

Note of Pre-Scoping Meeting

Stornoway Wind Farm and Muaitheabhal Wind Farm (MWF)

30 April 2018

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Offices, Stornoway

Attendees:

Catherine Taggart – Wood Group

Sue Birnie – Wood Group

Morag Ferguson – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Mark McDonald – SNH

Grant Folley – Lewis Wind Power (LWP)/EDF

Darren Cuming – Lewis Wind Power(LWP)/EDF

Kate Wiggle – Land Use Consultants (LUC)

Dan Walker – Land Use Consultants (LUC)

Jo Cottin – Land Use Consultants (LUC)

Alan Brogan – Energy Consents Unit (ECU)

Ruth Findlay – Energy Consents Unit

Catherine Cacace – Energy Consents Unit

Ruth Cameron – Historic Environment Scotland (HES) (phoned in)

Susan Haslam – SEPA (phoned in)

Draft Scoping reports for Stornoway Wind Farm and Muaitheabhal Wind Farm

MWF including extensions – 2015 Lewis Wind Power – up to 150m in height x 45 turbines consented.

Proposed 20 turbines x 200m in height, up to 9MW turbine

Stornoway WF – consented 36 turbines

Proposed 33 WTG, 180MW

LWP looking to submit into next round of CfD

Maximum output to drive down energy cost

Criteria for CfD to be announced later in the year.

Propose to set out comparison of two schemes in Planning Statement rather than EIA report.

MWF – LUC involved since 2003

Scoping to be submitted – mid/end of May 2018

EIA due to be completed – 2019. 2 year bird survey required – Oct 2019 for application, to complete bird surveys.

Stornoway WF – submit Feb 2019 – dependant on bird survey duration required

ECU – to confirm timescale on scoping responses.

Landscape

National Scenic Area (NSA) – ZTV shows turbines visible from summits within NSA and Wild Land – 3 turbines consented within Wild Land for MWF. Proposal removes turbines from Wild Land.

Reduce footprint of proposed wind farm to take account of landscape and visual effects.

LUC requested scoping out Wild Land – check ZTV

SNH – consider less landscape effects with Stornoway than MWF, turbines are smaller at Stornoway.

NSA included for Stornoway.

Viewpoints – north of site at weather station

Night-time assessment needed – effects on residents

HES – require wirelines from Callanish – refer to HES Guidance. Key consideration, potential to include the following sites: Lewis Castle, Arnish Point Lighthouse, Druim Dubh.

Peat/Hydrology

ECU will seek advice from peat expert – currently Andy Mills.

SEPA – avoid areas of deep peat. Request more detail, Draft Peat Management Plan.

Floating tracks/roads – areas greater than 1m is proposed. SEPA recommend that proposals to be realistic on what can be built out.

Hydrology – SEPA content with proposed scope

GWDE – require NVC survey for all habitats.

SEPA looking for avoidance.

Battery storage – approximately 8 containers, approx. 15m long similar to shipping containers. No firm proposals.

SEPA – requested details on concrete base, avoid watercourses, peat and include description of what they would look like.

Cumulative assessment to include ornithology, peat, LVIA

Ornithology

Stornoway WF - take into account Golden Eagles, Red Throated Diver.

SNH – will review data after one year and determine if further survey work is required. Usually 2 year bird survey data required for sensitive areas.

Hen Harriers colonised in the area since previous development consented.

Never had Hen Harriers on Lewis before.

Stornoway WF – survey work from 2009 – 42 turbines reduced to 36 turbines due to effects on birds.

Pentland Road Wind Farm (to the north) – potential cumulative issues to be assessed.

MWF – Golden Eagle and Sea Eagle to be included.

Collision risk and cumulative impacts to be assessed.

Ecology – SNH precautionary approach.

Bats – potential to retake survey. SNH requested survey.
Angling Club had issues with previous proposals. Surveys to be undertaken.
SNH - Otter activity

Noise

Met mast on site but not at the right height for MWF
Stornoway WF – no further baseline assessment proposed but mast may not be at the right height.

Access

Berthing facility – planning consent expires end of 2018
Arnish alternative site access. Private road on route from Arnish.
Piling required – vibration study to be included for port works for berthing facility.

Tourism

Hebridean Way Route Development Officer in place.
Core path plan – consultee within the Council.
Highlands and Island Enterprise – Tourism studies
Potential for access requirements to be included.
Tourism assessment to provide review and conclusions of landscape, birds, recreational activities.
Tourism proposed to be included in Planning Statement.

Aviation – MOD and Met Office (radar) to be consultee
Carbon balance to be included.
ECU – requested Annex setting out schedule of mitigation
HRA – screening included

ECU – consultee list. Local Authority to add in individual consultees. Community Councils, Residents Association.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar LDP – adoption due June 2018. Supplementary Guidance being reviewed and to become statutory.
Design chill stage – July/August 2018
Stornoway WF – early June public exhibition and Sept/Oct 2018
MWF – Sept/Oct 2018 and Spring/Early Summer 2019
Considering new approaches to consultation.

ECU – fee consultation Feb to May.