

3 CONSULTATION

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 Consultation has been integral to the design and development of the Proposed Development, identification of existing environmental constraints and sensitivities, and identification and assessment of the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development.
- 3.1.2 Consultation with NatureScot commenced in September 2019 regarding the scope of ornithological surveys. An EIA Scoping request was submitted to the ECU, statutory and non-statutory consultees in March 2020. The applicant undertook formal pre-application consultation with THC and statutory consultees in June 2020. Consultation with the general public commenced in July 2021. Consultation has taken a number of forms, including:
- stakeholder liaison;
 - public information events; and
 - informal discussions with the local authority and stakeholders.

3.2 Stakeholder Liaison

- 3.2.1 Consultation with statutory consultees and other organisations has been undertaken throughout the EIA process to obtain environmental information, to discuss and agree the scope of individual environmental assessments and the adopted methods of assessment, and to develop appropriate environmental mitigation measures.
- 3.2.2 EIA topic-specific consultation is summarised in each chapter of this EIA Report where relevant.
- 3.2.3 Copies of the EIA Scoping Report and ECU's Scoping Opinion are available on the ECU website¹.

Public Information Events

- 3.2.4 In complying with the Scottish Government guidance on the restrictions on public meetings as a result of COVID-19, initially the public consultation phase commenced by online public consultation events and a dedicated website. This initial online phase of the public consultation, in July 2021, aimed to inform the general public and other interested parties of how the Proposed Development had evolved and responded to the emerging findings of the Scoping phase, and to elicit comment and feedback on the Proposed Development.
- 3.2.5 A second phase of public consultation took place during November 2021, following the Scottish Government lifting restriction measures associated with public meetings while adhering to government guidance on COVID-19 transmission prevention, the applicant,

¹ <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationSearch.aspx>. Search for "Chleansaid", ECU reference ECU00002031

in collaboration with RSK, hosted two in-person public exhibitions. The exhibitions took place on the 26th and 27th of November 2021 in Rogart and Lairg respectively. During both exhibitions, A1 banners containing project information were set up for public display, including photomontage and wireline visualisations. Attendees were given the opportunity to observe how the Proposed Development would appear from any specific point around the area, through location-specific wireline visualisations created live, by generating viewpoints through ReSoft Software.

- 3.2.6 Further information on the public consultation activities undertaken for the Proposed Development is provided in the Statement of Community Consultation that accompanies the application for consent.

Informal discussions

- 3.2.7 Discussion was undertaken with interested parties and landowners during the design development of the Proposed Development and the EIA process.
- 3.2.8 EIA topic-specific consultations are summarised in each chapter of this EIA Report where relevant.

3.3 References

Energy Consents Unit (2020). Scoping Opinion May 2020. Dated 18 May 2020 Accessible from <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationSearch.aspx>. Search for "Chleansaid", ECU reference ECU00002031

RSK Environment Ltd (2020). Chleansaid Wind Farm Scoping Report. Dated 05 Mar 2020 Accessible from <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationSearch.aspx>. Search for "Chleansaid", ECU reference ECU00002031.