

CHAPTER 6 APPROACH TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This chapter sets out the overall approach that has been taken to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and summarises the key stages that have been followed.

6.2 Structure of the ES

6.2.1 The detailed assessments for the various EIA subject areas are contained in Technical Appendices within Volume 2 of the ES. In addition to this, summaries and important extracted information from these Technical Appendices have been provided in this volume (Volume 1). Chapter 7 provides summaries of the impacts and effects and Chapter 8 provides a summary of the committed outline mitigation.

6.3 The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations

6.3.1 Environmental Impacts Assessments have been required for certain major developments since the implementation in the UK of the European Council Directive on Environmental Assessment (85/337/EEC). The Directive was implemented in the UK in 1988 and subsequently amended by Directive 97/11/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects in the environment. Directive 97/11/EC is implemented by the Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 1999 (as amended) (The EIA Regulations), recently updated by the Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2007. These regulations set out the information which must be included in the ES, which are covered in detail in Section 6.5.

6.3.2 The requirement for EIA for An Camas Mòr is explained in Chapter 1, Section 1.12. The relationship between EIA and an Outline Application for An Camas Mòr is explained in Chapter 1.13.

6.4 The Overall EIA Process

6.4.1 The EIA Regulations outline the information to be considered when assessing the environmental effects of development proposals. These, in combination with professional judgement and best practice methodological guidance from governmental agencies and professional bodies, provide a framework within which the likely nature and significance of effects are assessed.

6.4.2 The following have been taken into consideration in the Environmental Impact Assessment process: