
19.0 INTERACTION OF EFFECTS

19.1 INTRODUCTION

The significant effects of the proposed development and the measures proposed to mitigate these effects have been outlined in this EIAR. However, in any development with the potential for environmental effect there is also the potential for interaction between effects of the different environmental aspects.

The result of these interactions may either exacerbate the magnitude of the effect or may in fact ameliorate it. As part of the requirements of an EIAR, the interaction of the effects on the surrounding environment needs to be addressed. Potential interactions have been clearly identified in the early stages of the project and where the potential exists for interaction between environmental impacts, the EIAR specialists have taken the interactions into account when making their assessment. Potential interactions (both positive and negative) have been considered for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of each of the different environmental aspects. Table 19.1 summarises the potential interactions between different aspects, and these are discussed further in the following sections.

Interactions of Landscape and Visual and Cultural Heritage with Tourism

There will be no significant interaction between landscape and visual impacts and cultural heritage during the construction phase of the development.

Negative landscape and visual impact on cultural heritage resources can arise during the operational phase of a wind farm with respect to archaeological features and their setting in the landscape. This would therefore create an interaction between these two topics. There is also a potential interaction with tourism associated with the setting of archaeological features. There will be no significant negative impacts on any of the main archaeological features and attractions (and tourism) in the region as discussed in Chapter 15 (Landscape and Visual Impacts) and Chapter 18 (Cultural Heritage).

There will be no significant interaction between landscape and visual impacts and cultural heritage during the decommissioning phase of the development, as works will be curtailed to the location of the infrastructure proposed for the development which has been designed with consideration for archaeological features in the vicinity of the project. The removal of the turbines may have an interaction with cultural heritage (and tourism) as the setting of any monuments would be altered.

19.2.3 Biodiversity

Interactions of Biodiversity, Lands, Soils and Geology and Hydrology and Hydrogeology

Exposing soils during the construction phase has the potential, if not properly managed, to cause sedimentation of nearby watercourses. It is envisaged that the excavation of turbine foundations and the construction of internal site access tracks could potentially lead to increased suspended solids in surface water run-off. However, mitigation measures will be put in place to control siltation occurring during the construction phase and ensure protection of the aquatic environment. Excavation and removal of soils for the construction of permanent features such as hardstands and access tracks may potentially lead to habitat loss. However, the total area for the proposed ground works and infrastructure comprises only 1.2% of the wind farm site area and therefore this is not considered to be a significant interaction.

There is also the potential, if not properly managed, for a negative interaction between the site drainage regime and aquatic ecology during the construction phase of the proposed project. Suitable mitigation measures (as discussed in the CEMP and Chapter 20 Schedule of Mitigation) will be put in place to control erosion and sedimentation of receiving waters. During the

19.3 SUMMARY

All environmental factors are interrelated to some extent. However, the most common interactions are between population and human health, landscape and visual, noise, air quality and biodiversity.

On the basis of the assessment of potential impacts during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases it has been determined that no amplification effect is anticipated. The proposed project will have some positive impacts on an international, national, regional and local level, particularly in terms of helping to achieve renewable energy targets. It is important to note that the physical, environmental and landscape and visual impacts are almost entirely reversible upon decommissioning of the development.

Table 19.2 below summarises the above text and outlines the different environmental aspects which have potential to interact as a result of the proposed development, in a positive or negative way.

