

# Hagshaw Energy Cluster Western Expansion

## The Environmental Impact Assessment Process

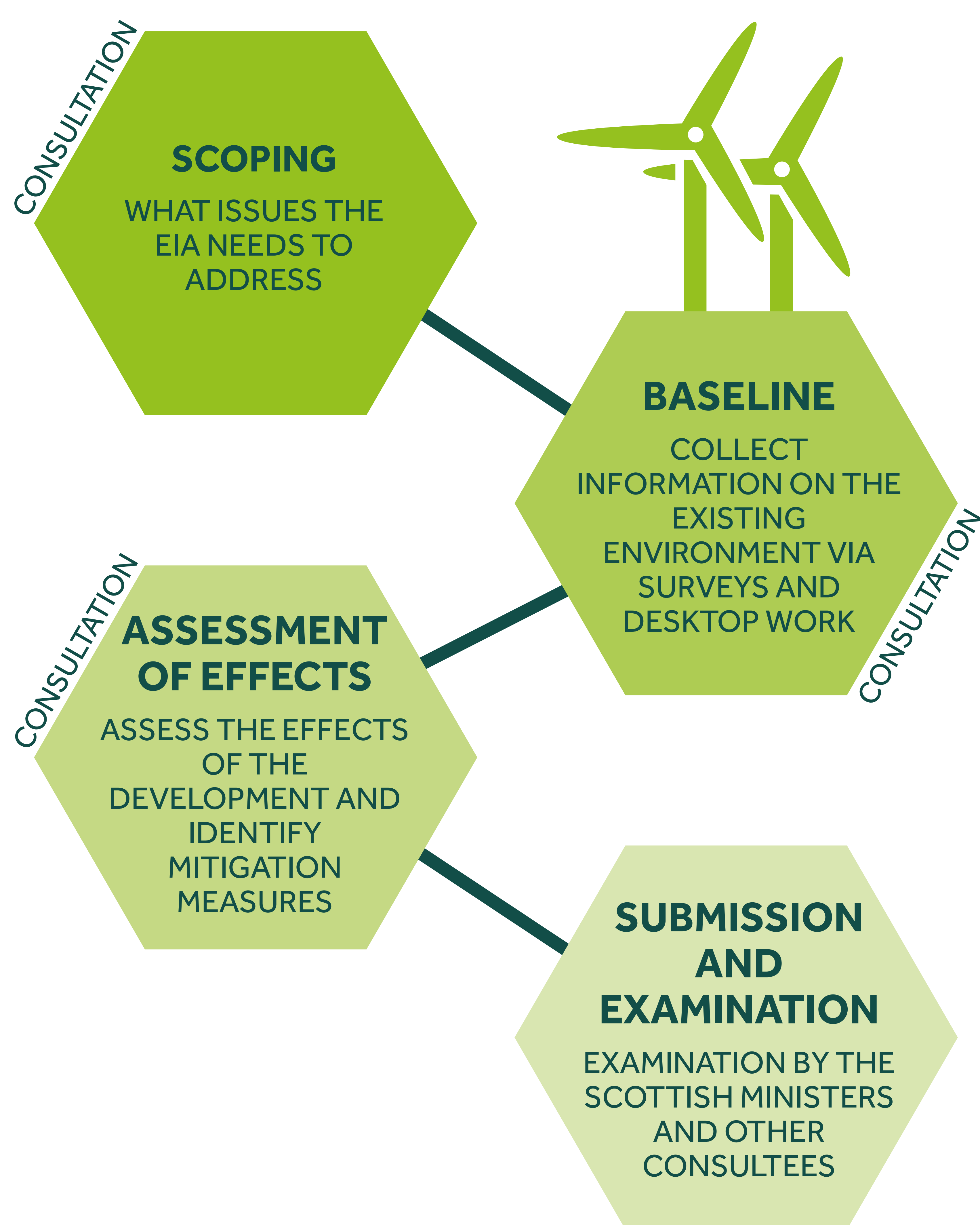
An EIA is the process of assessing the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project.

The EIA is required to follow clear steps which can be summarised as follows:

- Screening: to determine whether a particular project requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR);
- Scoping: stage at which the scope of the EIAR is defined through consultation with statutory consultees;
- Preparation of the Draft EIAR;
- Public Consultation;
- Finalisation of the EIAR; and
- Review and decision by decision maker.

The EIA process aims to assist the Scottish Government and Local Authority in their determination of the applications by identifying where any significant environmental effects are predicted. The EIAR will be carried out in consultation with statutory consultees, interested parties and the general public.

The EIA process is iterative, and consultation will be undertaken throughout the process to take into consideration essential feedbacks which will inform the project design and layout.



## Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

The EIA will consider the effects of the Proposed Development during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Hagshaw Energy Cluster – Western Expansion. The EIAR will report the assessment on the following topics:

- **Landscape and visual** (effects on the character of the landscape and views from agreed locations);
- **Ecology** (effects on protected habitats, flora and fauna, excluding birds);
- **Ornithology** (effects on birds and protected bird habitats);
- **Noise and vibration** (effects on local properties from noise and vibration caused by the Proposed Development);
- **Cultural heritage** (effects on the integrity and setting of historic sites);
- **Hydrology, hydrogeology and geology** (the effects on surface water, groundwater, carbon stores, rocks and soils);
- **Traffic and transport** (effects from traffic travelling to, and from, the Proposed Development);
- **Socio-economics, tourism, and recreation** (effects on the local and national economy, local tourism businesses, and recreation facilities);
- **Aviation, radar and telecommunications** (effects on civil and military aviation facilities and air space and telecommunications facilities);
- **Shadow flicker** (effects caused by the passing of the turbine blades in front of the sun);
- **Glint and Glare** (effects of sunlight reflecting of the solar panels); and
- **Forestry** (effects arising from tree removal (key-holing) to facilitate wind farm infrastructure).

A further issue which will be considered in the EIA is that of potential cumulative impacts: that is, what effect will the development of this project have in conjunction with the operation of any other similar projects in the locality.

# 3R Energy

Hidden Area