

KYPE MUIR WIND FARM EXTENSION

**S36C VARIATION APPLICATION:
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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1. INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In July 2018 Banks Renewables (Harting Rig Wind Farm) Limited submitted an application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) under section 36C of the Electricity Act 1989 to vary the consent for Kype Muir Wind Farm Extension (the proposed Development). The application also seeks to vary the associated direction under Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended (The Planning Act) for deemed planning permission.
- 1.2 Once varied the proposed extension would have a generating capacity of over 50MW and be comprised of 15 turbines with a ground to blade tip height of between 156 and 220 metres.
- 1.3 Despite the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which accompanied the application, concluding the proposed development would only result in a small number of significant effects, which would be expected for a development of the scale proposed, a number of issues have been raised by East Ayrshire Council (EAC) during post-submission consultation.
- 1.4 EAC requested further information in relation to the proposed development and potential landscape and visual effects on receptors within East Ayrshire in a letter dated 26 August 2018. A response was provided to this in October 2018 (Appendix 1) which included consideration of effects on landscape character; an additional ZTV study and a number of wirelines to illustrate effects and an assessment of visual effects which referred to the wirelines and the assessment work undertaken for the preparation of the EIA Report. Given that the effects identified were not significant and most were Negligible, it was not judged proportionate to undertake SNH standard visualisations to illustrate the effects. In addition, the EAC letter also mentioned the publication of a new capacity study for the area, which was considered briefly in the initial response and in more detail in a response provided later in October 2018.
- 1.5 In November 2018, EAC reiterated their request for day and night-time visual assessment including visualisations on the basis that they “expect some evidence to be presented to demonstrate whether the effects will indeed be negligible.” At no point in the letter did EAC suggest that they anticipate effects will be significant.
- 1.6 To address the points raised in the EAC letter, Banks Renewables are now submitting the following information, which has been agreed with EAC as the scope of what is required to address the points raised by their November 2018 letter, to Scottish Ministers.

- 1.7 In addition, and for clarity purposes, other additional information consisting of the documents previously submitted with the application for consent to construct and operate the Kype Muir Wind Farm Extension are also being provided.

Agreed scope	Provided within:
ZTV study indicating the numbers of turbines visible to blade tip - following the same approach as Figures 2 and 3 in the Appendix 4.4 of the EIAR, for the full 25km study area.	Supplementary Figure EAC_R_01 in Appendix 2.
Visualisations including photomontages, and assessment of effects for viewpoints at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cairn Table (VP18); - Foulpapple Road, Darvel (VP23); - A70 northbound layby (VP24). 	Visualisations included as Figures EAC_R_02 Daytime in Appendix 2. Assessment within section 2.
Night time lighting assessment for the Darvel and Newmilns area, including 2 No. night-time photomontages for viewpoint 23 at Foulpapple road to the same approach as Figure 5 in Appendix 4.4 of the EIAR, and a diagrammatic wireframe to the same approach as Figure 6 in Appendix 4.4 of the EIAR.	Visualisations included as Figures EAC_R_03 Night Time and EAC_R_04 within Appendix 2. Assessment within section 2.

- 1.8 The viewpoint photography was undertaken in January 2019, and the assessments provided are informed by site work undertaken in early February 2019.

2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 2.1 The purpose of this document is to update the EIAR submitted with the application to provide further information and clarification information.
- 2.2 The information presented in this document acts as supplementary information to the original application and should therefore be read in conjunction with the full Kype Muir Wind Farm Extension EIAR.
- 2.3 This report is not intended to be a standalone assessment of impacts associated with the proposed development. It should be read with knowledge of the EIAR text and accompanying drawings.

VISUAL EFFECTS

- 2.4 Viewpoint locations including EIA Report viewpoints and the three additional viewpoints considered in this submission are shown on Figure EAC_R_01 in Appendix 2.
- 2.5 Descriptions of each viewpoint and the appearance and effects of the proposed Development within the view are detailed below with visualisations and photomontages included in Appendix 2.

Viewpoint Descriptions and Assessment

- 2.6 Viewpoint 18, Cairn Table - This viewpoint offers panoramic views across an upland landscape characterised by moorland, forestry and occasional mining activity; the settlements of Muirkirk and Smallburn can be seen in a valley to the left of view. To the right of centre the Nutberry and Hagshaw Hill are clearly visible in relatively close proximity and Galawhistle will be seen in front of these; in the distance to the left of view Whitelee and adjacent developments can be seen. Dungavel and Kype Muir are visible extending in a line on hilltops to the right of Whitelee. The proposed Development will be seen between them and add to the number and scale of turbines seen here, but would contribute little overall to the wider pattern of development – being seen as slightly larger than the two adjacent developments, but apparently smaller than the more nearby wind farms of Galawhistle and Nutberry. The scale of effect here would be Negligible.
- 2.7 Viewpoint 23, Foulpapple Road, Darvel - This viewpoint offers a view from the upper slopes of the valley. To the right the road descends towards Newmilns, and is enclosed by the hills rising beyond; to the left the ground also rises. Looking along the valley to the east, Loudon Hill can be seen standing above the undulating valley floor and sides, along with Dungavel wind farm. The proposed Development would be seen beyond Dungavel wind farm with the turbines being seen as apparently smaller, due to being more distant, and the design which places the larger turbines in the proposed Development towards the southeast (far) part of the site. The scale of effect here would be Negligible.
- 2.8 Viewpoint 24, A70 northbound layby - This viewpoint offers wide views across the open valley landscape to the left of the road, looking towards hills rising to the north. Farm buildings and rising ground enclose the view to the right. Blade tips of Dungavel wind farm are visible extending in a line on hilltops to the right of Bankend Rig. The proposed Development will be seen to the right of these two wind farms in a saddle between the two prominent hill tops. Three of the turbines would be visible below nacelle height,

with a few more seen as blades only. Given distance, the presence of existing turbines in this part of the view, and the small numbers of turbines visible, the scale of effect here would be Negligible.

- 2.9 The scale of effect at the three additional viewpoints, taking into account existing and consented wind farm development at each viewpoint is summarised in the table below:

Summary of Scale of Effects on Viewpoints

Viewpoint	Distance, Direction	Scale of Effect	Positive / Neutral / Adverse
VP18: Cairn Table	11.8km, south	Negligible	Neutral
VP23: Foulpapple Road, Darvel	13.8km, west	Negligible	Neutral
VP24: A70 northbound layby	14.9km, southwest	Negligible	Neutral

- 2.10 Effects on visual receptors in the vicinity of these viewpoints (i.e. residents of Muirkirk and walkers ascending Cairn Table; residents of and visitors to Darvel and Newmilns; road users on the A70 between Lugar and the junction with B743) are judged to be Negligible.

NIGHT-TIME EFFECTS

- 2.11 A wireline illustrating the number of turbine lights theoretically visible and their positions relative to each other and the land form are included as Figure EAC_R_04 in Appendix 2. These provide no illustration of the size or intensity of the lights and do not take account of screening by above ground features such as vegetation or buildings.
- 2.12 Figures EAC_R_03 in Appendix 2 are photomontage visualisations. Two montages have been produced, one just before sunset and one just after when the landform can still be seen. The methodology is described in Technical Appendix 4.4 of the EIAR.
- 2.13 The viewpoint description, description of effects and scale of effects for the viewpoint is set out on the wireline visualisation. The scale of effect is summarised in the table below:

Summary of Scale of Night-time Effects

Viewpoint	Distance, Direction	Scale of Effect	Positive / Neutral / Adverse
VP23: Foulpapple Road, Darvel	13.8km, west	Negligible	Neutral

Night time effects on Darvel and Newmilns

- 2.14 These settlements are lit by a mix of sodium lights and modern LED street lighting along the main roads within or passing through the settlements, but notably darker outside these areas due to the small number of houses and few other sources of external lighting, although several of the outlying houses to the north of Darvel have very visible lighting around the houses. The selected viewpoint lies between the two settlements, on an unlit road. The most noticeable lighting in the vicinity is nearby sodium street lighting seen to the left of Loudon Hill in the view. From further north on the same road, more lighting is visible looking towards Darvel village centre, which lies on lower ground and is screened by terrain from the selected viewpoint. Looking towards the site, lighting on farms and houses can be seen, and the moving lights of traffic along the A71, which aligns directly with the site in this view. A single red light

on the nearby TV mast can be seen looking to the south (out of shot on the view shown).

- 2.15 The proposed turbines would be seen as distant red lights in this view, ascending away from Loudon Hill as shown by Figure EAC_R_04. The red lights would be noticeable, but not as dominant as the nearby sodium lighting, nor as eye-catching as the moving headlights on the A71. Long-term effects on Darvel and Newmilns from the turbine lighting are judged to be Negligible.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 An application was submitted to the Scottish Government in July 2018 for consent to vary the consent for Kype Muir Wind Farm Extension (the proposed Development). Once varied the proposed extension would have a generating capacity of over 50MW and be comprised of 15 turbines with a ground to blade tip height of between 156 and 220 metres.
- 3.2 Despite the EIAR concluding that the Site is an appropriate location for the Development a number of issues have been raised by EAC in relation to the application through post-submission consultation.
- 3.3 To address the issues that have been raised additional information has been submitted which demonstrates that the proposed Development would result in a negligible scale of effect at the selected viewpoints both during the day and night.