

5. Planning Policy

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 **Chapter 5** sets out the key planning and renewable energy policies, and other material considerations applicable to the Proposed Development which have informed the siting and design process. Specific policies which are contained within policy documents are also referenced within the relevant technical assessments presented in technical **Chapters 6 - 16** of this EIA Report. The Planning Statement considers the Proposed Development in the context of the relevant planning and renewable energy policies.

5.2 The Legislative Planning Framework

The Electricity Act 1989

- 5.2.1 The application for the Proposed Development is made pursuant to Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) (the '1989 Act'), as a generating station with capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW). The 1989 Act requires that a generating station with a capacity exceeding 50MW is not constructed, extended, or operated except in accordance with a consent granted by the Scottish Ministers.
- 5.2.2 The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 ('the EIA Regulations') apply to applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act and sets out the legislative requirements of the EIA process.
- 5.2.3 The Proposed Development falls under Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations as a generating station (Schedule 2(1)). A Schedule 2 development constitutes EIA development if it is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location as set out in Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations.
- 5.2.4 The EIA process has played a central role in developing the design of the Proposed Development, with due cognisance of minimising potentially significant adverse environmental effects as far as reasonably practicable while maximising positive environmental effects. Details of the EIA process undertaken are provided in **Chapter 2: EIA Approach**.

The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act (as amended) (1997)

- 5.2.5 The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) (the '1997 Act') is the principal act which regulates development and land use planning matters in Scotland.
- 5.2.6 Section 57(2) of the 1997 Act states that on grant of a consent under Section 36 of the 1989 Act, "*Scottish Ministers may give a direction for planning permission to be deemed to be granted, subject to such conditions (if any) as may be specified in the direction, for – (a) so much of the operation or change of use to which the consent relates as constitutes development; (b) any development ancillary to the operational change of use to which the consent relates*".
- 5.2.7 Section 25 of the 1997 Act is not engaged for applications pursuant to Section 36 of the 1989 Act (i.e. the development plan does not take primacy in the determination process). However, in considering the overall legal framework within which the Proposed Development would be assessed, the development plan is considered a material consideration that may be taken into account by Scottish Ministers in the determination of this application.

- 5.2.8 The development plan comprises the National Planning Framework 4 (2023) ('NPF4') and the local development plan for the planning authority area, in this case Argyll and Bute.

5.3 Renewable Energy Policy Framework

International Policy and Targets

- 5.3.1 At the international level, action to tackle climate change is informed by the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which has finalised the synthesis report for the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which aims to stabilise atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations at a level sufficiently low to '*prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system*'. It sets non-binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions for individual countries. It does not include any enforcement mechanisms but outlines how specific international treaties (called '*protocols*' or '*agreements*') may be negotiated to specify further action towards the objective of the UNFCCC.
- 5.3.2 On 12th December 2015, 196 Parties to the UNFCCC including the UK adopted the Paris Agreement, which commits UNFCCC signatory countries to take action to cut carbon emissions and emphasises the aim to limit the temperature rise below 2°C and to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- 5.3.3 The 28th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 28) was hosted in Dubai in 2023. The COP 28 summit convened governments from around the world to agree the "beginning of the end" of the fossil fuel era by laying the ground for a swift, just and equitable transition, underpinned by deep emissions cuts and scaled-up finance.
- 5.3.4 In a demonstration of global solidarity, negotiators from nearly 200 Parties came together with a decision on the world's first 'global stocktake' to ratchet up climate action before the end of the decade. This is considered the central outcome of COP28 – as it contains every element that was under negotiation and can now be used by countries to develop stronger climate action plans due by 2025. The stocktake recognises the science that indicates global greenhouse gas emissions need to be cut 43% by 2030, compared to 2019 levels, to keep the global temperature limit of 1.5°C within reach.

UK & Scottish Policy and Targets

- 5.3.5 UK and Scottish Government climate and renewable energy policy makes clear that there is an urgent need for new renewable energy generation to meet the net zero commitment, as is supported by national energy policy documents. As statements of national policy, these are important material considerations to the determination of this application.
- 5.3.6 In April 2019 the Scottish Government declared a climate change emergency and identified the ambitious new target to reduce emissions and become net zero by 2045, targets which are not enshrined in legislation as legal duties. This declaration further emphasised the Scottish Government's commitment to combating climate change and especially reducing Scotland's own contributions to it. It is widely recognised that renewable energy projects are a sustainable form of energy production that can help combat the climate crisis.
- 5.3.7 At a UK level, the legislative climate change context is set out in the Climate Change Act 2008 as amended by the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019. Under this, the UK adopted a 2050 net zero emissions reduction target in June 2019, more ambitious than the previous goal of at least an 80% greenhouse gas emission reduction (below 1990 levels) by 2050. As part of this target, the Climate Change Committee recommended that Scotland should achieve net zero by 2045.

- 5.3.8 Scotland has a world leading legislative framework to combat climate change and transition to a low carbon economy, with the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, as amended by the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019. The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced ambitious targets into the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, including increasing the 2045 target to 100% emissions reduction (i.e. net zero emissions) and making provisions for a net zero greenhouse gas emissions target to be set on a credible and costed pathway. The 2045 target date is five years ahead of the current date set for the rest of the UK to achieve net zero, and aims to ensure Scotland contributes to the worldwide efforts to deliver on the Paris Agreement. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (as amended) also sets out the following interim and annual targets:
- To reduce emissions by 48.5% by 2020¹(interim target);
 - To reduce emissions by 51.1% by 2021;
 - To reduce emissions by 53.8% by 2022;
 - To reduce emissions by 56.4% by 2023;
 - To reduce emissions by 59.1% by 2024;
 - To reduce emissions by 61.7% by 2025;
 - To reduce emissions by 64.4% by 2026;
 - To reduce emissions by 67.0% by 2027;
 - To reduce emissions by 69.7% by 2028;
 - To reduce emissions by 72.3% by 2029;
 - To reduce emissions by 75% by 2030 (interim target); and
 - To reduce emissions by 90% by 2040 (interim target).
- 5.3.9 The Scottish Greenhouse Gas Statistics (2021) show emissions were reduced by 49.9%; therefore, the annual 2021 target of 51.1% has not been met. This suggests the current trajectory of emission reductions needs additional support for the 2030 interim target to be attained.
- 5.3.10 A range of policy documents set out the UK Government's binding commitments to cut carbon emissions through the deployment of renewable energy including:
- Energy White Paper (2020);
 - Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021);
 - Build Back Better: our plan for growth (2021);
 - Climate Change Strategy 2021 - 2024 (2021); and
 - Clean Growth Strategy (2017) (updated 2018).
- 5.3.11 In April 2022, the UK Government updated the British Energy Security Strategy. It emphasises the need to accelerate the transition away from oil and gas towards greener, cleaner and secure domestic energy sources. The Strategy highlights the importance of

¹ This target was recently amended by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (Interim Target) Amendment Regulations 2023 from the previous figure of 56% to 48.5%. The effect of the modification is to "[adjust] the annual target figures for 2021 to 2029, in accordance with section 3(2) of the 2009 Act" and in accordance with "the most up-to-date advice received from the UK Climate Change Committee ("CCC"), advising that the 2020 interim target should be modified for the sole reason of a change in international carbon reporting practice".

onshore wind as one of the cheapest forms of renewable power, by committing to improve national network infrastructure and explore options to increase the provision of onshore wind across the UK.

- 5.3.12 Sitting alongside Scotland's world leading climate change legislative framework, 'The Future of Energy in Scotland: Scottish Energy Strategy', which was published in December 2017, sets out the Scottish Government's 2050 vision for energy in Scotland as *'a flourishing, competitive local and national energy sector, delivering secure, affordable, clean energy for Scotland's households, communities and businesses.'* It highlights the importance of renewable energy and its associated infrastructure as being a major industrial sector in its own right, helping to sustain economic growth and employment. The Future of Energy in Scotland: Scottish Energy Strategy sets two new targets for the Scottish energy system by 2030: (1) the equivalent of 50% of the energy for Scotland's heat, transport and electricity consumption to be supplied from renewable sources; and (2) an increase by 30% in the productivity of energy use across the Scottish economy.
- 5.3.13 Scotland's 2018-2032 Climate Change Plan was updated in December 2020 due to the introduction of the Climate Act 2019. The Climate Change Plan sits alongside the Future of Energy in Scotland: Scottish Energy Strategy. It sets out policies and proposals on how the Scottish Government intends to meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets from 2018 – 2032 and provides the strategic framework for transition to a low carbon Scotland. The 2018-2032 Climate Change Plan update reflects the ambitious targets introduced by the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 into the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to reduce emissions by 75% by 2030 (compared with 1990 levels) and to be net zero by 2045.
- 5.3.14 As of 9th May 2023, the Scottish Government closed consultation on the Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan. The Strategy envisions that by 2045 Scotland will have a climate friendly energy system that delivers an affordable, resilient and clean energy supply for the households, businesses and communities of Scotland. This will be able to deliver maximum benefit while also enabling Scotland to achieve its wider climate and environmental ambitions. The Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan restates the ambition of onshore wind and provides clear positions on community benefit and shared ownership, including how communities can benefit from repowering of existing sites. The Strategy states that the Scottish Government *"will place climate and nature at the centre of our planning system... making clear our support for all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emission technologies, including transmission and distribution infrastructure"*. **(Chapter 3: Design Evolution and Alternatives)** The Strategy also states that the Scottish Government will *"encourage, promote and facilitate all forms of renewable energy development onshore and offshore. This includes energy generation, storage, new and replacement transmission, and distribution infrastructure"* **(Section 3.2)**.
- 5.3.15 The Onshore Wind Policy Statement, which sets out the Scottish Government's position on onshore wind, was published in December 2022. The Onshore Wind Policy Statement sets out the need for greater security of supply and lower cost electricity generation, which are now key drivers alongside the need to deal with the climate emergency:
- *"[t]hat is why we must accelerate our transition towards a net zero society. Scotland already has some of the most ambitious targets in the world to meet net zero but we must go further and faster to protect future generations from the spectre of irreversible climate damage"*
 - *"Scotland has been a frontrunner in onshore wind and, while other renewable technologies are starting to reach commercial maturity, continued deployment of onshore wind will be key to ensuring our 2030 targets are met."*

- *“On-site battery storage not only reduces pressures from the grid, but enables more locally focussed energy provision, and reduces costs to consumers.”*
- *“The Scottish Government will continue to support the co-location of both battery storage and hydrogen production facilities with onshore wind developments to help balance electricity demand and supply, add resilience to the energy system and support the production of renewable hydrogen to meet our future demands.”*

- 5.3.16 The Onshore Wind Policy Statement has set an overall ambition of a minimum of 20GW of installed capacity by 2030. The Scottish Government acknowledges that onshore wind technology is moving towards more powerful turbines and that, by necessity, this will require taller towers and larger blades. It is noted that larger wind turbines present an opportunity for landscape improvement, as well as increasing the amount of electricity generated.
- 5.3.17 The Onshore Wind Sector Deal 2023 sets out commitments from the Scottish Government and the onshore wind industry to deliver upon the collective ambition of a minimum of 20GW of onshore wind in Scotland by 2030 whilst delivering maximum benefit to Scotland.

5.4 The Development Plan

- 5.4.1 The statutory Development Plan covering the Site comprises:
- National Planning Framework 4 (2023) (NPF4); and
 - Argyll And Bute Local Development Plan 2 (2024) ('A&B LDP2').
- 5.4.2 The publication of NPF4 in February 2023 has coincided with the implementation of certain parts of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 (the '2019 Act'). Section 13(2) of the 2019 Act amends Section 24 of the 1997 Act to provide that: *“In the event of any incompatibility between a provision of the National Planning Framework and a provision of a local development plan, whichever of them is the later in date is to prevail.”*

National Planning Framework 4

- 5.4.3 NPF4 provides the national spatial strategy for Scotland to 2045 and takes account of the target of net zero emissions by 2045 set by the Scottish Government. It provides a strong framework for the deployment of renewable energy developments and identifies the need for strategic scale renewable energy developments, including onshore wind farms and extensions to existing wind farms. NPF4 is a significant material consideration in the determination of this Section 36 application.
- 5.4.4 NPF4 states *“The world is facing unprecedented challenges. The global climate emergency means that we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the future impacts of climate change.”* (page 3) and sets out six spatial principles which will influence plans and decisions, comprising:
- Just transition;
 - Conserving and recycling assets;
 - Local living;
 - Compact urban growth;
 - Rebalanced development; and

- Rural revitalisation.

5.4.5 Application of these principles will support the delivery of:

- Sustainable places;
- Liveable places; and
- Productive places.

5.4.6 'Sustainable places' is the most relevant to this application and the framework sets out the legislative basis for Scotland's net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target by 2045, stating *"we must make significant progress towards this by 2030"* (Page 6). Under the National Spatial Strategy it is stated *"We will encourage low and zero carbon design and energy efficiency, development that is accessible by sustainable travel, and expansion of renewable energy generation."* (Page 7).

5.4.7 NPF4 Annex B sets out statements of need for national development and provides that *"on and offshore electricity generation, including electricity storage, from renewables exceeding 50MW capacity"* is strategically important, accordingly classifying it as a 'national development' (category 3: Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure). As the Proposed Development exceeds the 50MW threshold, it therefore has national development status, which establishes the general need for renewable projects of strategic scale across Scotland. NPF4 recognises the need for these developments as fundamental to the achievement of Scotland's net zero emissions target.

5.4.8 Annex C of NPF4 sets out Spatial Planning Priorities. The information within the priorities is intended to guide the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies and LDPs to help deliver Scotland's National Spatial Strategy. For the region of North and West Coast and Islands, which covers Argyll and Bute, NPF4 states: *"To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans should maximise the benefits of renewable energy whilst enhancing blue and green infrastructure, decarbonising transport and building resilient connections."* (Page 121).

5.4.9 It also states that *"to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, more onshore and offshore renewable energy generation will be needed, bringing unprecedented opportunities to strengthen local economies, build community wealth and secure long-term sustainability."* (Page 123)

5.4.10 NPF4 supports development which helps to meet Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions targets and states *"The global climate emergency and the nature crisis have formed the foundations for the spatial strategy as a whole. The regional priorities share opportunities and challenges for reducing emissions and adapting to the long-term impacts of climate change, in a way which protects and enhances our natural environment"* (page 8).

5.4.11 NPF4 Policy 1, Tackling the climate and nature crises, intends; *"To encourage, promote and facilitate development that addresses the global climate emergency and nature crisis."* (Page 36) The policy requires significant weight be given to the global climate and nature crises, when considering all development, and it is highly relevant to the Proposed Development.

5.4.12 NPF4 Policy 2, Climate mitigation and adaptation is also relevant, as it aims *"to encourage, promote, and facilitate development that minimises emissions and adapts to the current and future impacts of climate change"* (Page 37).

5.4.13 NPF4 Policy 11 Energy, is the most relevant to the Proposed Development and is the principal policy for the determination of this Section 36 application, its intention being to *"encourage, promote and facilitate all forms of renewable energy development onshore"*

and offshore. This includes energy generation, storage, new and replacement transmission and distribution infrastructure and emerging low carbon and zero emission technologies including hydrogen and carbon capture utilisation and storage.” (Page 53).

- 5.4.14 The policy states “a) *Development proposals for all forms of renewable, low carbon and zero emissions technologies will be supported. These include (i) wind farms, including repowering, expanding and extending the life of existing wind farms” ... (iii) energy storage, such as battery storage...*” (Page 53).
- 5.4.15 The Proposed Development does not lie within a National Park, National Scenic Area, nor will it affect other national or international designations. Therefore, statements (b) and (d) of Policy 11 do not apply and are not engaged in the context of the Proposed Development.
- 5.4.16 Part c) of Policy 11 states that “*development proposals will only be supported where they maximise net economic impact, including local and community socio-economic benefits such as employment, associated business and supply chain opportunities*”.
- 5.4.17 The policy sets out 13 criteria in part e) which such development is required to be considered against, in order to demonstrate that impacts have been addressed through project design and mitigation, to ensure developments do not have an unacceptable effect. The policy also states that “*In considering these impacts, significant weight will be placed on the contribution of the proposal to renewable energy generation targets and on greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.*”
- 5.4.18 In addition to the above policies, NPF4 also includes the following policies which are considered relevant to the Proposed Development:
- Policy 3 – Biodiversity: to protect biodiversity, reverse biodiversity loss, deliver positive effects from development and strengthen nature networks.
 - Policy 4 – Natural Places: To protect, restore and enhance natural assets making best use of nature-based solutions.
 - Policy 5 – Soils: To protect carbon-rich soils, restore peatlands and minimise disturbance to soils from development.
 - Policy 6 – Forestry, woodland and trees: To protect and expand forests, woodland and trees.
 - Policy 7 – Historic Assets and Places: To protect and enhance historic environment assets and places, and to enable positive change as a catalyst for the regeneration of places.
 - Policy 12 – Zero Waste: To encourage, promote and facilitate development that is consistent with the waste hierarchy.
 - Policy 20 – Blue and Green Infrastructure: To protect and enhance blue and green infrastructure and their networks.
 - Policy 22 – Flood Risk and Water Management: To strengthen resilience to flood risk by promoting avoidance as a first principle and reducing the vulnerability of existing and future development to flooding.
 - Policy 23 – Health and Safety: To protect people and places from environmental harm, mitigate risks arising from safety hazards and encourage, promote and facilitate development that improves health and wellbeing.

- Policy 33 – Minerals: To support the sustainable management of resources and minimise the impact of the extraction of minerals on communities and the environment.

Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan 2 (2024)

- 5.4.19 The A&B LDP2 was adopted by Argyll and Bute Council (ABC) on 28 February 2024, and replaces the Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan 2015 and its associated Supplementary Guidance (March 2016), and Supplementary Guidance 2 (December 2016) ².
- 5.4.20 The A&B LDP2 sets out a land use framework for the next 10 years to promote, guide and manage development in Argyll and Bute, to meet wider government aims. The plan states that NPF4 *“constitutes part of the development plan for the area and was taken into account as part of the Proposed Local Development Plan 2 Examination process.”* (Page 1)
- 5.4.21 The A&B LDP2 sets out a vision that *“Argyll and Bute is an economically diverse and successful area based on sustainable and low carbon development. It has a growing population with high-quality, well-connected places where people are able to meet their full potential without prejudicing the quality of life of future generations. It benefits both economically and socially from its outstanding natural, historic and built environment whilst protecting those very same special qualities that make Argyll and Bute a place that people choose to be”*.
- 5.4.22 The A&B LDP2 contains a number of policies of relevance to the application. Policy 02 – Out with Settlement Areas, states that development will only be acceptable outwith settlement areas where it can be demonstrated that it accords with part A, B or C of the policy, an allocation of the plan and all other relevant policies of the LDP2. The site is located within a ‘Remote Countryside Area’. The policy states at part (B) that in Remote Countryside Areas, only specific categories of development will be supported on appropriate sites. One of those specific categories of development is *“Renewable energy related development”*. The policy draws particular attention to the need for development proposals to accord with Policies 70-76 with respect to landscape and the natural environment.
- 5.4.23 Policy 30 – The Sustainable Growth of Renewables is the most relevant policy to this application and provides support for renewable energy developments *“where these are consistent with the principles of sustainable development and it can be adequately demonstrated that there would be no unacceptable environmental effects, whether individual or cumulative, on local communities, natural and historic environments, landscape character and visual amenity, and that the proposals would be compatible with adjacent land uses.”*
- 5.4.24 Policy 30 – The Sustainable Growth of Renewables sets out the following criteria that all applications for wind turbine developments will be assessed against:
- “Impacts on communities and individual dwellings, including visual impact, residential amenity, noise and shadow flicker.
 - Landscape and visual impacts.
 - Effects on the natural heritage, including birds.
 - Impacts on carbon rich soils, using the carbon calculator.
 - Public access, including impact on long distance walking and cycling routes and those scenic routes identified in the NPF.

- Impacts on the historic environment, including scheduled monuments, listed buildings and their settings.
- Impacts on tourism and recreation.
- Impacts on aviation and defence interests and seismological recording.
- Impacts on telecommunications and broadcasting installations, particularly ensuring that transmission links are not compromised.
- Impacts on road traffic.
- Impacts on adjacent trunk roads.
- Effects on hydrology, the water environment and flood risk.
- Cumulative impacts arising from all of the considerations above.
- Net economic impact, including local and community socio-economic benefits such as employment, associated business and supply chain opportunities.
- The scale of contribution to renewable energy generation targets.
- Effect on greenhouse gas emissions.
- Impacts on trees, woods and forests."

5.4.25 The policy also states that *"in assessing any application, the Council will additionally have regard to the opportunities for energy storage, local energy networks, and long-term environmental management of the site."*

5.4.26 Other (subject specific) A&B LDP2 policies of relevance to the Proposed Development are listed in below:

- Policy 04 – Sustainable Development
- Policy 06 – Green and Blue Infrastructure
- Policy 15 – Supporting the Protection, Conservation and Enhancement of Our Historic Built Environment
- Policy 16 – Listed Buildings
- Policy 17 – Conservation Areas
- Policy 19 – Scheduled Monuments
- Policy 20 - Gardens and Designed Landscapes
- Policy 21 – Sites of Archaeological Importance
- Policy 31 – Minerals
- Policy 39 – Construction Standards for Private Access
- Policy 57 – Risk Appraisals
- Policy 59 – Water Quality and the Environment
- Policy 61 – Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS)
- Policy 62 – Drainage Impact Assessments
- Policy 70 - Development Impact on National Scenic Areas (NSA's)
- Policy 71 - Development Impact on Local Landscape Areas (LLA)

- Policy 73 – Development Impact on Habitats, Species and Biodiversity
- Policy 74 – Development Impact on sites of International Importance
- Policy 75 – Development Impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs)
- Policy 77 – Forestry, Woodland and Trees
- Policy 78 – Woodland Removal
- Policy 79 – Protection of Soil and Peat Resources, and
- Policy 80 – Geodiversity

Other Material Considerations

Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study (ABLWECS) (2017)

- 5.4.27 This advisory, non-statutory planning guidance, which revises and updates the 2012 Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study was informed by Scottish Planning Policy, which was the relevant guidance at the time (now replaced by NPF4). Whilst this document was prepared under policy that has now been replaced, its findings remain relevant, and is referred to as guidance in the A&B LDP2 *“In terms of landscape, and cumulative landscape impacts”*. (para.5.29)
- 5.4.28 The ABLWECS is a strategic study that aims to inform strategic planning for wind energy development in line with the former SPP and to provide guidance on, rather than criteria for, the determination of individual planning applications. It does not replace site specific assessments of individual proposals.
- 5.4.29 The Proposed Development (all 22 turbines) would be located within the ‘Craggy Upland’ landscape character type 7 (LCT7) which the ABLWECS identifies as having some potential to accommodate large scale wind farm development (80m-130m high), however the ABLWECS goes on to state that there is *“no scope”* to accommodate Very Large turbines (>130m), which would apply to the Proposed Development. The ABLWECS describes the particular areas of sensitivity within LCT7.

Other Applicable Plans and Policies

- 5.4.30 It is considered the following documents are also applicable to the Proposed Development:
- Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation (2022);
 - Scotland Outlook 2030 (2021);
 - Argyll and Bute Council Woodland and Forestry Strategy (2011);
 - Argyll and Bute Renewable Alliance Renewable Energy Action Plan (2018/19)
 - Planning Circulars, Planning Advice Notes², Advice Sheets, National Policy Statements and Ministerial/Chief Planner Letters to Planning Authorities that support National planning policy;

² Planning Circulars contain guidance on policy implementation through legislative or procedural change, while Planning Advice Notes expand on national policy and incorporate best practice advice.

- The Scottish Government Planning Circulars and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) (now referred to as NatureScot) advice documents³; and
- Scotland's National Peatland Plan (2015), which outlines the benefits of healthy peatlands and how they can be improved. The principal aim is to protect, manage and restore peatlands to maintain their natural functions, biodiversity and benefits.

5.4.31 It should be noted that the technical assessments presented in the EIA Report address the relevant topic specific policy within the relevant chapter.

5.5 References

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- HM Government (2020) Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future. Available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/86426/energy-white-paper-2020.pdf

³ Those that are considered to be of relevance to the Proposed Development are listed in the Planning Statement.

[nt_data/file/945899/201216_BEIS_EWP_Command_Paper_Accessible.pdf](#) (Accessed December, 2023)

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