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Introduction

- 1.1 West Scales Windfarm Limited (“the Applicant”) is seeking planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) (“the Planning Act”) for the installation and operation of an energy park consisting of up to four wind turbines, solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), and associated infrastructure (together, “the Proposed Development”) on land at West Scales Farm, approximately 3km west of Gretna in Dumfries and Galloway (“the Site”). The Site location and application boundary are shown in **Figure 1.1** and **Figure 1.2** respectively.
- 1.2 The Proposed Development would be located entirely within the administrative boundary of Dumfries and Galloway Council, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) NY 26967 67591, and would be known as West Scales Energy Park.
- 1.3 For the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”), the height of the proposed wind turbines has been assessed as 200m to blade tip in an upright position for all four turbines.
- 1.4 Based on a site derived capacity factor of 40% for wind generation and 10% for solar generation, the Proposed Development would produce an average of approximately 97,300 Megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity annually (approximately 86,000MWh of wind energy generation and 10,500MWh of solar energy generation). This equates to the equivalent electricity consumed by approximately 29,200 average UK households¹. This equates to an annual reduction in CO₂ emissions of approximately 43,500 tonnes, when compared to the amount of CO₂ emitted by fossil fuels to produce the same amount of electricity.
- 1.5 As the Proposed Development would have a generating capacity exceeding 20MW but less than 50MW, the Applicant intends to submit a planning application to Dumfries and Galloway Council under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended. The Proposed Development is therefore classed as a “Major Development” under the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009.
- 1.6 The grid connection route from the onsite substation has yet to be determined, including which national grid substation it is to connect into and the form of which (i.e. whether overhead lines, underground cables or a combination) is currently unknown. The grid connection route will be subject to a separate application and the environmental impacts will be considered more comprehensively when that application is made. Therefore, taking account of the *Raeshaw Farms Ltd v Scottish Ministers* [2026] CSIH 10 decision, this application differs from the circumstances in that case and it would seem unreasonable to consider the likely significant environmental effects of a grid connection route that presently could take any form at an as yet unknown distance.
- 1.7 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.

¹ Calculated using the most recent statistics from Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) showing that annual GB average domestic household consumption is 3,323kWh (as of December 2025).

Purpose of the EIA Report

- 1.8 This EIA Report has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, hereinafter referred to as “the EIA Regulations”.
- 1.9 The Proposed Development falls within Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations as a renewable energy development with a generating capacity exceeding 20MW but less than 50MW. By virtue of factors such as the nature, size, or location of the development proposal, it is considered that the Proposed Development has the potential to cause significant effects on the environment and therefore requires an EIA Report to be submitted with the planning application to Dumfries and Galloway Council (“the Council”).
- 1.10 In accordance with the EIA Regulations, this EIA Report is based on the Scoping Opinion received from the Council on [2 July 2025] under planning reference 25/0591/SCO.
- 1.11 This EIA Report presents the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment process, including a description of the Proposed Development, the current and future baseline conditions at the Site, and an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects arising from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Where appropriate, mitigation measures are proposed to avoid, reduce or offset potentially significant effects, and any residual effects (those effects that are expected to remain following implementation of mitigation measures) are identified.
- 1.12 As required by the EIA Regulations, the findings and conclusions of the EIA are summarised in a standalone, easily accessible, Non-Technical Summary (“NTS”). This enables anyone with an interest in the Proposed Development to understand and access information on its potential environmental effects.

The Applicant

- 1.13 The Applicant is West Scales Windfarm Limited (Company Number SC821892), a wholly owned subsidiary of Eurowind Energy Group.
- 1.14 Established in Denmark in 2006, Eurowind Energy is one of Europe’s leading renewable energy developers, with operations in 16 countries across Europe and the United States.
- 1.15 Eurowind Energy employs an experienced UK team based in Glasgow that was established in 2021. Eurowind Energy UK has one operational wind farm and one consented 16MW solar farm at Howpark, in the Scottish Borders. As well as the recently consented flagship project Uisenis Wind Farm on the Isle of Lewis (189MW) and a growing development portfolio of over 2.9GW across the UK.
- 1.16 Eurowind Energy develop, construct, and operate wind, solar photovoltaic and ‘Power to X’ assets across Europe and in the USA. They are dedicated to local long term solutions, and believe that the future of energy supply is renewable, clean, and sustainable. Projects are developed in close collaboration with a range of local stakeholders to develop smart schemes that work for all. Eurowind Energy only engages in projects that they, themselves, want to invest in.
- 1.17 Further information on Eurowind Energy Limited can be found on its company website at <https://www.eurowindenergy.com>.

EIA Project Team and Competency

- 1.18 The coordination of this EIA has been led by SLR with input from specialist consultants Ecology Consulting for Ornithology, Biggar Economics for Socio-Economics, Tourism, Recreation and Land Use and Windfarm Aviation Safeguarding for Aviation (listed in Table 1-1 below). All are suitably qualified and competent experts in their field, as is required in accordance with Regulation 5(5) of the EIA Regulations.
- 1.19 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.
- 1.20 SLR is a registered Environmental Impact Assessor, Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and holder of the ISEP 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.
- 1.21 Further information on SLR Consulting Limited can be found on its corporate website at www.slrconsulting.com.
- 1.22 For this project, SLR is responsible for the following technical disciplines:
- EIA and Planning;
 - Landscape and Visual;
 - Ecology;
 - Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat;
 - Cultural Heritage and Archaeology;
 - Noise and Vibration;
 - Site Access, Traffic and Transport;
 - Other Environmental Issues (e.g. shadow flicker and telecommunications); and
 - Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
- 1.23 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 |

| Discipline | Specialist Assessor | Qualifications | Years of Experience |
|---|--|--|---|
| Landscape and Visual | SLR: -Angus Elder -James Welsh | BSc (Hons), MSc BA (Hons) | 15 years 40 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 | Ecology Consulting: -Steve Percival | BSc. PhD, CIEEM | 30 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) | 32 years 17 years 12 years 7 years |
| Cultural Heritage and Archaeology | SLR: - Beth Gray - Elise Christensen | MA (Hons), ACIfA MA (Hons), PCIfA | 9 years 5 years |
| Noise and Vibration | SLR: - Vince Taylor - Calum Armstrong | BSc (Hons) MSc, MANC BSc (Hons), CSCS | 13 years 2 years |
| Site Access, Traffic and Transport | SLR: - Iain Lamb | B. Eng (Hons) | 30 years |
| Socio-Economics, Tourism, Recreation and Land Use | Biggar Economics: - Simon Cleary | MA (Hons) | 14 years |
| Aviation | Windfarm Aviation Safeguarding: - Shane Savage | BSc | 27 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: - Jack Hughes | BSc, MSc | 2 years |
| GIS | SLR: - Lauren McConnachie - Gemma Gass | BSc, BSc (Hons), MSc MA (Hons) | 10 years 5 years |

Structure of the EIA Report

- 1.24 The EIA Report is presented in four volumes as follows:
- Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary (“NTS”);
- 1.25 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: Noise;**
 - **Chapter 14: Aviation**
 - **Chapter 15: Other Issues;** and
 - **Chapter 16: Schedule of Commitments.**
 - Volume 3: EIA Report Figures;
- 1.26 The EIA Report Figures are separated out into four sub-volumes as follows:
- Volume 3a: Figures to support **Chapters 1-7** of the EIA Report;
 - Volume 3b: Proposed Development visualisations (NatureScot) – Landscape and Visual and Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) ;
 - Volume 3c: Proposed Development visualisations (Historic Environment Scotland); and
 - Volume 3d: Figures to support **Chapters 8-16** of the EIA Report.
 - Volume 4a-b: EIA Report Technical Appendices.
- 1.27 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.
- 1.28 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.

- 1.29 In addition to the Planning Statement, a **Design and Access Statement (DAS)**, a **Pre-Application Consultation Report (PAC Report)** and standalone Socio-Economic Report will be submitted to support the application. These additional documents do not form part of the EIA Report.

Publicity of the EIA Report

- 1.30 The EIA Report will be publicised in accordance with Part 5 of the EIA Regulations.
- 1.31 Notice will be published on the project website: <https://www.westscales.com/>.
- 1.32 In addition to the statutory requirements for publicising the EIA Report, the applicant has advised the following local Community Councils / Groups of the EIA Report being available:
- Gretna and Rigg Community Council;
 - Easttriggs Community Group;
 - Kirkpatrick Fleming and District Community Council; and
 - Springfield and Gretna Green Community Council.
- 1.33 Hard copies of the EIA Report can be viewed at the following locations during their normal opening hours:
- Dumfries and Galloway Council offices, Kirkbank House, English Street, Dumfries, DG1 2HS.
- 1.34 A copy of the EIA Report Volumes will be made available for download from the project website at: <https://www.westscales.com/>
- 1.35 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
- 1.36 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

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/8/contents>

Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/102/contents>

Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/sdsi/2009/9780111001714/contents>