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Conclusion

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- 11.1 The purpose of this FEI is to update and complement, where appropriate, the environmental information previously submitted and has been produced to include a greater level of details to provide clarity for DFI Strategic Planning Division, based on consultation responses received.
- Updated Planning Statement
 - Updated Lighting Scheme
 - Landscape
 - Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
 - Update Preliminary oHMP/Ecology
 - Ornithology
 - Noise
 - Traffic and Transport
 - Socio-Economic
- 11.2 The Further Environmental Information (FEI) demonstrates that the amendments to the Proposed Development, most notably the reduction in turbine numbers from fourteen to nine and the associated reduction in infrastructure, have successfully reduced the potential environmental effects identified in the original Environmental Statement whilst maintaining a significant renewable energy contribution. The revised layout represents mitigation through design, reducing the overall development footprint and avoiding more environmentally sensitive areas, particularly in relation to landscape, ornithology and designated sites.
- 11.3 The updated technical assessments confirm that potential effects on landscape and visual amenity, cultural heritage, ecology, ornithology, noise and other environmental receptors have either been reduced or remain capable of being appropriately mitigated through embedded design measures and planning conditions.
- 11.4 The proposal will deliver approximately 37.8MW of installed renewable electricity capacity and generate approximately 71GWh of renewable electricity per annum, equivalent to the needs of over 21,000 homes. It will make a direct contribution to regional decarbonisation, renewable electricity generation, energy security and grid resilience. In the context of the statutory target for at least 80% of electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2030, and with that target date approaching, the benefits of the development and its contribution to regional energy objectives should be afforded significant positive weight.
- 11.1 The 2nd Edition of the SPPS places a clear emphasis on the need to maximise sustainable renewable and low carbon energy development and to give appropriate weight to climate considerations. The proposal is therefore strongly supported in principle by the updated regional policy context, subject to the proper assessment and management of local environmental effects

- 11.2 The FEI confirms that the Proposed Development will continue to deliver substantial environmental, economic and social benefits. These include a significant contribution to renewable electricity generation, together with investment, employment and wider economic benefits at both the local and regional level. The amended scheme therefore continues to represent a sustainable form of development that aligns with the strategic objectives of planning policy and wider Government policy for renewable energy.
- 11.3 Overall, the conclusions of the Environmental Statement remain unchanged. The FEI demonstrates that the environmental effects of the amended proposal have been comprehensively assessed and, where necessary, avoided, reduced or mitigated through design evolution and appropriate mitigation measures. When considered in the context of the urgent need to increase renewable energy generation to meet Northern Ireland's statutory climate change targets, the significant environmental, economic and social benefits of the Proposed Development clearly outweigh the limited and acceptable residual effects, including those relating to landscape and visual amenity. It is therefore concluded that the residual environmental effects are acceptable and that the Proposed Development should be regarded as environmentally acceptable and sustainable development.