GB Wind Farm Ltd.

# Giant's Burn Wind Farm EIA

## Marine Scotland Science - EIA Checklist

**Final report**
Prepared by LUC
July 2025

**GB Wind Farm Ltd.**

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## Marine Scotland Science - EIA Checklist

**Project Number**
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# Contents

# Chapter 1
# Marine Scotland Science – EIA Checklist

**Marine Scotland Science Advice on Freshwater and Diadromous Fish and Fisheries in Relation to Onshore Wind Farm Developments.**

**July 2020, Updated 2022**

**MSS – EIA Checklist**

**1.1** The generic scoping guidelines should ensure that all matters relevant to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries have been addressed and presented in the appropriate chapters of the EIA report. Use of the checklist below should ensure that the EIA report contains the following information; **the absence of such information may necessitate requesting additional information** which could delay the process.

| MSS Standard EIA Report Requirements | Provided in Application (YES/NO) | If YES – please signpost to relevant chapter of the EIA Report | If not provided or not what MSS has asked for, please set out justification | ECU/MSS use |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. A map outlining the proposed development area and the proposed location of:<br>■ the turbines;<br>■ associated crane hard standing areas;<br>■ borrow pits;<br>■ permanent meteorologic masts;<br>■ access tracks including watercourse crossings;<br>■ all buildings including | Yes | Figure 3.1: Site Layout. Details are included within Chapter 3: Description of Proposed Development. | | |

| MSS Standard EIA Report Requirements | Provided in Application (YES/NO) | If YES – please signpost to relevant chapter of the EIA Report | If not provided or not what MSS has asked for, please set out justification | ECU/MSS use |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| substation, battery storage;<br>■ permanent and temporary construction compounds;<br>■ all watercourses; and<br>■ contour lines; | | | | |
| 2. A description and results of the site characterisation 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; | No | | Fish scoped out from the assessment. See Chapter 6: Ecology | |
| 3. An outline of the potential impacts on fish populations and water quality within and downstream of the proposed development area; | No | | Fish scoped out from the assessment. See Chapter 6: Ecology | |
| 4. Any potential cumulative impacts on the water quality and fish populations associated with adjacent | | | Fish scoped out from the assessment. See Chapter 6: Ecology | |

| MSS Standard EIA Report Requirements | Provided in Application (YES/NO) | If YES – please signpost to relevant chapter of the EIA Report | If not provided or not what MSS has asked for, please set out justification | ECU/MSS use |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (operational and consented) developments including wind farms, hydro schemes, aquaculture and mining; | | | | |
| **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); | | | Fish scoped out from assessment. See Chapter 6: Ecology.<br><br>No site-specific measures proposed. Standard good practice measures to protect the water environment will be implemented, including both good design measures (e.g. 50 m watercourse buffer where possible) and standard construction controls.<br><br>Pre-construction fish habitat surveys will ensure watercourse crossings are microsited and habitat features retained or reinstated as necessary.<br><br>An Ecological Clerk of Works will supervise the construction of crossings, and post-construction fish habitat surveys and monitoring will be undertaken. | |
| **6.** Full details of proposed monitoring programmes using guidelines issued by MSS and accompanied by a map outlining the proposed sampling and | | | Fish scoped out from assessment. See Chapter 6 and details provided above. | |

| MSS Standard EIA Report Requirements | Provided in Application (YES/NO) | If YES – please signpost to relevant chapter of the EIA Report | If not provided or not what MSS has asked for, please set out justification | ECU/MSS use |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| control sites in addition to the location of all turbines and associated infrastructure (see wording suggested by MSS for planning conditions). | | | | |
| 7. A decommissioning and restoration plan outlining proposed mitigation/monitoring for water quality and fish populations. | No | | An assessment of effects during the decommissioning phase has not been undertaken in the EIA as the baseline against which to assess likely significant decommissioning effects is not known.<br>However, a method statement will be prepared and agreed with the relevant statutory consultees prior to decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and it is anticipated that any effects associated with decommissioning will be similar to or less than those associated with construction. | |

| 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. | ECU/MSS use |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8. Any designated area (i.e. SAC), for which fish is a qualifying feature, within and/or downstream of | | | No designated area for which fish is a qualifying feature. | |

| 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. | ECU/MSS use |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| the proposed development area; | | | | |
| **9.** The presence of a large density of watercourses; | Yes | Chapter 8 details the assessment of impacts on hydrology, and measures implemented to protect hydrological interests.<br>Chapter 6 details standard design and mitigation measures implemented to protect aquatic ecological features. | | |
| **10.** The presence of large areas of deep peat deposits; | Yes | See Chapter 8. | | |
| **11.** Known acidification problems and/or other existing pressures on fish populations in the area; and | No | Fish scoped out from assessment. | | |
| **12.** Proposed felling operations. | Yes | See Appendix 12.3: Felling Plan. | | |