



Nadara Limited

Millennium East Wind Farm

An extension to Millennium Wind Farm

Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Volume 1)

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RSK



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Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work.

PREFACE

Nadara Ltd (the Applicant) is proposing to construct and operate the Millennium East Wind Farm (the Proposed Development), as an extension to the existing Millennium Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would involve the construction and operation of eight wind turbines (three with tip heights of up to 200 m, and five with tip heights of up to 180 m), and ancillary infrastructure. Additional information in relation to the components of the Proposed Development can be found in **Chapter 2: Proposed Development** of this Report.

RSK Environment Ltd (RSK) has been instructed by the Applicant to undertake an environmental impact assessment of the Proposed Development. This Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report describes the findings of environmental assessments undertaken for the Proposed Development.

Information relating to the EIA Report and supporting documentation is available in four volumes:

- **Volume 1:** EIA Report.
- **Volume 2:** EIA Figures and Visualisations:
 - **Volume 2a:** EIA Report Figures;
 - **Volume 2b:** NatureScot Visualisations; and
 - **Volume 2c:** The Highland Council Visualisations.
- **Volume 3:** EIA Technical Appendices.
- **Volume 4:** Confidential Appendices.

When the Section 36 application for the Proposed Development is lodged with Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU), the Applicant will advertise the application in the Edinburgh Gazette and the local press, confirming by when representations on the application should be made. The ECU will also invite formal representations on the application, which it will take into account before reaching a decision on the application.

Anyone wishing to submit a representation can do so by email to representations_mailbox@gov.scot; or by post to the Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU, identifying the application and case reference number and specifying the grounds for representation.

Further information on the Proposed Development can be found on the project website at: <https://millenniumeastwindfarm.co.uk/>

Hard copies of the EIA Report are subject to a charge of £2,000 and are available on request from: <https://millenniumeastwindfarm.co.uk/contact/>

Hard copies of the non-technical summary are available free of charge. A digital version of the EIA Report can be downloaded free from the ECU portal, or from <https://millenniumeastwindfarm.co.uk/>, or provided on USB stick by written request as above.

EIA Quality Mark

This Environmental Statement, and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) carried out to identify the significant environmental effects of the proposed development, was undertaken in line with the EIA Quality Mark Commitments.

The EIA Quality Mark is a voluntary scheme, operated by IEMA, through which EIA activity is independently reviewed, on an annual basis, to ensure it delivers excellence in the following areas:

- *EIA Management*
- *EIA Team Capabilities*
- *EIA Regulatory Compliance*
- *EIA Context & Influence*
- *EIA Content*
- *EIA Presentation*
- *Improving EIA practice*



To find out more about the EIA Quality Mark please visit: <http://www.iema.net/eia-quality-mark/>

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIL	Abnormal Indivisible Loads
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BEMP	Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BGS	British Geological Society
BT	British Telecommunications
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
CDT	Central Daylight Time
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
CMS	Construction Method Statements
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
DAS	Design and Access Statement
DMP	Drainage Management Plan
DNO	Distribution Network Operator
DTL	Development Threshold Level
ECow	Environmental Clerk of Works
EclA	Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
GCR	Geological Conservation Review Area
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GLVIA3	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPP	Guidelines on Pollution Prevention
GWDTE	Ground Water Dependent Ecosystems
GWh	Gigawatt hours
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning
HwLDP	Highland-wide Local Development Plan
IEFs	Important Ecological Features

IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
ILP	Institute of Lighting Professionals
IMFLDP2	Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan 2
IPP	Independent Power Producer
ISEP	Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals
JRC	Joint Radio Company
km	Kilometres
kV	Kilovolt
LDP	Local Development Plan
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
m	Metres
m ³	Cubic metres
MAGIC	Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside
MD-SEDD	Marine Directive Science Evidence Data and Digital
MS	Monitoring Station
MSs	Monitoring Stations
MW	Megawatts
NBFT	Ness and Beaully Fisheries Trust
NBN Atlas	National Biodiversity Network Atlas
NDSFB	Ness District Salmon Fishery Board
NESO	National Energy System Operator
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
NS	National Significance
NSP	Nationally Scarce Plants
NTS	Non-technical Summary
NVC	National Vegetation Classification
oBEMP	Outline Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan
oCEMP	Outline Environmental Management Plan
oPMP	Outline Peat Management Plan
OS	Ordnance Survey
PAC	Pre-application Consultation
PCS	Paired Power Conversion Systems
PLHRA	Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment
PMP	Peat Management Plan
PPP	Pollution Prevention Plan
pSAC	Potential Special Conservation Area
PWS	Private Water Supply

RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
RSK	RSK Environment Limited
S36	Section 36
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SBL	Scottish Biodiversity List
SCCP	Scottish Climate Change Plan
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SES	Socio-economic Statement
SFCC	Scottish Fisheries Co-ordination Centre's Habitat Surveys Training Course
SHEPD	Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPP	Scottish Planning Policy / Species Protection Plan
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SW DWPA	Surface Water Drinking Water Protected Area
SWT	Scottish Wildlife Trust
tCO ₂ e	Tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
UK	United Kingdom
UKCP18	UK Climate Projections 2018
WEWS	Water Environment and Water Services
WestPlan	West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WQM	Water Quality Monitoring
WQMP	Water Quality Monitoring Plan
ZoI	Zone of Influence
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Proposed Development

- 1.1.1 Nadara Limited (hereafter referred to as “the Applicant”) is proposing to construct and operate the Millennium East Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as “the Proposed Development”), as an extension to the existing Millennium Wind Farm.
- 1.1.2 The Proposed Development is located entirely within the administrative area of the Highland Council (hereafter referred to as ‘the Council’) local authority. The Site¹ is located to the east of the existing Millennium Wind Farm, approximately 7.5 km west of Fort Augustus, 8 km north of Invergarry and 14 km south-west of Invermoriston. **Figure 1.1** shows the location of the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Development would involve the construction and operation of eight wind turbines (three with tip heights of up to 200 m, and five with tip heights of up to 180 m) and associated infrastructure. Each turbine is likely to generate approximately 6.2 Megawatts (MW) of electricity. The total installed capacity of the Proposed Development is expected to be approximately 50 MW.
- 1.1.4 If consented, the Proposed Development would constitute an extension to an operational wind farm with an installed capacity in excess of 50 MW. Therefore, the Applicant is seeking to secure consent for the Proposed Development under Section 36 (s36) of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) and deemed planning permission. The application is informed by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report prepared in accordance with the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Scotland Regulations 2017 (hereafter referred to as “the EIA Regulations”).

1.2 Planning History of Millennium Wind Farm

- 1.2.1 The existing Millennium Wind Farm comprises twenty-six 2.5 MW Nordex wind turbines, with an installed capacity of 65 MW, and ancillary infrastructure. The estimated annual generation of the existing wind farm is approximately 189 Gigawatt hours (GWh), which is enough to power the equivalent of approximately 36,831 households in Scotland each year².
- 1.2.2 The existing wind farm was consented and built in two different phases. However, for the purposes of this EIA Report, Millennium Wind Farm and the Millennium Wind Farm Extension will both be referred to as the ‘Millennium Wind Farm’.

¹ Refers to everything within the Site Boundary, which describes the red-line boundary.

² According to the Scottish Government renewable energy conversion calculator:
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/renewable-and-conversion-calculators/>

Phase 1: Millennium Wind Farm

- 1.2.3 The Millennium Wind Farm (sixteen turbine scheme) was consented by the Council in June 2006 (e-planning portal reference: 03/00505/FULLO³, under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (1997).
- 1.2.4 In January 2008, a further consent was granted by the Council, increasing the operating capacity of Millennium Wind Farm by four more turbines.

Phase 2: Millennium Wind Farm Extension

- 1.2.5 An extension to Millennium Wind Farm by six more wind turbines, increasing the operating capacity of the scheme to 65 MW, was consented by the Scottish Ministers in August 2009 (ECU reference: EC00005220)⁴.

Consented Millennium South Wind Farm

- 1.2.6 A planning consent to extend further the existing Millennium Wind Farm scheme by ten wind turbines was granted by the Scottish Ministers in February 2017 (ECU reference: ECU00002077)⁵. The consented Millennium South Wind Farm, however, was not built and the planning consent expired.
- 1.2.7 While each application requires to be considered on its own merits, the principle of wind farm development in this general location has therefore already been established.

1.3 The Applicant

- 1.3.1 The existing Millennium Wind Farm is owned by Millennium Wind Energy Limited, a subsidiary to Nadara Limited.
- 1.3.2 The Applicant, an independent renewable energy generator was formed through the coming together of Renantis (the new name for Falck Renewables) and Ventient Energy, in January 2024. Nadara, designs, builds, owns and operates power plants from renewable sources, with an installed capacity of 1.1 Gigawatts (GW) across the United Kingdom.

1.4 Environmental Impact Assessment

- 1.4.1 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a systematic process to identify potential effects of the Proposed Development on biological, physical, and human environments.

³ To locate the planning application, access the Highland Council planning portal and search for the application using the reference number: 03/00505/FULLO. Available at: <https://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>

⁴ Access the planning application via the Energy Consents Unit planning portal and using the reference number: EC00005220. Available at: <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=EC00005220>

⁵ Access the planning application via the Energy Consents Unit planning portal and using the reference number: ECU00002077. Available at: <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00002077>

- 1.4.2 The EIA assessment ensures that environmental effects of specific development proposals are fully investigated, thoroughly understood and taken into account during the consent and authorization process.

Statutory Context

- 1.4.3 The requirement for an EIA Report to be prepared by the promoters of certain type of development, and for it to be taken into account prior to consent being granted, was originally established in 1985 (European Union, 1985).
- 1.4.4 The EIA Regulations set out the statutory requirements and apply where planning consent is being sought for developments under s36 of the Electricity Act 1989.
- 1.4.5 Whilst not a statutory requirement, as part of the EIA process the Applicant sought a formal Scoping Opinion from the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) on behalf of the Scottish Ministers under the EIA Regulations. An EIA Scoping Request was submitted in January 2024 and a Scoping Opinion received on 11 April 2024. In recognition of the Proposed Development's potential effects, and as required by the EIA Regulations, the Applicant has undertaken an EIA in support of the application.

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

- 1.4.6 This EIA Report accompanies the s36 application and reports the formal processes and outcomes of the EIA for the Proposed Development. The purpose is to present the Proposed Development and its predicted environmental effects in a concise and objective manner. This provides the Scottish Ministers, local authorities, consultation bodies, interested parties and the general public with sufficient information to assess the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development.
- 1.4.7 This EIA Report has been prepared under the supervision of - and reviewed by - persons having the suitable competencies in EIA. This is a requirement of RSK Environment Limited's (RSK) registration to the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) 'EIA Quality Mark'⁶ scheme. Amongst other things, RSK defines 'suitable competency' as sufficient relevant qualifications and experience in working on EIA projects and suitable professional standing as recognised by, for instance, accreditation as a Chartered Environmentalist or equivalent.

1.5 Structure of Environmental Impact Assessment Report

- 1.5.1 This EIA Report is presented in four volumes:
- **Volume 1:** Main EIA Report
 - **Volume 2:** EIA Report Figures and Visualisations
 - **Volume 2a:** EIA Report Figures
 - **Volume 2b:** NatureScot Visualisations

⁶ The EIA Quality Mark is a voluntary scheme operated by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) in the UK. The scheme independently reviews organizations' Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) activities to ensure they meet high-quality standards.

- **Volume 2c:** The Highland Council Visualisations
 - **Volume 3:** Technical Appendices
 - **Volume 4:** Confidential Appendices
- 1.5.2 **Volume 4: Confidential Appendices** will be provided to key stakeholders but will not form part of the main submission and will not be shared with the public.
- 1.5.3 A non-technical summary (NTS) of the EIA Report has been prepared as a separate document, in accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations.
- 1.5.4 The following standalone documents and additional technical reports will accompany the planning application:
 - Pre-application Consultation (PAC) Report
 - Design and Access Statement (DAS)
 - Socio-economic Statement (SES)
 - Planning Statement;

Volume 1

- 1.5.5 The EIA Report (**Volume 1**) comprises 14 sections, which are structured in the following manner:
 - **Section 1: Introduction** introduces the Proposed Development and explains the underlying objectives of the proposals, describes the statutory basis for the EIA, outlines the structure adopted in this EIA Report and identifies the team of competent experts responsible for undertaking and reporting the EIA.
 - **Section 2: Proposed Development** identifies the location of the project and characterises the Site and its surroundings; establishes the need for the Proposed Development; summarises the reasonable alternatives that have been considered in the development of a preferred design solution; provides a detailed description of the key design components and characteristics of the Proposed Development and associated land take; and outlines the planned timescales for construction and implementation.
 - **Section 3: Consultation** summarises stakeholder consultation undertaken during the EIA and the design development of the Proposed Development.
 - **Section 4: Environmental Assessment Process** summarises the scoping process undertaken to establish the scope of the EIA, the adopted approach to the EIA and format of the individual technical assessments, and modifications made to the EIA scope that have arisen during the design development and assessment of the Proposed Development.
 - **Sections 5 to 14: Technical Assessments** report the findings of the detailed environmental assessments and the residual effects on the environment predicted to occur as a result of implementation of the Proposed Development.
 - **References** of documents used or considered during the EIA are provided at the end of each section, where relevant.

Volume 2

- 1.5.6 **Volume 2** comprises a series of plans, figures, and visualisations (referenced in **Volume 1**) that illustrate the relationship between the existing environment and the Proposed Development.

Volume 3

- 1.5.7 **Volume 3** comprises technical appendices (referred to in **Volume 1**) containing detailed reports of the individual environmental assessments and other relevant supporting documentation.
- 1.5.8 In addition to technical appendices related to **Sections 5 to 14** of the EIA Report, **Volume 3** includes the following:
- **Technical Appendix 2.1: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP):** provides a framework from which a final Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be developed and implemented by the appointed contractor to avoid, minimise or mitigate any construction effects on the environment).
 - **Technical Appendix 2.2: Summary of Environmental Commitments:** provides a schedule of the environmental commitments (i.e. design and mitigation measures that are agreed and deliverable, as identified in each technical assessment).
 - **Technical Appendix 2.3: Gatecheck Report:** sets out how the Scottish Ministers' and consultee comments provided in the scoping opinion have been addressed by the Applicant and taken forward in the EIA report. It also allows further dialogue with the ECU, the applicant and key consultees, prior to the application being submitted. This report has been submitted to the ECU on 27 February 2025.

Volume 4

- **Volume 4** comprises the confidential technical appendices and confidential figures (referred to in **Volume 1**).

1.6 Project Team

- 1.6.1 RSK has undertaken the EIA and the preparation of this EIA Report on behalf of the Applicant.
- 1.6.2 The relevant expertise and qualifications of the experts involved in the preparation of this EIA Report are detailed in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1: EIA Project Team and Roles

Name	Qualifications	Company	Role
EIA Project Management and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Team			

Name	Qualifications	Company	Role
Joe Somerville	MA (Hons), MSc, PIEMA, MCIfA, FSA Scot	RSK Environment	Project Director
Spyridonas Angeli	BSc (Hons), MSc, PIEMA, REnvP	RSK Environment	Project Manager
Debra Lewis	BSc (Hons) CGeog(GIS)	RSK Environment	GIS Led
Lewis Gourlay	BSc (Hons), MSc	RSK Environment	Project Support
EIA Technical Specialists			
Ross Allan	BSc (Hons), MSc, PG Dip, CMLI	Stephenson Halliday	Landscape and Visual Lead
Riley Frew	BD / MA Melbourne, CMLI	Stephenson Halliday	Landscape and Visual Support
Dean Turner	BSc, MSc, PhD	Stephenson Halliday	Visualisation Lead
David Bell	BSc(Hons) DipUD MCIHT MRTPI	David Bell Planning Ltd	Planning Lead
Duncan Saunders	MSc, BSc (Hons), CSc, CMCIWEM	Fluid Environmental Ltd	Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat Lead
Lucy Parker	MRes, BSc (hons), FGS, MCIWEM	Fluid Environmental Ltd	Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat Lead
Andy Mills	PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons), CGeol, FGS	East Point Geo	Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat Support
Ian Fletcher	BEng	Wind Business Support	Aviation and Radar Lead
Jon Hassel	BEng (Hons) MCIHT MTP	SCP Transport	Traffic and Movement Lead
Jan Wasilewski	MSc BSc (Hons) BEng MCIHT MTPS	SCP Transport	Traffic and Movement Support
Linsey Scott	BSc (Hons) GCIHT	SCP Transport	Traffic and Movement Support
Rob Shepherd	MEng MIOA	Hayes McKenzie	Noise Lead
Conor Tickner	BEng MIOA	Hayes McKenzie	Noise Support

Name	Qualifications	Company	Role
Owen Raybould	BSc (Hons) MCIfA IHBC	Headland Archaeology	Cultural Heritage Lead
Charlie Scovell	BA/MA ACIfA	Headland Archaeology	Cultural Heritage Support
Libby Robinson	PhD, BSc, FGS	Nature Positive	Climate Change Lead
Zack Clarke	BA (Hons), MSc, PIEMA	Nature Positive	Climate Change Support
Adam Paterson	BSc (hons), MSc	RSK Environment	Socio-economics Lead

1.7 Key Terminology

Table 1.2: EIA Report Terminology

Term	Definition / Explanation
the Applicant	Nadara Limited (formerly Renantis)
the Proposed Development	Millennium East Wind Farm Refers to the Proposed Development comprising new access tracks, wind turbines, and other ancillary infrastructure.
the Site	Refers to everything within the Site Boundary, as shown in Figure 2.1 .
the Site Boundary	The Section 36 application boundary, defined by the red line shown on Figure 2.1 .
the Study Area	The Site, plus any additional area over which desk based or field assessments have been extended. The study area varies depending on the nature of the potential effects for each environmental parameter, as informed by the professional guidance and best practice regarding EIA.
“Wind Farm” and “wind farm”	Wind Farm – refers to a specific Wind Farm. wind farm – is a general term.
“will” and “would”	“Will” is used when writing about what is planned to be undertaken through the EIA Report. “Would” is used when assessing effects, as the Proposed Development does not have consent yet.

1.8 References

European Union (1985), 'The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive'.

Scottish Government (2017), 'The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017'.

UK Government (1989), 'Electricity Act 1989'.