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## Introduction

- 1.1 Windburn Wind Farm Limited (the applicant), proposes to install and operate up to 13 wind turbines with associated infrastructure (the proposed development) on land (the site) in the Ochil hills, approximately 2.9km north of the settlement of Alva. The nearest proposed turbine is 3.2km from Alva, 5.3km from the village of Blackford and 5.7km from Greenloaning. The site location and the application boundary is shown in **Figure 1.1** and **Figure 1.2** respectively. The proposed development would be located across the administrative boundaries of both Clackmannanshire, and Perth and Kinross Councils, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) NN 87737 02889, and would be known as Windburn Wind Farm. The proposed development would have a generating capacity in the region of 65MW, with an additional approximately 35MW of battery storage.
- 1.2 For the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), the height of the proposed turbines has been assessed as 149.9m to blade tip in an upright position for all 13 turbines.
- 1.3 The proposed development would produce an average of approximately 227,760 Megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity annually (based on a site derived capacity factor of 40%). This equates to the electricity consumed by approximately 70,317 average UK households<sup>1</sup>. This equates to an annual reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of approximately 99,500 tonnes, when compared to the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by fossil fuels to produce the same amount of electricity.
- 1.4 As the proposed development would have a generating capacity exceeding 50MW, the applicant is submitting an application under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989, and also seeking a direction that planning permission is deemed to be granted in terms of Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.
- 1.5 The precise grid connection route would be subject to a separate application, which would require consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, which is the subject of a separate consenting process to this planning application. The Section 37 application would be progressed by the transmission network operator.
- 1.6 Any legislation referred to in this EIA Report is as subsequently amended and as currently in force at the time of writing of this EIA Report.

## Purpose of the EIA Report

- 1.7 This EIA Report has been prepared in accordance with The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, hereinafter referred to as the EIA Regulations.
- 1.8 Where a development falls within one of the descriptions in Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations 2017 and is considered to have the potential to cause significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as the nature, size, or location of the development proposal, then an EIA Report is required to be submitted with the application for consent. The proposed development falls within Schedule 2 as *“a generating station, the construction of which (or operation of which) will require a section 36 consent but*

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<sup>1</sup> Calculated using the most recent statistics from Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) showing that annual GB average domestic household consumption is 3,239kWh (as of January 2024).

*which is not a Schedule 1 development.*”. It is considered that the proposed development meets the criteria necessary for an EIA Report to be required.

- 1.9 This EIA Report presents the findings of the EIA process by describing the proposed development, the current condition and future baseline condition at the site, and the likely impacts which may result from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed development. Where appropriate, mitigation is proposed, and any residual impacts are reported.

## The Applicant

- 1.10 The Applicant is Windburn Wind Farm Limited, which is part of a joint venture between Wind2 Limited (Wind2) and companies managed by Octopus Energy Generation.
- 1.11 Wind2 is a specialist renewable energy developer which is working on the development of a range of renewable energy projects across the UK. The company has personnel in Edinburgh, Perth, Cromarty, Wells (Somerset) and in Mold in North Wales.
- 1.12 Further information on Wind2 can be found on its company website at <https://wind2.co.uk>.
- 1.13 Octopus Energy Generation are one of Europe's largest investors in renewables, managing £6.7 billion of green energy generation across 20 countries producing 3.25GW or renewable energy. Octopus Energy Generation operate wind solar and battery projects across the UK.
- 1.14 Further information on Octopus Energy Generation can be found on its company website at <https://www.octopusenergygeneration.com/>

## EIA Project Team and Competency

- 1.15 The coordination of this EIA has been led by SLR with input from specialist consultant Land Use Consultants (LUC) in relation to Landscape and Visual.
- 1.16 SLR is one of the UK's fastest growing multi-disciplinary environmental consultancies. Within the energy sector, SLR provides a wide range of planning, environmental and technical services relating to the design and development of wind farms and other renewable energy projects. The company becomes involved in all aspects of facility development, from initial concept design, through planning and permitting to the detailed design, construction management and closure stages.
- 1.17 SLR is a registered Environmental Impact Assessor, Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and holder of the IEMA EIA Quality Mark. The company has significant experience in the preparation of planning applications and undertaking EIA for a wide variety of projects, including renewable energy, minerals, waste and infrastructure developments.
- 1.18 Further information on SLR Consulting Limited can be found on its corporate website at [www.slrconsulting.com](http://www.slrconsulting.com).
- 1.19 For this project, SLR is responsible for the following technical disciplines:
- EIA and Planning;
  - Ecology;
  - Ornithology;
  - Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat;

- Cultural Heritage and Archaeology;
- Noise and Vibration;
- Site Access, Traffic and Transport;
- Socio-economics Tourism, Recreation and Land Use;
- Other Environmental Issues (e.g. aviation, shadow flicker and telecommunications); and
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

1.20 SLR's environmental specialists, with support from subconsultants as required, have the skills and relevant competency, expertise and qualifications to undertake EIA for the Proposed Development. **Table 1-1** demonstrates the relevant competency for each technical discipline covered in this EIA Report.

**Table 1-1: EIA Team Competency**

Discipline	Specialist Assessor	Qualifications	Years of Experience
Renewable Energy and Planning Policy	SLR: - Michael Fenny - Alastair Smith	MA(Hons), MSc, MRTPI BSc (Hons), MSc, LRTPI	18 years 7 years
Landscape and Visual	LUC: - Neil Elliot - Fiona Pennycook	Ma (Hons), CMLI MA (Hons), MLA, CMLI	21 years 7 years
Ecology	SLR: - Duncan Watson - Sara Toule - Kirstie Hazelwood	BSc (Hons) MSc, CEnv MCIEEM BSc (Hons), MRes, ACIEEM BMus (Hons), MSc, PhD, ACIEEM	22 years 15 years 10 years
Ornithology	SLR: - Michael Austin	MCIEEM	17 years
Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology (including Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment)	SLR: - Gordon Robb - Alan Huntridge - Ruari Watson - Katy Rainford	BSc (Hons), MSc, MBA, FCIWEM, C.WEM BSc (Hons), MSc BSc (Hons) BSc (Hons), FGS, MCIWEM	32 years 17 years 12 years 7 years
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	SLR: - Beth Gray - Gwyneth McCullough	MA (Hons), ACIfA BSc (Hons), ACIfA	9 years 4 years
Noise and Vibration	SLR: - Vince Taylor - Jon Muns	BSc (Hons) MSc, MANC MSc, ISVR	13 years 6 years
Site Access, Traffic and Transport	SLR: - Matt Russell - Cerian Phillips - Chizaram Iheanetu	BEng (Hons), MCIHT, MICE BA (Hons), MSc MSc	26 years 13 years 3 years
Socio-Economics, Tourism, Recreation and Land Use	SLR: - Alastair Smith	BSc (Hons), MSc, LRTPI	7 years

	- Ben Wyper Development Economics:	BSc, MSc	4 years
	- Steve Lucas	BSc, MSc	34 years
Aviation	Straten CSL: - John Van Hoogstraten	ICAO Licenced Air Traffic Control Officer	16 years
Carbon Emissions	SLR: - Ruari Watson	BSc (Hons), MSc	12 years
Infrastructure, Telecommunications and Broadcast Services	SLR: - Alastair Smith	BSc (Hons), MSc, LRTPI	7 years
Shadow Flicker	SLR: - Alastair Smith	BSc (Hons), MSc, LRTPI	7 years
GIS	SLR: - Jon Salter - Joshua Kelly	BSc (Hons) BSc (Hons)	12 years 6 years

## Structure of the EIA Report

1.21 The EIA Report is presented in four volumes as follows:

- Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary (NTS);

1.22 The NTS provides a non-technical overview of the EIA Report and is intended for review by the general public. It includes a description of the proposed development and a summary of the predicted environmental effects.

- Volume 2: Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report);
  - **Chapter 1: Introduction;**
  - **Chapter 2: Site Description and Design Evolution;**
  - **Chapter 3: Description of Development;**
  - **Chapter 4: Renewable Energy and Planning Policy;**
  - **Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment;**
  - **Chapter 6: Scoping and Consultation;**
  - **Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual;**
  - **Chapter 8: Ecology;**
  - **Chapter 9: Ornithology;**
  - **Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology;**
  - **Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology;**
  - **Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport;**
  - **Chapter 13: Socio-economics, Tourism, Recreation and Land Use;**
  - **Chapter 14: Other Issues;** and
  - **Chapter 15: Schedule of Commitments.**
- Volume 3: EIA Report Figures;

1.23 The EIA Report Figures are separated out into four sub-volumes as follows:

- Volume 3a: Figures to support **Chapters 1-7** of the EIA;
  - Volume 3b: Proposed development visualisations (NatureScot) – viewpoints 1-12;
  - Volume 3c: Proposed development visualisations (NatureScot) – viewpoints 13-20 (and Wireline **Figures 7.28 – 7.37**); and
  - Volume 3d: Figures to support **Chapters 8-15** of the EIA.
  - Volume 4a-b: EIA Report Technical Appendices.
- 1.24 The technical appendices that are referred to in each chapter of the EIA Report are compiled separately in Volume 4a-b. They are numbered sequentially for each of the Chapters in which they are principally referred to.
- 1.25 A suite of additional supporting documents has been prepared to accompany the application. Included in this, a Planning Statement sets out an assessment of the proposed development in the context of national planning, energy policy, the local development plan, and emerging planning policies. It also considers the potential benefits and harm which may arise and concludes as to the overall acceptability of the proposal in relation to the planning context.
- 1.26 In addition to the Planning Statement, a Design and Access Statement and a Pre-Application Consultation Report (PAC Report) will be submitted to support the application. These additional documents do not form part of the EIA Report.

## Publicity of the EIA Report

- 1.27 The EIA Report will be publicised in accordance with Part 5 of the 2017 Regulations and the Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990.
- 1.28 Notice will be published as follows:
- On the project website: <https://windburnwindfarm.co.uk/>;
  - In the Edinburgh Gazette;
  - In The National;
  - In the Alloa Advertiser; and
  - In The Courier.
- 1.29 In addition to the statutory requirements for publicising the EIA Report, the applicant has advised the following local Community Councils of the EIA Report being available:
- Alva;
  - Tillicoultry, Coalsnaughton and Devonside;
  - Auchterarder and District;
  - Braco and Greenloaning;
  - Blackford;
  - Menstrie;
  - Sauchie and Fishcross;
  - Alloa;

- Clackmannan;
- Tullibody, Cambus & Glenochil;
- Dollar;
- Muckhart;
- Logie;
- Muthill & Tullibardine; and
- Dunblane.

1.30 Hard copies of the EIA Report can be viewed at the following locations during their normal opening hours:

- Speirs Centre (Library Services), Primrose Place, Alloa, FK10 1AD;
- Perth and Kinross Council HQ, Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull St, Perth, PH15GD; and
- Auchterarder Library, Chapel Wynd, Auchterarder, PH3 1BL.

1.31 A copy of the EIA Report Volumes will be made available for download from the project website at: <https://windburnwindfarm.co.uk/>

1.32 Paper copies of the NTS are available free of charge from:

SLR Consulting Limited,  
24 St. Vincent Place,  
Glasgow,  
United Kingdom,  
G1 2EU,  
Tel: 07718 482283

1.33 Paper copies of the EIA Report may be purchased by arrangement from the above address for £1,800 per copy, or £20 per 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.

## References

The Electricity Act 1989.

The Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990 (as amended).

The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended.