Corr Chnoc Wind Farm

Planning and Energy Policy Statement Addendum

Date of report: October 2026

PREPARED FOR

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1. Purpose of the Addendum

1.1 Background

1.1.1 In November 2024, Galileo 04 Ltd (the Applicant) submitted an application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for the proposed Corr Chnoc Wind Farm (the Proposed Development). The Applicant is also seeking deemed planning permission under Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended.

1.1.2 As submitted, the Proposed Development comprises 12 wind turbines, each up to a maximum blade tip height of 200 metres (m) with associated infrastructure including a 25 MegaWatt (MW) battery energy storage system (BESS).

1.1.3 The Proposed Development was subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and an EIA Report was submitted with the Section 36 application in November 2024 (the 2024 EIA Report), supplemented by the submission of Additional Information (AI) in 2025 (the 2025 AI Report).

1.1.4 The Local Planning Authority (Argyll and Bute Council) considered the Proposed Development at its Planning, Protective Services and Licencing (PPSL) Committee on 22 October where it resolved to object *'on the grounds that there are unresolved ornithology issues contrary to the provisions of NPF4 Policies 3 and 11 and LDP2 Policies 30 and 73, and it is not possible to reach a conclusion on the proposal's acceptability in this regard at this time. NOTE - If these matters are resolved to the satisfaction of NatureScot, Argyll & Bute Council will withdraw this objection. Should the objection remain unresolved, and the proposal progresses to Public Inquiry, Argyll & Bute Council would defer to NatureScot'*. (emphasis added)

1.1.5 The Council's October 2025 consultation response to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) also confirms that *inter alia* it *'does not object on landscape and visual grounds subject to the removal of Turbine 18'*. The Applicant has confirmed that it is agreeable to this design change and these design changes are reflected in the updated visualisations submitted as part of the AI Report.

1.1.6 The application remains under consideration, and AI has been prepared on behalf of the Applicant to provide an updated assessment of the proposed Corr Chnoc Wind Farm to specifically address the following matters:-

- The undertaking of further bird surveys between September 2025 – August 2026, in response to a holding objection from NatureScot initially from May 2025 and subsequently confirmed through a further consultation response dated October 2025 following discussions with the Applicant in the interim period;
- The removal of turbine T18 (and associated access track) to address comments from Argyll and Bute Council. Deletion of turbine T18 reduces the total number of turbines from 12 to 11[1];
- Changes to the status of other wind farm projects within the cumulative baseline, since submission of AI in November 2025 (the 2025 AI Report), which itself was submitted to reflect changes to the cumulative baseline since submission of the Section 36 application in November 2024;

[1] The deletion of turbine T18 has necessitated an update to the previously submitted aviation lighting strategy, as discussed in AI Report Chapter 4 'Landscape and Visual'

- Changes to operational wind farm noise guidance, with the introduction in July 2026 of new guidance from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero dealing with 'Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Turbines'[2];
- Changes to the Scottish Government carbon calculator spreadsheet for wind farm developments on peatland since submission of the Section 36 application in November 2024; and
- The undertaking of a proportionate assessment based upon information currently available of the potential environmental impacts associated with a possible grid connection between Corr Chnoc Wind Farm and the electricity transmission network, prepared in response to the February 2026 Raeshaw Farms legal judgement[3].

1.1.7 Consistent with the 2026 AI Report, this Addendum refers to the amended Corr Chnoc Wind Farm as 'the Revised Proposed Development', to reflect the deletion of turbine T18 and its associated access tracks and to distinguish the amended scheme from the original application, which continues to be referred to as 'the Proposed Development'.

1.1.8 With the exception of the deletion of turbine T18 and its associated access track, there are no other substantive changes to the site layout. The turbine positions remain the same, maximum blade tip heights remain the same and the position and number of construction compounds and borrow pits remain the same. The only minor change relates to the layout of the Indicative Substation and BESS Facility, incorporating the inclusion of a secondary access point. The indicative layout of this facility has been amended to take account of updated National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) guidance on grid scale energy storage systems, which was published in December 2025[4].

1.1.9 In addition to this Planning and Energy Policy Statement Addendum, the 2026 AI Report is accompanied by a Socio-Economic Addendum and a Grid Connection Appraisal.

1.1.10 The Socio-Economic Addendum supplements the 2024 Socio-Economic Statement. It provides a qualitative assessment of the potential impact of the Revised Proposed Development on tourist accommodation, tourist assets and designated recreation routes within defined study areas. It also updates the economic estimates arising from the Revised Proposed Development, following deletion of turbine T18. Commentary on the findings of the Socio-Economic Addendum is set out in Section 4 of this Addendum.

1.1.11 The Grid Connection Appraisal provides information about, and a proportionate assessment of, a potential grid connection route between the Revised Proposed Development and the anticipated Point of Connection (PoC) to the electricity transmission network at Taynuilt substation. This element of 'the project' was not subject to EIA as part of the original November 2024 application submission. While the grid connection will be subject to a separate, future consent application by Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN), to address the Court of Session decision in February 2026 in in relation to Raeshaw Farms v Scottish Ministers and EnergieKontor, the Applicant has prepared the submitted Grid Connection Appraisal.

1.1.12 For clarity, the Applicant is not seeking consent for the grid connection given that the detailed design and routing of the grid connection is unconfirmed at this time. These works would be subject to a separate future consent application by SSEN in due course.

[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/assessment-and-rating-of-noise-from-wind-turbines-guidance
[3] https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/media/t4eds4lr/2026csih10-raeshaw-farms-limited-against-scottish-ministers-and-another.pdf
[4] https://nfcc.org.uk/our-services/building-safety/grid-scale-energy-storage-system-planning-guidance-for-fire-and-rescue-services/

1.1.13 The Grid Connection Appraisal sets out a proportionate review of the potential for significant environmental effects arising from the grid connection, based on information currently available. It will be the responsibility of SSEN to identify any possible significant environmental effects arising from the grid connection and to seek to mitigate those through a future consenting process.

1.1.14 The 2026 AI Report and accompanying documents have been prepared to:-

i) address the consultation comments from NatureScot received in response to the Section 36 application for the Proposed Development;

ii) update some of the original assessments following the deletion of T18 and the publication of updated guidance, as required; and,

iii) provide information to enable the Scottish Ministers to reach a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the project (taking account of the potential grid connection) based on what can be predicted within a reasonable level of certainty at this stage.

1.1.15 This Planning Statement Addendum has been prepared to review the findings of the 2026 AI Report, to demonstrate that the Revised Proposed Development continues to accord with the relevant planning and environmental policy framework, and to set out the Applicant's view on the relevance of the aforementioned Court of Session judgment for the decision maker for the Revised Proposed Development.

1.1.16 The Section 36 Application remains under consideration therefore, the submitted 2026 AI Report should be read in conjunction with the EIA Report and other documents submitted in support of the Section 36 Application in November 2024 and the subsequent 2025 AI Report lodged in July 2025.

1.2 The Proposed Grid Connection & Raeshaw Farms Judgement

1.2.1 The February 2026 Court of Session Raeshaw Farms judgement confirmed that consideration must be given as to whether grid connection infrastructure associated with a given renewable energy development should be treated as a single 'project' for the purposes of EIA.

1.2.2 In considering this judgement, the Applicant responded to a request from the ECU in May 2026 noting the following key points with regards to Corr Chnoc Wind Farm and a potential grid connection:-

- as part of the ongoing grid reform process, Corr Chnoc Wind Farm would transition to a Gate 1 contract in the near future (since May 2026 Corr Chnoc Wind Farm has transitioned to a Gate 1 contract);
- the grid connection point and route connecting Corr Chnoc Wind Farm to the grid network cannot be known for certain at this time, until Corr Chnoc Wind Farm receives consent, the Applicant has re-applied during one of the future National Energy Systems Operator (NESO) application windows, and subsequently receives and signs a Gate 2 offer;
- the Raeshaw Farms judgement makes it clear that it is for the decision maker to determine what constitutes the 'EIA project'; and
- having regard to the specifics of this case, there is the potential for the Corr Chnoc Wind Farm and the grid connection to be treated as a single 'project' in EIA terms, but that is a matter for the decision maker to conclude upon.

1.2.3 In light of these factors and to enable Scottish Ministers to reach a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the project (taking account of both Corr Chnoc Wind Farm and the potential grid connection), the Applicant has undertaken a proportionate appraisal of the potential environmental effects of the grid connection, based on currently available information.

1.2.4 A summary of the findings of the Grid Connection Appraisal is presented in Section 5 of this Addendum.

2. Planning and Energy Policy

2.1 The 2024 Policy Context

2.1.1 The Planning and Energy Policy Statement submitted in support of the Section 36 Application for Corr Chnoc Wind Farm considered the Proposed Development in the context of prevailing local and national planning and energy policy and guidance, drawing upon the findings of the EIA Report to reach conclusions on policy matters. In particular, the following documents were discussed in the Planning and Energy Policy Statement:-

- National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) (2023)[5];
- Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) (2024)[6];
- Onshore Wind Policy Statement (OWPS) (2022)[7]; and
- Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (2023)[8].

2.1.2 In addition to the above, consideration was also given to the United Kingdom (UK) and Scottish Government energy publications such as the Climate Change Committee (CCC) reports on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the Scottish Government's Programme for Government 2024-2025 and progress towards attainment of annual GHG reduction targets.

2.2 The 2026 Policy Context

2.2.1 There have been no changes to the Development Plan framework in the interim period that require to be revisited in this Addendum. NPF4 and LDP2 continue to provide the respective national and local elements of the Development Plan.

2.2.2 The status of the OWPS, the Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan remain as noted above, all of which were discussed in the 2024 Planning and Energy Policy Statement.

2.2.3 There are several developments on energy policy/targets specific to Scotland in the interim period that merit brief discussion in this Addendum.

Scottish Carbon Budgets

2.2.4 The Scottish Government has replaced its previous annual GHG reduction targets with carbon budgets, introduced by The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act (2024) which received Royal Assent on 22 November 2024.

2.2.5 The carbon budgets cover 5-year periods between 2026 and 2045 and are set out as five-year average percentage reductions from 1990 levels. The four carbon budgets are set as:-

- 57% lower than 1990 levels for the First Carbon Budget (2026 to 2030);
- 69% lower than 1990 levels for the Second Carbon Budget (2031 to 2035);
- 80% lower than 1990 levels for the Third Carbon Budget (2036 to 2040); and
- 94% lower than 1990 levels for the Fourth Carbon Budget (2041 to 2045).

[5] https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/documents/
[6] https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-plan-2
[7] https://www.gov.scot/publications/onshore-wind-policy-statement-2022/documents/
[8] https://www.gov.scot/publications/draft-energy-strategy-transition-plan/

2.2.6 Corr Chnoc Wind Farm can make a positive contribution to these carbon budgets and to the attainment of the overall 2045 net zero target.

Programme for Government 2026-2031 – Ambitious for Scotland

2.2.7 The latest Programme for Government (PfG[9]) was published on 1st September 2026 and therefore represents a very recent statement of the Scottish Government's priorities on a range of issues. While the PfG is not an energy policy specific publication, it does set out important statements about how the Scottish Government intends to address various matters, including the climate emergency and nature crisis.

2.2.8 Outlining what Ministers want to achieve before the next Scottish Parliament election in 2031, the PfG states that the Scottish Government will focus on four key priorities, with one being tackling the climate emergency. In this respect, Section 3 advises that *'Scotland has a huge contribution to make in the global battle against climate change'* and, *'tackling the climate emergency is a critical moral obligation'*.

2.2.9 Against this backdrop, Section 3 further states that:-

*'Across this Parliament, we will work to ensure a **credible pathway to net zero by 2045** through ongoing delivery of our Climate Change Plan which will create jobs, lower costs, and restore nature as part of a just transition.'* (no emphasis added)

Climate Change Committee – Progress in Reducing Emissions – 2025 Report to the Scottish Parliament

2.2.10 The above 2025 Report to the Scottish Parliament was published in February 2026. The report recognises that there was a 51.3% reduction in GHG emissions in 2023 relative to 1990 levels, which means that Scotland is now more than halfway to the 2045 net zero target. That said, the report also recognises that *'the pace of emissions reductions will need to slightly increase to meet Scotland's carbon budgets.'*

2.2.11 It notes in several places that the acceleration of renewable electricity generation deployment is required to assist further in direct emissions reductions.

Scotland's Climate Change Plan: 2026-2040

2.2.12 Scotland's Climate Change Plan: 2026-2040 (CCP) was published in March 2026[10]. The Ministerial Foreword recognises that the harmful effects of climate change are already being witnessed in Scotland, citing the largest wildfires in living memory during 2025. In seeking to tackle our changing climate, the CCP states that *'…the underlying science remains the same: the only route to climate stability is reversing biodiversity loss and achieving net zero emissions.'*

2.2.13 The CCP sets out an emissions reduction pathway to meet the first three carbon budgets to 2040 across a range of sectors, including energy supply, transport, industry and agriculture.

2.2.14 Wind energy is identified in the CCP as a key area of existing strength and potential for further growth. This is set in the context of not just tackling climate change and energy security but also developing skills and creating jobs.

[9] https://www.gov.scot/publications/programme-government-2026-2031/
[10] https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-climate-change-plan-2026-2040-annexes/

2.3 Summary

2.3.1 Given there have been no changes in the key planning publications between 2024 and 2026, the Development Plan appraisal set out in the 2024 Planning and Energy Policy Statement remains valid and up to date. The Revised Proposed Development continues to be supported by key policies of the Development Plan, and it will deliver significant biodiversity enhancements, that go beyond measures needed to mitigate the effects of the Revised Proposed Development.

2.3.2 The removal of turbine T18 from the Proposed Development reduces the renewable energy generating capacity by 7.2 MegaWatts (based upon candidate turbine characteristics) but the Revised Proposed Development remains a 'National Development' in terms of NPF4 (National Development 3) and the previously identified benefits of the Proposed Development remain material factors in support of granting Section 36 consent and deemed planning permission.

3. 2026 AI Report Summary

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Not all of the technical and environmental assessments that were considered in the 2024 EIA Report for the Proposed Development have been assessed again in the 2026 AI Report. Taking account of the nature of the design changes (a reduction in the number of turbines) and considering comments from consultees and changes to relevant technical guidance and assessment methodologies, the following technical and environmental topic areas have been subject to further assessment in the 2026 AI Report:-

- Landscape and Visual;
- Ornithology;
- Noise; and
- Climate Change Impact.

3.1.2 No other technical or environmental matters were assessed in the AI Report on the basis that there was no potential for significant environmental effects not already identified in the 2024 EIA Report or 2025 AI Report.

3.2 Landscape and Visual

3.2.1 Chapter 4 'Landscape and Visual' of the 2026 AI Report presents an update to the findings of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment for the Proposed Development, as set out in Chapter 6 'Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' of the 2024 EIA Report.

3.2.2 The scope of the updated assessment has evaluated the likely changes to previous findings due to updates to the cumulative wind farm baseline and the changes to the Proposed Development, specifically the removal of turbine T18 and an associated reduction to the aviation lighting scheme.

3.2.3 Not all landscape and visual receptors that were assessed in the 2024 EIA Report were subject to detailed assessment again in Chapter 4 of the AI Report. That chapter explains what receptors were taken forward as part of the following:-

- Updated cumulative assessment to consider potential changes arising due to the now 'consented' status of the Beinn Ghlas repowering project;
- Updated night-time assessment taking account of the revised aviation lighting scheme following the deletion of turbine T18 and also more recent NatureScot 'Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment' (2024)[11]; and
- Overview of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment undertaken as part of the 2025 AI Report to consider the continued validity of that earlier assessment.

3.2.4 The updated assessment is supported by a range of updated and new graphics and visualisations set out in Technical Appendices 2 and 3 of the 2026 AI Report.

[11] NatureScot (2024) Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment

Conclusions on Cumulative Effects

3.2.5 The update to the cumulative assessment confirms that there would be material changes to the findings of the cumulative assessment in the 2024 EIA Report and the 2025 AI Report for a few receptors in the consented and application-stage cumulative scenarios, due to the consenting of the Beinn Ghlas Repowering proposal and the introduction of the Cruach Clenamacrie application-stage proposal. These cumulative effects are considered to be localised in extent in the context of the 20 kilometre (km) Study Area.

3.2.6 For completeness, AI Report Chapter 4 lists all receptors that are predicted to experience significant cumulative effects during the daytime, in both the consented and application stage scenarios. Importantly, the only significant effect that is 'new' and not previously identified as part of the 2024 EIA Report or 2025 AI Report is in relation to the consented cumulative scenario for Landscape Character Type (LCT) 7 Craggy Upland LCT / NW Loch Awe unit. The cumulative effect on this LCT in this scenario would increase relative to the level reported in the 2024 EIA Report due to the changed status of the Beinn Ghlas Repowering project and the consequent level of cumulative effects across some localised areas, in the context of the broader LCT unit. The effect would be up to major-moderate and significant.

Conclusions on Night-time Effects

3.2.7 As a consequence of NatureScot's 'Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment' a key difference between the assessment presented in the 2024 EIA Report and that set out in AI Report Chapter 4 is that an assessment of visible aviation lighting has now been included for all viewpoints (VPs) within the 20km Detailed Study Area where significant effects might arise (instead of being limited to only those viewpoints containing night-time visualisations). As a result, comparative aviation lighting wirelines have been provided for all 18 VPs (see New Figures AI 6.35 – 6.52).

3.2.8 The removal of turbine T18 has resulted in a revised aviation lighting strategy. Following consultation with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), visible aviation warning lights are now proposed on six turbines (T2, T6, T8, T10, T13 and T16) instead of seven turbines on the Proposed Development layout. Infrared aviation lighting would continue to be provided on all turbines.

3.2.9 The update to the night-time assessment contains some additional findings of significance in relation to the potential effects of visible aviation lighting, which are localised in extent in the context of the Study Area. Significant visual effects during night-time are predicted at the following receptors:-

- Viewpoint 1: Dun Ladain, Glen Feochan;
- Viewpoint 2: Glen Lonan, near Clachadubh;
- Viewpoint 3: C32 Road, near Dun-neil; and
- Viewpoint 6: A816, near Knipoch Hotel.

3.2.10 These significant effects have been identified as a result of the broader scope of the night-time assessment (compared to that undertaken for the 2024 EIA Report) that is now advocated by NatureScot's 'Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment', and not as a consequence of any increase to the magnitude of the lighting effects assessed in the 2024 EIA Report.

3.2.11 On the contrary, AI Report Chapter 4 confirms that the updated night-time assessment has found that there would be a slight reduction in the lighting effects as a consequence of the reduction in the number of aviation lights now proposed (most notably at Viewpoint 4, where visibility of lighting has been removed entirely).

Residential Visual Amenity Assessment

3.2.12 AI Report Chapter 4 confirms that significant cumulative visual effects are still predicted to arise in the hypothetical application-stage cumulative scenario (due to the cumulative interaction between the Revised Proposed Development and the Cruach Clenamacrie proposal) at the following residential properties:

- 2. Clachadubh; and
- 3. Glenamachrie Farmhouse and Bungalows.

3.2.13 These conclusions reflect the findings of the 2025 AI Report which also sets out that effects upon the visual amenity of residents at both above properties would not reach the Residential Visual Amenity Threshold.

3.3 Ornithology

3.3.1 Chapter 5 'Ornithology' of the AI Report specifically addresses points of concern related to ornithological matters raised by NatureScot during consultation on the EIA Report for the Proposed Development. The AI assessment has been limited to three Important Ornithological Features (IOFs): golden eagle, white-tailed eagle and red-throated diver. For all other species, the current and future baseline with respect to ornithology is unchanged from the 2024 EIA Report, and the conclusions therein are unchanged.

3.3.2 Following consultation with NatureScot and at its specific request, additional ornithology field surveys were undertaken in June and July 2025 and from September 2025 to August 2026.

3.3.3 On further consideration, based on supplementary baseline survey results and consultation with NatureScot, it was concluded that red-throated diver could be scoped out of further assessment in the AI Report. The baseline conditions and conclusions with regard to red-throated diver presented in the 2024 EIA Report are unchanged.

3.3.4 The assessment of potential effects relating to the Revised Proposed Development in the AI Report are therefore restricted to NatureScot's remaining two points of concern, which are:-

- Collision mortality for white-tailed eagle, due to the Revised Proposed Development alone, and cumulatively; and
- Operational disturbance/displacement for territorial golden eagles, due to the Revised Proposed Development alone, and cumulatively.

3.3.5 With regard to collision mortality for white-tailed eagle, using the 2025-2026 supplementary survey data, the predicted annual collision rate was less than half that predicted in the 2024 EIA Report which itself concluded a 'minor adverse' and 'not significant' impact on the species. These findings are replicated inAI Report Chapter 5 which also find a 'minor adverse' and 'not significant' impact resulting from the substantially reduced predicted annual collision rate.

3.3.6 Evidence is also presented in AI Report Chapter 5 and its associated Technical Appendices to demonstrate that the NatureScot collision modelling process significantly overestimates the potential risk of mortality to this species, partly due to the highly precautionary recommended avoidance rate of 95%. Should this evidence be accepted, even the lower predicted annual collision rate from the 2025-2026 supplementary survey data can be reduced by a further 50%, or greater.

3.3.7 In addition, population modelling has demonstrated that even when using highly precautionary additional collision mortality estimates, the regional and national white-tailed eagle populations would continue to show strong growth. It was therefore concluded that the Revised Proposed

Development would not result in a significant adverse effect on white-tailed eagle, a finding consistent with the conclusions of EIA Report Chapter 8 'Ornithology' for the Proposed Development.

3.3.8 With regard to disturbance/ displacement for golden eagle, based on extensive analyses of satellite tag data for one of the adult eagles occupying the range overlapping with the Revised Proposed Development, it was concluded that although some potential foraging habitat and roost sites within the range would be lost for territorial, and to a degree, non-breeding individuals, the presence of the Revised Proposed Development turbines along with the other wind farm developments within the range is unlikely to affect the viability of the territory. It was therefore concluded that the Revised Proposed Development would not result in a significant adverse effect on golden eagle, a finding consistent with the conclusions of EIA Report Chapter 8 'Ornithology' for the Proposed Development.

3.3.9 Cumulative operational impacts on white-tailed eagle (collisions) and golden eagle (displacement) were assessed at an appropriate regional scale (and in the case of white-tailed eagle, also at a national scale). For these IOFs, the cumulative level of significance was determined to be no more than minor adverse and not significant. These findings are consistent with the cumulative effect findings for these two species for the Proposed Development, as set out in EIA Report Chapter 8 'Ornithology'.

3.4 Noise

3.4.1 The updated noise assessment presented in AI Report Chapter 6 'Noise' considered the potential for significant environmental effects of the Revised Proposed Development taking account of design changes, changes to the cumulative baseline and the introduction of new operational wind turbine noise guidance in June 2026 by the UK Government 'Assessment and rating of noise from wind turbines: guidance'.

3.4.2 That assessment concludes that the effects of noise resulting from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Revised Proposed Development remain unchanged from those presented in EIA Report Chapter 14 'Noise' and these effects remain not significant.

3.5 Climate Change

3.5.1 Chapter 7 'Climate Change Impact Assessment' of the 2026 AI Report updates Part A of the assessment set out in EIA Report Chapter 18 Climate Change Impact Assessment', which relates to GHG (carbon) emissions.

3.5.2 Emissions from the Revised Proposed Development will have changed compared to the Proposed Development, due to the removal of turbine T18 and associated infrastructure. In addition, it has been necessary to account for amendments to the Scottish Government Carbon Calculator since the 2024 EIA Report was submitted and which is used to calculate the emissions associated with construction and operation of the Revised Proposed Development, and the refinement of some of the emission factors based on the latest available information.

3.5.3 The assessment in AI Report Chapter 7 takes the lifetime carbon produced by the Revised Proposed Development and compares this to the lifetime emissions that would be produced if the same amount of energy was instead generated by using a mix of fossil fuel generation.

3.5.4 The Carbon Calculator demonstrates that the Revised Proposed Development will save more carbon that is emitted in its manufacture, transportation and construction, in less than two years. The remaining 48 years of its operational life are effectively pure carbon savings, which is considered to be a major beneficial and significant benefit. The position remains unchanged from the findings of EIA Report Chapter 18 'Climate Change Impact Assessment' for the Proposed Development.

3.6 Policy Commentary

3.6.1 The 2024 Planning and Energy Policy Statement concluded that the Proposed Development complied with key policies of NPF4 and LDP2, notably NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy' and LD2 Policy 30 'The Sustainable Growth of Renewables'. In reaching these conclusions, and conclusions on other Development Plan policies, regard was had to the findings of the 2024 EIA Report which enabled informed policy judgements to be reached.

3.6.2 Drawing upon the findings of the AI Report, it is considered that the Revised Proposed Development remains compliant with the Development Plan, especially the 'lead' renewable energy policies of NPF4 and LDP2 (Policy 11 and Policy 30 respectively). The 2025 holding objection from NatureScot is noted and the Applicant has undertaken the additional ornithology surveys requested by NatureScot, facilitating an updated assessment which concludes no significant effects upon either golden eagle or white-tailed eagle. NatureScot's holding objection is the sole reason behind Argyll and Bute Council's objection and should matters be resolved to NatureScot's satisfaction, it is expected that this will allow Argyll and Bute Council to withdraw its objection, noting that the Applicant is agreeable to the removal of turbine T18, as recommended by Argyll and Bute Council.

3.6.3 As noted in AI Report Chapter 8 'Summary of Significant Effects' the only 'new' significant environmental effect associated with the Revised Proposed Development and not previously identified in the 2024 EIA Report or the 2025 AI Report relates to:-

- Effects upon LCT 7 Craggy Upland LCT / NW Loch Awe unit in the consented cumulative scenario, as a result of the now consented status of the Beinn Ghlas repowering project.

3.6.4 As a consequence of the changed status of the Beinn Ghlas repowering project, the level of cumulative effects across some localised areas of the LCT would increase, and the level of effect would now be up to major-moderate and significant. Previously, the 2024 EIA Report concluded that the effects upon the LCT in the consented scenario would be not significant.

3.6.5 Whilst recognising this 'new' significant effect, it does not alter the previous policy conclusions regarding landscape and visual matters specifically and the overall planning balance generally.

3.6.6 The lead renewable energy policies of NPF4 and LDP2 both require decision makers to consider a number of matters (landscape and visual effects, noise, impacts upon heritage, cumulative impacts etc), before reaching conclusions on a development proposal 'in the round'. NPF4 Policy 11 requires decision makers to place 'significant weight' on the contribution of the proposal to renewable energy generation targets and on greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets when considering its assessment criteria. LDP2 Policy 30 requires decision makers to consider the 'acceptability' of identified environmental affects, when considering the assessment criteria and to consider matters such as impacts on local communities, landscape character and visual amenity and compatibility with adjacent land uses.

3.6.7 The Applicant's assessment of the Proposed Development against the lead renewable energy policies is set out in Tables 2 and 4 of the 2024 Planning and Energy Policy Statement. In summary, those assessments concluded that while the Proposed Development would give rise to some significant landscape and visual effects it was considered to be compliant with these policies when considered 'in the round'.

3.6.8 In arriving at these conclusions, the previous Planning and Energy Policy statement noted the need to give 'significant weight' to renewable energy and GHG reduction matters in relation to NPF4 Policy 11 and also the need for a broad view of the 'acceptability' of identified environmental impacts in considering LDP2 Policy 30, including considering compatibility with adjacent land uses. On this point it is worth noting that in September 2026 Argyll and Bute Council granted planning permission for the Beinn Ghlas repowering project. This development is located approximately 3km to the east of the Revised Proposed Development and located within the Remote Countryside Area of the LDP,

where the Revised Proposed Development is also located. For clarity, LDP2 Policy 02 'Outwith Settlement Areas' notes renewable energy related development being one of the few potentially acceptable uses within Remote Countryside Areas.

3.6.9 Wind fam development is therefore an established part of the local landscape and will now be so for a further period of 35 years, as per the terms of the Beinn Ghlas repowering planning permission (reference 25/01240/PP). The Revised Proposed Development would add to existing wind energy development in this part of Argyll and Bute and while some significant landscape and visual effects would arise, these are considered to be generally localised and acceptable overall in the planning balance. There are no other land use allocations in close proximity to the Site that would be prejudiced by the Revised Proposed Development and the assessments in the 2024 EIA Report, 2025 AI Report and the 2026 AI Report all demonstrate that there would be no significant effects upon residential properties as a result of shadow flicker or noise.

3.6.10 While some significant effects upon the residential visual amenity of two properties are acknowledged in the hypothetical application-stage cumulative scenario (due to the cumulative interaction between the Revised Proposed Development and the Cruach Clenamacrie proposal), AI Report Chapter 4 'Landscape and Visual' concludes that the visual amenity of residents at both of these properties would not reach the Residential Visual Amenity Threshold, due primarily to their distance from them and the degree of screening from intervening landform.

3.6.11 A summary of the Socio-Economic Addendum is set out in Section 4 of this Addendum. As expected, and reflecting the deletion of turbine T18, some of the predicted socio-economic benefits including the community benefit fund level will fall slightly to reflect the removal of this turbine. For clarity, the Applicant remains committed to the offer of a community ownership stake in the Revised Proposed Development. The deletion of turbine T18 does not change the Applicant's offer, which remains an offer of up to 10% ownership of the Revised Proposed Development hopefully through a vehicle to be established by ALIenergy, a local energy charity which has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Applicant. Although the shared ownership vehicle is to be spearheaded using ALIenergy expertise and leadership, the MoU does state that Board members will be representative of comminty councils local to the Revised Proposed Development.

3.6.12 Since submission of the application in 2024, the Applicant has launched a contractor's portal[12] on the project website, to encourage suppliers to register their details and interest in future contracting opportunities should consent be granted. This portal allows the Applicant to note interest in future contracting opportunities from suppliers with the objective of maximising local socio-economic benefits during the construction phase, and exploring supply chain opportunities.

3.6.13 While identified socio-economic benefits for the Revised Proposed Development would be less than those previously identified, they remain supportive of the case for granting permission and are aligned with the Scottish Government's aspirations to increase community ownership in renewable energy projects, and also NPF4 Policy 11(c) which requires developers to '*maximise net economic impact'* of renewable energy projects, including local and community socio-economic benefits such as employment, associated business and supply chain opportunities.

[12] https://corrchnocwindfarm.co.uk/

4. Socio-Economic Addendum Summary

4.1.1 The Socio-Economic Addendum provides a qualitative assessment in relation to tourism and recreation assets within defined study areas. It also updates the economic estimates arising from Corr Chnoc Wind Farm, following deletion of turbine T18.

4.1.2 The Addendum covers local accommodation providers and ten tourist attractions within 10 km of the nearest retained turbine, and designated recreation routes principally within 5 km, including relevant connected sections and Fearnoch Forest tracks. It considers the overall interaction of the Revised Proposed Development on tourism and recreation within the study areas; it is specifically not an assessment of individual businesses.

4.1.3 Overall, the Revised Proposed Development is not predicted to reduce overall tourism or recreational activity within the study areas. This conclusion takes account of the local changes in visitor experience and temporary access restrictions during the construction phase, as identified in the Addendum.

4.1.4 Using the original benchmark assumptions set out in the 2024 Socio-Economic Statement, deletion of turbine T18 reduces the assumed generating capacity from 86.4 MW to 79.2 MW. Indicative construction expenditure reduces from £114.0 million to £104.5 million, including Scottish expenditure of £41.1 million to £37.6 million, of which expenditure in Argyll and Bute reduces from £13.7 million to £12.5 million. Estimated construction employment reduces from 298 to 273 job-years in Scotland, including a reduction from 99 to 91 locally. Annual community benefit reduces from £432,000 to £396,000 on the original £5,000 per MW basis. The economic estimates remain indicative and depend on procurement and the geographical distribution of contracts. As noted in Section 3, the Applicant's offer of a community ownership stake in the Revised Proposed Development remains.

5. Grid Connection Appraisal Summary

5.1.1 Since submission of the application for the Proposed Development in November 2024, the Court of Session judgment in Raeshaw Farms Limited v Scottish Ministers and Energiekontor UK Ltd has been issued (February 2026) and which highlights the need to consider whether grid connection infrastructure should be assessed as part of the overall EIA project.

5.1.2 In considering this judgement, the Applicant responded to a request from the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in May 2026 noting the following key points with regards to Corr Chnoc Wind Farm and a potential grid connection:-

- As part of the ongoing grid reform process, Corr Chnoc Wind Farm would transition to a Gate 1 contract in the near future (since May 2026 Corr Chnoc Wind Farm has transitioned to a Gate 1 contract);
- The grid connection point and route connecting Corr Chnoc Wind Farm to the grid network cannot be known for certain at this time, unless and until Corr Chnoc Wind Farm receives consent, the Applicant has re-applied during one of the future National Energy Systems Operator (NESO) application windows, and subsequently receives and signs a Gate 2 offer;
- The Raeshaw Farms judgement makes it clear that it is for the decision maker to determine what constitutes the 'EIA project'; and
- Having regard to the specifics of this case, there is the potential for the Corr Chnoc Wind Farm and the grid connection to be treated as a single 'project' in EIA terms, but that is a matter for the decision maker to conclude upon.

5.1.3 In light of these factors and to enable Scottish Ministers to reach a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the project (taking account of both Corr Chnoc Wind Farm and the potential grid connection) the Applicant has undertaken a proportionate, but high level, appraisal of the potential environmental effects of the grid connection, based on currently available information.

5.1.4 The Applicant's assessment of the environmental effects of a possible grid connection is set out in the accompanying 'Corr Chnoc Wind Farm Grid Connection Appraisal' and accompanying Grid Connection Appraisal Figures 1 - 5. The Grid Connection Appraisal establishes a Study Area which is likely to capture a connection route between the Revised Proposed Development and the Taynuilt electricity substation, provides information on assumptions about overhead line and underground cables and the design parameters that will likely apply to the future design of the grid connection when Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) applies for consent.

5.1.5 The Grid Connection Appraisal does not form part of the consent application for Corr Chnoc Wind Farm and permission for any future grid connection would be sought separately by SSEN. As the final grid connection location and route are currently unknown, the Grid Connection Appraisal has been based on an indicative connection, with a defined Study Area, between the proposed Corr Chnoc substation and the existing Taynuilt substation.

5.1.6 The Grid Connection Appraisal considers the potential effects on cultural heritage, ecology, hydrology, hydrogeology, peat and soils, landscape and visual amenity, noise, and traffic and access during both construction and operation, across a Study Area extending up to 4 km at its widest point. The assessment concluded that, subject to standard design development and mitigation measures, the grid connection would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects. It also concludes that the grid connection would not materially alter the nature or extent of environmental effects as identified through the 2024 EIA Report and the 2025 AI Report.

6. Raeshaw Farms – Consideration of the 2024 Planning and Energy Policy Statement

6.1.1 The Planning and Energy Policy Statement submitted with the Section 36 Application for the Proposed Development concluded that the 'planning balance' favoured granting consent, with identified environmental impacts considered to be 'acceptable' when considered alongside the benefits of the Proposed Development, including renewable energy generation, biodiversity enhancements, and socio-economic benefits.

6.1.2 The Court of Session judgement in Raeshaw Farms considered, *inter alia,* that it was irrational of the decision maker to address only the potential benefits of the Wull Muir Wind Farm without considering disbenefits, especially given that the potential benefits would only materialise should the wind farm be connected to the electricity grid. At the time the Wull Muir Wind Farm planning appeal was allowed, an application for the grid connection for that project had yet to be submitted.

6.1.3 Applying this point to Corr Chnoc Wind Farm, the enclosed Grid Connection Appraisal identifies the nature and scale of environmental effects associated with a potential grid connection between the proposed Corr Chnoc substation and the Taynuilt substation, based upon currently available information and noting also the limitations associated with that Appraisal.

6.1.4 It is recognised that the benefits of the Revised Proposed Development (renewable energy generation, greenhouse gas reductions, biodiversity enhancements, etc) can only be realised if it is connected to the electricity grid. While it is true that there is as yet no formal application for a grid connection, various factors all support the view that Scottish Ministers can, and should, give significant weight to the benefits of the Revised Proposed Development (as required by NPF4 Policies 1 'Tackling the Climate and Nature Crises' and 11 'Energy'), as follows:-

- the Applicant benefits from a Gate 1 offer under the NESO's Clean Power 2030 initiative. A formal connection agreement is now in place between the Applicant and SSEN, albeit a Gate 2 offer is not yet in place;
- Without prejudice to consideration of a future application for a grid connection, there is nothing at this stage to suggest there are any significant environmental impediments to the granting of consent for a future application, based on the findings of the enclosed Grid Appraisal Report, which concludes that the grid connection would not materially alter the nature or extent of environmental effects as identified through the 2024 EIA Report and the 2025 AI Report based upon currently available details and acknowledging limitations with the scope of the Appraisal; and
- The provision of these details at this stage ensures that Scottish Ministers can properly have regard to all of the benefits and disbenefits of the project when considering the Section 36 application addressing key points of the Raeshaw judgement; and

6.1.5 In the normal sequencing of matters associated with the planning and consenting of major energy infrastructure, an application for a grid connection will only be submitted once the application for the generating station has been approved, thus providing certainty on the planning status of that development before the grid connection is taken forward to the detailed design and environmental assessment stage.

6.1.6 The absence of a consent for a grid connection prior to determination of the Section 36 Application is not therefore unusual. Whilst a relevant consideration, it is not in itself a reason to delay determination of the Section 36 Application.

6.1.7 The absence of a consent for a grid connection should also not be used to afford the potential benefits of the Section 36 Application any less weight in the planning balance than has been set out in the previous Planning and Energy Policy Statement and reiterated in this Addendum. Those benefits, whilst prospective at present, remain substantial. The Section 36 Application remains a 'National Development' in terms of NPF4 and there remains a requirement for the decision maker to give 'significant weight' to the contribution the Revised Proposed Development will make to renewable energy generation targets and on greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, when considering environmental effects.

6.1.8 The previous Planning and Energy Policy Statement concluded that the Section 36 Application should be granted, noting the supportive policy position through NPF4 in particular and considering also the biodiversity and socio-economic benefits. Having regard to the findings of the AI Report and the Grid Connection Appraisal, it is considered that the previous conclusion (that the Section 36 Application should be granted) remains valid, with there being no significant environmental effects that Scottish Ministers need to consider in addition to those identified in the EIA Report submitted with the Section 36 Application.

7. Overall Conclusions

7.1.1 The submitted AI Report has been prepared to provide further environmental information and updated assessments in respect of the proposed Corr Chnoc Wind Farm following consultation responses, design amendments (the removal of turbine T18 and its associated access track) and changes to relevant guidance since submission of the original application in November 2024.

7.1.2 In addition to considering design changes, the Applicant has undertaken further bird surveys between September 2025 – August 2026, in response to a holding objection from NatureScot. The updated ornithology assessment has confirmed that no significant effects will arise upon the two species of most concern to NatureScot, namely white-tailed eagle and golden eagle. These findings confirm the positions set out in the 2024 EIA Report.

7.1.3 The updated landscape and visual assessment confirms that the only significant effect that is 'new' and not previously identified as part of the 2024 EIA Report or 2025 AI Report is in relation to the consented cumulative scenario for LCT 7 Craggy Upland LCT / NW Loch Awe unit. The cumulative effect on this LCT in this scenario would increase relative to the level reported in the 2024 EIA Report due to the changed status of the Beinn Ghlas Repowering project and the consequent level of cumulative effects across some localised areas, in the context of the broader LCT unit.

7.1.4 The updated assessments on noise and climate change impact assessment, triggered by changes to noise guidance and an update to the Scottish Government's carbon calculator, confirm that no significant adverse effects will arise in relation to these two topic areas, reflecting positions set out in the 2024 EIA Report.

7.1.5 The submitted Grid Connection Appraisal sets out a proportionate appraisal of the potential environmental effects associated with a potential grid connection between Corr Chnoc substation and the Taynuilt substation. That Appraisal allows Scottish Ministers to consider the potential benefits and adverse environmental effects of the project (the Revised Proposed Development and the a potential grid connection) when determining the Section 36 Application.

7.1.6 For clarity, the Applicant is not seeking permission for the grid connection. A formal application will be submitted in due course by SSEN.

7.1.7 The Revised Proposed Development continues to benefit from strong policy support set out in NPF4 and the OWPS. More recent statements on energy policy matters since submission of the Section 36 application add weight to this policy support.

7.1.8 Considering the findings of the AI Report, together with the findings of the Grid Connection Appraisal it is considered that the planning balance remains firmly in favour of granting Section 36 consent and deemed planning permission for the Revised Proposed Development.

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