Nadara

The Repowered and Extended Ben Aketil Wind Farm

Volume 1: Additional Information Summary

663617

14 MARCH 2025

RSK GENERAL NOTES

Project No.: G/663617/09/04/12/02 Rev01

Title: The Repowered and Extended Ben Aketil Wind Farm
Volume 1: Additional Information Summary

Client: Nadara (formerly Renantis UK Limited)

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Date:	14/03/2025

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 The application made by Renantis UK Limited (the Applicant), for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate the proposed Repowered and Extended Ben Aketil Wind Farm (the Proposed Development), is now being pursued through the Public Inquiry process by the Applicant under the trading name of Nadara. This follows an internal restructure and rebrand of the Applicant, which has resulted in the new trading name of Nadara. The Proposed Development is located on the Isle of Skye, east of Dunvegan at central grid reference: NG318475.

1.1.2 The Applicant is seeking consent to repower the existing Ben Aketil Wind Farm and to add an extension. The Proposed Development would comprise up to nine wind turbines, with a maximum height of up to 200 m to blade tip, as well as a battery energy storage facility. The individual turbine generating capacity is anticipated to be up to 6.6 Megawatts (MW), with the total installed capacity for the development in excess of 50 MW.

1.2 Background to the Additional Information Summary

1.2.1 This document contains a summary of the Additional Information (AI) that is being submitted in respect of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), which was presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) for the Proposed Development. For the reasons explained above, the AI is being submitted in the name of Nadara. The purpose of the AI is to address in a collated manner the points made and concerns raised by the consultation bodies (identified in paragraph 1.3.1 below), regarding the LVIA for the Proposed Development. Specifically it provides an updated Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (CLVIA). The updated and finalised principal components and ancillary development are also summarised in paragraph 2.2.3 of this document below. Information in relation to the principal components and ancillary development, such as technical specifications and schematic drawings, can be found in the EIA Report.

1.3 Structure of Additional Information

1.3.1 This AI submission contains information addressing the objection from The Highland Council (the Council) and consultation response from NatureScot in response to the Section 36 Application for consent for the Proposed Development. The AI comprises two separate volumes:

- **Volume 1**: Additional Information Summary (this document); and
- **Volume 2**: Updated Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.

1.3.2 While **Volume 1** provides a summary of the AI documentation, **Volume 2** contains additional information to the EIA Report, submitted in response to comments received by the Council and NatureScot. In addition, **Volume 2** provides information to enable the landscape and visual effects of reducing the maximum turbine tip height from 200 m to 180 m to be understood, and an update to the cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment (CLVIA) submitted in respect of the Proposed Development.

1.3.3 **Volume 2** is supported by a set of Figures and Visualisations (using the NatureScot's and the Council's format and guidance), which are presented in **Volumes 2b**, **2c** and **2d** accordingly.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Existing Environment

Above: Photograph of the existing Ben Aketil Wind Farm

2.1.1 The existing Ben Aketil Wind Farm is located north-west of the peak of Ben Aketil within the north western part of the Isle of Skye in the Highland Council area. Access is currently gained via a track running southwards through forestry from the A850 in the north. The Site location is illustrated on **Figure 1**.

2.1.2 The Site sits within undulating upland moorland, gently sloping downwards from northeast to south-west. The elevations of the Site range from 20 m above sea level near the crossing of the A863 over the Caroy River, to the peak of Ben Aketil at 266 m. The Site is approximately 1043 ha in size.

2.1.3 As well as being used for the generation of renewable energy, the Site is currently utilised by crofters, predominantly for sheep grazing. Surrounding land uses include upland grazing, commercial forestry and wind energy generation.

2.1.4 The Site is relatively remote, with the closest residences being crofters' cottages located near, but outside of, the south-western red line boundary along a public road in Upper Feorlig.

2.1.5 The operational Edinbane Wind Farm is within a 15 km distance of the Site, as are the consented Ben Sca, Beinn Mheadhonach and Glen Ullinish Wind Farms.

2.2 The Proposed Development

2.2.1 During the EIA process, the Proposed Development went through a number of design iterations to reduce potential environmental impacts. The alternative design and infrastructure layouts included a variety of potential turbine locations, varying turbine heights, and a number of access route options to and between development infrastructure.

2.2.2 Following post-submission consultation responses, the design of the Proposed Development has been updated to address comments and concerns raised in relation to the siting of several project components and further reduce potential environmental impacts. The EIA Report and AI documentation[1] include a detailed description of the design evolution and post-submission design amendments.

2.2.3 The updated and finalised principal components of the Proposed Development and ancillary infrastructure would comprise the following:

- decommissioning and removal of the twelve existing turbines and related infrastructure including hardstandings and the existing operational control building;
- erection of nine new turbines of approximately 5.6 to 6.6 MW each, with a maximum tip height of 200 m, a rotor diameter of approximately 140 m to 155 m and hub height of approximately 122.5 m;
- hardstanding areas at the base of each turbine;
- approximately 9 km of new track, of which 1.5 km would consist of floating track;
- approximately 2.3 km of upgraded track;
- two substations and associated compounds including parking and welfare facilities;
- a battery energy storage facility;
- up to six construction compounds;
- one potential borrow pit, to provide suitable rock for access tracks, turbine bases and hardstandings; and
- underground cabling linking the turbines with the substations.

2.2.4 The Proposed Development seeks permission to operate for 35 years, after which it would be decommissioned and the turbines dismantled and removed, unless permission is sought to extend the operational lifespan.

2.2.5 The final infrastructure layout of the Proposed Development is illustrated on **Figure 2**.

[1] Additional Information relating to design amendments was submitted in February 2025, to address design-related consultation responses in response to the Section 36 Application for consent for the Proposed Development.

3 EFFECT OF REDUCING THE MAXIMUM TURBINE TIP HEIGHT TO 180 METRES

3.1.1 The effect of reducing the maximum turbine tip height to 180m has been assessed by the technical specialists for each topic assessed in the EIA Report, and a summary for each environmental topic is provided in the following sections.

3.2 Ecology

3.2.1 Reducing the maximum turbine tip height from 200m to 180m would not change in the impact assessment and conclusions in the EIA Report for the Proposed Development (June 2023) or require additional mitigation beyond which the EIA Report states.

3.3 Ornithology

3.3.1 Reducing the maximum turbine tip height from 200m to 180m would not change in the impact assessment and conclusions in the EIA Report for the Proposed Development (June 2023) or require additional mitigation beyond which the EIA Report states.

3.4 Hydrology, Geology, Hydrogeology, and Peat

3.4.1 Reducing the maximum turbine tip height from 200m to 180m would not change in the impact assessment and conclusions in the EIA Report for the Proposed Development (June 2023) or require additional mitigation beyond which the EIA Report states.

3.5 Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

3.5.1 Reducing the maximum turbine tip height from 200m to 180m would not change in the impact assessment and conclusions in the EIA Report for the Proposed Development (June 2023) or require additional mitigation beyond which the EIA Report states.

3.6 Traffic and Transport

3.6.1 Reducing the maximum turbine tip height from 200m to 180m would not change in the impact assessment and conclusions in the EIA Report for the Proposed Development (June 2023) or require additional mitigation beyond which the EIA Report states.

3.7 Noise

3.7.1 Reducing the maximum turbine tip height from 200m to 180m would not change in the impact assessment and conclusions in the EIA Report for the Proposed Development (June 2023) or require additional mitigation beyond which the EIA Report states.

3.8 Socio-economics, Land Use, Recreation, and Tourism

3.8.1 Reducing the maximum turbine tip height from 200m to 180m would not change in the impact assessment and conclusions in the EIA Report for the Proposed Development (June 2023) or require additional mitigation beyond which the EIA Report states.

3.9 Climate Change Mitigation

3.9.1 Reducing the maximum turbine tip height from 200m to 180m would not change in the impact assessment and conclusions in the EIA Report for the Proposed Development (June 2023) or require additional mitigation beyond which the EIA Report states.

3.10 Other Issues

3.10.1 Reducing the maximum turbine tip height from 200m to 180m would not change in the impact assessment and conclusions in the EIA Report for the Proposed Development (June 2023) or require additional mitigation beyond which the EIA Report states.

3.11 Schedule of Mitigation

3.11.1 The environmental mitigation included in Chapter 17 of the EIA Report (June 2023) would continue to be committed to by the Applicant.

4 FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location

120000 130000 140000

850000

840000

Legend:

The Site

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
Units: Meter

Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
02	27/04/2023	Revised Logo	DL	DB	DB
01	01/03/2023	Revised template	DL	DB	DB
00	14/12/2022	Site Location	DL	DB	DB

Ben Aketil Wind Farm

TITLE: Figure 1:
Site Location

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0 1.5 3
Kilometres

Scale: 1:75,000 @ A3

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Figure 2: Proposed Site Layout

127000 128000 129000 130000 131000 132000 133000 134000 135000 136000

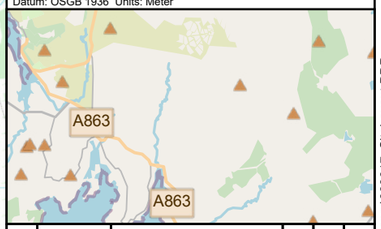
851000 850000 849000 848000 847000 846000 845000 844000

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Legend:

- The Site
- Proposed New Turbine Locations
- Existing Turbine Layout
- Hardstanding
- Bell mouth junction modification
- Existing Access Track
- Existing Crofters' Track
- Floating Track
- Upgraded Track
- Wind Farm Track
- Construction Compound
- Substation and Compound Area (Repower)
- Substation and Compound Area (Extension)
- Borrow Pit
- Storage Bund
- Battery storage
- Planning Submission Layout (Superseded)
- Planning Submission Layout Footprint

Coordinate System: British National GridProjection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936 Units: Meter



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
00	19/06/2024	Site Layout	DL	SA	JS

Ben Aketil Wind Farm

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TITLE: Figure 2:
Site Layout

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0 0.5 1
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