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Reg No: SC177881

## Daer Wind Farm – Further Environmental Information

Dear Allan,

An application for Section 36 Consent and a direction that planning permission be deemed granted for the proposed Daer Wind Farm was submitted to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in May 2021, reference ECU00000740 (the "Application"). Daer Wind Farm (the Proposed Development) will comprise the construction and operation of up to 17 wind turbines and battery/ energy storage as well as associated ancillary infrastructure. The Proposed Development lies approximately 8 km west of the nearest town, Moffat and is situated in both South Lanarkshire (turbines 1-12) and Dumfries and Galloway (turbines 13-17) Local Planning Authority areas.

Since the submission in 2021, the determination of the application is awaiting resolution of the Ministry of Defence holding objection relating to the Eskdalemuir seismic array. It is anticipated that this will be resolved in relation to Daer by early 2026, thereby allowing the application to be consented. The grid connection is on track to be delivered by the contracted date in mid-2028, with pre-construction water quality monitoring and detailed ground investigations taking place in early 2026 in in preparation for commencement of development. There is therefore good progress towards Daer Wind Farm being able to contribute to Scotland's net zero target and the Scottish Government's target of having a minimum of 20GW of installed onshore wind capacity by 2030.

An assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on ornithological receptors was provided within Chapter 7 of the EIA Report 2021 (EIAR) submitted to the ECU with the Application, which predicted a low negative/negligible impact on all Important Ornithological Features (IOFs). All impacts predicted were considered to result in effects which are not significant for the purposes of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations). The ECU informed the applicant in October 2024 that they had received notification from NatureScot of the presence of a new golden eagle nest [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. As such, the Proposed Development could potentially have a significant impact on Golden Eagles and this impact therefore needed to be assessed.

Two of the proposed turbines within the Daer Wind Farm site are currently within 1 km of the golden eagle nest site. As a result of this, the attached ornithology Further Environmental Information (FEI) report has been produced in consultation with NatureScot, outlining the findings on golden eagles based on electronic tag data. The FEI report is exclusively focussed on the ornithological assessment of, and mitigation proposed to alleviate, the potential for impacts on golden eagle. There are no other assessment updates and no additional information on any other environmental

topic is presented as part of this FEI submission. The conclusions on likely significant effects for all other environmental topics/receptors remains as set out in the EIAR (2021).

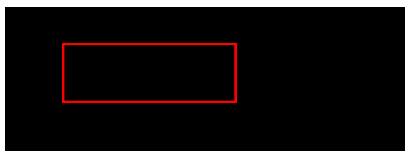
Due to the current very transient situation of the golden eagle population, resulting in an ever-changing picture in South of Scotland, NatureScot have agreed that the use of a suspensive condition would be appropriate to delay the potential construction of these two turbines through a phased approach of 15 turbines (Phase 1 development) and the remaining 2 turbines (Phase 2 Development) until further monitoring on the frequency of use of this nest site is gathered, thereby creating potential phasing of the 17 turbine development. This means that if the nest site is not habitually used (i.e. for a period of 5 years), construction of the remaining 2 turbines will enable the completion of the entire 17 turbine project (the Proposed Development). In addition, it was agreed with NatureScot that construction of other infrastructure such as access tracks within 1km of the nest site, would only be permitted in the non-breeding season.

The FEI report concludes that by applying a suspensive condition, effective embedded mitigation measures and following good practice guidelines during construction, the magnitude of residual effects of the Proposed Development on golden eagle is assessed as being low negative magnitude, and thus Not Significant.

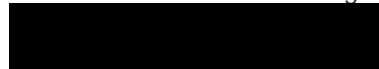
It is recognised that South Lanarkshire Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council, as consultees on the Application, and the Ministers in deciding whether to grant consent, will require to consider whether the imposition of such a condition is necessary, and whether the resulting phasing of the proposed development (Phase 1 development of 15 turbines until the nest is no longer habitually used) would be acceptable. The FEI report and confidential appendix and supporting figures provide the environmental information necessary to assess the impacts of the proposed phased approach, to alleviate any potential concerns.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,



Senior Consultant - Planning and EIA



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