

EARBA STORAGE

A GILKES ENERGY COMPANY

Earba Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme EIA Report

Appendix 1.1: EIA Specialist Team

February 2024



Quality Information

Prepared by

Chris Pasteur

Checked by

David Tomb

Approved by

Gavin McGill

Revision History

Revision

01

Revision Date

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Details

Issue to ECU

Authorised

Gavin McGill

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The Developer	
Gavin McGill Gilkes Energy Ltd	Gavin McGill, B.Sc. C.Eng. MICE, is the Technical Director of Gilkes Energy. He has more than 35 years' experience in design and construction of a range of power and infrastructure projects. He has managed a wide range of hydropower projects across the globe, from sub-5MW up to Gigawatt-scale pumped storage projects.
David Tomb Gilkes Energy Ltd	David Tomb, M.Eng. C.Eng. MICE is a Senior Project Manager with Gilkes Energy. He has 20 years' experience in project development, design, construction and operations, primarily in the Hydropower sector. He has worked on a wide range of projects of varying scale across Scotland, from small conventional hydropower projects to large, pumped storage projects.
Chris Pasteur Cairneyhill Ltd	Chris Pasteur, B.Sc. C.Eng. MICE, director of Cairneyhill Ltd, has worked for various organisations within the UK hydro industry for over 25 years, involved in the development, consenting, construction, refurbishment and asset management of numerous hydro schemes from 500kW to 300MW capacity.
Planning	
Simon Herriot Savills	Simon is a Director of Planning with Savills with over 25 years professional planning experience including 22 years' experience of planning for renewable energy and infrastructure developments including co-ordinating planning submissions for EIA developments. Simon led Savills input on the Planning and Energy Policy Chapter and the Planning Statement.
Kerri Atkinson Savills	Kerri joined Savills in 2022 as a Graduate Planner in the Scottish Planning Team and regularly supports senior colleagues with renewable energy projects across Scotland. Kerri has been involved with the preparation of the Planning and Energy Policy Chapter and the Planning Statement for the Proposed Development.
Hydrology & Hydromorphology	
Peter Ede Mott MacDonald	Peter Ede, B.Sc. C.Eng C.WEM FCIWEM, is a Technical Director for Hydrology for Mott MacDonald, having joined the then Sir M MacDonald & Partners in 1985. He has nearly 40 years' experience in hydrology throughout the UK and in nearly 30 countries worldwide. Peter has worked extensively on rainfall-runoff modelling and water resources modelling studies for most of the big UK water companies (including Scottish Water and its predecessor organisations). He has also worked extensively on Environment Agency projects, and on many hydropower schemes for various companies. Peter

	was elected President of the British Hydrological Society (2017-19)
Charlie West Mott MacDonald	Charlie West, BEng, MSc, PhD is a hydrologist for Mott MacDonald having joined in them 2023. Charlie has ten years of experience working across a broad range of construction and infrastructure projects in the UK and abroad. Charlie's roles have included site engineering, infrastructure risk and financing and hydrology and water resources management (both within the private sector and academia).
Eleanor Morrison EnviroCentre Ltd	Eleanor Morrison, BSc (Hons) MSc, is an Associate Director for EnviroCentre Ltd, with over 18 years of practice in environmental consultancy. Her specialisms span many aspects of the water environment, including hydrology, sustainable catchment management, restoration of river and wetland environments, hydromorphology, hydrometry, hydraulic modelling, flood risk management, environmental impact assessment and water resources. Eleanor has experience working for clients across public and private sectors, including renewables, commercial developments, abstractive industries, public authorities, and environmental organisations.
Landscape & Visual	
Jennifer Skrynka LVIA Project Director ASH Design + Assessment	Relevant Qualifications: Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI), BA Landscape Architecture, Post Graduate Diploma Landscape Architecture Jennifer has Over 35 years' experience working on a broad range of projects across many aspects of the landscape profession, including in LVIA, EIA, landscape planning and design. Jennifer has been Project Director for several wind farm, pumped storage, hydro and overhead line LVIAs and has prepared and presented evidence as an expert witness at Public Inquiry.
Eilidh Mackenzie LVIA Lead ASH Design + Assessment	Relevant Qualifications: Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI), MA (hons) Landscape Architecture Eilidh has over 18 years' experience working in Scotland, specialising in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, design and implementation in the energy and transmission sectors including wind farms, pumped storage and conventional hydro and overhead line routeing and assessment projects.
Nicola Sukatorn LVIA Associate ASH Design + Assessment	Relevant Qualifications: Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI), MA (Hons) Geography, MLA Landscape Architecture Nicola has over 10 years' experience working in Scotland, specialising in in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment across a variety of sectors, including grid connection and infrastructure, transport, wind energy, residential and commercial, and marine and coastal.

Terrestrial Ecology	
Hazel Douglas SLR Consulting Ltd	Hazel Douglas, MCIEEM MBiolSci, Associate Ecologist with SLR Consulting, has ten years' experience within ecological consultancy, and is a competent and experienced ecologist, who specialises in Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA). Hazel has completed a number of HRA assessments within the UK (including Scotland) and Republic of Ireland.
Duncan Watson SLR Consulting Ltd	Duncan Watson MCIEEM CEnv, Technical Director with SLR Consulting, is an Ecologist with over 25 years' professional experience, much of which relates to projects in the renewable energy sector. Duncan has a particular interest in EclA and HRA and was a member of the technical review group responsible for revising and updating the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Guidelines for EclA in the UK (published in 2018 and recently updated). He has also led CIEEM workshops on EclA and HRA.
James Bunyan Tracks Ecology	James Bunyan MCIEEM is an ecologist with over 20 years' experience working in academia and commercial consultancies. Over the years James has developed extensive experience undertaking ecological surveys for both large and small projects across Scotland including wind farms, hydroelectric schemes and housing developments. After setting up Tracks Ecology Ltd in 2014, James has provided high quality bespoke consultancy services for a wide range of clients with a particular expertise on protected species and employment of emerging technologies to provide robust survey data.
Robert Potter Tracks Ecology	Robert Potter ACIEEM is an experienced botanist, habitat surveyor and ornithologist working as a freelance ecologist since 2011. Robert has a strong academic foundation in species identification and land management with considerable expertise in undertaking baseline surveys and a thorough understanding of complex habitats across Scotland. Over the years Robert has provided services for RSPB, National Trust for Scotland and Forest Research as well as working on large scale developments such as wind farms and transmission line projects.
Angus Davidson Angus Davidson Ltd	Since founding Angus Davidson Ltd in 2008, Angus has supported rural communities across Scotland with expert guidance on land management and preservation and restoration initiatives. Angus led discussions with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to develop the UK's first Peatland Code-validated restoration project. In recent years, he has focused on delivering peatland feasibility and restoration programmes.

Colin Morrison Angus Davidson Ltd	Colin Morrison is an upland advisor, specialising in habitat assessment and the delivery of both habitat management and deer management plans. He also has spent the last seven years working closely with peatland action and upland managers to support the delivery of upwards of 4000ha of peatland restoration projects.
Victor Clements The Native Woods Cooperative (Scotland) Ltd	Victor Clements is a native woodland advisor based in Aberfeldy in Highland Perthshire. He is secretary/facilitator to four deer management groups, advises others, and specializes in deer management planning and native woodland regeneration schemes.
Helge Hansen Tree Meister	Helge Hansen (Tree Meister) has prepared the Forestry Chapter of the EIA report. Helge holds a Masters Degree in Forestry Science and is a LANTRA certified Professional Tree Inspector. Helge has worked as a forestry consultant for over 10 years and has worked on a variety of forest projects for private clients, community groups and the public sector.
Ornithology	
Mike Coleman Mike Coleman Ecology	Mike Coleman, BA, MSc has over 25 years' working as an ecological surveyor, with 15+ years working as an ornithologist in the Highlands of Scotland, predominantly on renewable energy schemes in the uplands. During this time, he has authored and worked on many high-profile EIAs, HMPs and SPPs.
Aquatic Ecology	
Matthew Hopkins Gavia Environmental Ltd	Matthew, BSc (Hons) Environmental Biology, MSc Applied Hydrobiology, has over 25 years' experience in the fields of ecology and aquatic science and he has a statutory background with the Environment Agency prior to his Environmental Consultancy career. Matthew has a wide range of experience in projects requiring Environmental Impact Assessment and is familiar with the process required for Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA). Matthew has a wide array of project experience including both run-of- river and pumped storage hydroelectric schemes.
Donald Morrison Gavia Environmental Ltd	Donald, BSc (Hons) Environmental Science, Member of the Institute of Fisheries Management, has over 7 years' experience working within aquatic environments. Donald has experience of producing EcIA chapters, HRA and preparing technical appendices on major renewable energy projects. Donald regularly carries out pre-application surveys for fish fauna, fisheries habitat, water quality monitoring and freshwater pearl mussel assessments.

Rowan Smith Gavia Environmental Ltd	Rowan, BSc (Hons) Environmental Science and Sustainability, MSc (Hons) Sustainability and Environmental studies, The Scottish Freshwater Group (SFG), is an environmental consultant specialising in aquatic environments with over four years experience. She has a strong technical and academic background with two published papers and extensive fieldwork experience including electrofishing, gillnetting, water quality, freshwater pearl mussel surveys/translocations and fish habitat assessments. Such fieldwork has formed the basis of EclA chapters, Habitats Regulation Appraisals, (HRA), technical appendices and species protection plans.
Geology, Soils and Water	
Gordon Robb SLR Consulting Ltd	This assessment has been carried out by SLR Consulting Ltd under the supervision of Gordon Robb (BSc, MSc, MBA, C.WEM, FCIWEM). Gordon is a Technical Director (Hydrology and Hydrogeology) and has more than 30 years' experience assessing renewable energy and electrical infrastructure projects and specifically their potential effects on soils, geology and the water environment. He is based in Scotland and has worked throughout Scotland, including sites in similar settings to the Proposed Development. He has also prepared and given expert witness testimony for renewable and electrical infrastructure projects.
Alan Huntridge SLR Consulting Ltd	The Peat Assessments were carried out under the supervision of Alan Huntridge (BSc, MSc) a Technical Director with over 16 years' experience managing and undertaken geological and land quality assessments for EIA and planning submissions in Scotland and the UK. He has gained experience from a wide variety of development projects from large scale energy projects (Wind Farm, Cable Routes, Substations, Pumped Storage Schemes) as well as both Solar and Battery Energy Storage System Schemes. He is based in Scotland and worked on many sites in similar settings to this site.
Cultural Heritage	
Catherine Dagg	Catherine Dagg has over 20 years' experience of producing EIAs for renewable energy and infrastructure developments throughout the Highlands and Islands, including the cultural heritage assessment for the neighbouring River Pattack and Abhainn Ghulbinn renewables schemes.
Transport	
Gordon Buchan Pell Frischmann	Gordon Buchan, BEng (Hons), MSc, FCIHT, CMILT, has over 25 years' experience of undertaking the transport assessments associated with new developments and has worked on renewable energy and energy distribution projects across the UK, Ireland and Northern Europe.

Noise and Vibration	
Vince Taylor SLR Consulting Ltd	The Noise and Vibration Assessment has been carried out by SLR Consulting Ltd under the supervision of Vince Taylor (BSc, MSc, MIOA). Vince is a Technical Director (Acoustics, Noise and Vibration) and has more than 13 years' experience assessing noise and vibration in respect to renewable energy and electrical infrastructure projects and specifically their potential effects on the acoustic environment. Vince holds a BSc (Hons) in Acoustics and an MSc in Renewable Energy and Resource Management. He has worked throughout Scotland, including sites in similar settings to the Proposed Development on renewable energy schemes which have included wind, BESS and PSH projects. Vince has also supported DCO applications in the UK for nationally significant projects and prepared and given expert witness testimony on noise and vibration matters.
Socio-economics	
Mark Kummerer MKA Economics Ltd	Mark Kummerer, MA, BA, MIED, EDAS. Mark has 24 years' experience in economic development consultancy, specialising in the socio-economic impact of private sector investments and public sector interventions and support, including PLI and Scottish Land Court Expert Witness Experience.