

Foreword

TNEI are acting on behalf of Peel NRE Wind Farms (Yell) Limited (the Applicant) with respect to an application to the Energy and Consents Unit (previously known as Energy Consents and Deployment Unit (ECDU)), of the Scottish Government under Section 36C of the Electricity Act (Scotland) 1989 to amend the existing Section 36 consent to construct and operate the Beaw Field Wind Farm and ancillary infrastructure (the Consented Development). The Applicant is seeking to amend the original consent which was received in November 2017 to:

- Extend the implementation period of the consent; and
- Extend the operational life of the wind farm from 25 to 40 years.

This Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) updates the findings of the original Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The Consented Development comprises of 17 wind turbines with an overall installed capacity of over 50 megawatts (MW), and associated works.

The Applicant acquired the Consented Development as a project that had initially been considered by Enertrag Ltd in October 2014. Since then, the Consented Development has been subject to an iterative design process and ongoing consultation which has culminated in the current layout which was the subject of the original S36 application. The layout has been designed with consideration for environmental constraints at the Site and the surrounding area and to maximise the electricity generating capacity of each turbine. No changes to the layout or wind turbine envelope are proposed as part of this S.36C application.

Pre-Application Consultation has taken place with the local community and with relevant stakeholders which has helped shape the final site design. More information on the consultation events that took place and the feedback received is contained in the Pre-Application Consultation Report which accompanies this application.

The Consented Development has consent under Section 36 of the 1989 Act. Any consent granted under the terms of the 1989 Act normally carries with it deemed planning consent under the terms of Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended). The application is made to the Energy and Consents Unit (ECU) of the Scottish Government and is supported by a suite of documents including an EIAR and NTS, a Planning Statement, a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report and a Design and Access Statement.

An EIA study must be submitted under the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, as amended. The EIAR which accompanies the S36C application provides an updated account of the potential environmental effects (both positive and negative) of the Consented Development and sets out the findings of the EIA including where significant impacts are anticipated as a result of the Consented Development. Where necessary, the EIAR also identifies mitigation measures that could be adopted by the Applicant to mitigate identified environmental impacts.

The Consented Development is located in the southern half of the island of Yell within the Shetland Isles. The Site is located approximately 4km northeast of Ulsta, 1km northwest of Burravoe and 1km south of Gossabrough. The Site is in agricultural use and is mostly covered by heather moorland with extensive bare peat resulting from overgrazing.



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There are no designated areas within the Application Boundary. The Otterswick and Graveland Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are adjacent to the northern boundary of the Site.

The Consented Development comprises the construction, 25 year operation and subsequent decommissioning of 17 wind turbines with a maximum height to blade tip of 145m and an installed capacity of over 50MW. The Consented Development includes associated infrastructure including access tracks, a temporary construction compound and Site office, one permanent anemometry mast, a radio communications tower, extraction of aggregate from up to four borrow pits located within the Site, 17 crane pads and laydown areas, on-site electricity substation, control building and the underground cabling required to connect the turbines to the proposed on-site electricity substation and a scheme of habitat management and enhancement.

The precise make and model of the wind turbine to be used in the Consented Development has not yet been finalised so as not to preclude models that may be available in the future. The model will be selected should the S36 application be approved. For the purposes of the EIAR update, a suitable candidate turbine has been selected with further details provided in Chapter 3 of the EIAR.

The Consented Development will generate energy from wind power, a renewable resource. The Scottish Government is obliged to reduce its net carbon emissions by at least 80% compared to the 1990 baseline level by 2050. The Consented Development will contribute towards meeting the 2050 emission reduction targets. The Consented Development would be capable of generating net electricity up to 239 GWh each year from renewable sources. This is equivalent to the amount used annually by approximately 60,000 households.

The Consented Development will bring economic benefits to the local area including direct and indirect employment opportunities, these benefits are outlined in EIAR Chapter 6 'Socio-Economics'. A community benefit fund which will contribute at least £250,000 per annum to the local community will be set up for the lifetime of the Proposed Development (proposed as 40 years).

In determining the S36C application, the Scottish Ministers will have regard for UK and Scottish Government energy policy, the National Planning Framework 3, emerging National Planning Framework 4, Scottish Planning Policy, the Shetland Islands Local Development Plan and responses from statutory consultees. The extension of time for implementation of the consent and for the operational lifetime of the Consented Development is discussed in the context of the relevant energy and planning policies extant at the time of submission in the Planning Statement which accompanies the S36C application.