

HydroGlen

Supporting Environmental
Information Report

Appendix A: EIA Screening Opinion



Our Ref: ENQ/2023/0425

Your Ref:

Ask for: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Stephenson Halliday

6 April 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

EIA Screening/Scoping Opinion for Erection of a Green Hydrogen Production Facility with Electrolyser, Fuel Cell (expected capacity 100-200 kW, subject to design) including a Hydrogen Storage Facility and Associated Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility; and a Small-scale Mix of Ground and Roof Mounted Solar Array and Erection of 1Mw 68-88m Wind Turbine. at Glensaugh, Fettercairn, Laurencekirk, Aberdeenshire, AB30 1HB, Grid Reference: 367053.778193

I refer to the above and to your request for a screening opinion under Regulation 8 of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

Under the terms of the above Regulations, the proposed development is not listed under Schedule 1, however it is a type listed under Schedule 2. Schedule 2 Class 3 is for energy industry installations particularly the harnessing of energy production. The proposal exceeds the threshold of Class 3 with the site area exceeding 0.5 hectares and the hub height of the turbine exceeding 15 metres.

Despite the above, an EIA will only require to be submitted as part of a planning application if the Planning Authority considers that the type of proposal in this location is likely to give rise to significant environmental effects. The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and Circular 1/2017 of the same name are used to aid the assessment.

In considering whether Schedule 2 developments required to be considered under the regulations, the Planning Authority must have due regard to:

- Characteristics of the development
- Location of the development
- Characteristics of the potential impact

Having undertaken a desktop study, it is clear that the site is located within the Strathfinella Local Nature Conservation Site and there is an archaeological designation covering the farm buildings. As the proposed development will largely lie within the area covered by existing farm buildings apart from the field where the solar panels would be sited and Lochhill where the turbine will be sited, the proposed development is unlikely to have any significant impact upon the Local Nature Conversation Site.

As such, based on the information available at the time of assessment, the Planning Service is satisfied that the proposal does not suggest significant environmental impacts would occur and therefore no formal EIA is required.

You should bear in mind that the planning authority's opinion on the likelihood of significant environmental effects is reached only for the purposes of adopting this screening opinion under the EIA regulations. This screening opinion is given without prejudice to any subsequent consideration by the planning authority through the planning application process of the impacts of the proposed development, and the authority's assessment of the acceptability or otherwise of the proposed development relative to development plan policy and other material considerations.

You have the right to apply to Scottish Ministers for a screening direction should you disagree with the above opinion.

The opinion will be held for public inspection for a two year period, or until a planning application is submitted at which time the opinion will be transferred to the planning register with the application.

Should you wish to discuss any matters relating to this issue please contact the officer on the above number.

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[Redacted]

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