

Technical Appendix 7.7

Clune Wind Farm

Marine Science Scotland (MSS) Checklist

RES Group



September 2024



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1 Introduction

1.1 Terms of Reference

This Technical Appendix encompasses the Marine Science Scotland (MSS) Checklist (Table 1 and Table 2) in relation to the proposed Clune Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as “the Proposed Development”). The scheme is located on the Clune and Corryborough Estate, on land south of the village of Tomatin, Highland (hereafter referred to as “the Site”).

The MSS Checklist has been completed in compliance with Marine Scotland Science Annex B advice on freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries in relation to onshore wind farm developments (MSS, 2023).

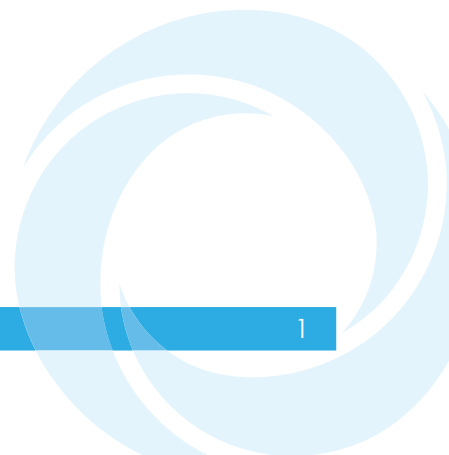


Table 1: MSS – EIA Checklist 1 (as revised by MSS April 2023)

MSS Standard EIA Report Requirements	Provided in application YES/NO	If YES – please signpost to relevant chapter of EIA Report	If not provided or provided different to MSS advice, please set out reasons.
<p>1. A map outlining the proposed development area and the proposed location of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the turbines, • associated crane hard standing areas, • borrow pits, • permanent meteorological masts, • access tracks including watercourse crossings, • all buildings including substation, battery storage; • permanent and temporary construction compounds; • all watercourses; and • contour lines. 	Yes	<p>Yes.</p> <p>EIAR Chapter 1 Figure 1.3 Site Layout shows the Proposed Development area and the proposed location of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the turbines, • associated crane hard standing areas, • borrow pits, • permanent meteorological masts, • access tracks including watercourse crossings, • all buildings including substation, battery storage; • permanent and temporary construction compounds; • all watercourses; and • contour lines. 	
<p>2. A description and results of the site characterization surveys for fish (including fully quantitative electrofishing surveys) and water quality including the location of the electrofishing and fish habitat survey sites and water quality sampling sites on the map outlining the proposed turbines and associated infrastructure. This should be carried out where a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is present and where salmon are a qualifying feature, and in exceptional cases when required in the scoping</p>	Yes	<p>Yes – a full fish habitat suitability survey was undertaken of the Site, see EIAR Chapter 7 Ecology, TA 7.4 Aquatic Habitat Surveys report.</p> <p>Further aquatic fauna surveys are proposed pre-construction, due to the results of the initial fish habitat survey. This will include for water quality, electrofishing, macro-invertebrate sampling and chemical monitoring of the three watercourses with the best quality habitat.</p>	

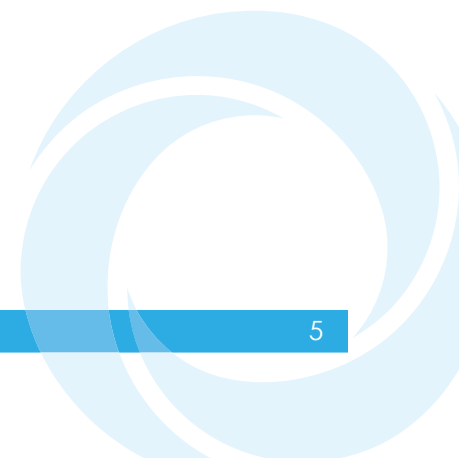
MSS Standard EIA Report Requirements	Provided in application YES/NO	If YES – please signpost to relevant chapter of EIA Report	If not provided or provided different to MSS advice, please set out reasons.
advice for other reasons. In other cases, developers can assume that fish populations are present;			
3. An outline of the potential impacts on fish populations and water quality within and downstream of the proposed development area;	Yes	EIA Chapter 7 Ecology, TA 7.4 Aquatic Habitat Surveys outlines the potential impacts on fish populations and water quality within and downstream of the Site.	
4. Any potential cumulative impacts on the water quality and fish populations associated with adjacent (operational and consented) developments including wind farms, hydro schemes, aquaculture and mining;	Yes	EIA Chapter 7 Ecology, details cumulative potential impacts from other developments on the water quality and fish populations within the Site.	
5. Any proposed site specific mitigation measures as outlined in MSS generic scoping guidelines and the joint publication "Good Practice during Wind Farm Construction" (https://www.nature.scot/guidance-good-practice-during-wind-farm-construction);	Yes	EIA Chapter 7 Ecology, outlines site mitigation measures for aquatic fauna. Further surveys are also proposed, in addition to the initial fish habitat suitability surveys, including water chemistry, fully quantitative electrofishing surveys and macroinvertebrate sampling.	
6. Full details of proposed monitoring programmes using guidelines issued by MSS and accompanied by a map outlining the proposed sampling and control sites in addition to the location of all turbines and associated infrastructure. At least 12 months of baseline pre-construction data should be included. The monitoring programme can be secured using suitable	No		Locations to be confirmed, however, proposed to undertake a full suite of further surveys at least 12 months prior to construction covering water chemistry (12 months sampling/ 3 sites), fully quantitative electrofishing surveys at 3 sites plus a control site), macroinvertebrate sampling.

MSS Standard EIA Report Requirements	Provided in application YES/NO	If YES – please signpost to relevant chapter of EIA Report	If not provided or provided different to MSS advice, please set out reasons.
wording in a condition.			
7. A decommissioning and restoration plan outlining proposed mitigation/monitoring for water quality and fish populations. This can be secured using suitable wording in a condition.	Yes	EIAR Chapter 7 Ecology, outlines site mitigation measures for aquatic fauna during decommissioning and restoration and these measures will be further informed by additional survey work pre-construction outlined above.	

Table 2: MSS Checklist (continued)

Developers should specifically discuss and assess potential impacts and appropriate mitigation measures associated with the following:	Provided in application YES/NO	If YES – please signpost to relevant chapter of EIA Report	If not provided or provided different to MSS advice, please set out reasons.
1. Any designated area (e.g. SAC), for which fish is a qualifying feature, within and/or downstream of the proposed development area;	Yes	There is one designated site relating to fish in proximity to the site. The River Spey Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is approximately 1.66km south-east of the Site boundary and its qualifying interests include Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) and Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>).	
2. The presence of a large density of watercourses;	Yes	EIAR Chapter 9 Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat	
3. The presence of large areas of deep peat deposits;	Yes	EIAR Chapter 9 Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat	

Developers should specifically discuss and assess potential impacts and appropriate mitigation measures associated with the following:	Provided in application YES/NO	If YES – please signpost to relevant chapter of EIA Report	If not provided or provided different to MSS advice, please set out reasons.
4. Known acidification problems and/or other existing pressures on fish populations in the area; and	No		No known acidification problems and/or other existing pressures on fish populations in the area were found during the fish habitat suitability assessment.
5. Proposed felling operations.	No		No felling operations proposed.



2 References

Marine Scotland Science (2023) Annex B advice on freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries in relation to onshore wind farm developments.