

Chapter 6: Sloy Pumped Hydro Storage Scheme: Scoping and Consultation

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6. Scoping and Consultation

6.1. Introduction

The EIA Regulations require that an EIA should describe the likely significant effects of a proposed development on the environment. Scoping of potential likely significant effects, while having regard to the physical impacts of a proposed development, provides a basis for ensuring that the assessment of environmental effects is appropriately limited to issues of genuine potential significance. This ensures a proportionate approach to EIA that is focused on likely significant effects to be considered and assessed. Consultation and engagement with stakeholders early in the process, with advice and input from key consultees being sought at the early stages of a project, helps greatly to inform decisions about the design and the EIA work for a proposed development.

This Chapter describes the pre-application consultation, the Scoping process and further consultation that was undertaken to determine the scope of the EIA Report, and the consultations that were undertaken to inform the local community of the Proposed Development. This Chapter also includes a brief description of the environmental receptors of potential significance associated with the Proposed Development which are addressed in detail in the EIA Report, as well as factors which have been scoped out.

6.2. Public Exhibition

Two public exhibitions were held locally during the Scoping stage on the following dates:

- Three Villages Hall, Arrochar, Tuesday 25 July 2023, 15:00-19:00; and
- Three Villages Hall, Arrochar, Wednesday 1 November 2023, 15:00-19:00.

To ensure early public engagement about the Proposed Development, SSE undertook the following steps:

- Posters were displayed at the Public Exhibition venue, community notice boards and where possible at local amenities during the exhibitions;
- Local stakeholders, including community councils, community groups and elected representatives were contacted by email;
- Adverts were placed in the following:
 - Billboard Digital Display Advertising (Helensburgh Advertiser and Dumbarton and Vale of Leven Reporter) – 15/07/2023 for 11 days and 24/10/2023 for 9 days.
 - Digital Display Advertising (Helensburgh Advertiser and Dumbarton and Vale of Leven Reporter), Double Height MPU, 15/07/2023 for 11 days and 24/10/2023 for 9 days.
 - Facebook Engage Local Boost (Helensburgh Advertiser and Dumbarton and Vale of Leven Reporter), 14/07/2023 for 7 days and 25/10/2023 for 7 days.
 - Facebook Engage Local Post (Helensburgh Advertiser and Dumbarton and Vale of Leven Reporter), 14/07/2023 and 25/10/2023.
 - Helensburgh Advertiser (print edition), 16x4, 20/07/2023 and 26/10/2023 (one insert each time).
- Content was posted on SSE Renewables' social media channels.

A project website is also available for the public to view online which provides the general details of the project (<https://www.sserenewables.com/hydro/sloy-awe/sloy-power-station-redevelopment-plans/>).

6.3. Scoping

A formal request for a Scoping Opinion was made to the Scottish Ministers under Regulation 12 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 in June 2023. A Scoping Report (**Volume 4, Appendix 6.1: Scoping Report**) was submitted to support the request, which sought input from statutory and non-statutory consultees regarding the information to be provided within the EIA report (to accompany a Section 36 application under the Electricity Act 1989).

A Scoping Opinion was provided by the Scottish Ministers on 13 December 2023 (see **Volume 4, Appendix 6.2: Scoping Opinion**), which has been considered in detail during the EIA process. **Volume 4, Appendix 6.3: Scoping Matrix** of this EIA Report includes a matrix detailing the key issues that were raised in the Scoping Opinion and how and where they are addressed in the EIA Report.

6.3.1. KEY SCOPING ISSUES

The Scoping Opinion makes reference to site specific issues of interest to the Scottish Ministers, to be considered and addressed in addition to those laid out in responses from consultees. The issues raised by Scottish Ministers were as follows.

6.3.1.1. EIA Application and Scope

“Scottish Ministers expect the EIA report which will accompany the application for the proposed development to consider in full all consultation responses attached in Annex A.”

“Scottish Ministers are satisfied with the scope of the EIA set out at Chapter 5 of the scoping report.”

A scoping matrix can be found in **Volume 4, Appendix 6.3: Scoping Matrix** of this EIA Report, summarising consultation comments received as part of EIA scoping process. The scoping matrix also describes and, where relevant, identifies where the scoping comments have been addressed within the EIA Report.

6.3.1.2. Drinking Water and Water Assets

On the topic of drinking water and water assets, the Scottish ministers noted that:

“Scottish Water provided information on whether there are any drinking water protected areas or Scottish Water assets on which the development could have any significant effect. Scottish Ministers request that the company contacts Scottish Water... and makes further enquires to confirm whether there any Scottish Water assets which may be affected by the development, and includes details in the EIA report of any relevant mitigation measures to be provided.”

“Scottish Ministers request that the Company investigates the presence of any private water supplies which may be impacted by the development. The EIA report should include details of any supplies identified by this investigation, and if any supplies are identified, the Company should provide an assessment of the potential impacts, risks, and any mitigation which would be provided.”

Scottish Water (SW) was contacted for information on any assets within proximity of the Proposed Development including the Belmore Water Treatment Works (WTW). A combination of desk studies and site survey work have been undertaken to ascertain the presence of any private water supplies which could be impacted by the Proposed Development. **Chapter 11: Soils, Geology and Water Environment** of this EIA Report assesses likely impacts on any assets and / or private water supplies identified and sets out suitable mitigation measures, where required. The scope for a Water Quality Assessment for Loch Sloy and Loch Lomond and a Process Review of Scottish Water's Belmore WTW has been agreed

in principle with Scottish Water. This will enable SSE and SW to understand the water quality of a Lomond / Sloy blend so as to confirm if it would remain within the treatable envelope for Belmore WTW.

6.3.1.3. Fish and Fisheries

On the topic of fish and fisheries, the Scottish ministers noted that:

“MD-SEDD [Marine Directorate-Science, Evidence Data and Digital] provide generic scoping guidelines for onshore wind farm and overhead line development... which outline how fish populations can be impacted during the construction, operation and decommissioning of a wind farm or overhead line development and informs developers as to what should be considered, in relation to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, during an EIA process.”

“In addition to identifying the main watercourses and waterbodies within and downstream of the proposed development area, developers should identify and consider, at this early stage, any areas of Special Areas of Conservation where fish are a qualifying feature and proposed felling operations particularly in acid sensitive areas.”

All relevant guidelines and best practice have been followed when undertaking the aquatic ecology assessment included in **Chapter 8: Aquatic Ecology and Fish** of this EIA Report. Fish are not a qualifying interest of the Loch Lomond Woods Special Areas of Conservation (the nearest SAC to the Proposed Development). Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust and Loch Lomond Angling Improvement Association were contacted for up-to-date information on fish populations. Further details can be found within **Chapter 8: Aquatic Ecology and Fish**.

6.3.1.4. Peat Landslide Management

On the topic of peat landslide management, the Scottish ministers noted that:

“Scottish Ministers consider that where there is a demonstrable requirement for peat landslide hazard and risk assessment (PLHRA), the assessment should be undertaken as part of the EIA process to provide Ministers with a clear understanding of whether the risks are acceptable and capable of being controlled by mitigation measures. The Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments (Second Edition), published at <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/04/8868>, should be followed in the preparation of the EIA report, which should contain such an assessment and details of mitigation measures. Where a PLHRA is not required clear justification for not carrying out such a risk assessment is required.”

A PLHRA has not been included in this EIA Report as no peat rich soils or peat deposits are recorded within the study area. Although some of the trial pits dug in 2010 recorded peat, these are all located in the on ground of shallow relief that was recorded as waterlogged at the time of the site walkover survey. It is considered likely therefore that the trial pit logs record saturated organic soils rather than peat. This is confirmed by published mapping. Further details are included in **Chapter 11: Soils, Geology and Water Environment**, of this EIA Report.

6.3.1.5. Landscape and Visual Impact

On the topic of landscape and visual impact, the Scottish ministers noted that:

“The scoping report identified that a landscape and visual impact assessment will be undertaken for the proposed development to identify any potential landscape and visual effects.”

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been undertaken in accordance with GLVIA3 and is included in **Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment** of this EIA Report. This EIA

Report also includes photomontages from the following Visualisation Locations (VLs), as agreed with Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority (LLTNPA):

- VL1: Inveruglas Car Park Footpath
- VL2: A82, South of Sloy Power Station
- VL3: Inveruglas Visitor Centre Terrace
- VL4: Inversnaid Hotel Car Park, and
- VL5 – Inveruglas Island (wireline only).

6.3.1.6. Noise

On the topic of noise, the Scottish Ministers noted that:

“The noise assessment should be carried out in line with relevant legislation and standards as detailed in Chapter 6 section 6.8 of the scoping report.”

A noise assessment has been conducted in line with relevant legislation and standards as outlined in the Scoping Report and is included in **Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration** of this EIA Report.

6.3.1.7. Further Consultation

On the topic of further consultation, the Scottish ministers noted that:

“Ministers are aware that further engagement is required between parties regarding the refinement of the design of the proposed development regarding, among other things, surveys, management plans, peat, radio links, finalisation of viewpoints, cultural heritage, [and] cumulative assessments and request that they are kept informed of relevant discussions.”

Further consultations have been undertaken with relevant consultees on the noted topics, where required. Scottish Ministers have been copied into, or made aware of, all relevant correspondence. Each technical chapter included in this EIA Report also outlines the consultation responses specific to that discipline, including post-scoping consultations.

6.3.1.8. Mitigation

On the topic of mitigation, the Scottish ministers noted that:

“The Scottish Ministers are required to reach a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the proposed development on the environment as identified in the environmental impact assessment. The mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impacts identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. Applicants are also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures proposed in the environmental assessment, provided in tabular form, where that mitigation is relied upon in relation to reported conclusions of likelihood or significance of impacts.”

Proposed mitigation measures are described towards the end of each technical chapter of this EIA Report, as relevant. All proposed mitigation measures set out throughout the EIA Report are collated within **Volume 4, Appendix 4.3: Schedule of Mitigation**.

6.3.2. FURTHER ENGAGEMENT WITH CONSULTEES FOLLOWING SCOPING OPINION

Stakeholder consultation has been ongoing since the early stages of the project and has continued throughout the scoping and EIA process. Following submission of the Scoping Report, in June 2023, SSE has engaged in further consultation with a number of key stakeholders via email, and also via meetings in

person, on site, or via virtual meetings. **Table 6.1** provides a summary of some of the key meetings and engagement that has been undertaken by SSE with consultees.

Table 6.1: Summary of Further Consultee Engagement

Consultee	Summary of Engagement
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority	<p>A number of meetings were held with the LLTNPA planning team throughout the design process, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initial meeting in person at LLTNPA headquarters to introduce the scheme on 27 April 2023; • A site visit on 18 May 2023 with representatives from the LLTNPA planning and ecology teams to see the site first hand; • A virtual meeting was held on 23 August 2023 to discuss the design concept for the Proposed Development with both LLTNPA and Argyll and Bute Council (A&BC) representatives; • A virtual meeting was held on 7 October 2023 to provide an update for LLTNPA and A&BC on the concept design of the building; • A further virtual meeting was held with LLTNPA on 7 November 2023 to provide an update on the building design and spoil management; and • A site visit including a walkover of the proposed area with representatives from LLTNPA was held on 15 February 2024 to discuss the agreed approaches to be taken forward for the EIA in regard to spoil management and tree removal. The location of Visualisation Location (VL) photomontages was also agreed at this site visit. <p>Other meetings held with the LLTNPA during the design process comprised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting on site with a LLTNPA Board member / Provost of Argyll and Bute Council, on 30 May 2023; and • A meeting on site with the Convenor of LLTNPA board of directors and a LLTNPA Board member on 31 October 2023.
Historic Environment Scotland	<p>Meetings were held with HES to discuss the building design concepts. These comprised an initial virtual meeting held on 13 September 2023 to discuss the concept design of the building, feedback was given and a follow-up virtual meeting took place on 28 September 2023 when the concept was agreed.</p>
SEPA	<p>A virtual meeting to introduce and discuss the project was held with SEPA on 6 July 2023 with a virtual meeting held on 6 March 2024 to discuss fish screen proposals and invasive non-native species transfer risk.</p>
NatureScot	<p>A virtual meeting to introduce and discuss the project was held with NatureScot on 13 July 2023.</p>
Scottish Water	<p>Virtual meetings with Scottish Water (SW) were held on 15 November 2023, 30 January 2024, 24 April 2024, 13 May 2024 and 3 June 2024 to establish Scottish Water's requirements for baseline monitoring and survey methods. The scope for a Water Quality Assessment for Loch Sloy and Loch Lomond and a Process Review of Scottish Water's Belmore Water Treatment Works (WTW) has been</p>

	agreed in principle with Scottish Water. This will enable SSE and SW to understand the water quality of a Lomond / Sloy blend so as to confirm if it would remain within the treatable envelope for Belmore WTW.
Transport Scotland	Virtual meetings were held with Transport Scotland on 22 May 2023 and 12 June 2024.
Friends of Loch Lomond and Arrochar and Tarbet Community Council.	A site visit was hosted on 10 August 2023 for Friends of Loch Lomond and Arrochar and Tarbet Community Council, with regular updates provided via email.
	<p>Further consultation has also been undertaken by email with the following consultees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argyll and Bute Council; • ECU; • Forestry and Land Scotland; • Network Rail • Loch Lomond Angling Improvement Association; • Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust; and • Marine Scotland.

6.4. Gate Check

In accordance with the guidance for gate checking procedures Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989¹, a Gate Check Report was issued to the ECU and key stakeholders in May 2024. The purpose of the Gate Check Report is to outline consultations with statutory and non-statutory consultees, engagement with the local community and how matters raised during the scoping process have been dealt with in the EIA Report. Key stakeholders are invited to comment on the Gate Check Report to ensure they are satisfied with the approach taken within the EIA Report prior to submission of the section 36 application. A copy of the Gate Check Report is provided in **Volume 4, Appendix 6.4**. Consultee responses to the Gate Check report are summarised in **Table 6.2** along with the actions taken to address the comments.

¹Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (Energy Consents Unit, February 2022). [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2022/02/good-practice-guidance-applications-under-sections-36-37-electricity-act-1989/documents/energy-consents-unit-good-practice-guidance-applications-under-section-36-37-electricity-act-1989-february-2022/energy-consents-unit-good-practice-guidance-applications-under-section-36-37-electricity-act-1989-february-2022/govscot%3Adocument/energy-consents-unit-good-practice-guidance-applications-under-section-36-37-electricity-act-1989-february-2022.pdf> [Last accessed 14 June 2024]

Table 6.2: Summary of Gate Check Responses and Actions Taken

Consultee	Summary of Response	Action Taken
SEPA	<p>SEPA reviewed the report and have no concerns with the approach proposed to address our EIA scoping advice (dated 28 July 2023) as set out in Annex 1 Gate Check Matrix (Items SEPA01 – SEPA27). The further detail provided on the design evolution and the description of the potential impact this has had for spoil generation was very useful and SEPA support the early consideration being given to the potential reuse of this material. SEPA welcome that information on the quantities and type of material to be excavated, as well as the reuse strategy, will be included in the EIA Report. SEPA also welcome that Soils, Geology and Water Environment has been scoped into the EIA and note this is to address a number of the matters SEPA raised at EIA scoping.</p> <p>SEPA have no further comments on the proposed assessment at this stage but would welcome the opportunity to comment on draft assessments/ EIA chapters prior to formal consultation if feasible. Otherwise, SEPA will consider our position when formally consulted.</p>	<p>The comments received from SEPA are noted. Further engagement with SEPA has been undertaken prior to submission of the application. This included the provision of information relating to methods for the prevention of transfer of invasive species from Loch Lomond to Loch Sloy.</p>
NatureScot	<p>NatureScot are satisfied with the content of the report, however, consider it prudent to highlight the need to consider protected species surveys and possible mitigation measures for beavers. Beavers have now been recorded within the Loch Lomond basin and as such should be considered in any assessment of impacts.</p>	<p>The comments received from NatureScot are noted. Beavers are considered within Chapter 9: Terrestrial Ecology.</p>
Joint Radio Company	<p>JRC identified a Fixed Link in the close vicinity of this development (0929304/1). JRC noted that they would need to OBJECT in the first instance until sufficient information to perform any necessary analysis to clear the site was received.</p> <p>Following the provision of further information, JRC cleared the proposal subject to 50m Micrositing - with respect to radio link infrastructure operated by the local energy networks. JRC does not foresee any potential problems based on known interference scenarios and the data provided.</p>	<p>Additional information on the Proposed Development including the existing building to the west of the pipeline that were of interest to JRC was provided.</p> <p>The comments received from JRC are noted.</p>
BT Group	<p>BT Group concluded that the project indicated should not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network. BT requires 100m minimum clearance from any structure to the radio link path. If any changes are</p>	<p>The comments received from BT are noted.</p>

	proposed to the information supplied, BT should be informed so that the proposal can be reassessed.	
Ministry of Defence (MOD)	MOD confirmed that, following review of the application documents, the proposed development falls outside of MOD safeguarded areas and does not affect other defence interests. The MOD, therefore, has no objection to the development proposed.	The comments received from MOD are noted.
Argyll Fisheries Trust	AFT confirmed that the scheme is not located within the board's area. However, the existing Sloy Hydroelectric Power Station abstracts water for Allt Uaine, a headwater to the Kinglas Water which flows west into Loch Fyne. AFT have identified that the Kinglas Water is potentially accessible to Atlantic salmon and sea trout. AFT recommend that the abstraction regime currently operating on Allt Uaine should be considered as part of the Proposed Development to improve the habitat in the upper Kinglas Water.	The proposals do not affect operation of the existing Loch Sloy catchments and so are not within the scope of the Proposed Development. Responses submitted that are not within the scope of the Proposed Development have been passed to relevant teams within SSE Renewables for information.

6.5. Issues Scoped Out of Assessment

It is considered that the following topics do not require to be the subject of detailed EIA work as it is considered that they are not likely to give rise to significant effects. They were referred to in the Scoping Report (see **Volume 4, Appendix 6.1**) as topics to be scoped out from further consideration within the EIA Report. There was general agreement amongst consultees as to the proposed scope of the EIA Report, with the exception that Soils, Geology and Water Environment should be included within the scope, as detailed within the Scoping Opinion (see **Volume 4, Appendix 6.2**).

6.5.1. AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Local air quality is a combination of background air quality, representative of general levels of pollution away from busy roads and industrial activity and added emissions from local emission sources such as road traffic. Due to the generally rural nature of the Proposed Development, and sparse distribution of sensitive receptors, impacts of pollution from road traffic and other industrial sources are minimal.

In the context of the EIA process, climate change is considered both in relation to the contribution of the Proposed Development to increasing or decreasing gaseous emissions with global warming potential (GWP), and in relation to climate change adaptation.

Emissions associated with the Proposed Development would be limited to temporary and short-term emissions of exhaust gases from vehicles and construction plant. Neither source is considered likely to be significant in terms of GWP.

In terms of climate adaptation, consideration would be given to the potential implications of climate change on design of infrastructure (e.g. design for increased flood risk); however, no potential for significant impacts have been identified.

The Proposed Development has limited potential to impact upon air quality. It may potentially give rise to some localised and temporary construction related releases associated with dust and construction traffic exhaust emissions. However, the nature of construction activities means these would be localised, short term and intermittent. Potential effects would be further minimised through the implementation of mitigation measures, in particular the project CEMP (see **Volume 4, Appendix 4.2: Outline CEMP**).

The Proposed Development would contribute towards displacing emissions associated with fossil fuel-based electricity generation sources. As such this issue is scoped out the EIA and no assessment of air quality and climate change is included as part of this EIA Report.

6.5.2. FORESTRY

There are no areas of commercial forestry within the Proposed Development Area (PDA). No significant effect on commercial forestry is anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development. Therefore, Forestry has been scoped out of this EIA.

6.5.3. HUMAN HEALTH

Potential effects relating to population and human health could arise from traffic, noise and / or vibration effects, visual effects or impacts to air and / or private water supplies during construction and operation. As stated in **Section 6.4.1** of this chapter it is not anticipated that there would be any likely significant effects in relation to air quality as a result of the construction or operation of the Proposed Development and it is therefore scoped out. Other topics relating to potential effects to population and human health are addressed in the following chapters of the EIA Report:

Private Water Supplies – See **Chapter 11: Soils, Geology and Water Environment**;

Visual Effects – See **Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment**;

Traffic – See **Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport**; and

Noise and Vibration – See **Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration**.

As potential effects on human health that are relevant to the Proposed Development are covered in the relevant chapters of the EIA Report, a separate assessment on Population and Human Health is not included in the EIA Report.

6.5.4. MAJOR ACCIDENTS AND DISASTERS

Flood risk in the event of a dam failing would be the biggest risk of major accident and / or disaster associated with the Proposed Development. However, design and management of the Proposed Development would be required to comply with the Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011², following grant of consent and as such is scoped out of the EIA Report. Other potential flood risk impacts are considered in **Chapter 11: Soils, Geology and Water Environment** of this EIA Report.

Other potentially significant effects which can arise in relation to accidents and disasters from developments of this type include severe weather events and structural damage, as well as the potential for risks during the construction phase. The Proposed Development is not in a location which is susceptible to natural disasters or extreme weather.

² Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/9/contents>

Given the nature of the Proposed Development and its location, the risk of any other type of major accident and / or disaster is considered to be extremely low. Furthermore, the Principal Designer would need to fully assess risks and mitigate as appropriate during the design stage as part of the requirements of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (2015). The Proposed Development would be constructed in accordance with relevant health and safety legislation including the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

During the operational stage of the Proposed Development, routine maintenance inspections would be completed in order to ensure compliant operation of the Proposed Development.

No further assessment of the risk of major accidents and / or disasters is therefore included in this EIA Report.

6.5.5. SOCIO-ECONOMIC

SSE is a major employer throughout the UK, particularly in Scotland, and provides direct employment through the development, construction, and operation of generation infrastructure projects.

SSE Renewables has a long-standing, demonstrable commitment to sharing socio-economic value with its communities.³ The delivery of a major programme of capital investment provides the opportunity to share socio-economic benefits with local communities and the wider region, thereby also maximising the support of local communities.

The projected socio-economic effects of the Proposed Development would take the form of a short-term effect during development and construction through employment (supporting approximately 70 FTE jobs at the peak of construction), spending of employees within the local and surrounding area, and purchase of materials and services. Sloy Hydroelectric Power Station currently employs approximately 40 FTE and it is anticipated that the existing staff would be trained to maintain the new pumped storage facility, helping to broaden operational experience and provide skills development for existing staff. The project would also support apprenticeships and traineeships as well as local and Scottish supply chain initiatives. This would help to maintain and enhance jobs and leave a lasting legacy in the area as well as supporting the renewables sector as a whole.

It is considered that the effects on socio-economics resulting from the Proposed Development are largely positive with no residual effects which would be considered significant within the context of the EIA Regulations and therefore a separate socio-economic assessment has been scoped out of this EIA Report.

6.6. Other Issues

The 2017 EIA Regulations introduced several factors to be considered within an EIA Report; specifically, those factors listed under Regulations 4(3) and 4(4), and Schedule 4. **Table 6.3** describes how this EIA Report has addressed these factors.

³ For further information, please see our SSE Renewables Sustainability Report (2024): sserenewables.com/media/0wpjybhb/sser-sustainability-2024.pdf; SSE Renewables Community Investment Review (2024); [2024-community-investment-review_final.pdf](https://sserenewables.com/media/0wpjybhb/sser-community-investment-review-final.pdf)

Table 6.3: Assessment of Factors Identified in Regulations 4(3), 4(4) and Schedule 4

Topic	Potential for Significant Effects
Population and Human Health	<p>Potential effects relating to population and human health have potential to arise from EMF, EMI, air quality, noise and / or vibration effects. Such effects are deemed to be not significant and are scoped out of detailed assessment, as discussed within this Chapter.</p> <p>Potential effects relating to population and human health are considered within the relevant Chapters of this EIA Report, as follows:</p> <p>Private Water Supplies – See Chapter 11: Soils, Geology and Water Environment;</p> <p>Visual Effects – See Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment;</p> <p>Traffic – See Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport; and</p> <p>Noise and Vibration – See Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration.</p>
Biodiversity (species and habitats protected under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora)	<p>The requirement to consider effects on biodiversity is addressed in Chapter 8: Aquatic Ecology and Fish, Chapter 9: Terrestrial Ecology and Chapter 10: Ornithology of this EIA Report.</p>
Land and Soil (and natural resources availability)	<p>Potential effects on geological receptors, peat and groundwater resources are considered in Chapter 11: Soils, Geology and Water Environment of this EIA Report.</p>
Water (and natural resource availability)	<p>The potential effects on the water environment are considered in Chapter 11: Soils, Geology and Water Environment of this EIA Report.</p>
Air and Climate	<p>This Chapter considers potential effects on air and climate under Section 6.4 - Issues Scoped Out of Assessment.</p>
Material Assets, Cultural Heritage	<p>Chapter 15: Cultural Heritage includes an assessment of the potential for significant effects on cultural heritage including archaeological assets and listed buildings.</p> <p>Potential effects on recreational facilities are considered in Chapter 16: Recreation of this EIA Report.</p>

Landscape	Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment considers the potential effects of the Proposed Development on landscape.
Major Accidents and Disasters	Potential effects relating to major accidents and disasters, as discussed under Section 6.4.4 of this Chapter, have been scoped out of further assessment in this EIA Report.
Interaction Between Factors (cumulative effects)	The approach to cumulative effects is outlined within Chapter 5: EIA Process and Methodology of this EIA Report and is considered within each of the technical chapters (Chapters 9-16) where appropriate.