

# Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Teindland Wind Farm

Volume 1

Chapter 1: Introduction

Document prepared by Envams Ltd for: Teindland Wind Farm Ltd

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

This Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been prepared by Envams Ltd (Envams) to accompany the application by Teindland Wind Farm Ltd (the Applicant), for consent to install and operate Teindland Wind Farm (the Development) on land owned by Forestry and Land Scotland approximately 2 km north of Rothes, Moray (the Site). As the Development exceeds 50 MW, the Applicant is seeking consent from the Scottish Ministers under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989<sup>1</sup>, with deemed planning permission under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997<sup>2</sup>.

Given the Development qualifies as a Section 36 application and is for a large-scale wind farm, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required under the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017<sup>3</sup> as amended, hereafter referred to as the EIA Regulations.

This Chapter of the EIAR is supported by the following figures provided in Volume 2a: Figures excluding LVIA:

- Figure 1.1: Site Location; and
- Figure 1.2: Site Boundary.

## 1.2 THE APPLICANT

Teindland Wind Farm Ltd is a joint venture partnership between European Energy UK Limited and Locogen.

European Energy is an internationally recognised and award-winning expert in facilitating the development, construction, and operation of renewable energy systems. It is a subsidiary of European Energy AS, based in Copenhagen, Denmark. The EE group has an international presence across Europe and in Brazil, USA and Australia.

Locogen is a Scottish based renewable energy consultant and developer with a long history of successfully developing and constructing renewable energy projects throughout the UK.

## 1.3 OVERVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT

The Development Site is located in an area of commercial forestry known as Teindland Wood approximately 2 km north of Rothes, in Moray (the Site) as shown in Figure 1.1. The Development comprises 12 wind turbines with a maximum height to blade tip of 230 metres (m) with a generation capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW) and associated infrastructure including approximately 85 MW of export capacity from a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). Although the BESS is included in this application, it may be the case that this will not be taken forward even if given consent.

The layout of the Development has evolved via the iterative EIA Process with details of the final Development layout provided in Chapter 4: Development Description and a summary of the main design iterations in Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Evolution.

Access to the Site will be taken from the north via an existing entrance point off the B9103, as shown on Figure 4.1.

The main components of the Development are as follows:

- Up to 12 wind turbines and external transformers (if required), eight with a maximum tip height of up to 230 m, and four with a maximum tip height of 200 m;
- Associated foundations and crane hardstandings at each wind turbine location;

<sup>1</sup> UK Government (1989) Electricity Act 1989, Section 36. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/29/section/36> [Accessed 20/02/2025].

<sup>2</sup> Scottish Government (1997) Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, Section 57(2). Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/8/section/57> [Accessed 20/02/2025].

<sup>3</sup> Scottish Government (2017) Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended). Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/101/contents/made> [Accessed 20/02/2025].

- Access tracks linking the turbine locations comprising of a combination of new and upgraded existing tracks (15.1 km of track in total, 6.7 km of which is upgraded and 8.4 km of which is new);
- BESS compound containing approximately 19 battery containers with a total of approximately 85 MW export capacity;
- One meteorological mast;
- Network of underground cabling;
- Substation compound; and
- One construction and storage compound.

The purpose of the Development is to generate electricity from a renewable source of energy, offsetting the need for power generation from the combustion of fossil fuels. Consequently, the electricity that will be produced results in a saving in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) with associated environmental benefits. Carbon savings are set out in Chapter 10: Climate Change.

#### 1.4 SCOPE OF THE EIA

As required by the EIA Regulations, this EIAR presents information on the likely significant environmental effects which may occur as a result of the Development. The EIAR informs the reader of the nature of the Development, presents the measures proposed to protect the environment during enabling works, construction, operation and decommissioning, and identifies any residual impacts.

The EIA Scoping Opinion for the Development was issued by the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in September 2022, a copy of which is included as Appendix 2.1 in Volume 3. The EIA described within this EIAR is based on this Scoping Opinion, included as Technical Appendix A2.2 in Volume 3.

Teindland Wind Farm has a connection agreement with SSEN at Blackhillock Substation, approximately 14 km to the southeast. The grid connection works will be subject to a separate application for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989. As a result, potential environmental effects as a result of the offsite grid connection will not be considered in this EIA.

#### 1.5 CO-ORDINATION AND PRODUCTION OF THIS EIAR

This EIAR has been prepared and compiled by Envams on behalf of the Applicant. Envams Ltd is a team of experienced environmental consultants including Registered EIA Practitioners under the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). While Envams has had overall responsibility for the EIAR, the individual environmental assessments have been undertaken by experts with relevant specialist skills, drawing on their qualifications, and experience of working on other development projects, good practice in EIA, and on relevant published information.

#### 1.6 EIAR STRUCTURE

The EIAR comprises of the following volumes:

- **Volume 1** – EIAR Text;
- **Volume 2** – EIAR Figures:
  - **Volume 2a** – Figures;
  - **Volume 2b** – Visualisations;
- **Volume 3** – EIAR Technical Appendices;
- **Volume 4** – EIAR Non-Technical Summary; and
- **Volume 5** – EIAR Confidential Information (sensitive ecological data).

An outline of Volume 1 of the EIAR which is split into 16 separate chapters is presented below:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction** – This chapter;
- **Chapter 2: EIA Methodology** – Provides an overview of the EIA process, its regulatory context and an outline of the methodology used to assess environmental effects and ensure a consistent and transparent approach to assessment. It describes

the scoping and consultation process that assisted in the identification of likely significant environmental effects;

- **Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Evolution** – Summarises the site selection process and the principal alternative layouts that were considered within the design evolution process;
- **Chapter 4: Development Description** – Describes the Development including the construction, operational and decommissioning arrangements, and with Technical Appendix A4.1 setting out forestry proposals;
- **Chapters 5 – 15: Technical EIA Chapters** – Each technical chapter as shown in Table 1.1 provides a description of the baseline environmental conditions specific to the relevant topic and assesses the potential environmental impacts (positive or negative) due to the Development in line with the EIA methodology. This includes a description of any proposed mitigation or enhancement measures and a statement of predicted residual impacts; and
- **Chapter 16: Summary of Mitigation** – Provides a summary of the findings of the EIA, including a tabular summary of all residual effects and proposed mitigation.
- **Chapter 17: Glossary of Terms** – Provides a table showing a glossary of terms and abbreviations used throughout the EIAR, and provides a description to each.

**Table 1.1: EIA Chapters and Authors**

Chapter No.	Title	Main Contributor
1	Introduction	Envams
2	EIA Methodology	Envams
3	Site Selection and Design Evolution	Envams
4	Development Description	Envams
5	Landscape and Visual Amenity	Abseline
6	Ecology	Wildlife Consulting
7	Ornithology	Avian Ecology
8	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	CFA
9	Noise	Metrica
10	Climate Change	Envams
11	Access and Transport	Systra
12	Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Soils	Raincloud
13	Aviation	WFAS
14	Socio-economics, Land Use, Recreation and Tourism	Envams
15	Other Issues including Shadow Flicker, Telecoms and Utilities	Envams
16	Summary of Mitigation	Envams
17	Glossary of Terms	Envams

## 1.7 ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

### 1.7.1 Planning Statement

A Planning Statement has been prepared to accompany the application. This sets out an assessment of the Development in the context of relevant planning policy, comprising the local development plan as well as national planning, energy policy, 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.

**1.7.2 Design and Access Statement**

A Design and Access Statement has been prepared to accompany the application.

The Design and Access Statement, focusses on the design considerations with an aim to explain the design process behind the Development, and also sets out the approach to accessibility for people with disabilities. Whilst there is no statutory requirement for a Design and Access Statement for a Section 36 application, the Applicant considers that the preparation and submission of this document would be useful to the ECU, consultees and interested parties.

**1.7.3 Pre-Application Consultation Report**

In common with the above there is no statutory requirement for a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report for a Section 36 application. The Applicant has however undertaken extensive consultation and engagement at the pre-application stage with a range of statutory and non-statutory consultees, local communities, organisations and individuals. A PAC Report has therefore been prepared which forms part of the application submission.