

1. Introduction

1.1 Background and Site Description

- 1.1.1 Nan Clach Extension Limited, the joint venture between Infinergy Limited and the Rt Hon. Earl Cawdor (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant'), is proposing a wind energy development, Tom na Clach Wind Farm Extension (hereafter referred to as 'the Proposed Development'), north-east of Tomatin in The Highland Council ('THC') area.
- 1.1.2 The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (hereafter referred to as the 'EIA Report') has been prepared in support of an application submitted to The Highland Council ('THC') seeking consent to construct and operate the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.3 The Applicant received a planning permission for Tom nan Clach Wind Farm, a 13-turbine scheme together with associated infrastructure, on 28th October 2016 from THC (hereafter referred to as the 'Operational Scheme' (Planning Appeal Ref: PPA-270-2150).
- 1.1.4 The Proposed Development site boundary lies approximately 7 km north-east of Tomatin and west of the B9007. It comprises upland moorland located adjacent to Tom nan Clach in the immediate west, and immediately adjacent to the Operational Scheme (see **Figure 3.1**). The elevation of the site ranges from 310 m to 550 m above ordnance datum (AOD). The site occupies an area of approximately 3.98 km² and the central grid reference for the site is 287153 (Eastings) 834447 (Northings). The site location and site boundary for the Proposed Development are shown on **Figure 1.0** and **Figure 1.1**.
- 1.1.5 The Proposed Development comprises 7 wind turbines up to a maximum tip height of up to 149.9 m when vertical (up to 82 m hub height, 136 m rotor diameter), each turbine with an installed power capacity of up to 4.5 Mega Watts (MW). A number of ancillary development components are also proposed, including one temporary construction compound, one proposed borrow pit, permanent hard standings adjacent to the wind turbines for construction, access tracks, underground cables between turbines, an onsite substation, control building, maintenance building with welfare facilities and battery energy storage system. The proposed site layout is shown in **Figure 3.0**.
- 1.1.6 The total installed capacity of the Proposed Development would therefore be up to approximately 31.5 MW. Based on a current typical capacity factor of 27%, the annual indicative total power output for the site would be around 70,831 MW hours per annum (MWh/p.a.), indicating the Proposed Development would generate enough electricity to power approximately 17,429 (Scottish Government source) average UK households (based on average annual electricity consumption per household of 4,064 kWh) and would displace around 32,603 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually (based on 'All Fossil Fuels' being displaced), and 1,304,120 tonnes over the proposed 40 year lifetime of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would contribute towards international and national targets for the generation of renewable energy and reduction in

greenhouse gas emissions (further information is provided on this matter in **Chapter 5: Carbon Balance**).

- 1.1.7 The electricity produced at the site will be exported to the national grid. The grid connection will be subject to a separate planning application, if required (further information on this matter can be found in **Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development**).

1.2 Purpose of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report

1.2.1 The Applicant has undertaken an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Proposed Development in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. The EIA process is reported in this Environmental Impact Assessment Report ('EIA Report'), which identifies the methodologies used to assess the environmental effects predicted to result from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Where appropriate, it also sets out mitigation measures designed to prevent, reduce and, if at all possible, offset potential significant adverse environmental impacts. An assessment of residual effects, those expected to remain following implementation of mitigation measures, is also presented.

1.2.2 The main findings and conclusions of this EIA Report are summarised in a Non-Technical Summary (NTS), as required by the EIA Regulations.

1.3 Structure of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report

1.3.1 The EIA Report is split into three volumes, with the NTS, Planning Statement and Statement of Community Consultation Report forming separate documents. **Volume 1** of this EIA Report contains written statements informing each area of assessment considered throughout the EIA process.

1.3.2 **Volume 2** contains the figures that inform the EIA Report.

1.3.3 **Volume 3** contains the figures that inform the Landscape Visual Impact and Cultural Heritage Assessments.

1.3.4 **Volume 4** contains supporting information and appendices for each of these technical chapters, and additional studies that have been prepared to inform the relevant assessments as reported in the EIA Report

1.4 Assessment Team

- 1.4.1 The assessment was undertaken by the following technical consultancies:
- Infinergy Limited – Project Managed, Introduction, EIA Process, Description of Proposed Development, Shadow Flicker & Safety and Infrastructure;
 - Wood – Socio Economic, Noise;
 - Pell Frischmann – Traffic & Transport;
 - Fluid Environmental Consultants – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat;
 - Carbon Forecast Ltd – Carbon Balance;
 - David Bell Planning – Planning Policy;

- Optimised Environments – Landscape and Visual;
- Headland Archaeology – Cultural Heritage;
- Natural Research Projects – Ornithology;
- BSG Ecology - Ecology.

1.5 Availability of the EIA Report

1.5.1 In accordance with current Covid-19 guidance, the EIA Report and the supporting documentation are available online, please visit the dedicated website at www.tomnaclachwindfarm.co.uk under 'Downloads'. A copy of the NTS and a CD containing the full EIA Report are available free of charge (while stocks last), by contacting Infinergy Limited at info@tomnaclachwindfarm.co.uk or in writing to **Freepost Infinergy Limited** (no stamp or further address detail necessary). If required, a hard copy of the entire EIA Report can be provided at a cost of £750 plus VAT.

1.6 Representations to the Applicant

1.6.1 Any representations to the application should be made directly to the Energy Consented Unit (representations@gov.scot).

References

DECC (2009). The UK Renewable Energy Strategy. Accessed 02/03/22. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228866/7686.pdf.

The Scottish Government (2017). Energy in Scotland 2017. Accessed 02/03/22. <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00529523.pdf>

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. Accessed 02/03/2022. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/102/contents/made>

BEIS (2020) DUKES 2020 [Online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/924591/DUKES_2020_MASTER.pdf (Accessed 02/03/22).