorisation to proceed with a development
construction phase	period during which the building or assembling of a proposed development and its infrastructure is undertaken
consultation	process by which those organisations or individuals with an interest in the area associated with the proposed scheme are identified and engaged as part of the EIA process
consultation bodies	organisations that the competent authority is required to consult by virtue of the EIA Regulations
Controlled Activities Regulations	Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR), also known as the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, apply regulatory controls over activities which may affect Scotland's water environment. SEPA risk assesses the proposed activities before granting an authorisation if it is appropriate. The type of authorisation depends on the environmental risk, and could be General Binding Rules, registration, or a licence.
controlled waters	surface waters, ground waters and coastal waters to which UK pollution legislation applies

culvert	pipe or box-type conduit through which water is carried under a structure
cumulative impact	impacts that result from incremental changes caused by other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions together with the project. A cumulative impact may arise as the result of (a) the additional or combined impact of a number of different environmental topic-specific impacts from a single environmental impact assessment project on a single receptor/ resource or (b) the combined impact of a number of different projects within the vicinity (in combination with the environmental impact assessment project) on a single receptor/resource
decommissioning	period during which a development and its associated infrastructure are removed from active operation
design event	event such as a rainstorm or flood of given magnitude and probability (usually derived from previous records)
do-minimum scenario	also known as the 'do-nothing' scenario: the conditions that would persist in the absence of the implementation of a development
effect	term used to express the consequence of an impact (expressed as the 'significance of effect'), which is determined by correlating the magnitude of the impact with the importance (or sensitivity) of the receptor or resource in accordance with defined significance criteria. For example, land clearing during construction results in habitat loss (impact), the effect of which is the significance of the habitat loss on the ecological resource
EIA Regulations	the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended)
emission standard	maximum amount or concentration of a pollutant allowed to be emitted from a particular source
emissions inventory	collection of data relating to the characteristics of processes or activities that release pollutants into the atmosphere
Energy Consents Unit	part of the Scottish Government's Energy Division, the unit processes and administers energy infrastructure applications for Scottish Ministers under the 1989 Electricity Act
enhancement	measure that seeks to improve an environmental condition and is over and above what is required to mitigate the adverse effects of a project
environmental assessment	method and a process by which information about environmental effects is collected, assessed and used to inform decision-making. Assessment processes include strategic environmental assessment, assessment of implications on European sites, and environmental impact assessment
environmental impact assessment	statutory process by which certain planned projects must be assessed before a formal decision to proceed can be made. Involves the collection and consideration of environmental information, which fulfils the assessment requirements of the EIA Regulations, including the publication of an EIA report
Environmental Impact Assessment Report	otherwise known as an EIA report. Document produced in accordance with the EIA Regulations that reports the outcomes of the EIA process

environmental information	information that must be taken into account by the decision maker (the competent authority) before granting any kind of authorisation in any case where the EIA process applies. It includes the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, including any further information, any representations made by anybody required by the EIA Regulations to be invited to make representations, and any representations duly made by any other person about the environmental effects of the development
environmental management plan	structured plan that outlines the mitigation, monitoring and management requirements arising from an environmental impact assessment
estuary	downstream part of a river where it widens to enter the sea
European site	sites that make up the European ecological network (also known as Natura 2000 sites). These include sites of community importance (SCIs), special protection areas (SPAs) and potential SPAs (pSPAs), special areas of conservation (SACs) and candidate or possible SACs (cSACs or pSACs), and Ramsar sites
evaluation	determination of the significance of effects. Evaluation involves making judgements as to the value of the receptor/resource that is being affected and the consequences of the effect on the receptor/resource based on the magnitude of the impact.
existing environment	see 'baseline conditions'
Gatecheck	Procedure adopted by the Energy Consents Unit to review work undertaken by the applicant for a Section 36 or Section 37 development prior to submission of their EIA report and consent application
Habitats Regulations	The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 (most recently amended in 2012), is more commonly known as the Habitats Regulations. The Habitats Regulations cover requirements for sites that are internationally important for threatened habitats and species (e.g. Natura sites), species that require strict protection (e.g. European protected species), and other aspects of the Habitats Directive
Habitats Regulations assessment	assessment of the impacts of implementing a plan or policy on a European site, the purpose being to consider the impacts of a project against conservation objectives of the site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of the site
hydraulics	processes and regimes of water flow (velocities, volumes, duration, frequency etc) in hydrological systems such as surface waters and groundwater
hydrodynamics	mechanical properties of fluids, such as those concerned with flow
impact	change that is caused by an action; for example, land clearing (action) during construction that results in habitat loss (impact)
invertebrates	animals without backbones
method statement	document that sets out intended working or survey practices
mitigation	measures intended to avoid, reduce and compensate adverse environmental effects
monitoring	continuing assessment of the performance of the project, including mitigation measures. This determines if effects occur as predicted or if operations remain within acceptable limits, and if mitigation measures are as effective as predicted
national development	development type identified as national development in Section 3 of Annex B of the National Planning Framework 4

	arganications and hadios that was he consulted as relationt of a single
non-statutory consultee	organisations and bodies that may be consulted on relevant planning applications
non-technical summary	information for the non-specialist reader to enable them to understand the main predicted environmental effects of the proposal without reference to the main EIA report
operation	functioning of a development on completion of construction
phase 1 habitat survey	recognised methodology used for collating information on the habitat structure of a particular site
photomontage	superimposing of an image onto a photograph to create a realistic representation of proposed or potential changes to a view
planning authority	local authority that is empowered by law to exercise planning functions for a particular administrative area in Scotland
pollution	any increase of matter or energy to a level that is harmful to living organisms of their environment (when it becomes a pollutant)
preferred option	chosen design option that most successfully achieves the project objectives and becomes subject to further design and assessment
programme	series of steps that have been identified by the applicant, or series of projects that are linked by dependency
project	one (or more) aspect of a programme or plan that has been identified by the applicant and usually involves a direct physical intervention
project objectives	objectives of the project, set by the applicant
Ramsar	areas designated by the UK Government under the International Ramsar Convention (the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance)
receptor	defined individual environmental feature usually associated with population, fauna and flora with the potential to be affected by a project
resource	defined but generally collective environmental feature usually associated with soil, water, air, climatic factors, landscape, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage that has potential to be affected by a project
roosting site (birds)	place where birds rest or sleep
roosting site (bats)	place where bats live (e.g. built structures and trees)
run-off	precipitation that flows as surface water from a site, catchment or region to the sea
Section 36 Application	An application for the construction and operation of a generating station of more than 50 MW capacity under S36 of the Electricity Act 1989.
scoping	process of identifying the issues to be addressed by the environmental impact assessment process. It is a method of ensuring that an assessment focuses on the important issues and avoids those that are considered not significant.
Scoping Opinion	opinion provided by a competent authority that indicates the issues an environmental impact assessment of a proposed development should consider
sediment	organic and inorganic material that has precipitated from water to accumulate on the floor of a water body, watercourse or trap

semi-natural	habitat, ecosystem, community, vegetation type or landscape that has been modified by human activity but consists largely of native species and appears to have similar structure and functioning to a natural type
site	this is used to refer to everything within the application boundary except site access
site of special scientific interest	main national conservation site protection measure in Britain designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
special area of conservation	international designation implemented under the Habitats Regulations for the protection of habitats and (non-bird) species
special protection area	sites designated under EU Directive (79/409/EEC) for the conservation of wild birds
stakeholder	organisation or individual with a particular interest in the project
study area	spatial area within which environmental effects are assessed (i.e. extending a distance from the project footprint in which significant environmental effects are anticipated to occur). This may vary between the topic areas.
threshold	specified level in grading effects (e.g. the order of significance)
wildlife corridor	linear habitats/landscape features such as hedgerows that may increase connectivity by acting as routes between habitat patches
worst-case	principle applied where environmental effects may vary (e.g. owing to seasonal variations) to ensure the most severe effect is assessed

# **ABBREVIATIONS**

AADT	
, v . D .	Annual Average Daily Traffic
ABLWECS	Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study
ABRA	Argyll and Bute Renewable Energy Alliance
ABS	Annual Business Survey
AIL	Abnormal Indivisible Load
ALRA	Abnormal Loads Route Assessment
AITMP	Abnormal load Traffic Management Plan
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
APQ	Area of Panoramic Quality
ARSG	Argyll Raptor Study Group
ATCs	Automatic Traffic Counters
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BDS	British Deer Society
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BGS	British Geological Survey
BoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
BPP	Bird Protection Plan
CAR	Controlled Activities Regulations
ccus	Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage
CDM	Construction Design and Management
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CEH	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
CHVP	Cultural Heritage View Point
CIEEM	Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CMS	Construction Method Statements
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon Dioxide
CRM	Collision Risk Modelling
CRTN	Calculation of Road Traffic Noise
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
CZTV	Cumulative ZTV
DfT	Department for Transport
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges
DPSG	Designation Policy and Selection Guidance

Beaufort Wind Limited viii

DSFBs	District Salmon Fishery Boards
DWPA	Drinking Water Protection Area
EC	European Community
EclA	Ecological Impact Assessment
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
EEA	European Economic Area
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
ELC	European Landscape Convention
F&I	Fear & Intimidation
FAQ	Frequently Asked Question
FASA	flight activity survey area
FCS	Favourable Conservation Status
FLS	Forestry and Land Scotland
FMS	Fisheries Management Scotland
FWPM	Fresh Water Pearl Mussel
GCR	Geological Conservation Review
GDL	Garden and Designed Landscape
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GET	Golden Eagle Topography
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLVIA	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
GPP	Guidance for Pollution Prevention
GVA	Gross Value Added
GW	Gigawatts
GWDTE	Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems
На	Hectare
HER	Historic Environment Records
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
HLA	Historic Landscape Assessment
HMP	Habitat Management Plan
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
IHBC	Institute of Historic Building Conservation
ILP	Institute of Lighting Professionals
IOA	Institute of Acoustics

Beaufort Wind Limited
Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm Repowering EIA Report Volume 2

JNCC Joint Nature Conservation Committee  JRC Joint Radio Company  KV Kilovolt  KW Kilowatt LBAP Local Biodiversity Action Plan LBO Local Biodiversity Officer LCA Landscape Character Areas LCT Local Character Type LDP Local Development Plan LGV Light Goods Vehicle LLA Local Landscape Area LLTNP Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park LNCS Local Nature Conservation Sites LPA Local Planning Authority LVIA Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment  M Metres  MCHE Managing Change in the Historic Environment  Millimetre  MW Megawatts NATS National Air Traffic Services NBN National Gollection of Aerial Photography NCN NATSNational River Flow Archives
KV Kilovolt KW Kilowatt  LBAP Local Biodiversity Action Plan  LBO Local Biodiversity Officer  LCA Landscape Character Areas  LCT Local Character Type  LDP Local Development Plan  LGV Light Goods Vehicle  LLA Local Landscape Area  LLTNP Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park  LNCS Local Nature Conservation Sites  LPA Local Planning Authority  LVIA Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment  M Metres  MCHE Managing Change in the Historic Environment  mm Megawatts  NATS National Air Traffic Services  NBN National Biodiversity Network  NCAP National Collection of Aerial Photography  NCN National Cycle Network
KW Kilowatt  LBAP Local Biodiversity Action Plan  LBO Local Biodiversity Officer  LCA Landscape Character Areas  LCT Local Character Type  LDP Local Development Plan  LGV Light Goods Vehicle  LLA Local Landscape Area  LLTNP Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park  LNCS Local Nature Conservation Sites  LPA Local Planning Authority  LVIA Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment  m Metres  MCHE Managing Change in the Historic Environment  mm Millimetre  MW Megawatts  NATS National Air Traffic Services  NBN National Biodiversity Network  NCAP National Cycle Network
LBAP Local Biodiversity Action Plan LBO Local Biodiversity Officer  LCA Landscape Character Areas  LCT Local Character Type LDP Local Development Plan LGV Light Goods Vehicle LLA Local Landscape Area  LLTNP Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park LNCS Local Nature Conservation Sites LPA Local Planning Authority LVIA Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment  m Metres  MCHE Managing Change in the Historic Environment  mm Millimetre  MW Megawatts  NATS National Air Traffic Services  NBN National Biodiversity Network  NCAP National Collection of Aerial Photography NCN National Cycle Network
LBO Local Biodiversity Officer  LCA Landscape Character Areas  LCT Local Character Type Local Development Plan  LGV Light Goods Vehicle  LLA Local Landscape Area  LLTNP Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park  LNCS Local Nature Conservation Sites  LPA Local Planning Authority  LVIA Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment  Metres  MCHE Managing Change in the Historic Environment  mm Millimetre  MW Megawatts  NATS National Air Traffic Services  NBN National Biodiversity Network  NCAP National Collection of Aerial Photography  NCN National Cycle Network
LCA Landscape Character Areas LCT Local Character Type LDP Local Development Plan Light Goods Vehicle LLA Local Landscape Area LLTNP Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park LNCS Local Nature Conservation Sites LPA Local Planning Authority LVIA Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment m Metres MCHE Managing Change in the Historic Environment mm Millimetre MW Megawatts NATS National Air Traffic Services NBN National Biodiversity Network NCAP National Cycle Network
LCT Local Character Type LDP Local Development Plan LGV Light Goods Vehicle LLA Local Landscape Area LLTNP Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park LNCS Local Nature Conservation Sites LPA Local Planning Authority LVIA Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment m Metres MCHE Managing Change in the Historic Environment mm Millimetre MW Megawatts NATS National Air Traffic Services NBN National Biodiversity Network NCAP National Cycle Network
LDP Local Development Plan Light Goods Vehicle LLA Local Landscape Area LLTNP Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park LNCS Local Nature Conservation Sites LPA Local Planning Authority LVIA Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment m Metres MCHE Managing Change in the Historic Environment mm Millimetre MW Megawatts NATS National Air Traffic Services NBN National Biodiversity Network NCAP National Collection of Aerial Photography NCN National Cycle Network
LIGV  LLA  Local Landscape Area  LLTNP  Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park  LNCS  Local Nature Conservation Sites  LPA  Local Planning Authority  LVIA  Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment  Metres  MCHE  Managing Change in the Historic Environment  mm  Millimetre  MW  Megawatts  NATS  National Air Traffic Services  NBN  National Biodiversity Network  NCAP  National Collection of Aerial Photography  NCN
LLTNP Local Landscape Area  LLTNP Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park LNCS Local Nature Conservation Sites LPA Local Planning Authority LVIA Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment m Metres MCHE Managing Change in the Historic Environment mm Millimetre MW Megawatts NATS National Air Traffic Services NBN National Biodiversity Network NCAP National Collection of Aerial Photography NCN National Cycle Network
LLTNP Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park LNCS Local Nature Conservation Sites LPA Local Planning Authority LVIA Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Metres MCHE Managing Change in the Historic Environment Millimetre MW Megawatts NATS National Air Traffic Services NBN National Biodiversity Network NCAP National Collection of Aerial Photography NCN National Cycle Network
LNCS Local Nature Conservation Sites LPA Local Planning Authority LVIA Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Metres MCHE Managing Change in the Historic Environment mm Millimetre MW Megawatts NATS National Air Traffic Services NBN National Biodiversity Network NCAP National Collection of Aerial Photography NCN National Cycle Network
LPA Local Planning Authority  LVIA Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment  Metres  MCHE Managing Change in the Historic Environment  Millimetre  MW Megawatts  NATS National Air Traffic Services  NBN National Biodiversity Network  NCAP National Collection of Aerial Photography  NCN National Cycle Network
LVIA  Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment  Metres  MCHE  Managing Change in the Historic Environment  Millimetre  MW  Megawatts  NATS  National Air Traffic Services  NBN  National Biodiversity Network  NCAP  National Collection of Aerial Photography  NCN  National Cycle Network
m Metres  MCHE Managing Change in the Historic Environment  mm Millimetre  MW Megawatts  NATS National Air Traffic Services  NBN National Biodiversity Network  NCAP National Collection of Aerial Photography  NCN National Cycle Network
MCHE Managing Change in the Historic Environment mm Millimetre MW Megawatts NATS National Air Traffic Services NBN National Biodiversity Network NCAP National Collection of Aerial Photography NCN National Cycle Network
mm Millimetre  MW Megawatts  NATS National Air Traffic Services  NBN National Biodiversity Network  NCAP National Collection of Aerial Photography  NCN National Cycle Network
MW Megawatts  NATS National Air Traffic Services  NBN National Biodiversity Network  NCAP National Collection of Aerial Photography  NCN National Cycle Network
NATS  National Air Traffic Services  NBN  National Biodiversity Network  NCAP  National Collection of Aerial Photography  NCN  National Cycle Network
NBN National Biodiversity Network  NCAP National Collection of Aerial Photography  NCN National Cycle Network
NCAP National Collection of Aerial Photography NCN National Cycle Network
NCN National Cycle Network
NFRA National River Flow Archives
NGR National Grid Reference
NHZ Natural Heritage Zone
NIDLs Non-Inventory Designed Landscapes
NNR National Nature Reserve
NPF4 National Planning Framework 4
NRHE National Record of the Historic Environment
NRTF National Road Traffic Forecast
NS NatureScot
NSA National Scenic Area
NSR Noise-Sensitive Receptor
NVC National Vegetation Classification
OBE-HMP Outline Biodiversity Enhancement Habitat Management Plan
OCRS Operational Carcass Recovery Scheme

OD	Ordnance Datum
ONS	Office for National Statistics
OS	Ordnance Survey
OSA	Ornithology Study Area (Chapter 7: Ornithology)
OSA	Outer Study Area (Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology)
OWC	Offshore Wind Consultants
OWPS	Onshore Wind Policy Statement
PAC	Pre Application Consultation
PAN	Planning Advice Note
PCA	Peatland Condition Assessment
PEAG	Peat Expert Advisory Group
PLHRA	Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment
PMP	Peat Management Plan
PPP	Pollution Prevention Plan
PPG	Pollution Prevention Guidelines
PWS	Private Water Supply
RCAHMS	Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland
RSA	Regional Scenic Area
RSK	RSK Environment Limited
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RTS	Regional Transport Strategy
S36	Section 36 Application
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SBL	Scottish Biodiversity List
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SCQF	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SI	Site Investigation
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification
SIMD	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
SWMP	Site Waste Management Plan

Beaufort Wind Limited

χi

TCPA	Town and Country Planning Act
TS	Transport Scotland
UHF	Ultra High Frequency
UK	United Kingdom
UK BAP	UK Biodiversity Action Plan
UKCP18	UK Climate Projections
WCA	Wildlife and Countryside Act
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WLA	Wild Land Areas
WoSAS	West of Scotland Archaeology Service
WQMP	Water Quality Monitoring Plan
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
ZPSF	Zone of Potential Shadow Flicker
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background to Proposed Development

- 1.1.1 The United Kingdom (UK) and Scottish Governments have declared a climate emergency and set ambitious and legally binding climate change targets with a net-zero carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) target for 2045 in Scotland. Therefore, it is important to accelerate growth in the renewable energy sector. **Volume 2, Chapter 4: Planning and Energy Policy Context** provides further details of the ambitious targets, the renewable energy policy framework and Scotland's current progress towards net-zero.
- 1.1.2 Beaufort Wind Limited (hereafter referred to as "the Applicant" is the owner of the existing Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nadara Limited (hereafter referred to as Nadara). Nadara is one of the largest European independent renewable power producers and was formed by the coming together of Ventient Energy and Renantis in January 2024. Nadara designs, builds and manages power plants from renewable energy sources, with an installed capacity of more than 4.2 Gigawatts (GW) across 200 plants globally. Nadara companies have been operating in the UK since 2002 with offices in Inverness, Edinburgh and London and operates 45 onshore wind farms (>1.1 GW) in the UK.
- 1.1.3 The proposed Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm Repowering development (hereafter referred to as "the Proposed Development") will comprise of up to 7 turbines of up to 149.9 m to tip and associated infrastructure, with a generating capacity of approximately 30 40 MW. These turbines will replace the existing 14 operational turbines of approximately 54.1 m to tip which have a total installed capacity of 8.4 MW and will be decommissioned and removed, in parallel with, or prior to, the construction of the Proposed Development. The Application Site is located on the undulating uplands around Carn Gaibhre to the east of Beinn Ghlas summit on the Barguillean Estate near Taynuilt in the Argyll and Bute Council (A&BC) local authority area, centred at approximately Ordnance Survey (OS) Grid Reference NM 977 258 (see **Figures 1.1 1.3** for site context).
- 1.1.4 This EIA Report has been prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 to support the planning application submitted to the A&BC for the Proposed Development. Further details on the requirements of legislation, policy and guidance are outlined in **Chapter 4**.
- 1.1.5 The Applicant has appointed RSK Environment Ltd (RSK), an experienced environmental consultancy, as lead consultant to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and related assessments to accompany a Town and Country Planning Application to the A&BC. RSK is a fully integrated, environmental, health, safety and engineering consultancy with extensive experience of providing environmental, health, safety and engineering services to the renewable energy onshore sector.
- 1.1.6 Nadara will work closely with local communities, businesses and residents to ensure the repowering of Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm brings real benefits to the local area while helping to meet national climate change and renewable energy targets and goals.

- 1.1.7 To date, the community benefit fund for the existing wind farm has resulted in a wide range of local projects being delivered from environmental improvements such as funding several community gardens and replacing a footbridge on a core path, buying equipment and supporting venue hire for local groups and installation of defibrillators. Should the Proposed Development be consented, the Applicant is committed to setting up a community benefit fund which could deliver approximately £5.9 million over the lifetime of the Proposed Development. Further details on community benefits are provided in **Chapter 12: Socio-economics**.
- 1.1.8 To ensure clarity in the EIA Report, the following terms and descriptions presented in **Table 1.1** below are used.

Table 1.1: Summary of key terms and descriptions

Term	Explanation
Applicant	Beaufort Wind Limited (hereafter referred to as "the Applicant" is the owner of the existing Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nadara Limited (hereafter referred to as Nadara).
Proposed Development	The Proposed Development refers to all components of the Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm Repowering installation. The Proposed Development, as assessed and reported in the EIA Report, comprises up to 7 wind turbines up to 149.9 m in height, with an installed capacity of around 33.6 MW, and associated infrastructure. The Proposed Development is described in further detail in Chapter 2: Proposed Development and Design Evolution.
Site	Refers to everything except the Site Access within the application red line boundary.
Site Access	Refers to the route from the public road to the Site to be used during construction, operation and decommissioning.
Application Boundary	The red line planning boundary comprising the Site and the Site Access.
Outline Biodiversity Enhancement and Habitat Management Plan (OBE- HMP) Area	All areas comprising proposed biodiversity enhancement and habitat management measures as outlined in the Outline Biodiversity Enhancement and Habitat Management Plan.
Study Area	The Site, plus any additional area over which desk-based or field assessments have been extended. The study area varies depending on the nature of the potential effects for each environmental parameter, as informed by professional guidance and best practice regarding EIA. Therefore, the study area is explained within the approach and methods section of the relevant chapters (Chapters 05 to 13).

### 1.2 Planning History

- 1.2.1 The relevant applications and planning history associated with Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm and Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm Repowering have been outlined below:
  - The main/original application for development of a wind farm consisting of 14 turbines and associated infrastructure at Beinn Ghlas (ref. 97/00719/DET) was made to A&BC by National Wind Power Limited in May 1997. The application was granted consent in August 1998 with 37 planning conditions attached to the consent;
  - An application for creation of a borrow pit for the provision of rock aggregate for the Beinn Ghlas wind turbine development access road and subsequent restoration of a borrow pit was submitted to A&BC in July 1998 and approved in October 1998;
  - An application to vary condition 2 relative to planning permission (ref: 97/00719/DET) to allow Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm to operate for an additional 10 years to allow the development to operate to 21 August 2033 was submitted by Beaufort Wind Ltd in April 2021. The life extension application (ref: 21/00870/PP) was granted consent in June 2022;
  - A Section 36 application was progressed in relation to Beinn Ghlas Repowering which resulted in a request for a scoping opinion being submitted to Scottish Ministers in July 2022 (scoping opinion received in May 2023). Following further site design work and consideration of ornithology mitigation, a decision was made to reduce the scale of the proposed Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm Repowering project from the 12 turbines presented at public exhibitions held in January 2023 to 7 wind turbines at up to 149.9 m to tip. This change brought the size of the Proposed Development below 50 MW requiring any subsequent planning application to be submitted under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

## 1.3 Repowering Explained

- 1.3.1 Repowering is the process to replace older first-generation wind turbines with more powerful models that use the latest technology and are capable of producing significantly more electricity, and more efficiently.
- 1.3.2 With regards to the Proposed Development, the Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm would be repowered through dismantling the current turbines and installing fewer turbines to generate more power.
- 1.3.3 In addition, repowering existing schemes provides the opportunity for maximising land use through ecosystem enhancement and restoration (e.g. forestry/peatland), re-using existing infrastructure where possible and increasing the economic benefits afforded to local communities.

## 1.4 Structure of Environmental Impact Assessment Report

- 1.4.1 The suite of EIA Report documents has been prepared by the Applicant. In addition, the following chapters and technical assessments have been undertaken by the Applicant:
- 1.4.2 The EIA Report is presented in 4 volumes
  - Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary;

- Volume 2: Environmental Impact Assessment Report;
- Volume 3: Application Drawings, Figures and Visualisations:
  - o Volume 3a: Figures
  - o Volume 3b: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Photomontages
  - Volume 3c: Cultural Heritage Photomontages
- Volume 4: Technical Appendices
- 1.4.3 In support of the planning application, the following documents have also been submitted:
  - Planning Statement;
  - Design and Access Statement; and
  - Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) report.

#### Volume 1

1.4.4 Volume 1 is a non-technical summary (NTS) of the EIA Report, and has been prepared as a separate document, in accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations.

Volume 2

- 1.4.5 EIA Report Volume 2 is made up of the following chapters which are structured as follows:
  - Chapter 1 Introduction (this chapter) introduces the Proposed Development and explains the underlying objectives of the proposals, describes the statutory basis for the EIA, outlines the structure adopted in this EIA Report and identifies the team of competent experts responsible for undertaking and reporting the EIA.
  - Chapter 2 Proposed Development and Design Evolution provides an overview of the Proposed Development, giving a brief description of the permanent and temporary components. This chapter also details construction activities, the indicative construction programme and maintenance, as well as decommissioning activities.
  - Chapter 3 Environmental Impact Assessment Process summarises the Scoping process undertaken to establish the scope of the EIA, the adopted approach to the EIA and format of the individual technical assessments, and modifications made to the EIA scope that have arisen during the design development and assessment of the Proposed Development.
  - Chapter 4 Statutory & Policy Framework provides a summary of the legislative and policy framework relevant to the development including an overview on the climate emergency.
  - Chapter 05 to 13 Technical Assessments report the findings of the detailed environmental assessments and the residual effects on the environment predicted to occur as a result of implementation of the Proposed Development.
  - Chapter 14 Schedule of Environmental Commitments summarises the additional and embedded environment mitigation suggested in the technical chapters.
  - **References** of the documents used or considered during the EIA are provided at the end of each section, where relevant.

#### Volume 3

1.4.6 Volume 3 comprises a series of plans, figures and photographs, which are referenced in Volume 2, to illustrate the relationship between the existing environment and the Proposed Development.

#### Volume 4

1.4.7 Volume 4 comprises technical appendices, referred to in Volume 2, which contain detailed reports of the individual environmental assessments and other relevant supporting documentation.

#### 1.5 EIA Team

1.5.1 The Applicant and RSK have collated a team of multi-disciplinary experts from several companies to ensure that throughout the preparation of this EIA report, individuals with the relevant expertise and experience were involved. The details of the EIA team are summarised in **Table 1.2**.

Table 1.2: EIA Team responsibilities, qualifications and experience

Name, company and role	Qualifications	Years of Experience		
EIA project management team				
Joe Somerville	MA, MSc MCIfA FSA Scot PIEMA	15 years		
Robert Beck	BA (Hons),MEnvS PgDip MIEMA CEnv	20 years		
Adam Paterson	BSc, MSc, PIEMA, REnvP	4 years		
EIA technical leads				
David Bell, David Bell Planning - Planning	BSc DipUD MCIHT MRTPI, BSc Town & Country Planning Diploma in Urban Design; Chartered Town Planner, Corporate Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute, Chartered member of the Institute of Highways & Transportation.	31 years		
Frances Horne, Pegasus - Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	BA (Hons); PGDipLA, PGDipUED CMLI	21 years		

Name, company and role	Qualifications	Years of Experience
Dale Turner, Pegasus - Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	BSc (Hons); MSc, AIEMA	17 years
Kate Massey, Alba Ecology - Ecology	BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD, MCIEEM	14 years
Blair Urquhart, NRP - Ornithology	Diploma in Conservation Management	25 years
Duncan Saunders, Fluid Consulting - Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology	BSc (Hons), MSc; Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management, Chartered Scientist	29 years
Owen Raybould, Headland Archaeology - Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	BSc (Hons), MCIfA, IHBC	16 years
Jon Hassel, SCP RSK Transport Planning - Traffic and Transport	BEng (Hons); Chartered member of the Institution of Highways and Transportation, Transport and Planning Society member.	30 years
Matthew Cand, Hoare Lea - Noise and Vibration	Dipl Eng, PhD; Member of the Institute of Acoustics	17 years
Graeme Blackett, Biggar Economics - Socio-economics	BSc (Hons); Member of the Institute for Economic Development, Member of the Economic Development Association Scotland	32 years
lan Fletcher, Wind Business Support - Aviation and Radar	BEng (Hons)	32 years
Wayne Scurrah, RSK ADAS - Forestry	DDF	34 years

## 1.6 Publicity of the EIA Report

- 1.6.1 This EIA Report will be publicised in accordance with Part 5 of the EIA Regulations.
- 1.6.2 A notice will be published as follows:
  - on the project website: https://www.beinnghlasrepowering.co.uk/;
  - in the Edinburgh Gazette; and
  - in the Oban Times and Argyllshire Advertiser.
- 1.6.3 A hard copy of the EIA Report can be viewed at the following locations during its opening hours:

Oban Customer Service Point	<b>Taynuilt Post Office</b>
-----------------------------	-----------------------------

Municipal Building Main Street
Albany Street Taynuilt
Oban PA35 1JE

**PA34 4AW** 

- 1.6.4 A copy of the EIA Report volumes will be made available for download from the project website at: <a href="https://www.beinnghlasrepowering.co.uk/">https://www.beinnghlasrepowering.co.uk/</a> and Argyll & Bute Council's planning portal.
- 1.6.5 Paper copies of the NTS are available free of charge from:

#### **RSK Environment Limited**

65 Sussex Street

Glasgow

G41 1DX

Email: rbeck@rsk.co.uk

1.6.6 Paper copies of the EIA Report may be purchased by arrangement from the above address for £1,200 per copy, or £15 per disk/USB memory stick copy. The price of the paper copy reflects the cost of producing all of the Landscape and Visual photographs at the recommended size. As such, a disk/USB memory stick version is recommended.

#### 1.7 References

UK Government, 1997. 'Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997'.

UK Government, 2017. 'Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017'.