

Appendix 4.3 - Cross-reference of EIA Scoping Opinion in the EIA Report

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Executive Summary

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Executive Summary

Following receipt of the EIA Scoping Opinion the Applicant has considered the consultation received and Table 1 below provides a cross-reference to the appropriate Chapter within the EIA Report where a response is provided.

Table 1 – Summary of EIA Scoping Opinion

Technical Discipline	Consultee	Scoping Opinion	EIA Report
EIA	Orkney Islands Council	The Council requests that when measuring the positive and negative effects of the development a four-point scale is used advising any effect to be either strong positive, positive, negative or strong negative.	Refer to Chapter 4 of the EIA Report.
		Mitigation to off-set any predicted impact, including re-design (site layout and turbine height) and where appropriate compensatory measures will need to be clearly set out as part of the assessment.	Mitigation measures are presented within each technical chapter, with a consolidated schedule provided in Chapter 17 of the EIA Report.
	Scottish Ministers	The EIA Report is to include full details showing that all the advice, guidance, concerns and requirements raised by each consultee have been addressed.	Refer to individual technical chapters within the EIA Report, Appendix 4.4 and this appendix.
		The mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impacts identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. Applicants are also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures proposed in the environmental assessment, provided in tabular form, where that mitigation is relied upon in relation to reported conclusions of likelihood or significance of impacts.	Mitigation measures are presented within each technical chapter, with a consolidated schedule provided in Chapter 17 of the EIA Report.
Landscape and Visual	Orkney Islands Council	Considerations for wind energy proposals include impacts on landscape and on views, including cumulative effects. These issues require careful consideration through the Environmental Impact Assessment, which should clearly show how the design and location of the proposal has been developed to reflect the scale and character of the landscape and to seek to minimise landscape and visual impact, including cumulative impact. Consideration should also be made of visual implications arising from possible lighting at height which may be required in the interest of aviation safety.	Refer to Chapter 6 of the EIA Report.

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Landscape and Visual	Orkney Islands Council	Through Policy 9, G, landscape, wild land on Hoy, is identified and there is a requirement to consider impact on it, and where necessary for developers to undertake wild land assessment. Proposals that may have an adverse impact on the wild land resource should undergo a wild land assessment, guided by Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH) Assessing the Impacts on Wild Land technical guidance, available online.	Refer to Chapter 6 of the EIA Report.
		The list of viewpoints identified is representative of a wide range of possible areas of impact, however it may be appropriate to review these and consider cumulative effects, particularly given the large ZTV and the number of sensitive receptors.	
		The Council requirements for LVIA and photomontages to be used within any assessment of visual impact should be made with reference to the OIC Supplementary Guidance: Energy (April 2017) and SNH guidance on 'Visual Representation of Wind Farms', currently version 2.2 – February 2017. The level of information required should, at a minimum, given the proposed scale of the development, be in accordance with the large/very large scale and windfarm element of Table 2 of the OIC Supplementary Guidance: Energy.	
	SNH	<p>The development site lies about 4.3 km from the NSA boundary. An assessment will be required of the effects of the proposal on the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) of the NSA. Visibility of the proposal from within the NSA appears to be limited, and the main issue is likely to be the impact of the proposal on the appreciation of 'The high hills of Hoy' location specific quality in views from outwith the NSA. The high hills form a spectacular backdrop in views across Scapa Flow where the proposal is also likely to be widely visible.</p> <p>We are currently preparing guidance on the assessment of effects on the SLQs of NSAs, and will be able to share a draft shortly to inform the NSA assessment. We would be happy to discuss the guidance and the finer detail of the methodology</p>	

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		with OIC, and the contractor employed to carry out the landscape and visual impact assessment. This would include identification of any additional viewpoints required, and OIC have agreed to provide a ZTV at 1:50,000 scale to assist with this.	
Landscape and Visual	SNH	<p>Thirteen of the 30 turbines lie within the Hoy WLA and the remaining turbines are all within 2 km of the WLA boundary. An assessment will therefore be required of the effects of the proposal on the Special Qualities of the WLA. The proposal is likely to be visible from a large part of the WLA, from upper slopes and broad summits, and river glens within the more remote, hidden interior of the WLA. The main issue is likely to be the impact of the proposal on the sense of remoteness, isolation and sanctuary experienced within the WLA.</p> <p>Our 2017 consultative guidance should be used to assess the impacts on the Special Qualities of the WLA, rather than the 2007 interim guidance referred to in the scoping report. Again, we would be happy to discuss viewpoints and other details of the methodology with OIC and landscape contractors in due course.</p> <p>The majority of the development site lies within the Moorland Hills Landscape Character Type (LCT) with the remainder extending eastwards into the lower lying Inclined Coastal Pastures LCT, as defined in the Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Orkney (April 2014). The capacity study only identified capacity for small groups of turbines between 30m and 80m in height within the Moorland Hills LCT, and capacity for just small groups of domestic scale turbines up to 30m within the Inclined Coastal Pasture LCT.</p>	Refer to Chapter 6 of the EIA Report.
	Mountaineering Scotland	Ward hill viewpoint should be included in the EIA.	
	John Muir Trust	Have real concerns regarding the proposed location of the turbines within and/or close to Wild Land Area 41 Hoy.	

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		SPP2 in 215 goes on to state: <i>“In areas of wild land, development may be appropriate in some circumstances. Further consideration will be required to demonstrate that any significant effects on the qualities of these areas can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation.”</i> This will need to be fully demonstrated in the final Application and is a significant challenge as is evidenced by the decisions taken on wind farm applications impacting on WLAs since their establishment in 2014.	
Ornithology	RSPB	RSPB Scotland has considerable concerns about the proposed scale and location of the proposed wind farm [Scoping Layout] at this site, primarily in relation to potential impacts on the species associated with the adjacent Hoy Special Protection Area (SPA), as well as other sensitive species of conservation concern.	Refer to Chapter 7 of the EIA Report.
		The Hoy SPA and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are both designated for a number of bird species including breeding Arctic skua, great skua, peregrine and red-throated diver. The EIA should fully consider the potential effects of the development on the SPA and SSSI. It should be demonstrated that the proposed development would not affect the integrity of the SPA or undermine its conservation objectives.	
		The EIA should consider impacts on the SPA's and wider regional red-throated diver population, including as a consequence of collision with turbines, as well as disturbance and / or displacement from breeding lochs / lochans and from the effects of increased energetic demands arising from turbines acting as a barrier between the pSPA marine foraging areas and freshwater nesting sites during the breeding season.	
		Switha SPA is designated for non-breeding barnacle geese, which are known to feed on Hoy and South Walls, and the proposed development site is well within the 15km core range foraging distance (and 25km maximum) identified by SNH for the species.	

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		The EIA should fully consider barnacle geese and whether the proposed windfarm will impact upon the SPA population though direct collision or by creating a barrier effect for birds flying between preferred feeding and roosting areas.	
Ornithology	RSPB	The EIA should fully consider the potential effects of the development on Scapa Flow pSPA. It should be demonstrated that the proposed development would not affect the integrity of the site or undermine its conservation objectives.	Refer to Chapter 7 of the EIA Report.
		The proposed development site significantly overlaps with the existing Hoy and North Walls Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Moorland Fringes LNCS. The Applicant should provide full information seeking to demonstrate compliance with Policy 9 (A3) (Locally Important Sites) of the adopted Orkney Local Development Plan 2017.	
	SNH	<p>The proposed development is likely to have a significant effect on qualifying interests of Hoy SPA, Switha SPA and Scapa Flow proposed SPA (pSPA). The EIA must therefore provide sufficient information for Scottish Ministers to be able to undertake appropriate assessments in view of these sites’ conservation objectives for their qualifying interests.</p> <p>The development site borders Hoy SPA. The key issues are potential disturbance and/or displacement of breeding birds during the construction and operation of the wind farm, and the risk of birds colliding with the rotating turbine blades when flying through the development site. The qualifying species potentially affected are red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>), great skua (<i>Stercorarius skua</i>), Arctic skua (<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>) and great black-backed gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>), which should be targeted by the survey work and assessment. Red-throated divers are likely to be a particular issue as the development site is situated directly between breeding lochs within Hoy SPA and their main feeding areas within Scapa Flow pSPA. The</p>	

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		turbines are likely to present a barrier and/or collision risk to divers commuting back and forth between the breeding lochs and feeding areas.	
Ornithology	SNH	<p>The development site borders Scapa Flow pSPA. The qualifying interest of the pSPA includes breeding red-throated diver, because of the important feeding areas within Scapa Flow used during the breeding season. Therefore, the potential onshore impacts on red-throated divers described above may also affect Scapa Flow pSPA.</p> <p>The EIA should also consider any disturbance or displacement of red-throated divers, and wintering bird interest of the pSPA, that may result from additional boat activity within Scapa Flow associated with construction phase of the development. This impact may be localised and less of an issue than the onshore impacts, if the additional boat activity isn't a significant increase in the traffic that already exists within Scapa Flow.</p> <p>The development site is about 6 km north-west of Switha SPA that supports a winter roost of Greenland barnacle geese. We are not aware of any use of the development site by the geese, but the survey work in the winter needs to check this and if they are likely to be disturbed or displaced. It is perhaps more likely that, geese flying through the development site could be at risk from collision and the winter vantage point surveys work should assess this risk.</p> <p>The detailed scope of all the bird survey work was discussed with OIC ahead of surveys commencing on the ground for the current breeding season. We are content with the scope of work planned and methodologies described in the OIC tender for the bird survey contract, and that they are appropriate for the assessment of the potential SPA impacts described above.</p>	Refer to Chapter 7 of the EIA Report.

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Ornithology	SNH	There may also be a need to undertake some population modelling in order to assess the impacts on SPA bird populations. We can provide further advice on this when we have the results of the initial survey work.	Refer to Chapter 7 of the EIA Report.
Ecology	Forestry Commission	There is a small area of woodland planted under Woodland Grant Scheme 2, located in the south-western part of the proposed development site, adjacent to B9047 – marked as Halyei on OS Map. If any supporting infrastructure (e.g. borrow pit or an access track) forces removal of trees, then felling approval should be sought and a suitable compensatory planting area agreed with FCS.	Refer to Chapter 8 of the EIA Report.
	Marine Scotland	<p>The proposed development site is mostly drained by the Burn of Ore which supports salmon and trout populations; the potential impact on these fish populations as a result of the proposal should be considered and discussed in the EIA Report. MSS guidelines on the assessment of potential impacts on fish populations associated with wind farm developments should be consulted.</p> <p>Site characterisation surveys of fish populations and water quality (hydrochemical parameters e.g. pH, alkalinity, dissolved organic acid, acid neutralising capacity and turbidity at high and low flows) should be carried out in watercourses within and downstream of the proposed development area to inform baseline conditions and from which potential impacts can be assessed. Information from these surveys should also allow appropriate site specific mitigation measures (e.g. watercourse crossings to accommodate fish movement requirements, buffer zones adjacent to all watercourses, the appointment of an Ecological Clerk of Works) to be drawn up and for monitoring programmes before, during and after construction to be established, the latter should be carefully designed in order to identify and rapidly remediate any changes in water quality or fish populations, should they occur, throughout the course of the development. Monitoring should also be considered in a decommissioning/ restoration plan.</p>	

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Ecology	Marine Scotland	We note the medium to high risk of flooding within the proposed development area and we recommend the developer to consider this matter in the design of the wind farm such that potential impacts on fish populations will be avoided and/or minimised.	Refer to Chapter 8 of the EIA Report.
		The potential cumulative impacts on the water quality and fish populations, as a result of the present proposal and adjacent developments (including operational and proposed wind farms) should be discussed in the EIAR.	
	Orkney Islands Council	Mitigation measures should be implemented to avoid or minimise adverse effects from occurring.	
		The aged nature of Phase 1 habitat surveys in the area, from 2008, indicate that further surveys will be required to obtain up to date information.	
		Bats are known to forage along the coastline in this part of Hoy / Walls. An appropriate level of study for the presence of bats and any mitigation measures arising therefrom to avoid or minimise adverse effects is advised, and bat surveys cannot be scoped out. The requirement for dedicated bat surveys should be considered. Further information may be available from the local bat group	
		The presence of brown trout and/or migratory sea trout in the Burn of Ore and the nearby Burn of Heldale should be addressed with assessment of the effects of the proposal on the Ore and Heldale burns and any associated tributaries being required. Appropriate pollution and sediment control and monitoring strategies in particular are advised.	

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Ecology	Orkney Islands Council	The Orkney Trout Fishing Association (OTFA) regularly monitors a number of burns in Orkney and have confirmed the presence of migratory sea trout in the Burn of Ore. The nearby Burn of Heldale also supports a resident brown trout population. Further information is likely to be available from the OTFA. Assessment should therefore be undertaken of the effects of the proposal on the Ore and Heldale burns and any associated tributaries.	Refer to Chapter 8 of the EIA Report.
		Mitigation measures should be implemented to avoid or minimise adverse effects.	
		The assessment should include consideration of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy which comprises 'Scotland's Biodiversity It's in Your Hands' (2004) and its supplement '2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity (2013)'.	
	Alterations to roads or pier infrastructure may prove necessary, to enable transport of turbine parts and other materials to the development site. These works would be inextricably linked to the wind farm development, therefore their potential to cause environmental effects should be fully assessed in the EIA, and mitigation identified, as appropriate.		
	RSPB	A large proportion of the site is classified as Class 1 – Nationally important carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat. Further consideration will be required to demonstrate that any significant effects on the qualities of these areas can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation.	Refer to chapters 8 and 11 of the EIA Report.
		The proposed development site significantly overlaps with the existing Hoy and North Walls SSSI Moorland Fringes LNCS, with all of the proposed turbines located within the boundary. We consider that the applicant should provide full information seeking to demonstrate compliance with Policy 9 (A3) (Locally Important Sites) of the adopted Orkney Local Development Plan 2017 which is as follows " <i>Locally Important Sites i. Development likely to negatively affect a Local Nature</i>	Refer to Chapter 8 of the EIA Report.

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		<i>Conservation Site (LNCS), Local Nature Reserve (LNR) or unnotified Geological Conservation Review (GCR) site will only be permitted where there is no feasible alternative location; and a) mitigative measures will be satisfactorily implemented to ensure that it will not affect the integrity of the area or the qualities for which it has been designated; or b) any such effects are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits"</i>	
Ecology	SEPA	We note from the Scoping Report that <i>"peat is recorded on both BGS and SNH mapping in most of the site, specifically blanket bog on the western part of the site. Site observations show that there is widespread peat across the site"</i> and peat probing is proposed. As such we welcome that an outline Peat Management Plan will be included within the EIA Report – see Section 3 of the attached appendix for best practice advice on undertaking and producing this.	Refer to chapters 8 and 11 of the EIA Report.
		Reference is made in the supporting information to the proximity to SPA and SSSIs. The neighbouring SAC is designated for bog, heath, fen, spring and ponds. Section 6.4.3 of the report states that <i>"a NVC survey will be carried out simultaneously with the Phase 1 habitat survey"</i> . We can confirm we support this and consider this is acceptable on a large site such as this as there may be large areas of habitat which don't require GWDTE assessment or are outwith the 250 m or 100m buffers for GWDTE assessment.	Refer to Chapter 8 of the EIA Report.
	SNH	The development site borders Hoy SAC. The key requirement is the assessment of any indirect impacts on qualifying habitats of the SAC due to the disruption of hydrological processes within the development site. SEPA's scoping response of 18 May 2018 provides detailed advice regarding the information that needs to be provided regarding the assessment of impacts on Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems within the development site, and therefore to assess any knock-on impacts on the SAC.	

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Noise	Orkney Islands Council	Confirmed that assessment to be undertaken in accordance with ETSU-R-97. Potentially cumulative turbines identified. Cumulative developments to be assumed to be operating at their consented noise limits. Noted construction noise can likely be controlled by limiting hours of work.	Refer to Chapter 9 of the EIA Report.
Cultural Heritage	HES	The Applicant should take full account of the information in the Supplementary Planning Guidance for the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site (WHS).	Refer to Chapter 10 of the EIA Report.
		Consideration should specifically be given to inter-related groups of monuments, such as the complex of later prehistoric brochs and the military defensive systems of the two World Wars.	
		Consideration should be given to the design of the access to ensure that it avoids any direct impacts on the Underground Fuel Reservoir (LB 52318) and Former Naval Headquarters and Communications Centre, Wee Fea, Lyness, Hoy (LB 48378). Potential setting impacts from the access tracks as well as the turbines should be assessed.	
	Recommend that, to inform further constructive discussion regarding the potential impacts of the development, a ZTV with much higher detail/definition and visualisations from the key elements of the World Heritage Site and other key scheduled monuments such as the Dwarfie Stane and the monuments around Scapa Flow should be provided.		
	Orkney Islands Council	OIC noted the potential for direct impacts on the site itself recommending that a walkover survey and desk-based assessment be undertaken.	

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Cultural Heritage	Orkney Islands Council	It was noted that OIC have detailed plans of the Category A Listed Underground Fuel Reservoir at Wee Fea, Lyness (Site 153, LB52318) which lie beneath the site and turbines should be positioned so as to avoid them.	Refer to Chapter 10 of the EIA Report.
Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Marine Scotland	Marine Scotland advises that potential impacts on water quality should be considered, and that water quality monitoring should be carried out within and downstream of the development area.	Refer to Chapter 11 of the EIA Report.
	Orkney Islands Council	OIC notes that assessment of effects of the development on local watercourses is required, with appropriate pollution and sediment control and monitoring strategies advised.	
		OIC advises that peat survey work should be undertaken to inform a strategic approach to peat across the site, with the aim of minimising disturbance and/or loss of peat.	
	Scottish Ministers	Request that the Applicant investigates the presence of any private water supplies which may be impacted by the development. The EIA Report should include details of any supplies identified by this investigation, and if any supplies are identified, the Applicant should provide an assessment of the potential impacts, risks, and any mitigation which would be provided.	
	SEPA	SEPA advises that the following key issues need to be addressed in the EIA process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Map and assessment of all engineering activities in or impacting on the water environment including proposed buffers, details of any flood risk assessment and details of any related CAR applications. b) Map and assessment of impacts upon Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems and buffers. 	

Technical Discipline	Consultee	Scoping Opinion	EIA Report
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Map and assessment of impacts upon groundwater abstractions and buffers. d) Peat depth survey and table detailing re-use proposals. e) Map and site layout of borrow pits. f) Schedule of mitigation including pollution prevention measures. g) Borrow Pit Site Management Plan of pollution prevention measures. h) Map of proposed surface water drainage layout (finalised site proposals and construction phase), details of foul drainage measures for welfare facilities. i) Map of proposed water abstractions including details of the proposed operating regime. j) Decommissioning statement 	
Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	SEPA	<p><u>Site Specific Requirements</u></p> <p>An outline Peat Management Plan will be included within the EIA Report.</p> <p>Identification of all of the properties in proximity regardless of whether they are within/outwith the site boundary and confirm if they have a private or public water supplies. Where they have a private water supply the location of the source of this should be identified.</p> <p>Minimum buffers of 50m around each loch or watercourse.</p>	Refer to Chapter 11 of the EIA Report.
	SNH	<p>SNH notes that assessment of any indirect impacts on qualifying habitats of the Hoy Special Area of Conservation (SAC), due to disruption of hydrological processes within the site, is required.</p>	

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Traffic and Transport	Orkney Ferries Ltd	Include Orkney Islands Council Marine Services in consultation.	Refer to Chapter 12 of the EIA Report.
		Submission needs to consider HGV access to Hoy given the limits on the current ferry network. Consideration should be given to use of geared vessels.	
	Orkney Islands Council	A Transport Assessment (TA) for the Proposed Development should be prepared. This should consider land and sea access and any impacts on the Mainland of Orkney.	
		The TA should cover the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.	
		Details of the weights and sizes of vehicles used in the construction process should be provided.	
		A Section 96 Agreement to cover abnormal wear and tear on the road network may be required.	
	Transport Scotland	There are no trunk roads on Orkney. Transport Scotland will only have an input on any loads accessing ports from the Scottish Mainland.	
The assessment should illustrate the impact on the Scottish Mainland trunk road network of construction and abnormal loads.			
Socio-economic, recreation and tourism	John Muir Trust	The John Muir Trust suggested that the Moffat Centre study is outdated. In addition, it suggested that the 2016 study on the relationship between tourism and wind farm developments in Scotland, conducted by BiGGAR Economics, had some limitations.	Refer to Chapter 13 of the EIA Report.

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Socio-economic, recreation and tourism	Orkney Islands Council	Orkney Islands Council Development and Infrastructure and Development and Marine Planning scoping opinions set out what socio-economic impacts should be considered, including sustainable and skilled employment creation and local supply chain opportunities and the potential for significant adverse effects on existing activities. An assessment of outdoor access provision, including core paths was also required. Orkney Islands Council Development and Infrastructure draws attention to Orkney Islands Council's Supplementary Guidance on Net Economic Benefit.	Refer to Chapter 13 of the EIA Report.
	Visit Scotland	Visit Scotland required an assessment of the impact that the Proposed Development may have on tourism. This includes impacts resulting from several developments being built within the same geographical area.	
Aviation	MoD	In the interests of air safety, the MOD requested that the development is fitted with MOD accredited aviation safety lighting.	Refer to Chapter 14 of the EIA Report.
	HIAL	There is a low likelihood that Kirkwall Airport would be affected by this Development. However, Highlands and Islands Airports Limited would wish to be assured that the flightpaths, which pass close to the area, will not be affected.	
Shadow Flicker	Orkney Islands Council	In consideration of shadow flicker, it is noted that the 10 x rotor blade diameter separation distance is cited. Notwithstanding OIC development criterion quoting this separation distance, the onus should be on avoiding harm and nuisance, which should be established by exposure thresholds, and not on limiting the area of assessment.	Refer to Chapter 15 of the EIA Report.
Telecommunications	BT	BT stated they would object to the scoping layout due to the positioning of ten of the turbine locations.	Refer to Chapter 16 of the EIA Report.
	JRC	JRC raised concerns with relation to a number of turbines in the Scoping Layout.	

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Outdoor Access	Orkney Islands Council (Development and Infrastructure)	The Scoping Opinion noted that the EIA should include mitigation of any impacts and improvements to the outdoor access around the site.	Refer to Chapter 16 of the EIA Report.
		It stated that <i>“it is recognised that the Core Path identified on the boundary of the proposed site although this may be subject to alteration / de-designation as part of the Core Paths Plan Review 2018”</i> .	
		It also stated: <i>“Given the nature of wind farms and the track networks built to accommodate and maintain them, full consideration should be given to the opportunity that may be presented to improve public access by integration of public access routes within, through and connecting with other points of interest in relation to the proposed development”</i> .	
	Orkney Islands Council (Development and Marine Planning)	Whilst there is currently a designated Core Path on the boundary of the site, it is proposed that the path be de-designated as part of the Core Paths Plan Review 2018. The most up to date Core Paths Plan should be considered at the time of undertaking the EIA.	
		There are no specific public rights of way within the proposed development site according to the Catalogue of Rights of Way.	
		Policy 10 – Green Infrastructure (Paths, Open Spaces and Green Networks) of the Orkney Local Development Plan 2017-2022 should be considered.	
The British Horse Society	Identification of all required/proposed mitigation measures to address impacts on routes and identify opportunities to extend and enhance public access/ path networks both within and to/from the site and any nearby path network.		
Carbon Savings	RSPB	RSPB recommends undertaking a carbon calculation in line with current best practice, to determine the ‘carbon payback period’ of the development.	Refer to Chapter 16 of the EIA Report.

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Public Consultation	Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council	Members would like to acknowledge that they are keen that they are involved in every stage of this consultation\application.	Refer to the PAC Report that accompanies this EIA Report.

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