

# 15 Telecommunications

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# 15 Telecommunications

## 15.1 Executive Summary

15.1.1 This chapter provides an updated assessment of the potential effects of the 2021 Layout of the Proposed Development on existing and planned television and telecommunications infrastructure compared to the 2020 Layout (as assessed in the 2020 Supplementary Environmental Information (SEI)). The 2020 Layout was not anticipated to have any effects on television and telecommunications infrastructure, and no mitigation measures were deemed necessary. The 2021 Layout is not anticipated to result in any changes in effects.

## 15.2 Introduction

15.2.1 Chapter 15 of the 2019 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report describes and assesses the potential effects of the 2019 Layout on existing and planned television and telecommunications infrastructure, both within the site and in the wider area, during construction, operation and decommissioning. Chapter 15 of the subsequent 2020 SEI undertook a similar assessment of the 2020 Layout. Both assessments concluded that no effects would occur, and no mitigation measures were necessary.

15.2.2 This chapter provides an updated assessment of the potential effects on television and telecommunications infrastructure due to changes to the design of the Proposed Development. In terms of potential effects on television and telecommunications infrastructure, the most significant change in the 2021 Layout is the removal of a further five turbines (T5, T6, T8, T9 and T10). Further details on the design changes included in the 2021 Layout are detailed within Chapter 3 of SEI 2.

## 15.3 Response to Consultation Responses

15.3.1 The Joint Radio Company (JRC) responded to the 2020 SEI on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020, confirming that the 2020 Layout proposal had cleared with respect to radio link infrastructure and therefore had no objection. British Telecom also confirmed, on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020, that their original response (to the 2019 EIA Report) of no objection still stood in relation to the 2020 SEI. No other responses were received from telecommunication or television consultees.

## 15.4 Assessment of Residual Effects

15.4.1 Following the change in design of the Proposed Development to the 2021 Layout, a qualitative re-assessment of the residual effects on television and telecommunications infrastructure was undertaken.

15.4.2 The changes in layout from the 2020 Layout to the 2021 Layout included the removal of a further five turbines and reduction in height to bring all turbines to 180 m tip height. However, the locations of the remaining turbines have not changed.

15.4.3 Given the reduction in the overall scale of the Proposed Development reflected in the 2021 Layout, and that no impacts were anticipated for the turbine locations within the 2020 Layout, no adverse effects on television and telecommunications infrastructure are anticipated.

## 15.5 Assessment of Cumulative Effects

15.5.1 As the 2021 Layout will not impact any telecommunication links, it will not have any cumulative effects on telecommunication links with other developments.

## 15.6 Comparison of Effects

15.6.1 The results of Chapter 15 of the 2020 SEI are unchanged. Therefore, there are no predicted residual effects during construction, operational or decommissioning phases for the 2021 Layout.

**Table 15.1 – Summary of Effects**

Description of Effect	2020 Effects		2021 Effects	
	Significance	Beneficial/ Adverse	Significance	Beneficial/ Adverse
Effects on television and telecommunications infrastructure	No effect	N/A	No effect	N/A

**Table 15.2 – Summary of Cumulative Effects**

Receptor	Effect	Cumulative Developments	2020 Cumulative Effect		2021 Cumulative Effect	
			Significance	Beneficial/ Adverse	Significance	Beneficial/ Adverse
Effects on television and telecommunications infrastructure	No effect	Other Wind Farm Developments	No effect	N/A	No effect	N/A

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