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APPENDICES

Technical Appendix 6.1: Scoping Response Table
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Introduction

- 6.1 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”).
- 6.2 This Chapter sets out the Scoping process that has been undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) for the Proposed Development. It also details additional consultation that has been undertaken in respect of the Proposed Development with consultees.
- 6.3 The purpose of scoping and consultation is to:
- ensure that statutory consultees and other bodies with a particular interest in the environment are informed of the proposed development and provided with an opportunity to comment at an early stage in the EIA process;
 - obtain baseline information regarding existing environmental site conditions;
 - establish key environmental issues and identify potential effects to be considered during the EIA;
 - identify those issues which are likely to give rise to significant environmental effects and therefore which require more detailed study and those which can be justifiably excluded from further assessment;
 - provide focus to the EIA process so that assessment is focussed in areas where there is likely to be significant effects; and
 - provide a means of confirming the most appropriate methods of assessment.

Scoping

- 6.4 A Scoping Report (SLR, 2025) was submitted on 24 March 2025 to accompany a request for Dumfries and Galloway Council (D&GC) Council to adopt a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 17 of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, in support of the proposed West Scales Energy Park.
- 6.5 The list of organisations consulted that responded and the date of the response is shown in **Table 6-1**.

Table 6-1: Scoping Consultees (Responses)

Consultee	Scoping Response Date
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	13/05/2025
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	13/05/2025
NatureScot	02/07/2025
Scottish Water	07/05/2025
Scottish Forestry	06/05/2025
Transport Scotland	05/05/2025

Consultee	Scoping Response Date
Police Scotland	11/05/2025
Network Rail	30/04/2025
Edinburgh Airport	12/05/2025
Glasgow Airport	May 2025
Glasgow Prestwick Airport	April 2025
Joint Radio Company	24/04/2025
NATS Safeguarding	25/04/2025
Defence Infrastructure Organisation (MOD)	06/06/2025
British Horse Society Scotland	08/05/2025
Galloway Fisheries Trust	16/05/2025
Natural England	13/05/2025
Cumberland Council	14/05/2025
Historic England	12/05/2025
Environmental Health	15/04/2025

6.6 The list of organisations consulted that did not respond are shown in **Table 6-2**.

Table 6-2: Scoping Consultees (No Response)

Consultee
Atkins Global
British Telecom
Carlisle Airport
Civil Aviation Authority
Gretna & Rigg Community Council
Kirkpatrick Fleming and District Community Council
Marine Science Scotland
MBNL
Vodafone
Mountaineering Scotland
John Muir Trust
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Ofcom
River Annan Fisheries Board
RSPB Scotland
Scottish Wildlife Trust
Springfield and Gretna Community Council

Visit Scotland
Council Landscape Architect
Telefonica/O2

- 6.7 A Scoping Opinion was received from D&GC on 02 July 2025 and included advice from the consultees listed in **Table 6-1**.
- 6.8 A summary of the key issues raised at Scoping is provided in **Technical Appendix 6.1**. Relevant consultee Scoping responses are detailed in the consultation tables contained within each EIA Report **Chapters 7 to 15**, with reference to how the comments have been addressed. The EIA Report has been prepared based on the Scoping Opinion (as per Reg 5(3) of the EIA Regulations) received from D&GC on 02 July 2025.

Matters Scoped out of Detailed Consideration

- 6.9 An assessment of the potential effects of the decommissioning of the Proposed Development have been scoped-out of the EIA as impacts during decommissioning are expected to be similar to, or no worse than those predicted for construction. Also noted at this stage, future baseline conditions cannot be predicted accurately and both the proposals for refurbishment/decommissioning and the future regulatory context are unknown. See **Chapter 5: Approach to EIA** for further detail.
- 6.10 Paragraph 76 of Circular 1/2017¹ is clear that it is the ‘significant’ environmental effects to which a proposed development is likely to give rise that should be the primary focus of the EIA Report and that the requirement “*is to include the information that may reasonably be required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the project on the environment*”. Other lesser impacts may need “*only brief treatment to indicate that their possible relevance has been considered*”.
- 6.11 Paragraph 3.1 of PAN 1/2013² similarly outlines that EIAs should be proportionate and fit for purpose. “*Proportionality can best be achieved by seeking information from the planning authority and the Consultation Bodies on the scope of the assessment, paying attention to their views from the outset, and by focussing on the significant environmental effects of the proposed development*”. A similar emphasis is contained at paragraph 5.4 of PAN 1/2013 that outlines that the EIA Report should contain a clear analysis of the significant areas of impact and should highlight key issues relevant to the decision.
- 6.12 On the basis of the desk based and survey work undertaken, the professional judgement of the EIA team, experience from other relevant projects, policy guidance or standards, and with the agreement of the consultees, a number of topic areas have been ‘scoped out’. The following main issues have been scoped out of the EIA:

¹ Guidance on The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

² Guidance on the integration of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures into the overall development management process.

Landscape and Visual

- 6.13 Dumfries & Galloway Council, Cumberland Council, NatureScot and Natural England were consulted as part of the EIA Scoping process with regards to potential landscape and visual effects. No response was received from D&GC's Landscape Architect as part of the Council's Scoping Opinion. NatureScot and D&GC were subsequently consulted by SLR by email to confirm on the proposed viewpoint list (27 August 2025). A summary of NatureScot's responses on study area, national landscape designations, aviation lighting, Wild Land Areas and viewpoint locations are contained within **Technical Appendix 6.1 Scoping Response Table**. Refer to **Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment** for further assessment details.
- 6.14 The following effects have therefore been scoped out of the LVIA following the consultation process:
- Effects on landscape character types (LCTs) lying beyond a 20km radius of the Proposed Development, and also where the influence of the Proposed Development on the LCT would be limited.
 - Effects on National Parks.
 - Effects on Wild Land Areas.
 - The cumulative effect of the Proposed Development in the context of scoping stage wind farms.

Ecology

- 6.15 Ecological features have been scoped out of detailed assessment where there is no potential for significant effects upon the ecological receptor or where the ecological features are not considered important at a local or greater level, is not a GWDTE and/or is not subject to legal or policy protection
- 6.16 Habitats which are considered to be of relatively low ecological value or would not be impacted by the Proposed Development have been scoped out of the detailed assessment. These habitats include:
- bracken, other coniferous woodland, dry lowland heaths - these habitats will not be impacted directly, indirectly or cumulatively by the Proposed Development;
 - *Arrhenatherum* neutral grassland, *Holcus-Juncus* neutral grassland, non-native ornamental hedgerow, *Molinia caerulea-Potentilla erecta* mire, buildings, other developed land, unsealed unvegetated surface, built linear features - these habitats are of low ecological value. However, they are considered as part of the overall impact assessment on biodiversity.
- 6.17 Based on the ecological desk study produced for the Proposed Development (included within the EIA Scoping Report (SLR, 2025)) and consideration of the extent and nature of the Proposed Development, effects on the following features, species or species groups have been scoped out of the assessment. Effects on the following features, species or species groups (due to various reasons set out in **Chapter 8: Ecology**):
- Designated sites;
 - Ancient woodland;
 - Invertebrates;

- Amphibians;
- Freshwater Pearl Mussel;
- Mountain hare;
- Beaver;
- Pine marten;
- Red squirrel;
- At height bat surveys;
- Wild deer; and
- Wildcat.

Ornithology

- 6.18 No ornithological topics have been fully scoped out of the assessment, though, following SNH 2018a guidance: "Avoidance Rates for the onshore SNH Wind Farm Collision Risk Model", the assessment focusses on the key species likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. Full assessment details are set out in **Chapter 9: Ornithology**.

Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology

- 6.19 Effects on geology have been scoped out, with the exception of peat considerations – there are no protected geological features within the Site or study area.
- 6.20 Effects on water dependent designated sites, Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPAs), licenced water abstractions and private water supplies receptors have been scoped out - the hydrological baseline assessment set out in **Chapter 10 Hydrology Hydrogeology and Geology** confirms that these receptors are not at risk from the Proposed Development.

Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

- 6.21 Designated heritage assets within 10km of the proposed wind turbines (that do not fall within the ZTV), and designated heritage assets that are outwith the 10km study area have been scoped out of further assessment - the potential for significant effects or adverse impacts are considered unlikely. This has been agreed upon through consultation with HES, HE and D&GC as set out in **Chapter 11 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology**.

Traffic and Transport

- 6.22 Operational and decommissioning traffic impacts have been scoped out. These phases are expected to generate minimal traffic, and any impacts would be negligible. See **Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport** for full assessment details.

Noise

- 6.23 Assessment of vibration associated with construction and operation of the Proposed Development has been scoped out – vibration is predicted to be negligible at sensitive receptors given the distance between construction locations and receptors. See **Chapter 13: Noise** for further detail.

- 6.24 Amplitude modulation (AM) has also been scoped out. While AM can occur, it is rare and unpredictable, and current planning practice does not support conditioning for AM.

Aviation

- 6.25 The MoD did not object on any potential radar line of sight to any military ATC radars in the area and these facilities were scoped out from further consideration.
- 6.26 Radar modelling showed that there were no MoD ADRs that would be affected by the Proposed Development and these were scoped out from further consideration.
- 6.27 Radar modelling demonstrated that neither of the main NATS radars covering the area would be affected by the proposed development. NATS responded at Scoping that the Proposed Development did not conflict with any of their safeguarded and these radars have been scoped out from further consideration.
- 6.28 Met Office Radar was scoped out of assessment - the closest Met Office radar is located at Holehead, north of Glasgow, and well beyond the Met Office's 20km safeguarding distance
- 6.29 Non-Radar licensed airfields were scoped out of assessment – there were no non-radar licensed airfields within the specified consultation distance.
- 6.30 There were no unlicensed airfields, hang-gliding sites or glider sites located within the specific consultation distance, and as such these were scoped out of assessment. See **Chapter 15: Aviation** for full details.

Post Scoping Consultation

- 6.31 In addition to the formal scoping process, further consultation (post Scoping) was undertaken with a number of organisations regarding specific issues. In particular, follow up consultation was undertaken with:
- Dumfries and Galloway Council;
 - NatureScot;
 - Historic Environment Scotland; and
 - Historic England.
- 6.32 Detail of the consultation carried out is provided in the relevant technical Chapters (EIA Report **Chapter 7 to 15**), however a summary is provided below.

Dumfries and Galloway Council

Landscape and Visual

- 6.33 Further email correspondence was issued on 27 August 2025 to confirm the list of daytime and night-time viewpoints; however, no response was received.

Noise

- 6.34 D&GC Environmental Health department were contacted on 26 August 2025 in order to agree the proposed noise monitoring locations. The Environmental Health department confirmed they had no concerns in relation to the suggested noise monitoring locations.

NatureScot

Landscape and Visual

- 6.35 Further email correspondence was issued on 27 August 2025 to confirm the list of daytime and night-time viewpoints; however, no response was received.

Historic Environment Scotland

- 6.36 SLR contacted Historic Environment Scotland (“HES”) on 4 July 2025 requesting justification for the request to include two additional photomontages from the Category A Listed Mossknowe House (LB9799). SLR advised that they consider that the two existing photomontage locations for Mossknowe House would be sufficient.
- 6.37 HES responded to SLR’s email on 30 July 2025, advising that they still consider the additional two photomontage locations for Mossknowe House to be required.

Historic England

- 6.38 SLR contacted Historic England (“HE”) on 4 July 2025 in order to clarify various points raised in HE’s scoping response. This included requesting that, due to intervening distance, Grade I Listed assets in England be scoped out of full assessment.
- 6.39 HE responded to SLR’s email on 3 September 2025, agreeing that Grade I Listed assets in England can be scoped out, so long as the reasoning be clearly demonstrated in the EIA Report.

Further Consultation

- 6.40 Following the formal scoping stage, further consultation has been undertaken with relevant consultees to inform the EIA Report.

Civil Aviation Authority

- 6.41 Wind Farm Aviation Services submitted a proposed reduced Aviation Lighting Scheme to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on 20 November 2025. The reduced Aviation Lighting Scheme was approved by the CAA on 16 February 2026.

Defence Infrastructure Organisation / Ministry of Defence

- 6.42 Wind Farm Aviation Services submitted a proposed reduced Aviation Lighting Scheme to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) on 17 February 2026. The reduced Aviation Lighting Scheme was accepted by the MoD on 19 February 2026, and confirmed that this addressed their low flying related concerns raised at Scoping.

SEPA

- 6.43 SLR contacted SEPA on 19 December 2025, advising that due to the limited amount of peat onsite, and that no infrastructure is proposed on peat over 1m in depth, it is proposed that no Peat Management Plan or Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment would be required. A supplementary response was received on 5 January 2026 highlighting two

further guidance documents that deal with peat / peaty soils³, and advice to notify the Council who ultimately decide on which components should be scoped out of assessment.

Community Consultation

- 6.44 Public consultation is a key element of the environmental assessment process; therefore, as part of the wider consultation process, attention was given to community engagement in cognisance of Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010: Community Engagement. Local Community Councils were contacted during development of the proposals.
- 6.45 In addition to the consultation as part of the scoping process, consultation has been undertaken with the local communities in the form of public exhibitions and meetings.
- 6.46 The following Community Councils / groups were invited to the public exhibitions held in June 2025 and November 2025:
- Gretna and Rigg Community Council;
 - Eastriggs Community Group;
 - Royal Burgh of Annan Community Council;
 - Kirkpatrick Fleming and District Community Council;
 - Springfield and Gretna Green Community Council; and
 - Eaglesfield & Kirtle Community Council.
- 6.47 Local councillors were invited to attend the public exhibitions held in 2025.
- 6.48 The applicant has also met with a number of community councils and community groups in order to discuss the Proposed Development and also options for the associated community benefit.
- 6.49 Further details of the public exhibitions and community consultation held in respect of the Proposed Development are contained in the Pre Application Consultation Report, submitted as part of the application for the Proposed Development.

References

Scottish Natural Heritage (2017). Recommended bird survey methods to inform impact assessment of onshore windfarms.

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

The Scottish Government (2017). Planning Circular 1/2017: Environmental Impact Assessment regulations. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/planning-circular-1-2017-environmental-impact-assessment-regulations-2017/> .

The Scottish Government (2013). Planning Advice Note 1/2013: Environmental Impact Assessment. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/planning-advice-note-1-2013-environmental-impact-assessment/> .

³ SEPA Planning Advice Note: Assessing the impact of developments on peatland and carbon rich soils, and SEPA Standing Advice on peaty soil.

The Scottish Government (2010). Planning Advice Note 3/2010: community engagement. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/pan-3-2010-community-engagement/> .

Historic Scotland (2014). Scotland's Listed Buildings. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/listed-buildings/search-for-a-listed-building/> .