

EARBA STORAGE

A GILKES ENERGY COMPANY

Earba Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme EIA Report

Appendix 14.1: Telecommunications and Aviation Interests

February 2024



Quality Information

Prepared by

Chris Pasteur

Checked by

David Tomb

Approved by

Gavin McGill

Revision History

Revision

01

Revision Date

February 2024

Details

Issue to ECU

Authorised

Gavin McGill

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Telecommunications and Aviation Interests

Consultation with the following organisations has established that there should be no negative impact on their operation or provision of services. The correspondence supporting this is attached below.

British Telecom

From: radionetworkprotection@bt.com <radionetworkprotection@bt.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 2:33 PM
To: Chris Pasteur <chris.pasteur@cairneyhill.net>
Subject: WID13008 - Request for Scoping Opinion Earba Pumped Storage Hydro ECU00004731

[EXTERNAL]
OUR REF; WID13008

Good afternoon Chris

Thank you for your email dated 20/02/2023.

We have studied the proposed development, with respect to EMC and related problems to BT point-to-point microwave radio links.
The conclusion is that, the Project indicated should not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network.

Kind Regards
Chris

The Civil Aviation Authority

No response received.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation



**Defence
Infrastructure
Organisation**

Carl Crompton
Gilkes Energy Ltd
Festival House
177 West George Street
Glasgow
G2 2LB

Your reference: ECU0004731
Our reference: DIO 10059465

Dear Carl,

Kaye Noble
Assistant Safeguarding Manager
Ministry of Defence
Safeguarding Department
St George's House
DIO Headquarters
DMS Whittington
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS14 9PY
Tel: 07815484477
E-mail: DIO-safeguarding-stafford@mod.gov.uk
www.mod.uk/DIO
30 August 2023

MOD Safeguarding – SITE OUTSIDE SAFEGUARDING AREA (SO SA)

Proposal: Section 36 application for a proposed pumped storage hydroelectric scheme of up to 900MW capacity.

Location: Earba Pumped Storage Hydro, Loch Leamhain, Loch Earba

Grid Ref: Easting: Northing:
247141 781699
249450 779893
258358 790013

Thank you for consulting the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the above proposed development which was received by this office on 15th February 2023.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Safeguarding Team represents the Ministry of Defence (MOD) as a consultee in UK planning and energy consenting systems to ensure that development does not compromise or degrade the operation of defence sites such as aerodromes, explosives storage sites, air weapon ranges, and technical sites or training resources such as the Military Low Flying System.

This scoping application is for pumped storage hydroelectric scheme of up to 900mw and consists of, raising the level of water in Loch Earba by 20m with the construction of 2 dams, and raising the level of Loch Leamhain by 65m with the construction of a dam. The two reservoirs would be connected by an underground waterway system. The extraction phase and the erection of the 2 dams is likely to require the use of large-scale construction equipment and machinery. The works will result in significant changes to both topography and water levels within the development boundary.

Low Flying

Fixed Wing military low flying training takes place throughout the United Kingdom down to a height of 250ft above ground level and in certain designated areas down to a height of 100ft above ground level. Both the implementation of the development proposed, and the changes to topography that would result from it, have the capacity to introduce physical obstacles to those low flying aircraft. The use of construction equipment/machinery introduces potentially mobile obstacles which should be fitted with appropriate aviation safety lighting, in addition the projected time required to implement the scheme, the extent of the application site and the variations in ground level, make the use of a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) an appropriate means of alerting pilots to the existence of these obstacles.

Whilst in principle the MOD has no objection to the development proposed, a condition should be applied to any consent that might be issued requiring:

- that a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) has been submitted to and confirmed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for the duration of the construction/implementation period; and
- that provision has been made for the accurate charting of the topography that would result from the implementation of this development.

I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this letter and that MOD will be engaged as the scheme evolves and any further applications are prepared. The MOD should be consulted on any future application for this development.

The MOD must emphasise that the advice provided within this letter is in response to the data and information detailed in the developer's document titled "Scheme Arrangement", "Scoping Main Text" and "Location Plan" dated January 2023. Any variation of the parameters (which include the location, dimensions, form, and finishing materials) detailed may significantly alter how the development relates to MOD safeguarding requirements and cause adverse impacts to safeguarded defence assets or capabilities.

I trust this is clear however should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

K Noble

Kaye Noble
Assistant Safeguarding Manager
DIO safeguarding

The Joint Radio Company

From: JRC Windfarm Coordinations <windfarms@jrc.co.uk>
Sent: 16 February 2023 09:41
To: Econsents Admin
Cc: Wind SSE
Subject: Earba Pumped Storage Hydro - Request for Scoping Opinion [WF831712]

Dear econsents_admin,

A Windfarms Team member has replied to your co-ordination request, reference **WF831712** with the following response:

Dear Sir, Madam

Planning Ref: [ECU00004731](#)

*Thank you for your advisory regarding the **Earba Pumped Storage Hydro**.*

Having reviewed the documentation provided, it appears that there are no significant structures above ground, and no masts or turbines. If this is indeed correct, JRC has no comment to make on this application at this time.

With best wishes

The Windfarm Team.

*Friars House
Manor House Drive
Coventry CV1 2TE
United Kingdom*

Office: 02476 932 185

JRC Ltd. is a Joint Venture between the Energy Networks Association (on behalf of the UK Energy Industries) and National Grid.

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NATS Safeguarding

From: NATS Safeguarding <NATSSafeguarding@nats.co.uk>
Sent: 16 February 2023 13:40
To: Econsents Admin
Subject: RE: Request for Scoping Opinion Earba Pumped Storage Hydro [SG34823]

Our Ref: SG34823

Dear Sir/Madam

The proposed development has been examined from a technical safeguarding aspect and does not conflict with our safeguarding criteria. Accordingly, NATS (En Route) Public Limited Company ("NERL") has no safeguarding objection to the proposal.

However, please be aware that this response applies specifically to the above consultation and only reflects the position of NATS (that is responsible for the management of en route air traffic) based on the information supplied at the time of this application. This letter does not provide any indication of the position of any other party, whether they be an airport, airspace user or otherwise. It remains your responsibility to ensure that all the appropriate consultees are properly consulted.

If any changes are proposed to the information supplied to NATS in regard to this application which become the basis of a revised, amended or further application for approval, then as a statutory consultee NERL requires that it be further consulted on any such changes prior to any planning permission or any consent being granted.

Yours faithfully

NATS

NATS Safeguarding

E: natssafeguarding@nats.co.uk

4000 Parkway, Whiteley,
Fareham, Hants PO15 7FL
www.nats.co.uk

Highlands and Islands Airports

From: Safeguarding <Safeguarding@hial.co.uk>
Sent: 10 March 2023 13:09
To: Econsents Admin
Cc: chris.pasteur@cairneyhill.net
Subject: RE: Request for Scoping Opinion Earba Pumped Storage Hydro

Your Ref: ECU00004731
Our Ref: 2023/165/INV

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposal: REQUEST FOR SCOPING OPINION FOR PROPOSED SECTION 36
Location: APPLICATION FOR EARBA PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO

This proposal is located out-with our safeguarding consultation zone. As such we have no comment to make and need not be consulted further.

Kind regards,

Nyree

Nyree Millar-Bell
Aerodrome Safeguarding and Operational Support Officer
Highlands and Islands Airports Limited
✉ NBell@hial.co.uk 🌐 Visit our Website at www.hial.co.uk

Badenoch Broadband and Communications (CIC)

From: Badenoch Broadband <support@badenochbroadband.freshdesk.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 9:48 AM
To: Gavin McGill <Gavin.McGill@gilkesenergy.com>
Cc: al@badenochbroadband.com; chris.pasteur@cairneyhill.net; David Tomb <David.Tomb@gilkesenergy.com>; support@badenochbroadband.com
Subject: Re: Earba Pumped Storage Scheme - Badenoch Broadband

Hi Gavin,

Ticket: <https://badenochbroadband.freshdesk.com/helpdesk/tickets/1225>

Thank you for your email and Happy New Year to you.

From the information you have provided, I can't see anything that would cause issues with our existing infrastructure. Was there anything specific that you thought might be cause for concern?

Can you tell me what stage the planning application for the project is at and what the timescale is assuming planning has been approved?

You may be interested to know that we do have a theoretical line-of-sight to the north shore of northern lochan and therefore would be able to provide a radio data link into the area (assuming that suitable power could be made available)

We've been steadily upgrading our transmitters around Kinlochlaggan so would have no problems meeting your current and future requirements for data-comms.

Happy to talk on the phone, if you'd like to discuss anything further.

Regards,

Al

Badenoch Broadband Support Team