

Significance	Adverse / Beneficial	Description
Moderate	Beneficial	Benefits for a feature that are detectable in the short and long-term, but would not increase / secure the viability of the feature.
Major	Beneficial	Major benefits for a feature are not normally applicable to the majority of EIA situations.

6.6.12 Residual effects are considered significant under the EIA Regulations if they are at a level of Moderate or Major. In other words residual effects of Neutral, Negligible or Slight are not considered to be significant.

Cumulative Effects

6.6.13 In addition to the assessment of direct impacts and effects from the proposed development, an assessment is often also undertaken of the likely cumulative effects of the proposed development, if applicable. In-combination effects with other surrounding proposed and constructed projects can also be undertaken, depending on the level of information available to the practitioner on the relevant environmental details for other developments, their likelihood of being taken forward and their timescales.

6.7 Scoping

Introduction

6.7.1 Scoping is an important part of the EIA process and is used to ensure that all the environmental impacts that could possibly result in significant effects are identified and appropriate methods for information collection and impact assessment are devised.

6.7.2 The EIA Regulations do not prescribe the specific assessment topics to be addressed in an Environmental Impact Assessment. However, Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations states that an Environmental Statement should include “A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development, including, in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil water, air climatic factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter-relationship between the factors”.

The Process

6.7.3 The scoping process is described in detail in Chapter 10 (Volume 3); Report of Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Consultations (Volume 3) and is summarised below:

- It was agreed between The Highland Council, Cairngorms National Park Authority and An Camas Mòr LLP that the scope for the EIA would be established through consultation with an agreed list of consultees.

- The process of establishing the Scope of EIA involved the following stages;
 - EIA Team in discussion with The Highland Council and the Cairngorms National Park Authority;
 - Preliminary identification of the aspects of the environment likely to be affected and assessment topics;
 - Identification of Scoping Consultees and agreement with The Highland Council and the Cairngorms National Park Authority;
 - Provision of information to Consultees and consultation; and
 - Identification of the aspects of the environment likely to be affected in terms of The EIA Regulations Schedule 4, Part 1, 3 and their inter-relationship with assessment topics.

The Scope

6.7.4 The Scoping Process (Chapter 10, Volume 3) identified, based on the EIA Regulations Schedule 4, the aspects of the environment that the development could possibly significantly affect. These were:

Human Beings and their Activities;

Human Beings and their Activities - Visual – Settlement;

Human Beings and their Activities - Visual - Roads and Cycleways;

Human Beings and their Activities - Visual – Recreation Locations;

Landscape - Local Character Areas;

Landscape – Cairngorms National Park (CNP);

Landscape – Cairngorms Mountains National Scenic Area (NSA);

Floral and Fauna;

Geology and soils;

Water and Drainage;

Air and Climate;

Material Assets, Architectural Archaeological Heritage; and

Night Lighting.

6.7.5 From this the assessment topics were identified as follows:

- Geology & Soils;
- Landscape Resource;
- Visual Amenity;
- Ecology and Nature Conservation;
- Cultural Heritage;
- Air Quality;
- Noise and Vibration;
- Night Lighting;
- Hydrology And Water Quality; and
- Socio-Economic, Community Impact and Tourism and Recreation.

6.7.6 The inter-relationship between the aspects of the environment that the development could possibly significantly affect and the assessment topics were also identified (Volume 1 Chapter 7).

6.8 EIA Assessment Periods

6.8.1 Chapter 10 (Volume 3) of the ES identifies the Assessment Periods for the Scoping Consultations. This was reviewed as the EIA and the Indicative Land Use Plans progressed in order to confirm the appropriateness of the Assessment Periods.

6.8.2 The Deposit Local Plan periods defined for development of the proposed new community are:

- 2006-2011 (100 residential units);
- 2011-2016 (300 residential units); and
- 2016 onwards (1100 residential units).

6.8.3 The reviews considered the assessment topics and the key environmental issues, indicative land use, background information and sequence of construction activities (see Table 6.6) that could affect decisions on the periods in which assessments of possible impacts and effects were required for different topics. This appraisal is summarised in Table 6.6 below. The Assessment Periods were confirmed as: