

FEARNA STORAGE

Fearna Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme EIA Report

Appendix 1.1 – EIA Specialist Team

February 2025



Quality Information

Prepared by

Chris Pasteur

Checked by

Fraser Allison

Approved by

Fraser Allison

Revision History

Revision

01

Revision Date

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Details

Issue to ECU

Authorised

Fraser Allison

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The Developer	
Fraser Allison Gilkes Energy Ltd	Fraser Allison, M.Eng. C.Eng. MICE, is a Project Director with Gilkes Energy. He has 20 years' experience in project development, design, construction and operations, primarily in the energy sector. Having been involved in Hydropower since 2012, he has worked on a multitude of projects of varying scale, from sub-5MW up to pumped storage projects in the GW range. Fraser is currently heavily involved in the development of Gilkes Energy's pumped storage projects and is focused on project development, preliminary engineering, E&M interfaces, procurement and grid connections.
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 Project Director 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 Gilkes Energy 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 1,800MW 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).

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.
Architecture	
Peter McLaughlan HLM Architects	Peter McLaughlan BArch, Dip Arch, MArch is a qualified Architect with over 25 years of experience across a number of different sectors and a range of projects of various scales and complexities. This has recently included the design of a new hydro facility at Loch Earba alongside Gilkes Energy.
Steven Leask HLM Architects	Steven Leask BSc (Hons), MArch is a qualified Architect graduating from the University of Strathclyde in 2015 where his Master's degree focused on sustainability and renewable energy. Since then, he has gained experience across a wide range of sectors and was also involved in the design of a new hydro facility at Loch Earba.
Terrestrial Ecology	
Steven Duncan EnviroCentre	Steven Duncan, BSc (Hons), is a Lead Senior Ecologist with EnviroCentre Limited and an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Steven has over nine years of experience in ecological consultancy, with a primary focus on surveying protected fauna, flora, and habitats within the Scottish uplands.
Luigi Cristofaro EnviroCentre	Luigi Cristofaro, BSc (Hons), MSc, is a Consultant Ecologist with EnviroCentre Limited and a Qualifying Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). With nearly two years of experience in ecological consultancy, Luigi has collaborated with the British Dragonfly Society on Odonata monitoring surveys and is the primary author of an academic paper on the northern emerald dragonfly (<i>Somatochlora arctica</i>) in Scotland.
Billy Brook EnviroCentre	Billy Brook, MSci, is a Consultant Ecologist with EnviroCentre Limited. Billy has three years of experience in ecological consultancy and NGO research, with a primary focus on ornithology, as well as wider protected fauna, flora, and habitat surveys within the Scottish uplands.
Lydia Cocks EnviroCentre	Lydia Cocks, BSc (Hons), MRes, is an entomologist with expertise in the identification of Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Neuroptera, and Lepidoptera, alongside extensive experience identifying a wide range of invertebrate orders across diverse habitats in the UK. Lydia has expertise in upland habitats, having conducted research into Pine-associated invertebrate assemblages as part of her academic work.
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, BSc (Hons), is a senior environmental consultant with ADL nature and an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Colin has 10 years of experience in Environmental advisory roles and habitat assessment surveys for upland estates. The last eight years has seen him work extensively on Peatland restoration projects across the Highlands and the most relevant recent role was as peatland advisor on the Earba PSH project on Ardverikie estate.
Forestry	
Gary Servant Upland Forestry Ltd	Gary Servant (BSc Hons) has been involved in the UK forestry and ecology sector since 1998 with a particular focus on native woodlands in Scotland. He has delivered over 520 contracts for a wide variety of clients. The Upland Forestry and Upland Ecology team specialises in Scotland's Atlantic rainforests and native Caledonian pine forests, in PAWS and ancient woodland restoration, and in surveying and monitoring upland habitats. Their work includes tree surveys for development projects as well as site suitability for native woodland expansion and woodland creation, monitoring deer impacts on upland habitats, peatland restoration, and preparing forest plans and woodland management plans with a focus on nature restoration, rural development and community involvement.
Stuart Hood Upland Forestry Ltd	Stuart Hood has been working with Upland Forestry Ltd regularly for the last 10 years on a variety of projects in the forestry, ecology and land management sectors. He has detailed knowledge and practical experience of various field survey methodologies including tree surveys, PAWS and woodland vegetation surveys, Herbivore Impact Assessment surveys, peat depth surveys and peatland condition assessment surveys.
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	
Colin Adams University of Glasgow	Colin Adams holds the Chair of Freshwater Ecology at the University of Glasgow. He has 35 years of research experience mostly using fish to address questions on the evolution of diversity and migration. He has worked on rare freshwater fish in UK and has a particular interest in Arctic charr.
Matt Askin Gavia Environmental Ltd	Matt, BSc (Hons) Geosciences, FGS, CSci, SoBRA has 20 years experience working with environmental planning and consenting for energy generation and infrastructure projects. Matt's principal specialisms lie in the geological and environmental sciences, with particular expertise in the design and interpretation of continuous monitoring of long-term physical sciences datasets.
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, 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
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.
Transport	
Gordon Buchan Pell Frischmann	Gordon Buchan BEng (Hons), MSC, CMILT, FCIHT, Sector Director for Energy at Pell Frischmann. Gordon has over 27 years' experience of undertaking the transport assessments associated with new developments and has worked on renewable energy, energy distribution and pumped hydro scheme projects across the UK, Ireland and Northern Europe.
Stephen Cochrane	Stephen Cochrane BSc (Hons), CMILT, MCIHT, an Associate Director within the Traffic and Transport team at Pell Frischmann. Stephen has over 21 years' experience in the traffic and transportation industry and over 16 years' experience in the production of EIA transport Chapters (and associated studies) for onshore wind farms, energy generation, energy distribution and pumped hydro scheme projects in Scotland and the rest of the UK.
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 (MA, BA, MIED, EDAS) has over 25 years' economic development consultancy experience managing a variety of economic initiatives, including advising on appraisal, business planning, delivery and implementation, evaluation and impact assessment. This has included the socio-economic, tourism and recreation assessment of a wide range of renewable energy developments across Scotland, Wales and England. Mark has been an expert witness at Public Inquiries, including the Scottish Land Court Inquiry and Judicial Review of a new Space Hub in Sutherland. MKA Economics has been retained on SSE's Environmental Service Economic Impact Framework since 2021. Mark has completed more than 50 socio-economic assessments of renewable energy projects since completing one of the first socio-economic assessments of Lewis Wind Power in 2001.