

1. Introduction

Overview

- 1.1 This Environmental Statement (ES) is part of a suite of documents submitted by Cubico UK Development (Wind 1) Limited (the 'Applicant') as part of concurrent full planning applications submitted to Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) and Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) (the 'Applications') as the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs)^a.
- 1.2 In-combination, the Applications are for the construction and operation of a wind farm of 17 wind turbines up to 180m in height with a generating capacity of up to 99.9MW together with access tracks and electrical infrastructure required to connect the wind farm to the Rossendale Bulk Supply Point (BSP)^b. The Applications also include proposals to restore and enhance an extensive area of badly degraded peat moorland as part of a Moorland Restoration and Management Plan.
- 1.3 At a future date, an application for Common Land Consent^c that seeks to remove relevant parts of the Assessment Boundary from The Common to facilitate the wind farm will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (the 'Common Land Application'). However, it is as part of the Applications that planning permission will be sought for works (e.g. fencing) on the Common Land^d. Collectively the permanent and temporary works associated with the wind farm, electrical grid connection infrastructure, moorland restoration and replacement Common Land are referred to as the 'Project for Assessment'^e. The Project for Assessment is described in **Chapter 4: Development Specification**.
- 1.4 The Project for Assessment will be delivered within the approximately 1,000 hectares (ha) area termed the 'Assessment Boundary'. This is defined in **Figure 1.1**. Details on location, setting and existing land uses within the Assessment Boundary are set out in **Chapter 3: Assessment Boundary Context**.
- 1.5 Turley were commissioned by the Applicant to lead the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and prepare this ES, with support from a competent project team (as set out in **Table 1.1**). This ES considers the project as a whole and reports the outputs of the EIA process undertaken in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017 (as amended)¹ (the 'EIA Regulations').

^a While it is noted that the threshold for electricity generation to be Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) is to be increased to 100MW by the end of 2025, the Applications will be submitted under the Town and Country Planning regime.

^b i.e. to the grid.

^c Under Section 16 of the Commons Act 2006 c. 26.

^d Alongside an application under Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 c. 26.

^e Since EIA Scoping, the Electrical Grid Connection Infrastructure now forms part of the Applications. Further details are set out in **Chapter 2: Approach to EIA** and **Chapter 4: Development Specification**.

- 1.6 The single ES alongside a series of other documents and plans for the Applications have been submitted to RMBC and RBC as the Local Planning Authorities. All documents and plans are available on both websites for viewing and downloading at the following links:
- RMBC: <https://publicaccess.rochdale.gov.uk/online-applications/>; and
 - RBC: <https://publicaccess.rossendale.gov.uk/online-applications/> .
- 1.7 Members of the public may comment via RMBC and RBC, either in writing or through RMBC and RBC's planning portal websites above.
- 1.8 All documents and plans are also available on www.scoutmoor2.co.uk.

Definition and Aims of EIA

- 1.9 EIA is defined by Regulation 4, Paragraph 1 of the EIA Regulations as '*a process consisting of:*
- (a) the preparation of an environmental statement;*
 - (b) any consultation, publication and notification required by, or by virtue of, these Regulations of any enactment in respect of EIA development; and*
 - (c) the steps required under Regulation 26'(consideration of whether planning permission or subsequent consent should be granted).*
- 1.10 Under Regulation 4, Paragraph 2 of the EIA Regulations, an EIA must '*identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in light of each individual case, the direct and indirect significant effects of the proposed development on the following factors -*
- (a) population and human health;*
 - (b) biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC(1) and Directive 2009/147/EC(2);*
 - (c) land, soil, water, air and climate;*
 - (d) material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape; and*
 - (e) the interaction between the factors referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (d)'.*
- 1.11 The aim of EIA, as outlined by the national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)ⁱⁱ, is '*...to protect the environment by ensuring that a local planning authority when deciding whether to grant planning permission for a project, which is likely to have significant effects on the environment, does so in the full knowledge of the likely significant effects, and takes this into account in the decision making process. The regulations set out a procedure for identifying those projects which should be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, and for assessing, consulting and coming to a decision on those projects which are likely to have significant environmental effects'.*

- 1.12 The EIA Regulations do not require an ES to assess compliance with planning policy or guidance with respect to the Project for Assessment. A **Planning, Design and Access Statement** has been prepared and submitted with the Applications that assesses Project for Assessment^f against relevant development plan policies, national planning policy and other material considerations. However, where planning policy has informed assessments within the ES (i.e. the level of effect or assessment methodology) this has been clearly referenced.

Legal Framework for EIA

Overview of the EIA Process

- 1.13 The EIA Regulations require that prior to consent being granted, for certain types of development, an EIA must be undertaken. The EIA Regulations set out the types of developments which must always be subject to an EIA (referred to as 'Schedule 1 development') and other development which may require an EIA, if they are likely to give rise to significant environmental effects (referred to as 'Schedule 2 development'). The EIA process undertaken is summarised below.

EIA screening

- 1.14 The Project for Assessment has been compared to descriptions of development set out within Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations.
- 1.15 The Project for Assessment does not fall within the description of any project listed within Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations.
- 1.16 The Project for Assessment does fall under Schedule 2 3 (a) '*industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water*' through exceedance of the following threshold:
- 3(a)(i) *The area of the development exceeds 0.5 hectares* – the Assessment Boundary covers more than 0.5 ha.
- 1.17 In addition, the Project for Assessment falls under 2 3(i) '*Installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms)*' through exceedance of the following thresholds:
- 3(i)(i) *The development involves the installation of more than 2 turbines* – the Project for Assessment includes 17 turbines; and
 - 3(i)(ii) *The hub height of any turbine or height of any other structure exceeds 15 metres* – the maximum height of the wind turbines as part of the Project for Assessment is 180m.
- 1.18 The threshold / criteria do not determine the requirement for EIA but triggers the requirement for a subsequent stage to determine '*whether the development is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location*', normally presented within an EIA Screening Report and submitted to the determining authority for their Screening Opinion. However, given the characteristics

^f Termed in the **Planning, Design and Access Statement** as the 'Proposed Development'.

of the Project for Assessment and receiving environment (the Assessment Boundary), a number of potentially significant effects were identified and therefore an EIA has been undertaken.

- 1.19 The need for EIA was established by the Project Team at the outset and has been used as a tool to identify and manage impacts, while ensuring that significant beneficial effects are dealt with in the same manner as adverse effects. It is this that should inform the decision-making process.

EIA scoping

- 1.20 In accordance with Regulation 15, Paragraph 1 of the EIA Regulations, a formal request for a Scoping Opinion supported by an EIA Scoping Report (**Appendix 2.1**) was submitted to both RMBC and RBC on 16th December 2024. At the time of writing (April 2025) no Scoping Opinion has been received from RMBC or RBC.

- 1.21 Further details of the EIA scoping process are provided in **Chapter 2: Approach to EIA**.

ES

- 1.22 The findings of the EIA are presented in this ES, which has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 18, Paragraphs 3 – 5 and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations as well as the PPG.

- 1.23 The ES is provided in four volumes:

- **Volume 1: Primary Reporting and Supporting Graphics** – providing the main text of the ES, which is divided into Chapters, as well as supporting figures and visuals. Each technical topic where likely significant effects are anticipated is detailed within the respective **Technical Chapters 6 – 15**;
- **Volume 2: Technical Appendices to the Primary Report** – encompasses a range of technical reports which have informed the technical assessments presented in **Volume 1**;
- **Volume 3: Environmental Management Plan** – provides a schedule of all mitigation identified through the EIA process. This acts as the checklist for all mitigation which is required to be implemented and secured by way of planning conditions / obligations; and
- **Volume 4: Non-Technical Summary** – provides a summary of the ES in a non-technical language to aid communication and understanding of the Project for Assessment and the EIA process undertaken.

- 1.24 The full suite of documents within **Volume 1: Primary Report and Supporting Graphics** and **Volume 2: Technical Appendices to the Primary Report** have been provided in their respective **Contents Page**.

- 1.25 **Appendix 1.1** provides a breakdown of the information required to be included within an ES as defined by Regulation 18, Paragraphs 3 – 5 and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations and where this information is in this ES (including in other Volumes).

Project Team and Their Roles

- 1.26 Regulation 18, Paragraph 5(a) of the EIA Regulations requires an EIA to be prepared by competent experts.
- 1.27 Turley is responsible for the co-ordination and leadership of the EIA process as well as the compilation and procedural review of the constituent parts of the ES (**Table 1.1**). The Institute of Environmental and Sustainability Professionals (ISEP) (formerly the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)) has awarded Turley the EIA Quality Mark in recognition of our technical quality and commitment to improvement in practice.
- 1.28 All technical assessments reported in **Technical Chapters 6 – 15** have been undertaken by a suitably qualified project team (**Table 1.1**, which includes those involved in the EIA Scoping process), inclusive of a thorough technical review to assure technical credibility, followed by a subsequent procedural review by the EIA co-ordination team at Turley.
- 1.29 A statement outlining the relevant expertise / qualifications of the EIA project team is provided in **Appendix 1.2**.

Table 1.1: Project team and their roles

Team member	Role
Cubico UK Development (Wind 1) Limited	Applicant
Turley	Planning and EIA Consultants Technical consultants for built heritage and climate change
Pell Frischmann	Technical consultants for transport and access
TNEI	Technical consultant for noise and vibration and shadow flicker
Atmos	Technical consultants for ecology and ornithology
Stephenson Halliday	Technical consultant for landscape and visual
AOC Archaeology	Technical consultant for archaeology
Fluid Environmental Consulting	Technical consultants for hydrology, hydrogeology and peat

Application Documents and Plans

- 1.30 The ES is one of the documents submitted alongside the Applications for the Proposed Scheme. For a full list of documents and plans and their planning status (i.e. for approval or supporting information), please refer to the **Planning, Design and Access Statement**.

- 1.31 A number of other documents and plans have been submitted for the Applications that provide a greater level of detail on how the Project for Assessment is likely to come forward, how the Project for Assessment complies with policy or provide assessments for technical topics for which no likely significant effects are considered to arise. However, they do not inform the assessment of likely significant effects and are not connected to the ES.
- 1.32 Where information from these documents has informed the description of the Project for Assessment upon which the ES is based, this is clearly stated within **Chapter 4: Development Specification**.
- 1.33 The Project for Assessment is based on information detailed within **Chapter 4: Development Specification** and supporting plans^g for which approval will be sought as part of the Applications:
- **Figure 4.1:** Infrastructure Layout (SK02-P1);
 - **Figure 4.2:** Infrastructure Layout - Construction Phase (SK03-P1);
 - **Figure 4.3:** Infrastructure Layout - Operational Phase (SK04-P2);
 - **Figure 4.4:** Rooley Moor Road Crossing Plan & Longitudinal Section (SK16-2);
 - **Figure 4.5:** Rooley Moor Road Crossing Plan View (SK17-2);
 - **Figure 4.6:** Rooley Moor Road Crossing Construction Detail (SK18-2).
 - **Figure 4.7:** Scout Moor Quarries Access Design General Arrangement (SK19-2);
 - **Figure 4.8:** Scout Moor Quarries Laydown Area and Junction General Arrangement (SK21-2); and
- 1.34 The supporting plans for information comprise:
- **Figure 4.9:** Scout Moor Quarries Access Design Swept Path Assessment (SK20-2);
 - **Figure 4.10:** Scout Moor Quarries Laydown Area and Junction Swept Path Assessment (SK22-2).
 - **Figure 4.11:** Aviation Lighting Plan (Version 2.0);
 - **Figure 4.12:** Typical Turbine Elevation (SK06-2);
 - **Figure 4.13:** Typical Turbine Foundation Detail (SK07-2);
 - **Figure 4.14:** Typical Crane Hardstanding (SK08-2);
 - **Figure 4.15:** Typical Cable Trench Detail (SK09-2);

^g It is noted that some plans state 'Site Boundary'. This is referred to as the 'Assessment Boundary' in this ES.

- **Figure 4.16:** Indicative Onsite Substation Layout (SK10-2);
- **Figure 4.17:** Indicative Onsite Substation Elevation (SK11-2);
- **Figure 4.18:** Typical Construction Compound (SK12-2);
- **Figure 4.19:** Typical Compound Fencing (SK13-2);
- **Figure 4.20:** Typical Track Details (SK14-2);
- **Figure 4.21:** Typical Water Crossing Methods (SK15-2);
- **Figure 4.22:** Proposed Indicative Fencing Layout with Access Point Locations (v.6.0); and
- **Figure 4.23:** Infrastructure Layout - Indicative Decommissioning Plan (SK05-P1).

1.35 The following are contained in **Volume 2: Technical Appendices to the Primary Report:**

- **Appendix 1.1:** Required information;
- **Appendix 1.2:** Schedule of Competence;
- **Appendix 2.1:** EIA Scoping Report;
- **Appendix 2.2:** Response to statutory consultee comments;
- **Appendix 2.3:** Response to non-statutory and public comments;
- **Appendix 6.1:** Transport Assessment;
- **Appendix 7.1:** Construction Noise Assessment;
- **Appendix 7.2:** Operational Noise Assessment;
- **Appendix 9.1:** Desk Study and Habitat Results;
- **Appendix 9.2:** Protected Species Technical Appendix;
- **Appendix 9.3:** Bat Surveys Technical Appendix;
- **Appendix 9.4:** Great Crested Newt Technical Appendix;
- **Appendix 10.1:** Ornithology Report Year 1;
- **Appendix 10.2:** Ornithology Report Year 2;
- **Appendix 10.3:** Ornithology Report Year 3;
- **Appendix 11.1:** LVIA Methodology;
- **Appendix 11.2:** Visuals Methodology;

- **Appendix 11.3:** Landscape Character Baseline;
- **Appendix 11.4:** Viewpoint Analysis;
- **Appendix 11.5:** Landscape Sensitivity;
- **Appendix 12.1:** Heritage Assessment;
- **Appendix 12.2** Designated heritage assets within 15km and non designated heritage assets within the 5km study areas with no predicted visibility of the Project for Assessment;
- **Appendix 12.3** Designated heritage assets within the 15km study area, and non-designated heritage assets within the 5km study area situated within urban areas;
- **Appendix 12.4** Designated heritage assets within the 15km study area, and non-designated heritage assets within the 5km study area for which it is the immediate local setting or functional associations which make the greatest contribution to their heritage significance. The wider setting (including the Site) does not contribute or makes a limited contribution to their heritage significance;
- **Appendix 12.5** Other Designated and Non-Designated Heritage Assets within the 5km study area where no potential for significant effects upon their setting was identified;
- **Appendix 12.6** Other Designated Heritage Assets within the 5 – 15km study area where no potential for significant effects upon their setting was identified;
- **Appendix 13.1:** Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment;
- **Appendix 14.1:** Good Practice Methods;
- **Appendix 14.2:** Peat Survey Report;
- **Appendix 14.3:** Outline Peat Management Plan;
- **Appendix 14.4:** Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessment;
- **Appendix 14.5:** Watercourse Crossing Inventory;
- **Appendix 14.6:** Private Water Supply Assessment;
- **Appendix 14.7:** Public Water Supply Assessment;
- **Appendix 14.8:** Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems Assessment;
- **Appendix 14.9:** Peat Condition Assessment; and
- **Appendix 15.1:** Carbon Calculator Input Data & Results.

References

¹ The Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017 No. 571 (as amended).