



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Biodiversity (Ecology and Ornithology)

The EIA will assess the effects of the Proposed Development on biodiversity, including ecological and ornithological features.

Desk-based assessment and specialist field surveys will be carried out to inform the biodiversity baseline conditions within the Site and surrounding area.

Field surveys conducted to date include:

- Phase 1 Habitat Survey.
- National Vegetation Classification Survey.
- Ground Water Terrestrial Ecosystems Survey.
- Peatland Condition Assessment Survey.
- Terrestrial Mammal Survey.
- Moorland / Upland Breeding Bird Survey.
- Breeding Raptor Survey.
- Targeted Waterbody Survey.
- Viewpoint Watch Survey.

The biodiversity assessment will consider the potential impacts and likely significant effects in relation to:

- Habitat loss, fragmentation or alteration.
- Mortality and disturbance of protected species.
- Collision risk with turbine blades for birds.
- Displacement of bird species that use the underlying habitat.

Suitable mitigation and / or restoration measures will be presented in a series of management plans including an Outline Biodiversity Enhancement and Habitat Management Plan.

Biodiversity Enhancement

Delivering habitat and biodiversity enhancement will be an integral part of the Proposed Development. The biodiversity enhancement opportunities likely include opportunities for peatland restoration; grazing management; riparian planting; and pool, pond and lochan creation.

Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Soils

The EIA will assess the effects of the Proposed Development on hydrology, hydrogeology and peatland resources.

Desk-based assessment and specialist field surveys will be carried out to inform the hydrology, hydrogeology and soils baseline conditions within the Site and surrounding area.

The hydrology, hydrogeology and soils assessment will consider the potential impacts and likely significant effects in relation to:

- Alteration of in-channel and overland flow regimes.
- Alteration or disruption of groundwater flow.
- Private Water Supplies and impact of quality and quantity of water supply.
- Changes to the hydrology and hydrogeology conditions on the Site which could subsequently affect the condition of the peat.
- Loss / disturbance to peat and carbon-rich soils from direct construction impacts.

A key design principle for the Proposed Development is to avoid or minimise impacts on the highest value peat resources within the Site, for example by focusing infrastructure in areas of shallower peat and within areas that are considered to be degraded / eroded.

Noise

The EIA will assess the effects of the Proposed Development on noise sensitive receptors, mostly comprising dwellings.

Desk-based assessment and specialist field surveys will be carried out to inform the noise baseline of the Site and surrounding area.

The noise assessment will consider the potential impacts and likely significant effects in relation to:

- Noise from the operation of the Proposed Development
- Noise from the temporary construction phase