

Hagshaw Energy Cluster Western Expansion | Phase 1

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process

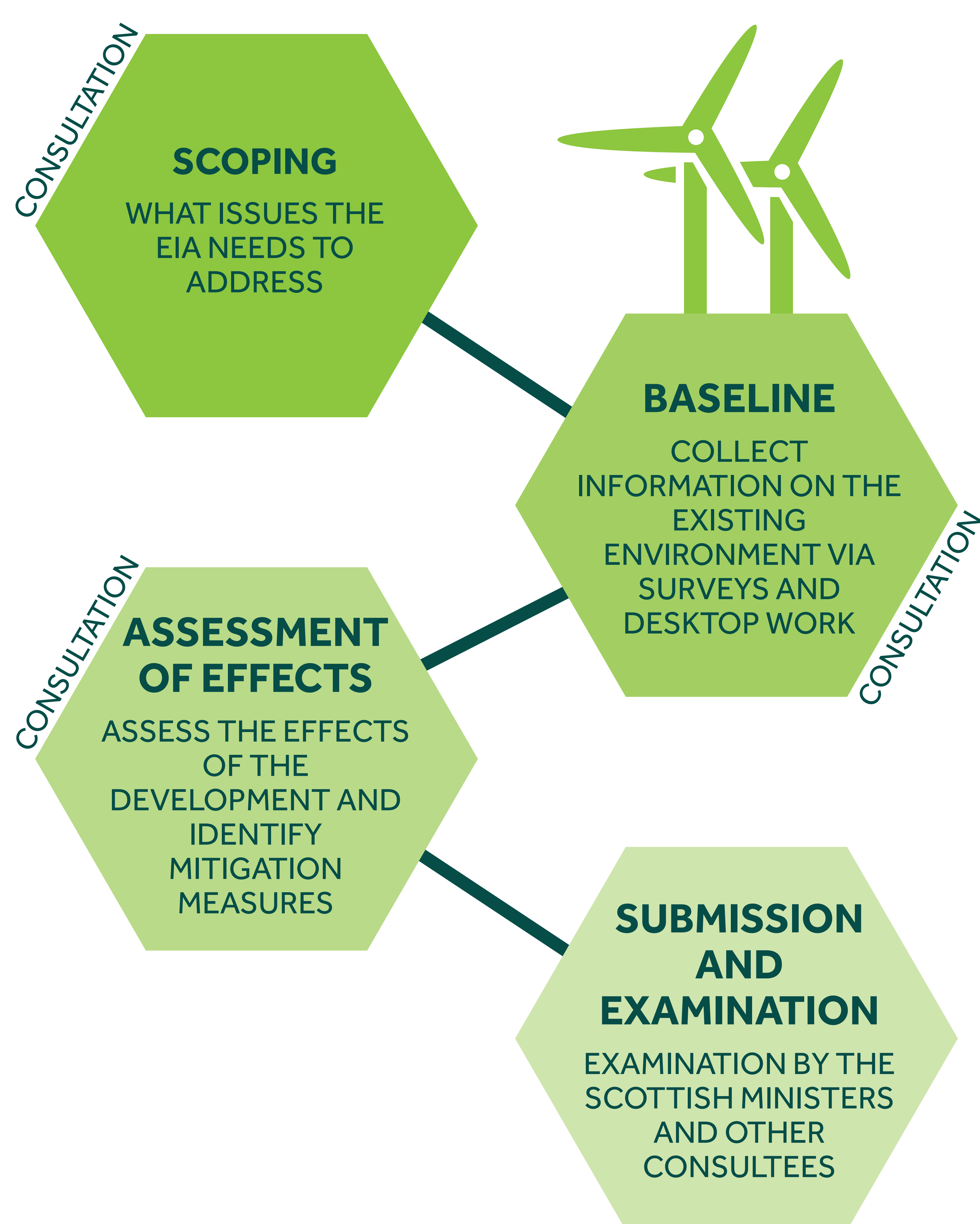
An EIA is the process of assessing the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project.

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 application 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 project programme to take into consideration essential feedback 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 (Phase 1). The EIAR will report the assessment on the following topics:

Landscape and Visual

Will assess the effects of the development on the character of the landscape and views from agreed locations. Further information is presented on the following boards including a selection of visualisations from locations surrounding the site.

Ecology

Will assess the effects of the development on protected habitats, flora and fauna on and in close proximity to the site. Surveys of the flora and fauna have been undertaken for the last two years and further surveys are planned in spring / early summer this year.

Ornithology

Will assess the effects of the development on birds and protected bird habitats on and in close proximity to the site. Bird surveys have been carried out since the spring of 2021 and will be completed this winter. Surveys have covered both the breeding and non-breeding seasons and additional surveys to cover the qualifying species of the Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands Special Protection Area of have been undertaken.

Noise and vibration

Will assess the effects of the development on properties from noise and vibration caused by the development, both from the wind turbine components as well as the battery energy storage facility and transformers within the area of solar.

3R Energy

Hidden Area