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# Sallachy Wind Farm

## Supporting Environmental Information Report – Non-Technical Summary

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Project/Proposal No: 6779  
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# 1. Non-Technical Summary

## 1.1 Background

A Supporting Environmental Information Report (SEIR) has been prepared for the Sallachy Wind Farm (the Development), in support of an application under Section 42 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 being submitted by WKN Sallachy Limited (the Applicant) to The Highland Council (THC). This document provides a Non-Technical Summary of the SEIR.

The Development application boundary (the Site) is in Sutherland approximately 18.3 km north-west of Lairg on the shores of Loch Shin, occupying an area of approximately 1,044 hectares. The Development comprises 9 turbines up to 149.9 meters and a maximum output capacity of 49.9 megawatts. The application for planning permission, submitted in 2021, was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. In 2022, THC granted planning permission for the Development, subject to 33 conditions. The Applicant wishes to propose amendments to five conditions (Conditions 1, 3(i), 12, 15 and 25) and introduce a new condition relating to the deadline for implementation. This application does not seek to amend the Site boundary or any physical characteristics of the Development.

## 1.2 Summary of Technical Assessments

The SEIR is provided as a general update to the previous assessment of the Development as a whole, including a review and, where appropriate, update to the baseline Site conditions. An updated landscape and visual assessment was undertaken, while ecology, and ornithology baseline site walkovers and surveys were undertaken to confirm that the baseline has not materially changed from what was presented in the 2021 EIA Report. All found no material change in the baseline, concluding the following:

- Significant visual effects are likely to be contained within a maximum of approximately 12.2 km of the Development turbines. Significant effects on landscape character are likely to be contained within a maximum radius of approximately 8.2 km from the Development turbines. The assessed significance of effects has not changed from the 2021 EIA Report. It is also not considered relevant to update the cumulative assessment to reflect the current cumulative scenario.
- There was no evidence of any new protected mammal species of conservation importance recorded breeding in protected mammal study area. There were also no perceivable differences in the habitat and communities present compared to those previously recorded in surveys undertaken in 2019-2021. The 2021 EIA Report provided an Outline Habitat Management Plan that will provide significant biodiversity enhancement, including peatland restoration.
- The 2024 ornithological survey results were broadly similar to previous surveys conducted in 2017-2019, as reported in the 2021 EIA Report. There was no evidence recorded of any new bird species of conservation importance recorded breeding in ornithological study area.

Given that there is no proposed change to the Development layout or design, there is no change to the assessment of noise; cultural heritage; transport; hydrology, hydrogeology, geology and soils; socio-economic and tourism; aviation and radar; telecommunications; carbon balance analysis; and shadow flicker. Regarding this, the SEIR reviews findings from the 2021 EIA Report, concluding the following:

- The noise assessment concluded that predicted wind turbine noise levels associated with operation of the Development meet the relevant daytime and night-time noise limits.
- The cultural heritage assessment found, in part due to the approach adopted in formulating the design and layout of the Development, the overall effects on cultural heritage were not significant.
- The transport assessment found that whilst the Development would lead to a temporary increase in traffic volumes during construction, this would decrease considerably outside peak periods of construction. With the implementation of appropriate mitigation, no significant residual effects are anticipated.

- The hydrology, hydrogeology, geology and soils assessment outlines several committed mitigation measures to ensure the protection of peatland and watercourses. With this in place, no significant effects on hydrological, geological, or peat receptors are anticipated.
- The socio-economic and tourism assessment recognises the strategic importance of the Development to the provision of a more secure supply of energy in the United Kingdom, which in itself will have important economic benefits by reducing exposure to fluctuating energy supplies on the global market.
- The aviation and radar assessment found that, after committed mitigation, there are no residual effects upon aviation and defence interests.
- The telecommunications assessment confirms that, through implemented design changes and embedded mitigation, the Development will have no residual effects on telecommunications or broadcasting installations.
- Carbon balance analysis calculates that the Development is expected to take 2.2 years of operation (i.e. renewable electricity generation) to repay the carbon emitted through construction and development of the wind farm.
- There are no potential receptors located within the shadow flicker study area therefore no significant shadow flicker effects are anticipated.



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