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Appendices (Volume 4 of this EIA Report)

There are no appendices associated with this Chapter.

Figures (Volume 3 of this EIA Report)

2. THE EIA TEAM

2.1 EIA Quality

2.1.1 In accordance with Regulation 5(5) of the EIA Regulations, by appointing Land Use Consultants (LUC) to coordinate the EIA Report for the Proposed Development, the Applicant has ensured that the EIA Report has been prepared by competent experts. The EIA Report has been compiled and approved by professional EIA practitioners at LUC, holding relevant undergraduate and post-graduate degrees, and membership of the Institute of Environment Management and Assessment (IEMA).

2.2 IEMA Quality Mark

2.2.1 The EIA Report meets the requirements of the IEMA EIA Quality Mark scheme. This is a voluntary scheme operated by IEMA that allows organisations to make a commitment to excellence in EIA and to have this commitment independently reviewed on an annual basis.

2.3 EIA Teams and Competencies.

2.3.1 In addition, the Applicant and LUC can confirm that each of the topic-based impact assessment chapters has been prepared by competent experts, with the details provided in **Table 2.1: Competent Expert Information** of the relevant qualifications, any professional membership of the authors and any applicable code of practice followed in their assessment work. The following summary is provided of the specialist consultants appointed by the Applicant for this EIA Report:

- EIA Co-ordination: LUC
- Landscape and Visual: LUC
- Cultural Heritage: CFA Archaeology Ltd
- Ecology: LUC
- Ornithology: LUC
- Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils: Kaya Consulting Ltd
- Traffic and Transport: Pell Frischmann
- Noise and Vibration: Wood Plc

Table 2.1: Competent Expert Information

Person	Role	Chapter	Expertise	Qualifications
Hywel Roberts LUC	EIA Project Director	Chapter 1 Introduction and Background Chapter 2 The EIA Report Chapter 3 Description of the Proposed Development Chapter 4 Consideration of Alternatives	Hywel Roberts holds a BSc with honours in Environmental Science and is a member of the Institute of Environmental Management and a Chartered Environmentalist. He has 25 years of experience in the delivery of planning permission and development consent for a range of infrastructure developments across the British Isles. Hywel has led and managed on all stages of the environmental assessment process for the development of multi-disciplinary projects and has acted as an expert witness on a number of occasions for both public and private sector clients.	BSc (Hons) CEnv, MIEMA
Andrew Kenny ERM	EIA Project Manager	Chapter 5 EIA Process and Methodology Chapter 6 Scope and Consultation Chapter 14 Cumulative Effects Assessment Chapter 15 Schedule of Mitigation	Andrew Kenny is a Managing Consultant with 10 years' experience in environmental planning, project management and coordination of Environmental Impact Assessments. Andy is a member of the Chartered Institute for Water and Environmental Management. In his career, Andy has secured planning permission across a variety of public and private sector work. Andy's experience extends to renewables, energy transmission and storage, flood alleviation, rail, highways, residential and commercial use as well as extractive industries. Andy's background in terrestrial ecology complements and enhances his EIA coordination.	BSc (Hons)
Markus Naerheim LUC	EIA Project Manager		Markus Naerheim is an Associate Environmental Planner with 20 years' experience managing and delivering environmental impact assessment (EIA) consenting services. Varied public and private sector management, technical and advisory roles underpin his understanding of legislation, policy/strategy and contemporary best practice in EIA. Markus has led and managed a variety of projects from tendering to consenting, including renewables, energy transmission and storage, and residential, commercial and industrial development, both internationally and in the UK. Markus's experience as a town planner complements and enhances his EIA practice.	MA
Nathan Powell LUC	EIA Assistant Project Manager		Nathan Powell is a Consultant Environmental Planner who has recently joined LUC at the beginning of 2024. Previously, Nathan graduated with an Upper Second-Class Honours Degree in Environmental Management, learning the process of Environmental Assessment among other topics, such as GIS and Renewable Technologies. While studying, Nathan worked at Mott Macdonald, using his GIS skills to assist in mapping routes for railway infrastructure and river erosion and supporting colleagues in the preparation and drafting of varying environmental reports. Since joining LUC, Nathan has worked on different national infrastructure projects, assisting with land access for surveyors and providing support in reporting preparation and liaison with technical leads, Nathan has also worked on varying renewable developments including creating EIARs for Onshore Wind projects.	BSc (Hons) Grad IEMA
Georgie Evans LUC	EIA Project Administrator	All Chapters	Georgie provides specialist EIA administrative support and has been involved in coordination of S36 online submissions, printing and advertisement arrangements for a large number of wind farm projects in Scotland.	

Person	Role	Chapter	Expertise	Qualifications
Paul Macrae LUC		Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual Impacts	Paul Macrae is Director of Landscape Planning and Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute with twenty years of experience in a range of landscape planning and assessment projects. He has been involved in a number of landscape-led grid connection routing studies, carrying out route selection and corridor appraisal processes, based on an understanding of the landscape and visual environment. His work on previous grid connection projects has also involved identifying and prioritising mitigation for existing overhead lines. Paul also has extensive experience in managing or directing LVIAs for a wide range of developments including grid connection, renewable energy developments and major infrastructure projects.	MA (Hons) CMLI
Erin Hynes LUC			Erin Hynes is Principal Planner and Landscape Planner with over six years of experience. She has a wide range of experience working across landscape planning and environmental planning, with key skills in LVIA for a range of energy developments including grid infrastructure developments. She is also experienced in feasibility studies and providing design advice, residential visual amenity assessments and supporting on evidence preparation for Public Inquiries. This has given Erin an understanding of the assessment process from screening and scoping stages through to post-planning submission.	BSc (Hons) MSc MRTPI
Fiona Pennycook LUC			Fiona Pennycook is a Senior Landscape Architect and Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute with over five years of landscape planning experience. Her experience includes feasibility, design advice and LVIA work for a number of energy projects across Scotland, including wind farm, grid connection and solar development. As such, Fiona has a good understanding of potential landscape and visual issues associated with different types of energy development, as well as experience in landscape mitigation design. She also has experience in field survey and undertaking landscape photography in accordance with current guidance and standards.	MA (Hons) MLA CMLI
Mhairi Hastie CFA Archaeology Ltd	Cultural Heritage Manager	Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	Mhairi Hastie is a Senior Consultant Archaeologist with 25 years post-graduate experience in commercial archaeology and over 18 years' experience of producing Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for renewable energy developments, and for other industrial and commercial developments. She has been the lead archaeologist for many major overhead line upgrade projects, carrying out the baseline research, leading the large-scale field survey, and preparing the Cultural Heritage EIARs. She has provided detailed cultural heritage advice at all stages, including route selection, corridor appraisal and substation site selection.	BSc (Hons) MSc MCIfA
Jack Litchfield CFA Archaeology Ltd	Cultural Heritage Author		Jack Litchfield is a Consultant Archaeologist with several years post-graduate experience in cultural heritage and historical studies. Jack has experience in producing historical background research reports, cultural heritage desk-based assessments, and contributing to Environmental Impact Assessments. Jack has worked on a range of large-scale development projects, including those associated with renewable energy, national infrastructure, and housing development across the UK. This work has been undertaken for a range of private and public sector clients, including the Environment Agency, Scottish Water, and Highways England.	BA (Hons) MA PhD ACIfA

Person	Role	Chapter	Expertise	Qualifications
Steve Jackston-Matthews LUC	Ecology Director	Chapter 9 Ecology	The Ecological Impact Assessment has been reviewed and overseen by Steve Jackson-Matthews the Board Director for Ecology at LUC. Steve has 20 years of experience in ecological impact assessments for a wide range of projects including overhead lines, wind farms, and many other development projects across the UK. Steve has also provided expert witness evidence at Public Local Inquiries.	CEnv MCIEEM MEECW
Anna Dennis LUC	Ecology Project Manager	Chapter 9 Ecology	The Ecological Impact Assessment has been checked and overseen by Anna Dennis, an Associate Ecologist with 10 years' experience in ecological survey and assessment. During this time, she has worked on a wide variety of projects across Scotland including renewable energy projects, overhead lines, cable routes, major infrastructure, quarries and mines, residential developments and conservation projects. Anna is an experienced ecology field surveyor with a particular focus on habitats and plants, as well as a range of protected species. Anna has led the ecological input for a broad range of projects, and routinely manages EclA projects, providing detailed ecological advice at all stages.	BA (Hons) MSc ACIEEM
Lorna Hutchison LUC	Ecology Chapter Author		The Ecological Impact Assessment has been authored by Lorna Hutchison, a Senior Ecologist with 7 years' experience in ecological survey and assessment. Lorna has conducted surveys and written several Ecological Impact Assessments for developments across the UK.	BSc (Hons) MSc ACIEEM
Rocio Martinez-Cillero LUC	Biodiversity Net Gain specialist		Dr Rocio Martinez-Cillero is a Senior Ecologist specialising in Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), with a PhD in Sustainability and extensive experience in developing strategic BNG frameworks for infrastructure projects. As part of LUC's ecology team, Rocio applies data-driven approaches to optimise BNG outcomes, focusing on habitat connectivity, ecological enhancement, and compliance with environmental regulations. For the SSEN Transmission Tealing to Kintore 400 kV project, Rocio led a GIS-based BNG optioneering assessment for the overhead line and piloted SSEN Transmission's proprietary BNG calculation tool for two electricity substations, streamlining the process for accurate biodiversity assessments. Additionally, she contributed to the development of high-level ecological principles to ensure effective BNG unit delivery, emphasising ecological relevance in project design. Beyond infrastructure, Rocio has applied BNG methodologies across southern England, including matrix-based assessments to prioritise land for BNG implementation. With expertise in Defra's BNG metric and English BNG policy, she routinely works with the statutory BNG metric, ensuring compliance with national guidelines while enhancing biodiversity at a landscape scale.	PhD
Jonathan Daisley LUC	Ornithology Chapter Author	Chapter 10 Ornithology	The Ecological Impact Assessment has been authored by Jonathan Daisley, a Principal Ecologist with 15 years' experience in ecological survey and assessment with a particular specialism in ornithology. He has worked in renewable projects, including wind farms, OHLs and hydro-schemes, as well as associated infrastructure and has provided EIA input as well as surveying.	PhD BSc (Hons) ACIEEM

Person	Role	Chapter	Expertise	Qualifications
Sally Stewart Kaya Consulting	Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils Project Manager	Chapter 11 Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	Dr Sally Stewart has over 22 years' experience in hydrology, geomorphology and environmental impact assessment. She has extensive experience of undertaking EIA for onshore wind farms as well as for housing, mixed use and linear development projects such as OHLs and roads.	BSc, MSc, PhD MCIWEM C.WEM
Cairns Harrison Kaya Consulting	Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils Chapter Author		Cairns Harrison is an Environmental Consultant and Hydrologist with 4 years' experience working on EIA hydrology, hydrogeology and peat surveys and assessments on numerous sites across Scotland, with specialisation in groundwater assessments. He has experience working on a range of renewable projects including wind farms, solar farms, BESS and OHLs and their associated infrastructure. Kaya also focuses on flood risk assessments and Cairns has worked on extensive hydrological modelling and flood risk assessments/flood management across the UK and Ireland.	BSc, MSc
Gordon Buchan Pell Frischmann		Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport	The transport and access impact assessment has been undertaken by Pell Frischmann and overseen by Gordon Buchan, Sector Director for Energy. Gordon has over 27 years' experience in energy projects across the UK, Ireland and Northern Europe, including providing expert witness evidence at a number of Public Local Inquiries	BEng (Hons), MSc, CEng, FCIHT, CMILT
Harry Matthews Wood Plc	Noise and Vibration Specialist – Chapter Author	Chapter 13 Noise and Vibration	Harry Matthews is a Senior Noise Consultant with 8 years' experience and an Associate Member of the Institute of Acoustics (AMIOA). Harry is a specialist in the environmental noise impacts of electrical infrastructure projects including substation, overhead line, and renewables projects. Experience includes conducting noise impact assessments, noise modelling and prediction for inclusion within the EIA process while implementing standards and guidance including ETSU-R97 and IOA Good Practice Guides, BS4142, BS5228. In addition, Harry has extensive experience in specialist noise and vibration measurements and surveying, including the specification of noise control measures.	BSc (Hons), Diploma in Acoustics and Noise Control (IOA)
Eric Donnelly Wood Plc	Noise and Vibration Specialist – Chapter Review		Eric Donnelly is a noise and vibration specialist with 26 years' experience of the noise and vibration impacts associated with power & energy and a Member of the Institute of Acoustics (MIOA). As a technical lead, Eric has delivered specialist input for a variety of power and energy projects in the UK and around the world. Eric manages the resourcing, and quality of technical outputs.	BEng (Hons)