




# High Clachaig Wind Farm

## Scoping Report

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**e.on**

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Reference High Clachaig Scoping Report

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Introduction

This Scoping Report has been prepared by AECOM on behalf of E.ON Climate & Renewables (E.ON). The purpose of the Report is to request a Scoping Opinion, pursuant to Regulation 7 of the *Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2000*, from the Scottish Government with respect to the scope of, and approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed High Clachaig Wind Farm.

## 1.2 The Proposed Development

### 1.2.1 The Applicant

E.ON is one of the world's leading energy companies. In the UK, E.ON supplies energy to more than five million customers and generates enough electricity for around eight million homes. In 2007, E.ON established E.ON Climate & Renewables, a global business in developing new, cleaner ways of generating energy. In the UK, E.ON owns and operates 19 onshore and three offshore wind farms. Together these have an installed capacity of 400 megawatts (MW). In addition, E.ON has over 100MW of consented onshore projects in various stages of construction. At a local level E.ON owns and operates the Deucheran Hill Wind Farm on the Kintyre Peninsular to the south of Tarbert.

### 1.2.2 Background

In 2011, Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) awarded E.ON the exclusive rights to investigate the potential for new large scale wind energy projects within part of the Scottish National Forest Estate. As a result of initial studies investigating wind resources, connections to the national electricity network and environmental constraints the proposed site, (hereafter referred to as High Clachaig Wind Farm) has been identified. Figure 1 illustrates the site location.

### 1.2.3 High Clachaig Wind Farm

E.ON proposes to construct High Clachaig Wind Farm on land located approximately 20 kilometres (km) to the North of Campbeltown and 1.8km north east of the small hamlet of Muasdale, on the western coast of the Kintyre Peninsula. The area available for the turbine and associated development is forested land actively managed by FCS and is approximately centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) 172190, 641550 as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 2 illustrates the land available for turbine and associated development (blue line boundary) which includes all land which is being considered for turbine siting, access and associated infrastructure but does not include grid connection or habitat management.

## 1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment

### 1.3.1 Legislative Context

It is currently considered that the High Clachaig site could accommodate up to 53 wind turbines that, together, could provide an electricity generation capacity of 159MW, depending on the turbine model that is selected (discussed further in section 3.3). Therefore, consent to construct and operate the wind farm will be required from the Scottish Ministers under Section 36 of the *Electricity Act 1989*. The Section 36 application will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act and submitted to the Energy and Consents Unit (ECU) of the Scottish Government. In addition, the Scottish Ministers will be requested to issue a direction under Section 57 (2) of the *Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997* that deemed planning permission be granted for the development.

The *Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2000* apply to applications under Section 36 of the *Electricity Act 1989* to construct and operate wind farms with a generating capacity in excess of 50MW. The proposed wind farm constitutes “Schedule 2 development” under Regulation 2(1):

*“a generating station, the construction of which (or the operation of which) will require a section 36 consent but which is not Schedule 1 development”.*

EIA is not mandatory for Schedule 2 developments but may be required depending on the potential for significant environmental effects. Given the potential for significant environmental effects, E.ON will undertake an EIA of the proposed High Clachaig Wind Farm.

### 1.3.2 The Scoping Report

Scoping is a preliminary task within the EIA process. This Scoping Report provides a focus and mechanism for consulting on and agreeing the scope of and approach to the EIA, as well as the content and structure of the Environmental Statement (ES). As required under Regulation 7(2), this Scoping Report provides:

- A plan sufficient to identify the site which is the subject of the proposed development (see Figures 1 and 2); and
- A brief description of the nature and purpose of the proposed development and of its possible effects on the environment (see Chapters 2-13 and Figures 3-9).

The remainder of this Report is structured as follows:

- Chapter 2 Environmental Impact Assessment;
- Chapter 3 High Clachaig Wind Farm;
- Chapter 4 Planning Policy;
- Chapter 5 Landscape & Visual;
- Chapter 6 Noise;
- Chapter 7 Ecology & Ornithology;
- Chapter 8 Geology, Hydrology & Hydrogeology;
- Chapter 9 Archaeology & Cultural Heritage;
- Chapter 10 Traffic, Transport & Access;
- Chapter 11 Infrastructure, Telecommunications & Shadow Flicker;
- Chapter 12 Air Safeguarding Issues; and
- Chapter 13 Socio-Economics & Tourism.

## 1.4 Consultation

Although there is no statutory requirement to undertake consultation E.ON considers it to be a crucial part of the wind farm development process and will engage with the local community throughout the application process. A programme of statutory and public consultation will be undertaken to provide information to, and seek feedback from interested parties. This will include exhibitions, a project website, leaflet drops and an established contact for project information requests as well as a freephone number and freepost address (outlined below).

High Clachaig Wind Farm

Freepost RRSE-KZCU-AZJL  
E.ON  
Westwood Way  
Westwood Business Park  
Coventry  
CV4 8LG  
Freephone – 0800 096 1199

It is also proposed to establish a Community Liaison Group comprising representatives from each of the community councils in the area and other local representatives. The engagement process will include outlining the findings of the baseline studies and assessment process. These meetings will be designed to provide a medium for two-way communication for the project and address any concerns that representatives community groups wish to raise. Public information events will be organised for the local community in 2013, designed to present the concepts of the scheme. These will be followed by further public consultation events that are also scheduled to take place in 2013, as the design evolves through the iterative EIA process.

E.ON proposes to prepare a Pre-Application Consultation Report (PACR) as part of the Section 36 application, detailing the key outcomes of the consultation process.