From: Planning.North <Planning.North@sepa.org.uk>
Sent: 01 June 2022 08:48
To: Mark.Ashton@gov.scot
Cc: Nick Sage
Subject: FW: Tom Na Clach Wind Farm Extension Consultation

OFFICIAL

Morning Mark

I should have come back to you on this one a couple of days ago, please can SEPA have an extension until 17 June?

We're somewhat struggling with this one I'm afraid. Its not clear that the infrastructure layout fully minimises peat disturbance and much of it is located on small watercourses or drainage grips and I've yet to find any sort of clarification as to which are natural features (which should be avoided) and which are man made structures (which could be either moved or filled in as part of peatland habitat restoration). Nick, can you shed any light on this latter issue?

Kind regards

Susan

Susan Haslam
Senior Planning Officer - Planning Service North
Graesser House, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall
Email: planning.north@sepa.org.uk
Mobile: 07713 053 767

From: Mark.Ashton@gov.scot <Mark.Ashton@gov.scot>
Sent: 27 April 2022 17:35
To: Planning.North <Planning.North@sepa.org.uk>; Karen.Reid@nature.scot; south_highland@nature.scot; HMConsultations@hes.scot
Subject: Tom Na Clach Wind Farm Extension Consultation

Dear Consultee

THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 SECTION 36 AND SCHEDULE 8: APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED TOM NA CLACH WIND FARM EXTENSION IN THE PLANNING AUTHORITY AREA OF THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL.

On 31 March 2022, Infinergy Ltd on behalf of Nan Clach Extension Ltd, submitted an application under section 36 of the Electricity Act 2017 ('the Act') for the Scottish Ministers' consent to construct and operate Tom Na Clach Wind Farm Extension located at the Cawdor Estate and Lethen Estate approximately 8km north-east of Tomatin. The proposed development is within the planning authority of the Highland Council.

In accordance with the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 ('the EIA regulations') and regulations made under Schedule 8(1) to the Act, details of the application will be published in the Herald, The Strathspey and Badenoch Herald, The Inverness Courier and Edinburgh Gazette. The date of the first advert will be on the 07 April 2022 and the date of the final advert will be the 15 April 2022.

In accordance with the EIA Regulations a consultation in respect of the application must be carried out. To support the Scottish Government's aims to "*drive the future transformation of Scotland's planning system to provide a simpler and more consistent online experience across Scotland*" you can also review the EIA Report and associated documents online from our website which can be found and viewed at the following link:

www.energyconsents.scot – search – simple search – Tom Na Clach Wind Farm Extension (ECU Reference ECU00003453)

The documentation is also available to view at:
https://www.tomnaclachwindfarm.co.uk/downloads/

The Regulations allow not less than 30 days for responses to this consultation.
The closing date for any response you may wish to make in this case is 30 May 2022.
Please note reminder letters are no longer issued by the Energy Consents Unit for any project. If we have not received your comments, nor an extension request by **30** May 2022 we will assume that you have no comments to make.

Please send your response (in PDF format if possible) to Econsents_Admin@gov.scot (please note the underscore _ between Econsents and Admin).

Regards

Mark Ashton
Consents Manager | Energy Consents Unit | The Scottish Government
T: 0131 24 41127 (external) 41127 (internal)
Mobile: 07920 477 542
Email: mark.ashton@gov.scot

OFFICIAL

Nick Sage
Project Director
Infinergy Ltd
93 (1) Constitution Street
Leith
Edinburgh
EH6 7AE

14 June 2022

Dear Mr Sage

RE: Tom na Clach Ext wind farm – Response to SEPA email comments of 1 June 2022

The following response relates to comments provided to Mark Ashton, Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government, by Susan Haslam of SEPA with respect to the Tom na Clach Wind Farm Extension application (the 'Proposed Development') and specifically the Hydrology and Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat chapter (13) of the EIA Report.

The following comments are addressed:

'It's not clear that the infrastructure layout fully minimises peat disturbance and much of it is located on small watercourses or drainage grips and I've yet to find any sort of clarification as to which are natural features (which should be avoided) and which are man made structures (which could be either moved or filled in as part of peatland habitat restoration).'

The layout for the Proposed Development has gone through nine Design Iterations (see Chapter 2: Table 2.2, and Figure 2.0 in the EIA Report for the Proposed Development) to minimise the location of infrastructure on peat and natural watercourses, where possible taking into account other constraints. This includes not only environmental constraints considered as part of the EIA process, but also technical constraints including avoiding, where practicable, an onsite buried 33kV cable connecting the Operational Tom nan Clach Wind Farm (the 'Operational Scheme'), landownership constraints and multiple civil engineering considerations (listed in more detail in Table 2.2).

There have been three rounds of detailed peat probing subsequent to the initial 100m grid resulting in a total of 3,733 probe locations. It is also apparent that much of the peat on site is degraded and eroding through a dense network of gullies exposing bare peat. These conditions and the presence of so many bare peat gullies provide numerous restoration opportunities to enhance the existing habitat.

The following comments on the peat occurrence are noted:

- The access track to the site uses the existing track for the Operational Scheme, therefore it is just the spurs to turbine locations that are additional and these will be floated when on peat;

- The borrow pit uses a previously disturbed area and is therefore not on peat (Plate 1);

Plate 1 – Proposed Borrow Pit. This area will be restored subsequent to the construction of the wind farm

- The construction compound has been located to use as much of the existing disturbed area as possible with minimal peat occurrence including utilising the access from the existing access track (Plate 2). This area will also be restored subsequent to the construction of the Proposed Development;

Plate 2 – Proposed Construction Compound

- The indicative substation will occupy only a small area of the larger oblong presented and will be located to avoid as much peat as possible. There are also opportunities for restoration of eroded peat gullies in this area (see Plate 3 below);

Plate 3 – Proposed Substation adjacent to existing substation

- The turbine bases and crane hardstandings have been adjusted as far as possible to avoid deep peat while taking account of other constraints. Much of the site is covered in degraded peat and there are numerous opportunities to improve the peat condition of which the proposed restoration program recommended some of the larger areas in proximity to proposed infrastructure. These areas can be expanded further following more detailed mapping. Turbines 5 and 7 have substantial areas of eroded peat immediately adjacent to them so local restoration can occur concurrently with excavation to avoid storage.

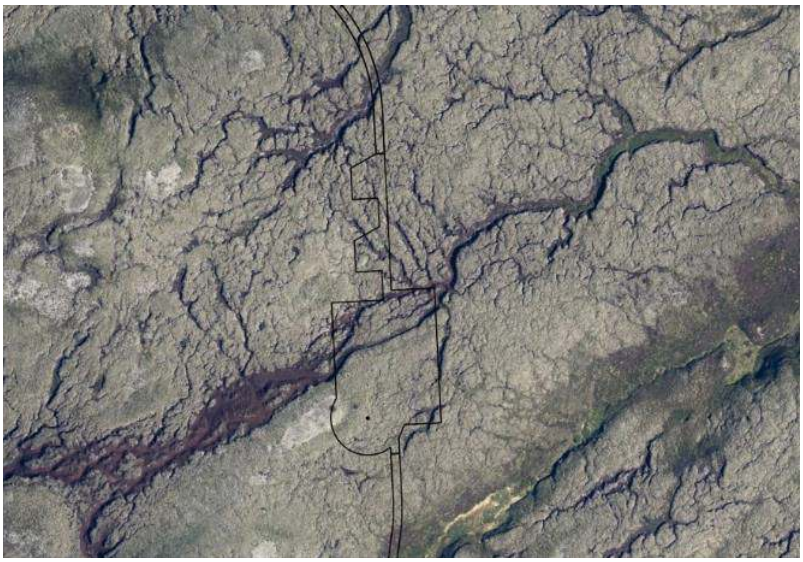


Plate 4 – Turbine 5 with substantial areas of eroded peat gullies in vicinity that will be reinstated where feasible with peat

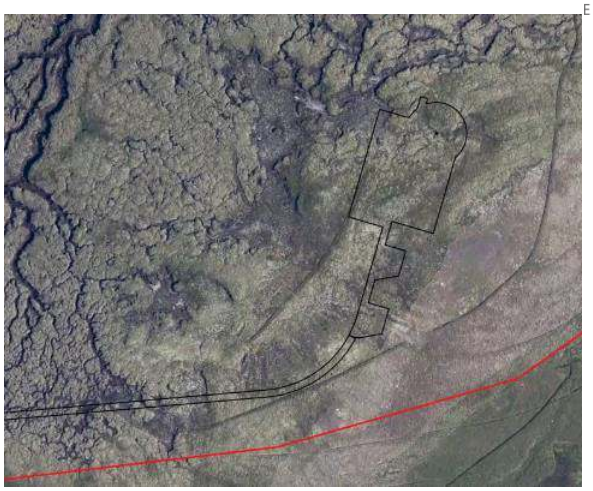


Plate 5 – Turbine 7 also has substantial areas of eroded peat that will be restored with excavated peat where feasible

Plate 6 – Turbine 6 has mainly avoided peat however due to boundary and other constraints a section of deep peat will be excavated. This can be reused to restore eroded peat gullies within the site.

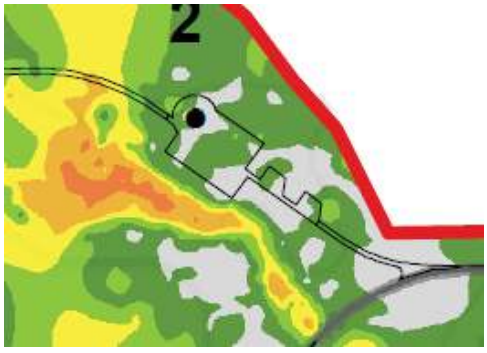


Plate 7 – Turbine 2 avoids deep peat and minimises the amount of peat excavated

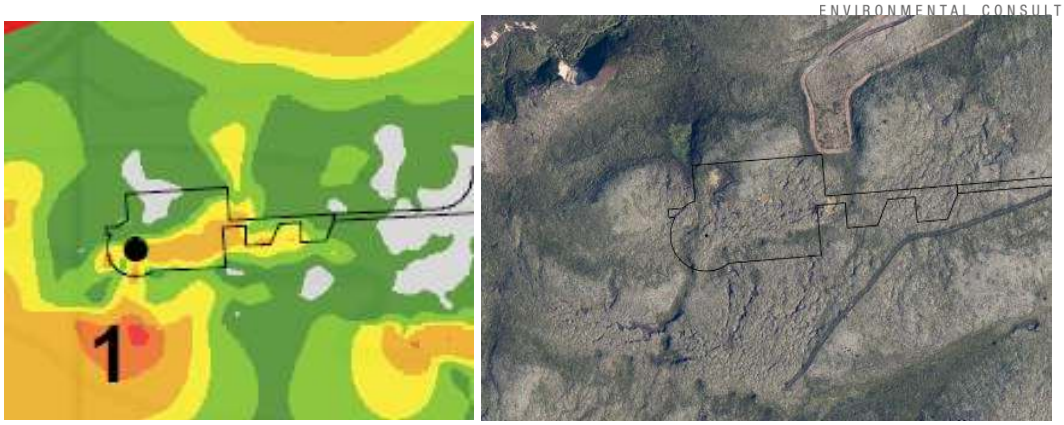


Plate 8 - Turbine 1 does require an area of deep peat to be excavated due to various other constraints however this peat is degraded and can be reused to restore eroded peat gullies within the site.

Although there are a number of turbine and crane hardstandings that are located on peat, this is due to limitations from other environmental and technical constraints and it is acknowledged that the peat is degraded and there are substantial opportunities to restore peat across the site.

The hydrology comments are discussed below:

- Many of the water features on site are modified, man made or peat gullies. Those that are natural have been highlighted on Figure 13.6a (attached) as either 1:50,000 or 1:25,000 scale; or where more minor natural watercourses intersect with site infrastructure (three locations only) they are indicated as a Drain Crossing Location and numbered. Other water features that intersect with the Proposed Development infrastructure are either not natural or are erosional peat gullies that offer the potential for restoration. The watercourse crossings are therefore numbered 1 to 4 (dark blue) where they are related to two 1:50,000 scale watercourses and two 1:25,000 scale watercourses. The smaller crossings of natural minor watercourses/drains are shown in green and labelled 1 to 3.

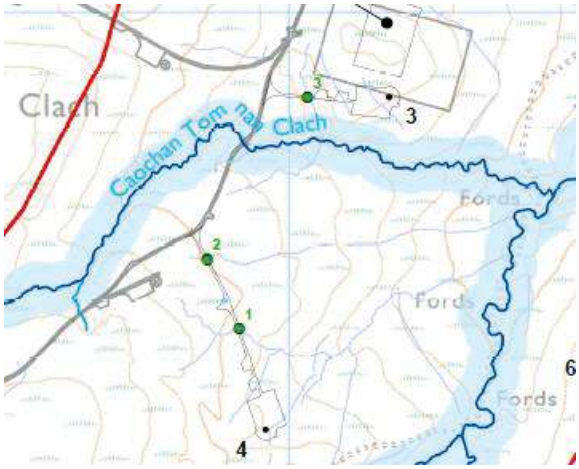


Plate 9 – Only watercourse crossings 1, 2 and 3 in this section of the site are related to natural minor watercourses. The other water features, such as those intersecting with turbines 3 and 4, are peat gullies or man made drainage and will therefore be diverted or restored.

- The general water features and erosional peat gullies are seen on aerial imagery in the Plates below. There are numerous channel features across the site that vary greatly in size but as mentioned, the majority of these are erosional gullies that only contain water during high rainfall events and have the potential for peat restoration.

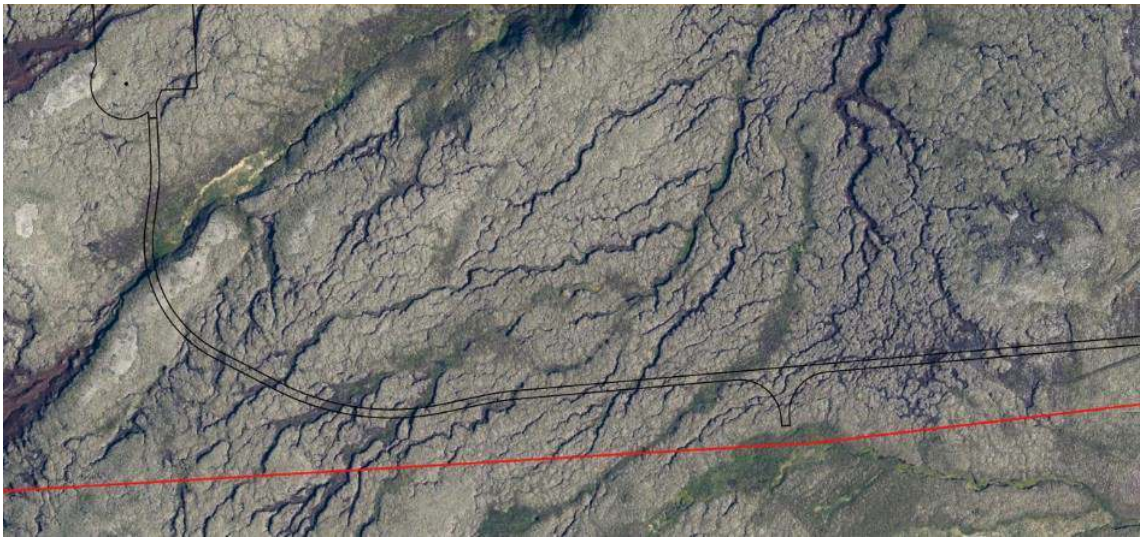


Plate 10 – the Southern extent of the site with a dense network of peat erosional gullies. The 1:50,000 watercourse is shown on the west of the photo running south-west to north-east.

Plate 11 – the Southern half of the site with an overview of the dense network of peat erosional gullies

We trust this assists in the understanding of peat and hydrology conditions on site for the Proposed Development, although we are available to discuss further if helpful.

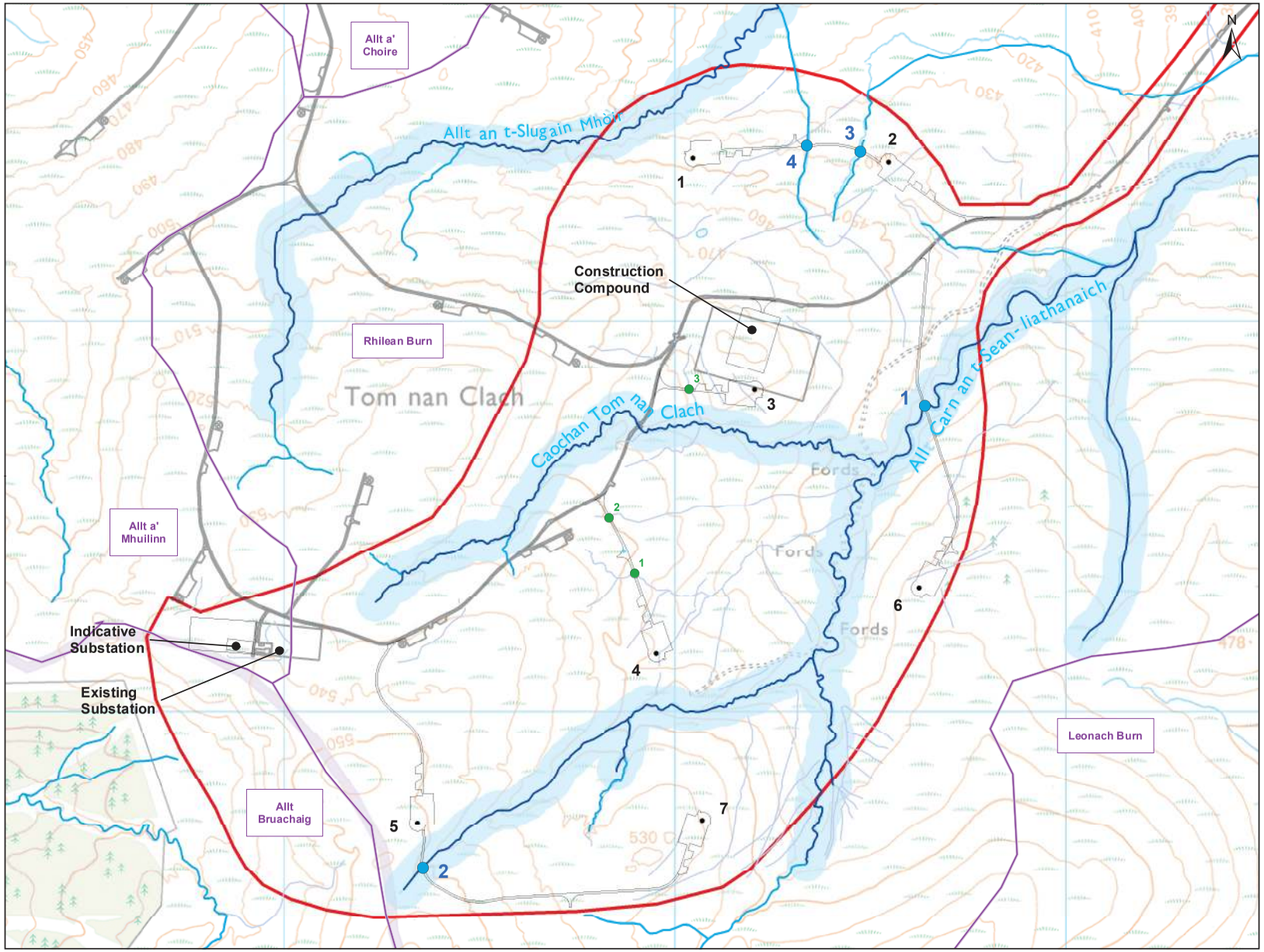
Regards,

Duncan Saunders

Director

Attachments: Figure 13.6a Hydrological Features

Figure 13.6a: Hydrological Features



Legend:

- Site Boundary
- Turbine Locations
- TNC Extension Layout
- Existing TNC Layout
- Watercourse Crossing Locations
- Drain Crossing Locations
- Watercourses (OS 50 K)
- Watercourses (OS 25 K)
- Drains
- Watercourse 50m Buffer (OS 50 K)
- Waterbody
- Surface Water Subsurface Catchment Boundary

Title: Hydrological Features

Project: Tom na Clach Wind Farm Extension

Source:

Client: INFINERGY LTD

Drawn by:	Checked:
JM	DS
Date: 02/03/2022	**Figure:** 13.6a
Scale: 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 Kilometers	**Scale:** 1:10,000 @ A3

INFINERGY

FLUID ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING