

Environment

Ecology and Ornithology

Ecology and Ornithology surveys have been ongoing since 2020 for habitats, birds and protected species to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment. The approach to surveying was determined in consultation with NatureScot. The survey work has completed and assessment and reports are being compiled for the final submission.

The preliminary results of these surveys show no adverse impacts are expected regarding sensitive habitats, birds or protected species through the development of the proposed wind turbines.

The proposed development is partly located within an area of commercial forestry. Cairds Wood is part of Scotland's National Forest Estate, owned by Scottish Ministers on behalf of the nation, and managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS).

The changes to the woodland structure will be analysed and described including changes to woodland composition and future felling and restocking plans. The resulting changes to the woodland structure will be assessed for compliance against the UKFS and the requirement for compensation planting to mitigate against any woodland loss. The proposed Development Forest Plan will be assessed against the baseline data in line with the methodology outlined in the 2019 Control of Woodland Removal Policy Implementation Guidance to identify any loss of woodland area and the requirement for compensatory planting.



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