

## Planning and Building Standards

**Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards: Craig Iles**

Planning Service, County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR  
Tel: 01292 616 177  
Email: [alastair.mcgibbon@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:alastair.mcgibbon@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)  
Our Ref: 25/00428/EIASCO  
Date: 13 August 2025



Energy Consents Unit  
Cameron Moyes  
Onshore Electricity, Strategy and Consents  
Directorate For Energy and Climate Change  
Scottish Government  
5 Atlantic Quay  
150 Broomielaw  
Glasgow  
G2 8LU

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 – SCOPING OPINION RESPONSE**

**SUBMISSION REF:** 25/00428/EIASCO  
**PROPOSAL:** Request for scoping opinion for proposed section 36 application for Whiteminwhill Energy Park  
**SITE ADDRESS:** Proposed Energy Park B7027 From Main Street Barrhill To Council Boundary At Loch Maberry Barrhill South Ayrshire

With reference to your request for an Environmental Impact Assessment: Scoping Opinion which was received on 27 June 2025, I enclose a copy of the response prepared by South Ayrshire Council (Planning Service). The supporting documents, where relevant, can be accessed from the Council's website [www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/planning/](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/planning/) by using the submission reference number detailed above.

This response sets out an assessment of the submission and an explanation for the conclusion(s) reached.

If you require further information in respect of your permission, please contact Alastair McGibbon by telephoning 01292 616 177 or by emailing [alastair.mcgibbon@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:alastair.mcgibbon@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully,

*Craig Iles*

**Craig Iles**  
**Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards**

Encs.





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

### **Scoping Opinion of South Ayrshire Council (Planning Service) for:**

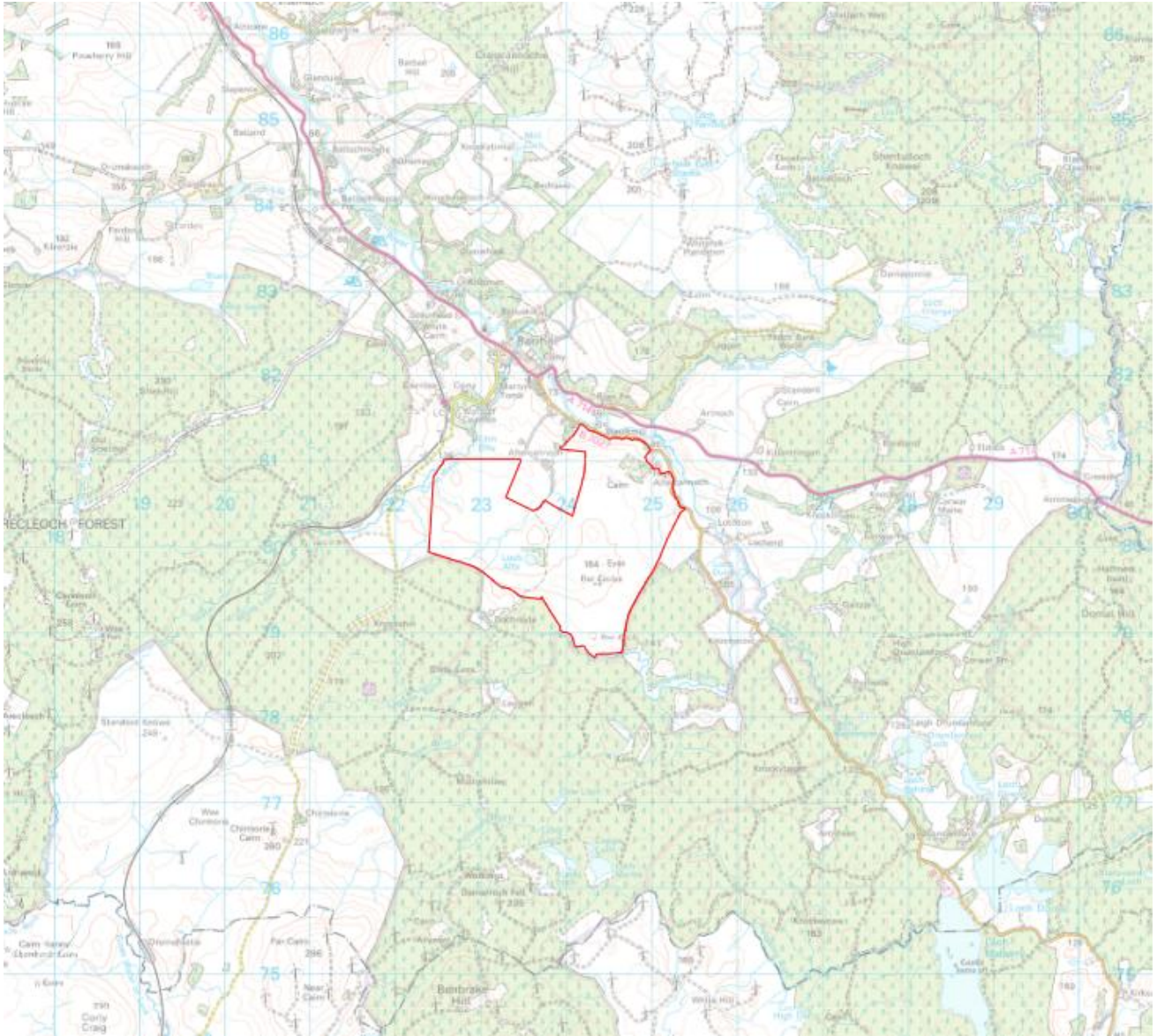
**Request for scoping opinion for proposed section 36 application for Whiteminwhill Energy Park**

at:

**Proposed Energy Park B7027 From Main Street Barrhill to Council Boundary at Loch Maberry, Barrhill, South Ayrshire**

# Location Plan

APPLICATION SITE 



© Crown Copyright and/or database right. All rights reserved. Licence No. 100020765

## 1. Introduction

South Ayrshire Council received a request under Regulation 17 of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impacts Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 ('The Regulations') for a scoping opinion on 27 June 2025. The purpose of this scoping opinion is to provide the applicant with details of what the Council considers to be the main issues and therefore the issues upon which the EIA Report should focus.

As part of the process of preparing this scoping opinion the Council has consulted with a wide range of agencies (both statutory and non-statutory). Each of the consultees has provided a response relating to their own particular remit and are outlined within the relevant section of this response.

## 2. Description of the Development

This Scoping Opinion relates to a proposal for construction of up to 5 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of up to 230m and a generating capacity of up to approximately 50MW, ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) with a generating capacity of up to approximately 50MW and up to approximately 100MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure.

## 3. Description of the Location

The proposed development would be constructed and operated on land approximately 0.9km south of the settlement of Barrhill. The proposed development is centred on National Grid Reference NX 24104 80083, with the site area extending to approximately 440 hectares. The topography of the site slopes from the southwest at approximately 160m above ordnance datum (AOD) down to the northeast at approximately 78m AOD. The highest point of the site is in the south at approximately 165m AOD.

## 4. Planning Policy Context

In developing the proposal and preparing the environmental statement, particular regard should be afforded to the relevant provisions of National Planning Framework 4 and the South Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2. The Council guidance documents "Supplementary Guidance Wind Energy", "Supplementary Guidance Dark Sky Lighting" and "South Ayrshire Wind Capacity Study Update 2018" provide informal guidance on the Council's interpretation of the LDP policies relating to wind energy.

The following policies are relevant in the assessment of any future application:-

### NPF4

Policy 1 (Climate and nature crises), Policy 2 (Climate adaptation and mitigation), Policy 3 (Biodiversity), Policy 4 (Natural places), Policy 5 (Soils), Policy 6 (Forestry, woodland and trees), Policy 7 (Historic assets & places), Policy 11 (Energy), Policy 18 (Infrastructure first) and Policy 22 (Flood risk and water management).

### South Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2

Strategic Policy 1: Sustainable Development  
Strategic Policy 2: Development Management  
LDP Policy: Delivering infrastructure  
LDP Policy: Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere  
LDP Policy: Landscape quality  
LDP Policy: Woodland and forestry  
LDP Policy: Green networks  
LDP Policy: Water environment  
LDP Policy: Flood and development  
LDP Policy: Air, noise and light pollution  
LDP Policy: Renewable energy  
LDP Policy: Wind energy

LDP Policy: Historic environment  
LDP Policy: Natural heritage  
LDP Policy: Land use and transport  
LDP Policy: Outdoor public access and core paths

The provisions of NPF4 and the Adopted South Ayrshire Local Plan must be read and applied as a whole, and as such, no single policy should be read in isolation.

#### Other Policy Documents

In addition to the statutory development plan, the following related policy documents are considered relevant:-

South Ayrshire Council Wind Energy Guidance 2015  
South Ayrshire Landscape Wind Capacity Study Update 2018  
Scottish Government Onshore Wind Policy Statement 2022  
Scottish Government Biodiversity Draft Planning Guidance November 2023  
Nature Scotland Guidance on Advising on Peatland, Carbon Rich Soils and Priority Peatland Habitats in Development Management November 2023

## **5. Consideration of Alternatives**

Schedule 4, paragraph 2 of the Town and Country Planning Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 2017 requires that all environmental statements should include information on the main alternatives studied and an indication of the main reasons for choosing the selected option, with reference to the environmental effects. The applicant should include details of the iterations of the development considered together with a comparison of the net environmental impacts between each iteration and an explanation of the reasons for the rejection of earlier designs and for selection of the proposed design.

## **6. Statutory Consultee Responses**

This response is provided on the assumption that Energy Consents Unit have undertaken all statutory consultations. The responses of the statutory consultees should be fully considered in the finalisation of the development design and the EIA Report.

The responses from South Ayrshire Council's internal consultees are referenced in the relevant sections of this response. The following were consulted by the Council.

Douglas Harman Landscape Planning  
ACCON UK Limited (Council's Operational Noise Consultant)  
AECOM (Council's Ecological Consultant)  
Ayrshire Roads Alliance  
Council's Environmental Health Service

## **7. Proposed Scope**

### **1 Landscape and Visual Impact**

These comments on the proposed scope of a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), as set out in the applicant's Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report (May 2025), are provided by Douglas Harman Landscape Planning, on behalf of South Ayrshire Council. The Landscape and Visual chapter of the Scoping Report, sets out details of the proposed scope LVIA, presented under the following main headings:

- proposed assessment methodology;
- baseline conditions and key sensitivities;
- potential impacts and effects;
- mitigation; and

- proposed scope of EIA chapter.

The Landscape and Visual Chapter is also supported by the following figures:

- Figure 5.1: Bareground Zone of Theoretical View (ZTV); and
- Figure 5.2: ZTV.

As a general overview, the information provided by applicant is considered sufficient in detail and scope to respond to the following consultation questions, as raised within the Scoping Report:

- Q5.1: *Do consultees agree with the proposed LVIA study area? If not, which receptors are omitted that should be included, and why should they be included?*
- Q5.2: *Do consultees agree with the proposed viewpoint locations and visualisations? If not, please detail (with reasons) which viewpoints should be:*
  - Moved;
  - Added; or
  - have different or additional visualisation types provided.
- Q5.3: *Do consultees agree that Wild Land Assessment can be scoped out? If not, please set out the basis for its inclusion?*
- Q5.4: *Do consultees agree with the proposed RVAA study area? If not, which homes are omitted that should be included and why should they be included?*
- Q5.5: *Do consultees agree with the omission of groups of fewer than 3 turbines and turbines of under 50m from the cumulative assessment? If not, which of these smaller groups/ smaller turbines do they consider should be included and why?*

**Q5.1: Do consultees agree with the proposed LVIA study area? If not, which receptors are omitted that should be included, and why should they be included?**

Paragraph 5.4.1.3 of the Scoping Report states:

*“Taking account of the likely effects arising from turbines of the height proposed, the receptors described above, existing and operational wind farms and the extent of visibility illustrated by Figure 5.1 and Figure 5.2, it is considered that potentially significant effects on landscape and visual receptors would be likely to arise as follows:*

- *Within approximately 10-12km to the northwest, beyond which visibility notably reduces, and there is a closer group of operational wind farms.*
- *Within approximately 3km to the north and northeast due to extensive forestry and the presence of Mark Hill wind farm.*
- *Within 2km to the south and west, due to the presence of existing and consented wind farms and forestry.*
- *Within 10km to the southeast beyond which visibility notably reduces.*
- *Within approximately 19km to the east, beyond which visibility notably reduces.”*

Based on the above prediction of potentially significant effects, the applicant proposes a 20km study area.

Response

I agree with the applicant’s initial prediction on the likely extent of potentially significant effects. However, it is advised that an initial 45 km radial study area should be adopted as a starting point (e.g. ZTV and receptor mapping), as recommended in *Visual Representation of Wind Farms Guidance* (SNH, 2017).

Given the very large size of the proposed turbines (up to 230m l height), it is suggested that a focused **25km** study area would then be more appropriate, as this would provide a check that effects on any sensitive receptors beyond 20km, are not likely to be significant. As we have no or very little understanding of how

prominent 230m turbines could appear in the landscape, a focused 25km study area is therefore considered to be a reasonable one.

### Q5.2 Do consultees agree with the proposed viewpoint locations and visualisations?

Table 5.1 within the Scoping Report identifies the following proposed viewpoints:

No.	Location	Distance & direction	Visualisation types	Key Receptors
1	Local road near Barrhill Station	0.9km, NW		Residents, local road and railway users
2	Barrhill - Gowlands Terrace	1.9km, N	Night	Residents, Stinchar Valley LLA
3	Barrhill - Main street	1.8km, NW		Residents
4	A714 southeast of Barrhill	1.6km, N	Night	Residents, road users
5	B7027 south of Barrhill	1.4km, N		Residents, road users
6	A714 near Killantringan Cottage	1.9km, NE		Residents, road users
7	B7027 near Lochton Mill	0.9km, E		Residents, road users
8	Local road north of Chirmorie Farm	3.7km, SE		Local road users
9	Hill of Ochiltree	9.5km, SE		Users of Southern Upland Way
10	Larg Hill (Lamachan Hill)	17.6km, E	Cumulative wireline	Larg Hill (Lamachan Hill)
11	The Merrick	18.8km, NE	Cumulative wireline	The Merrick
12	A714 north of Barrhill	4.9km, NW		Road users, dispersed settlement,
13	Pinwherry	6.8km, NW	Night	Residents, local road users
14	Clauchanton Hill	10.4km, NW		Core Path users, Stinchar Valley LLA

With regard to the proposed viewpoints, the Scoping Report notes “*Except where indicated otherwise, the three main NatureScot visualisation types (baseline panorama with cumulative wireline, wireline showing aviation lights and day-time photomontage) will be prepared for each viewpoint during the daytime. For viewpoints marked as ‘Night’, additional visualisations will be prepared showing the baseline view at night and a night-time photomontage. In addition to the turbines, other infrastructure, including the substation, tracks, solar panels, and BESS, will be shown on photomontages where visible within 5km. Wirelines only are proposed for more distant hill summits.*”

#### Response

Given that a focused 25km study area is recommended, the applicant should explore other suitable viewpoints beyond 20km. However, as the applicant has only provided a basemap ZTV out to 20km to the north, it is not possible at this stage to identify any indicative locations within South Ayrshire.

With regard to the proposed 14 viewpoints within 20km, these are not considered adequate in number or coverage to provide a representative understanding of all likely significant effects. In addition to those proposed, it is advised that the LVIA should also provide detailed landscape, visual and cumulative assessments from the following locations:

- Approximately 1km to the south-west of vp 1, alongside Gowlands Terrace – this section of the local road is located on higher ground than vp 1, with open views of the nearby site. In addition to road users, it would also represent views from the nearby rail line.
- An open section of the A714 between vp 4 and 6 – this would provide views of how the nearest northerly turbine appears above the nearby lower-lying valley.
- An open location along the A714 or within Barhill Holiday Park – this would provide a view approximately at the midway point between vp 3 (1.8km) and vp 12 (4.9km).
- On a section of the Core Path approximately 3km to the south-west of Pinwherry and 6 km from the site – this recreational route is subject to relatively extensive theoretical visibility.
- Byne Hill summit - an important and frequently visited Scenic Viewpoint near to Girvan.

In addition to the above, the applicant should also consider the inclusion of additional viewpoints for any informal walking routes and visitor attractions within approximately 5 km from the site, particularly any circular routes that link to nearby settlements, as well as any accessible forestry tracks used for recreational purposes.

With regard to the proposed night time visualisations, as the site and surrounding landscape is largely unlit and that part of the Galloway Dark Sky Park is partly located within the study area, it is advised that night time visualisations should be provided for all viewpoints within 10 km from the site. Lighting effects should also be assessed from all representative viewpoints, and not just from the viewpoints selected to illustrate night-time effects.

As for the production of cumulative wirelines and visualisations of all planned, consented and operational windfarms, and larger single turbines, these should include all relevant cumulative developments within a 360° view.

**Q5.3: Do consultees agree that Wild Land Assessment can be scoped out? If not, please set out the basis for its inclusion?**

Response

As the Wild Land Area is located within Dumfries and Galloway, its potential exclusion should be agreed with NatureScot and Dumfries and Galloway Council.

**Q5.4: Do consultees agree with the proposed RVAA study area? If not, which homes are omitted that should be included and why should they be included?**

The Scoping Report proposes that the RVAA study area is set at 2km, but to avoid a two-tier approach to homes in Barrhill, it should extend beyond this distance to include all of the core part of the village.

Response

The proposed study area is agreed with.

**Q5.5: Do consultees agree with the omission of groups of fewer than 3 turbines and turbines of under 50m from the cumulative assessment? If not, which of these smaller groups/ smaller turbines do they consider should be included and why?**

Response

The omission of groups of fewer than 3 turbines and turbines of under 50m from the cumulative assessment is agreed with.

## Other points

In addition to the guidance documents identified within the Scoping Report, the applicant should also consider:

- *General pre-application and scoping advice for onshore wind farms. Guidance.* NatureScot 2024; and
- *Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments.* NatureScot 2021.

In assessing wider visual effects, the LVIA should provide detail sequential assessments of all main road, rail and important recreational routes within 25 km, as well as main settlements and visitor attractions.

In addition to a detailed assessment of the effects on Local Landscape Areas, it is also essential that the EIA considers effects on the landscape setting of any Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and registered Battlefields within at least a 5 km radius.

Given the proximity of nearby forestry, detailed consideration should be given to the landscape and visual effects of any felling and restocking proposals (both adverse and beneficial) and any mitigation and landscape enhancement should be optimised in the design of any Wind Farm Forest Plan and/or compensatory planting. Any proposed forest felling areas should also be shown in relevant visualisations from nearby LVIA viewpoints.

While the character of a landscape is not readily discernible during hours of darkness, lighting can affect perceptual qualities associated with landscape character and it is recommended that the effect on the sense of seclusion and naturalness (due to existing low lighting levels) are also considered in the LVIA.

The applicant is advised to keep the cumulative situation under review during the preparation of the EIA Report as this is an evolving situation. As such, it is suggested that they make contact with any local authorities within the study area to obtain up to date information relating to wind energy development in their respective authority areas.

In assessing cumulative effects, the applicant should also give consideration to potential effects with other tall structures such as electricity pylons and any nearby telecommunication masts which could contribute to cumulative landscape and visual impacts. Furthermore, the cumulative assessment should include a cumulative night-time assessment taking into account other wind farms / turbines which have / will require visible aviation lighting and any other tall structures which have visible aviation lighting on them.

## 2. Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

The proposed scope and methodology for the assessment of impacts on cultural heritage are noted. The Council advise that Scoping comments on this area would be provided by the appropriate body, that is, Historic Environment Scotland.

## 3. Ornithology

The Council has no comment to make on ornithology, the acceptability or otherwise of the proposed content within the EIA is a matter for NatureScot to comment upon.

## 4. Ecology and Nature Conservation

Cross Water provisional Local Wildlife Site (pLWS) is located partially within the Proposed Development boundary and Feoch Burn pLWS is located 0.1 km north-east of the Proposed Development. UKHab and NVC survey have been carried out within the Proposed Development boundary only. We would suggest NVC survey within 250 m of any excavations greater than 1 m depth where there is potential

for Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTEs) or Annex 1/Scottish Biodiversity List habitats. If there will be any excavations within 250 m of any pLWS, the applicant may need to consider further survey of such areas.

Uncommon and rare butterflies are listed as a feature of interest of Feoch Burn pLWS. There has been no consideration of potential impacts on protected and important invertebrates. In relation to Feoch Burn pLWS, the applicant may need to consider whether there is any potential habitat connectivity between the pLWS and the Proposed Development site to determine if any impacts are likely.

## 5. Geology and Peat

The Council has no comment to make.

## 6. Water Resources and Flood Risk

The Ayrshire Roads Alliance, as the Council's Flooding Authority were consulted on the Scoping Report and provided the following response to the scoping questions.

Q10.1: Are consultees content with the proposed methodology and scope of the assessment of water resources and flood risk? **ARA Flooding Yes. Environmental Health No.** Please see comments from Environmental Health colleague below.

Q10.2: Can Scottish Water confirm if there are any drinking water protected areas and / or Scottish Water assets within the Study Area. **N/A**

Q10.3: Can SEPA and / or South Ayrshire Council provide any information on known flooding within the Study Area, and do you agree with the approach to flood risk? **ARA/South Ayrshire Council have no record of flooding within the study area.**

Q10.4: Does the Council, NatureScot, SEPA or other consultees have any information that would be useful in the preparation of the water resources and flood risk chapter assessment? **The SEPA Flood Maps show property flood risk within the village of Barrhill from the Cross Water. There is anecdotal evidence that property flooding has previously occurred in the village of Barrhill because of the Cross Water. This being the case, the importance of the proposed development not increasing the catchment runoff characteristics of the Cross Water cannot be overstressed. Furthermore, and if possible, the development should look to development proposals which create, expand, or enhance opportunities for natural flood risk management as a community benefit. Please also see comments below.**

The Councils' Environmental Health Service were also consulted in respect of PWS and commented as follows.

On reading through it is also apparent the applicant refers several times to the previous Altercannoch Wind Farm application to evidence their own requirements for the application, except for private water supplies, of which there is no mention of South Ayrshire Council being the regulator for the PWS or reference to the legislation at all. There is reference to SEPA, and groundwaters; however, South Ayrshire Council Environmental Health are the regulators for the private water supplies within the area, and as such require consultation.

There are a high number of private water supplies both within and just outside the boundary proposed, with some of them using catchments and their supply systems infrastructure which would be directly and seriously affected through construction of both the wind turbine farm and the solar energy park.

The blue hatched area for the proposed energy solar farm has potential to directly and seriously impact several of the catchments/recharge zones and supply systems infrastructure for private water supply systems as well.

We require much more information on the private water supplies in relation to the proposals. Joint site visits are required to risk impact assess the potential for damage to water quality/quantity for the future.

There is no indication at this point of the external access road into the site, which in turn may then have the potential for serious impact on private water supplies out with the boundary of the energy park itself.

There is no reference to access roads, borrow pit sites, compound sites, laydown area sites etc.

I have serious concerns over the requirement for 150m micro siting ability, within such a vulnerable small area close to private water supplies where there is no mains connection.

The very close proximity of the siting of some of the infrastructure to regulated properties and businesses gives serious concern for future quality/quantity.

We require maps for the private water supplies, their infrastructure, their catchments/recharge zones. Maps overlaid as well, with the proposed wind farm and energy park showing the potential for impact on the private water supply systems from catchment to end users. We would require these from the joint visits in person to each of the properties, and not generated from desk top studies.

The areas are high drought areas in certain weather or climate events, such as this year, as in previous years, the worst year to date being 2021 when most of the private water supplies in the Barrhill area were without their supply for several months.

Forestry will have to be considered, due to felling/replant and machinery involved.

A lot more information and mapping proof is required to enable any future decision.

As such I would object to any application based on the grounds of what has been submitted already and would ask that a meeting could be set up with yourself, myself and the applicant to discuss requirements.

## 7. Access, Traffic and Transport

The Ayrshire Roads Alliance have been consulted on the Scoping Report and commented as follows.

Q11.1: Are consultees content with the proposed methodology and scope of the traffic and transport assessment?

Yes, the ARA are satisfied that the methodology represents industry standard practices and that the scope is generally appropriate.

Q11.2: Are the council / statutory consultees aware of any specific access restrictions or limitations on the proposed abnormal loads route?

Whilst there are no formal restrictions, the ARA have concerns around the impact of HGV movements on the A714 and expect this to be considered and mitigated as appropriate within the EIA.

Q11.3: Are consultees content to scope out operational traffic from further assessment?

Yes, given the nature of the operational phase of the development we consider that operational traffic is likely to be negligible.

Q11.4: Are you aware of any relevant policies or guidance documents not specifically mentioned in Appendix B of the Report?

ARA don't set policies governing development within SAC; however, we do expect any and all infrastructure to be designed in accordance with the standards as set out within the SCOTS National Roads Development Guide.

It is noted that at this juncture many of the key details including port of entry, ALL routes, construction traffic estimates, borrow pit viability, etc are unconfirmed. As such, there is limited further comment we are able to offer at this early stage.

We would however place emphasis on early confirmation of borrow pit viability in order to provide comfort on likely construction trips, and associated impacts on the A714 and C72. Whilst worst-case estimates based on high proportions of imported material may provide robust estimates for the purpose of ensuring a comprehensive review, it in turn heightens our concerns with respect to the impacts on nearby communities and adopted road infrastructure.

## 8. Noise

The Scoping Report refers to ETSU-R-97 and the IOA Good Practice Guide (IOA GPG) as the relevant guidance documents for assessing operational noise from the wind farm. We would expect the noise chapter of the EIAR to also consider the 'Wind Turbine Development: Submission Guidance Note' (SGN) issued by South Ayrshire Council Environmental Health. The relevant British Standards that should be used to consider construction noise and vibration are referenced (BS 5228 Parts 1 and 2). The Scoping Report appropriately indicates that BS 4142 provides the relevant methodology for assessing noise from the proposed BESS, solar farm and substation.

### Key Sensitivities and Study Area

The Council are content with the approach proposed to assess operational noise from the proposed wind turbines. The approach outlined to assessing cumulative wind turbine noise reflects good practice and the key operational and consented developments to be included in the assessment are listed.

It is stated that noise sensitive properties within 1 km of the proposed BESS, solar farm and substation will be assessed in accordance with BS 4142.

### Baseline Conditions

It is proposed to utilise historical baseline (background) noise measurement data from fourteen locations obtained from surveys carried out for the previously proposed Altercannoch wind farm and the consented Arecleoch Extension wind farm. Additionally, new background noise data will be collected from a survey at three properties near the development site.

The Council recommend that the measurement locations for the new survey should be discussed with ACCON as the main advisors to SAC on wind farm noise, rather than the Environmental Health Department.

### Potential Impacts

The Scoping Report states that construction noise will be assessed in accordance with BS 5228-1 and any potential blasting will be considered with regards to air overpressure and vibration, if necessary, assessing vibration with respect to BS 6472-2. The applicants should note that Scottish planning guidance in the form of Annex D to Planning Advice Note 50 provides advice on acceptable levels of vibration and air overpressure for blasting. The potential impact of construction traffic will be assessed using methodology from BS 5228-1 and 'Calculation of Road Traffic Noise' where appropriate.

Paragraph 12.3.2.4 states that the implication of wind shear effects due to the differences in turbine heights between historical data and the proposed turbines would be considered in line with best practice. ACCON consider more detail of the proposed methodology to be used should be provided, as discussed further in our response to Q12.2.

### Scoping Questions

*Q12.1: Are the consultees happy with the suggested approach for the noise assessment, including elements scoped in and out?*

South Ayrshire Council agree in general with the proposed approach to the noise assessment, although our response to Q12.2 should be noted. We are content with elements scoped in and out of the assessment.

*Q12.2: Do the consultees have any objection to referencing previous publicly available historical background noise data acquired around the Site?*

We note that the background noise data obtained for Altercannoch and Arecleoch Extension wind farms was standardised to 10 m height based on wind speeds measured at between 70 m and 81 m heights. The recommendation in the IOA Good Practice Guide is that background noise levels should be standardised using wind speeds obtained at a height '*not less than 60% of the hub height of the proposed turbine*'. As this provision will not be met for the proposed turbines, the applicant's acoustic consultants are requested to provide details of the approach they propose to use to adjust the historical background noise data for wind shear before South Ayrshire Council agree to the use of this data in place of carrying out noise new noise measurements.

## **9. Climate Change and GHG Assessment**

The Council have no comment to make.

## **10. Socio-economics, Land Use, Tourism and Recreation**

The Council is content with the proposed methodology, scope and study areas outlined.

## **11. Telecommunications and Utilities**

The Council agree that Telecommunications and/ or utilities can be scoped out of the EIA. This matter should be considered within a separate Planning Statement.

## **12. Aviation Impacts**

The Council agree that aviation matters should be scoped in the EIA. The effects of the development on aviation safety are not environmental impacts in themselves. However, the lighting required for air navigation will impact on the night-time landscape and visual impact and should be scoped in.

## **13. Shadow Flicker**

It is not agreed that only residential properties within 10 rotor diameters of the individual turbines should be examined for potential shadow flicker effects. All properties that are within a reasonable distance and would have direct line of sight of any of the proposed turbines should be assessed. Without prejudice to the outcome of any assessment, it should be noted that the Planning Authority are likely to recommend a condition which requires submission of a protocol for resolving any unanticipated complaints received regarding shadow flicker after the wind farm is operational.

## **14. Glint and Glare**

A Glint and Glare Assessment Report should be submitted in support of any application.

## **15. Forestry**

Final guidance on this topic should be provided by Scottish Forestry; however, the Council consider that this should be scoped in given the stated potential loss of ancient woodland.

## **16. Human Health**

Content is noted.

## **17. Major Accidents and Disasters**

The EIA should consider the possibility of major accidents occurring and the implications for human health and the environment. The risk of a peat slide and impact on PWS should be assessed in this context.

## **8. Conclusion**

The Scoping Report generally provides a good level of detail. Key comments from the Council relate to landscape and visual impact, operational noise, traffic/transportation and impact on PWS.

## **9. Other Supporting Information Required**

The EIAR should be concise and focussed on environmental issues. The applicant's assessment of the proposal against Development Plan Policy and the balance with other material planning considerations should be provided within the separate Supporting Statement.

