

JASIKOVO WIND POWER PLANT, SERBIA



Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
Non -Technical Summary

November 2024

Contents

1	Introduction.....	3
2	Context of the Jasikovo Wind Power Plant	3
3	Why is Jasikovo WPP Needed?	6
4	Project Alternatives	6
5	Meeting Serbian Regulations	6
6	How Does a Wind Turbine Work?	9
7	Description of the Jasikovo WPP.....	11
7.1	Site Access.....	11
7.2	Construction.....	11
7.3	Operation.....	13
7.4	Decommissioning or Re-powering the WPP	13
8	Project Timeline	14
9	Preparation of the ESIA	14
9.1	Baseline Studies	15
9.2	Potential Impact and Benefit of the Jasikovo WPP.....	17
10	Stakeholder Engagement Plan.....	20

Figures

Figure 2-1	Typical Landscape at the Site and in Homolje Region.....	3
Figure 2-2	Layout of the Jasikovo WPP	4
Figure 6-1	Generic Wind Turbine Design	10

Tables

Table 5-1	E&S Conditions in Permits.....	7
Table 7-1	Dimensions of the Candidate WTG	11
Table 9-1	ESIA Surveys.....	15

1 Introduction

Sage Solutions (referred to in this document as “Sage” or “the Developer”) intend to develop a wind power plant in the Braničevo district of Eastern Serbia. This is a sparsely populated mountainous area, largely covered by woodland and open meadow. The Jasikovo Wind Power Plant (“WPP”) will comprise up to 16 Wind Turbine Generators and have a capacity of about 78MW.

It is currently intended that the Wind Power Project will be constructed and possibly operated by Jasikovo doo. This SPV has contracted with Sage Solutions to develop Jasikovo WPP project up to Ready to Build (“RtB”) status. It is possible that the RtB project will be offered for sale on the open market. As Jasikovo doo is likely to seek financial support for the Project from an International Finance Institute or a major commercial bank, Sage have chosen to adopt Good International Industry Practice in the assessment of the environmental and social impact of the Jasikovo Wind Power Plant project. This means that in addition to the regulatory requirements of Serbia, an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment was completed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Equator Principles and the environmental and social guidelines published by the International Finance Corporation.

This Non-Technical Summary (“NTS”) describes the key findings of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of the proposed Jasikovo Wind Power Plant (referred to in this document as the “Project” or “Jasikovo” or the “WPP”). This NTS includes a description of the Project, its location and design, the benefits of the development to Serbia and the region, as well as the mitigation of any potentially significant negative environmental and social impacts identified during the impact assessment.

Further information on the Jasikovo project can be obtained from project website (www.jasikovo.rs) or from Uroš Vidić at:

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2 Context of the Jasikovo Wind Power Plant

The Jasikovo Wind Power Plant will comprise up to 16 Wind Turbine Generators and have a maximum capacity of 78MW. A new sub-station (33/110 kV) will be constructed and a single 110kV overhead line will connect the sub-station to the switch yard of an adjacent WPP (Crni Vrh) for connection to the national electricity grid.

The closest settlement is Jasikovo village, about 2km to the north-east. The closest towns are Žagubica (10km to the south-west) and Majdanpek (16km to the north). The WPP site includes land within the Municipalities of Majdanpek and Žagubica.

The landscape is dominated by mountain ridges of moderate slopes and valleys. The area is rural and sparsely populated with many dilapidated and derelict structures. The properties in use are mostly seasonally occupied in the warmer months. A small number of properties is permanently occupied.

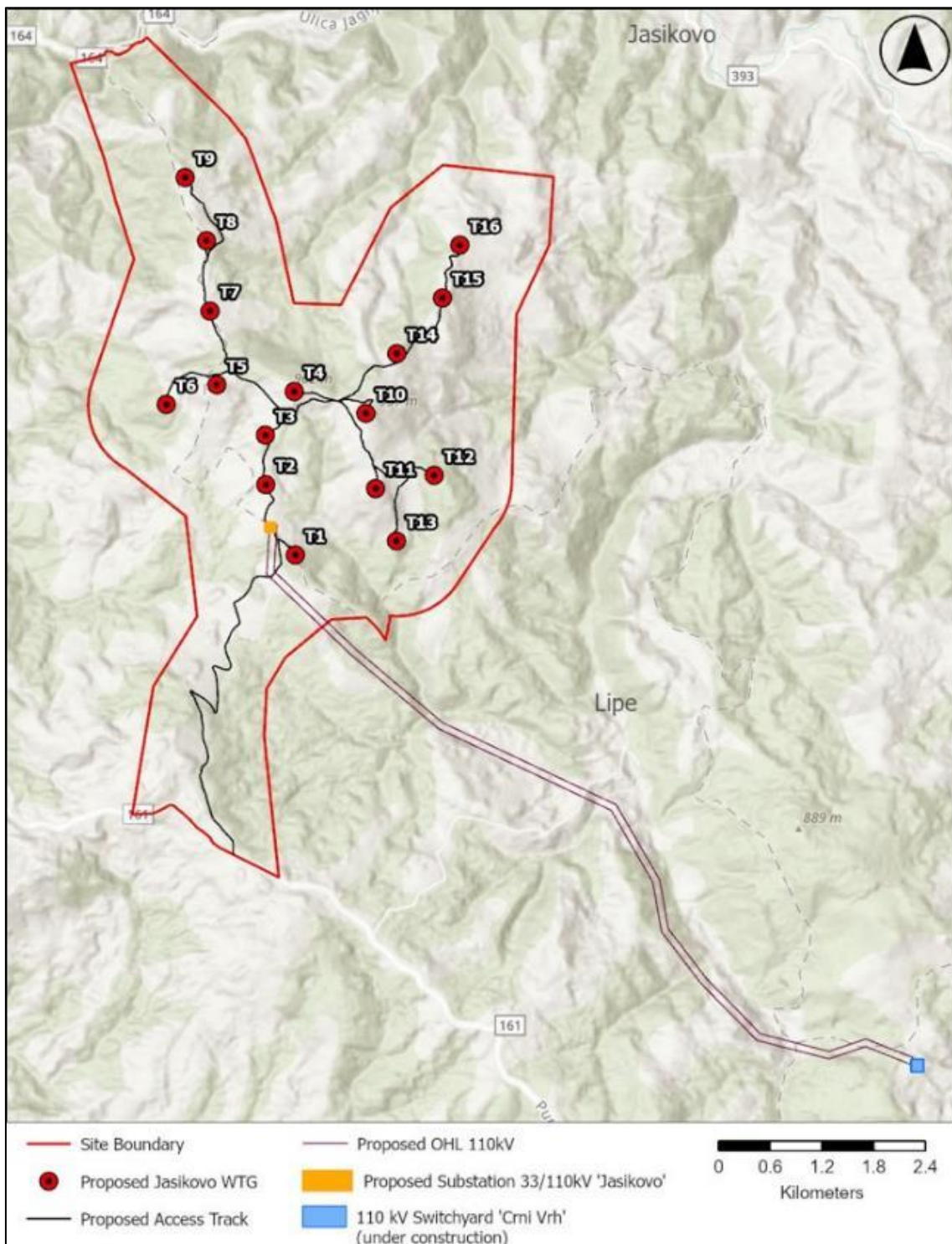
Figure 2-1 Typical Landscape at the Site and in Homolje Region



The WPP site covers an area of about 1,141 ha (11km²). Of this, 32.4 ha will be occupied permanently by tracks, WTG foundations and maintenance pads, substation and OHL towers, i.e., about 2.8% of the total area of the WPP.

Sage proposes to position the WTGs along the highest points of hills extending in a south-north direction.

Figure 2-2 Layout of the Jasikovo WPP



The site is crossed by a network of dirt tracks that are used by residents and logging companies. These tracks are open for public use but will be upgraded to provide access to the WTG locations during construction and then for maintenance vehicles during the operational life of the WPP.

The additional infrastructure for Jasikovo will include:

- **Electrical Substation:** The WTGs will be connected by 33(35)kV underground cables (about 36km) to the substation. The Jasikovo substation includes two power transformers 110/33 kV. The WPP control room will be in the substation building.
- **Connection to the electricity grid:** A grid connection study for Jasikovo has been developed by EMS (TSO), and grid connection agreement has been signed between Jasikovo and EMS, which defines the connection point to the grid in switchyard Crni Vrh. A single 110kV overhead line will connect the Jasikovo sub-station to the switch yard of the adjacent Crni Vrh WPP (about 4km to the south). The Crni Vrh switchyard is connected to the electricity transmission grid by three x 110 kV overhead transmission lines; one at 1.6 km, one at 2.4 km and one at 4.0 km in length.
- **Access tracks:** Upgrading the existing access tracks in order to link the WTGs to the infrastructure on the site. The existing tracks will be surfaced with crushed stone. There will be about 20km of access tracks.
- **Underground cables:** The cables taking power from the turbines to the sub-station will be buried in trenches running alongside the site access tracks. Communication links between each wind turbine, the meteorological mast and the control building/ substation will also be buried in trenches alongside the site access tracks.
- **Areas of hardstanding:** Each turbine would require a work area to accommodate the crane and turbine components during construction and operation (the “maintenance pad”).

The construction of the Jasikovo WPP will also include:

- **A cement batching plant.** This temporary plant will be located within the construction compound. The batching plant will have the capacity to produce in excess of 13,650m³ of concrete. This plant will remove the need for cement trucks to travel on the public highway. However, there is no suitable water available on site and the water required for the concrete will be trucked to site from a treatment works in Žagubica. The impact on the consumers in Žagubica will be determined. During a foundation pour (850m³), about 127.5m³ of water will be required (about 13 tanker loads). The total requirement for cement is about 4,095 tonnes. Assuming that 10t tankers are used to bring the cement to site, then 409 deliveries will be required to complete the WPP.
- **Up to 3 borrow pits will be created on site;** close to WTGs 8,14, and 16. These borrow pits will not be able to provide all of the stone required for construction. About half of the total requirement of crushed stone will be obtained from existing quarries near Žagubica and Bor. These pits will reduce the number of trucks that will travel on the public highway. The impact on local traffic must be assessed once the need for, and size of the borrow pits has been confirmed.

Sage Solutions is developing a number of renewable energy projects across Serbia, including the 300MW Brebex Solar Power Plant. The Brebex SPP will be in Southern Serbia, about 150km from Jasikovo. The Brebex SPP will include an energy storage facility (“ESF”) with a capacity of 80MW. Despite the distance, a commercial agreement between Brebex doo and Jasikovo doo is being prepared to store electrical energy generated by Jasikovo at the Brebex ESF. The only electrical connection between the two power plants is through the Serbian national grid; there will be no new OHL to connect Jasikovo and Brebex.

The development of Jasikovo will require:

- Lease or purchase of land plots for the siting wind turbines;
- Improvement of existing forest tracks to allow access of construction equipment and then maintenance technicians during WPP operation;
- Clearance of land required for the wind turbine foundations and maintenance platforms;
- Creation of appropriate foundations for the wind turbines;
- Transport of turbine components to the site;
- Installation of the wind turbines using large cranes;
- Construction of appropriate infrastructure including underground power and communication cables, a substation and connection to the main grid;
- Operation of the wind turbines for 25 to 30 years; and,

- Replacement or decommissioning of the wind turbines once the WPP comes to the end of its operational life.

3 Why is Jasikovo WPP Needed?

The purpose of the Jasikovo WPP is to generate additional renewable electricity that will be supplied to the Serbian national grid. The Serbian energy sector is very dependent on fossil fuels and the use of reliable, renewable wind power will help Serbia to reduce its use of expensive, polluting fossil fuels. The Project will to the Government of Serbia's commitment to promote the development of renewable energy projects.

In summary, the Jasikovo WPP will:

- Generate renewable energy that will contribute to national targets for reducing carbon emissions into the atmosphere;
- provide a valuable source of renewable energy for use within Serbia to support infrastructure development and the national building programme;
- strengthen Serbia's energy sector by helping to diversify its energy sources (which proved to be of great importance after the serious floods in May 2014);
- reduce the need for Serbia to import energy from neighbouring countries;
- generate 193,000 MWh/per annum, providing enough electricity to power 67,500 homes;
- displace about 180,535 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year that would be emitted if the same amount of electricity was produced from a coal fired power station;
- reduce the annual emissions from existing coal fired power plant by 5,720 tonnes of sulphur dioxide, 660 tonnes of oxides of nitrogen and 230 tonnes of fine dust.

4 Project Alternatives

The conditions of the Project site are excellent for wind development and unfavourable for the majority of other renewable technologies. Solar energy could be exploited at the Jasikovo site but this would mean the use of a much larger area of land and a significant increase in the loss of forestry and agricultural land. The Scoping Study concluded that a renewables project based on wind power generation was appropriate for the region and the site.

5 Meeting Serbian Regulations

Serbian EIA regulations require WPP developments of 10 MW installed capacity or over to be subject of an environmental impact assessment procedure. To initiate the Serbian EIA Study procedure, the local authority, in this case the Municipality of Žagubica and the Municipality of Majdanpek, must develop and adopt a Zoning Plan that includes a basic description of a new project. The approval of the Zoning Plan includes consultation with a series of national and regional statutory bodies that provide their conditions for the development of the Project.

The Zoning Plan is subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment that has to be approved by the local municipalities. The permits for WPP developments (Location conditions, Building permit, Operation permit, Energy permit) are awarded by national authorities.

Once the Zoning Plan has been agreed, the Developer can proceed with a procedure for acquiring the Location conditions for the Project; essentially a location permit. The Location conditions ensure that the project can be connected to the existing infrastructure onsite. The Location conditions are defined by the same statutory stakeholders involved in the development of the Zoning Plan.

The Zoning Plan for Jasikovo WPP was adopted in December 2023 and defined the wind power plant as comprising 16 wind turbines with a maximum height to blade tip of 206m and a maximum installed capacity of 78MW. A subsequent Strategic Environmental Assessment was approved by the Municipality of Žagubica and the Municipality of Majdanpek in December 2023.

Once the Zoning Plan was agreed, the Developer were given the Location conditions in July 2024. The Location conditions were issued for maximum installed capacity of 78MW based on 16 turbines. Maximum height to blade tip has been set at 206m.

Table 5-1 provides a summary of the E&S conditions in the development permits that directly regulate the construction, operation and decommissioning the Jasikovo WPP.

Table 5-1 E&S Conditions in Permits

Permit	Date Obtained	E&S Conditions
Energy Permit	To be obtained	No E&S conditions are set by the permit.
Location Conditions (Location Permit)	July 2024 (WTGs) November 2024 (OHL)	<p>Design/ Pre-Construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WPP shall comprise up to 16 WTGs, the maximum height to blade tip shall not exceed 206m. All mitigation measures proposed in the Study of Pre-construction Ecological Survey (conducted as part of the national environmental impact assessment) must be implemented. The turbines should be installed in a manner to prevent congregation of birds or bats in them and consequential bird or bat injuries or fatalities. All installations must be grounded, secured and insulated to prevent or minimise animal electrocution and mortality. The flashing obstruction lights should be used on wind turbines. Lighting of other structures must not be over-illuminating, must be minimised and directed downwards. The OHL must be designed and built to prevent electrocution of birds, in line with the Recommendation No. 110 (2004) on Minimising Adverse Effects of Above-ground Electricity Transmission Facilities (Power Lines) on Birds adopted by the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. Blades must be painted and lighted in line with regulations on obstructions to air navigation. Water supply to the substation compound must not be provided from surface or groundwater sources. Domestic wastewater from the site must be collected in a septic tank. <p>Construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the reproductive period (1st April to 1st July) any construction activity which may impact bird nests, hibernation and maternity colonies of bats, burrow mounds or any other protected species but which has not been previously identified in the Study on Pre-construction Ecological Survey must be reported to the IfNC and the construction must be halted until mitigation is implemented. The excavation should be minimised to the extent practicable. The removed topsoil should be preserved and re-used for the site restoration and landscaping. The construction activity should be conducted in phases to minimise concurrent impacts of the construction; The construction activity should not cause instabilities, erosion, pollution, or be detrimental to nearby structures; The construction activity should not be carried out within the watercourse bed or along the banks. Riparian and water vegetation should not be removed. The movement of machinery in the watercourse area should be avoided. If an active nest with eggs or hatchlings of any fauna species is found or destroyed, the construction activity must be temporarily halted and the Institute informed and

Permit	Date Obtained	E&S Conditions
		<p>provided with photos, exact location and time of the discovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any single trees or groups of trees that might be damaged or destroyed by the mechanisation, vehicles or stored material must be protected. • Collection, catching or killing of strictly protected or protected species at the WPP site is prohibited. • A minimum 5 metre setback shall be established between the underground cable route and a watercourse (Dimitrov stream). • The noise levels during the construction must not exceed the permitted occupational noise limits. • The construction compound should be minimised as much as practicable. The site vehicles movement areas should be minimised. • To prevent land and groundwater contamination, a protective lining must be used during refuelling or any maintenance involving hazardous substances (e.g. oil). The waste lining must be managed in line with the regulation on hazardous waste. • The construction waste should be properly disposed in interim dedicated areas. The interim disposal period should be as short as practicable, to prevent congregation of reptiles or other animals in these areas. • Domestic waste including the non-hazardous solid waste should be properly managed and disposed in interim dedicated areas prior to being delivered to a licensed contractor. • Existing tracks should be used as much as possible in order to avoid destruction of forest habitats. • Upon completion of the construction works, all structures and equipment must be removed, and the site must be completely restored. This is particularly related to the habitats of the Pearl-bordered Fritillary (<i>Boloria selene</i>), a species of high conservation interest whose habitats were mapped during the pre-construction survey of the WPP site. • Only native broad-leaved and grass plants should be used in restoration of degraded areas. Introduction of invasive or non-native species is prohibited (e.g. <i>Acer negundo</i>, <i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>, <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>, <i>Fraxinus americana</i>, <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>, <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>, <i>Ulmus pumila</i>, etc.). • Archaeological supervision shall be conducted in the areas of WTG foundations and hardstandings (except WTG T10), at the substation compound site, along the access tracks and OHL route during the clearance of vegetation and excavation works; • In case of chance finds, all work must be immediately halted and the area protected until the Institute for Cultural Heritage secures the findings. • If potentially valuable geological or paleontological features are discovered during the excavation works (e.g. fossils, minerals, crystals), the Developer must immediately notify the national Ministry of Environment. <p>Operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect the migratory species, the WPP must be equipped for continual monitoring of bird and bat movements over the site area. • The post-construction monitoring of birds and bats is mandatory.

Permit	Date Obtained	E&S Conditions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based upon the post-construction mortality monitoring results, curtailment of turbine operation should be considered if necessary. In case that high fatality rates of birds or other animals are recorded during the post-construction monitoring, the WTG operation should be halted and the IfNC consulted on the additional mitigation measures. It is prohibited to dispose any waste on-site which might attract animals (i.e. cause congregation). The noise from the WPP should be monitored and controlled. The noise levels should not exceed the permitted limits. If the noise level is increased due to turbine faults, the turbine must be stopped and repaired as soon as practicable. <p>Decommissioning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upon completion of the WPP operational phase, all structures and equipment must be removed, and the site must be completely restored.
Building Permit for WTGs	Expected in Q1 2025	The EIA consent is a prerequisite for the Building Permit.
Building Permit for OHL	Expected in Q1 2025	
Registration of Works for WTGs	Expected in Q2 2025	The Registration of Works requires the implementation of mitigation measures listed in the EIA Study.
Registration of Works for OHL	Expected in Q2 2025	
Water permit for WPP	Upon completion of construction (Q4 2026)	The Water Permit will set requirements related to wastewater management during the WPP operation, including any activities which might have an impact on the local watercourses.

6 How Does a Wind Turbine Work?

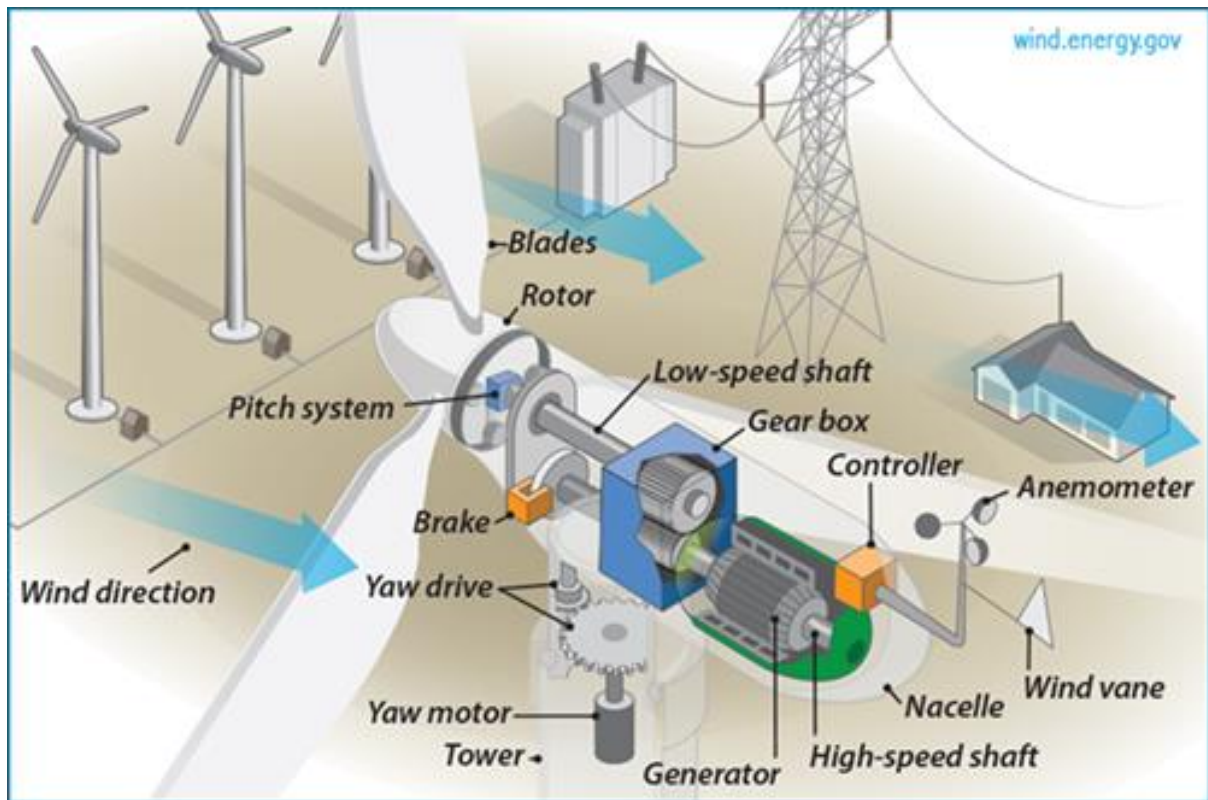
Wind turbines consist of three main elements: a hollow steel tower, the nacelle, and the fibreglass rotor blades (which are attached to a rotor on the front of the nacelle). The nacelle houses the main mechanical components of the turbine including the generator and the gearbox. The turbine transformer and the main control equipment are in the base of the tower (see Figure 6-1).

The five basic steps of electricity production from wind power plants are:

- Wind turbine blades are turned by the power of the wind;
- the blades turn a rotating generator in the nacelle which converts wind energy to electricity;
- a transformer in the base of the turbine tower increases the electricity voltage for transmission to the substation by underground cables;
- the substation increases voltage for transmission over long distances;
- the electricity is transferred to the grid and distributed to the power users.

The turbine nacelle is rotated by a motor so that the rotor points directly towards the wind. This is in the same way that the sails on a boat are oriented towards the wind by the crew. The direction of the wind is sensed by the wind vane and the wind speed is monitored by an anemometer. The WPP also has a tall mast where the meteorological sensors are mounted. This mast is typically much taller than the turbines.

Figure 6-1 Generic Wind Turbine Design



When the wind reaches and maintains constant speeds of over 3 m/s, the turbine blades will start to turn in a clockwise direction. The rotor shaft slowly drives the gearbox that converts the mechanical energy into electrical energy through an electrical generator (which spins at a much higher speed than the rotor).

At a constant wind speed of 3 m/s each turbine will generate about 20kW. At 6 m/s, the output is about 600kW but this rises sharply to the maximum power output at a wind speed of 10 to 12 m/s, when the turbine will generate the design or rated power, 6.2MW in this case.

The pitch control system alters the angle of the blades. This allows the blades to find the best angle, to deliver a safe steady rotation of the blades. The turbine's electronic controller checks the power output of the turbine several times per second and if the power becomes too high, the pitch mechanism will pitch (turn) the blades slightly out of the wind. Conversely, if the power becomes too low, the pitch mechanism will pitch the blades back into the wind.

At wind speeds above 25 m/s, the turbine blades are stopped by the control systems to prevent excessive wear and tear on the mechanisms. The blades are stopped by rotating the blades on the hub. This change of blade angle means that the blades are no longer driven by the wind; a process called "feathering" the blades.

Most of the electricity produced by the wind power plant will be transferred to the grid but a small amount of electricity is used by the turbines (e.g., the yaw motor and pitch controls) and on-site control facilities.

The basic operation of each turbine is controlled by its own computer systems. The operation of the turbines is monitored from a site control room but all WTGs can also be monitored and managed remotely. It is normal for the wind turbine manufacturers to monitor each unit from a central or regional control room. This means that the turbines are monitored continuously, 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

7 Description of the Jasikovo WPP

At the time of writing, the turbine supplier or model had not been selected. Sage is considering four suppliers, each company has been designing, installing and operating wind power plants for many years.

The Conceptual Design used for the initial Zoning Plan was based on a 4.7 MW turbine with a hub height of 125m and overall rotor diameter of 162 m. However, the PDR confirmed that the installed power of the selected turbine was not limited as long as the selected turbine was a maximum of 206m.

Sage has designated the Vestas V162 6.2 MW unit as the “Candidate” WTG. The physical dimensions of the V162 are shown below. The landscape, shadow flicker, noise and Collision Risk models have been based on the dimensions and characteristics of this unit.

Table 7-1 Dimensions of the Candidate WTG

Vestas V162 6.2 MW	metres
Rotor diameter (max)	162
Hub height (max)	125
Overall height (max)	206
Swept area (max)	20,614 m ²

The control room will be located in the new electrical sub-station. This control room is expected to be staffed from 08:00 to 16:00 from Monday to Friday. The sub-station will include welfare facilities for the WPP operators and the Operation & Maintenance (“O&M”) Contractor.

7.1 Site Access

The main entrance to the WPP will be from the south, from state road No. 161 (Bor - Žagubica). A second access point is from Jasikovo village in the north-east. The village is accessed via state roads No. 164 or No. 393. Both of these entrances are narrow, unpaved, dirt tracks and will need to be widened for construction traffic to pass.

The existing access tracks will remain open for use by local people and landowners. Where possible, Sage have positioned the WTGs alongside these tracks. The tracks will need to be upgraded to allow construction vehicles, erection cranes and WTG component delivery. The site tracks will be 4 to 6m wide. The total length of the site tracks is expected to be around 20km. Once the WPP is completed, the tracks will be used by the maintenance teams and will remain open for local use. No new tracks or access roads will be constructed.

7.2 Construction

It is Sage’s current intention to appoint an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (“EPC”) contractor to build the WPP on their behalf. It is likely that the EPC will appoint one or more separate contractors to undertake the civil work, including the turbine foundations, access roads and crane pads next to each turbine. Specialist contractors would be employed to construct the electrical sub-station and overhead power line to connect the WPP to the grid.

Construction activities will include:

- Surveying of the site.
- Clearance of vegetation for:
 - Construction compound, including equipment and material storage areas.
 - Lay-down areas.
 - New access tracks.
- Upgrading of the site tracks and construction of new access tracks to each WTG.
- Establishment of the construction compound (includes offices, welfare facilities, parking, and secure stores).

- Establishment of the concrete batching plant.
- Excavation of the borrow pits.
- Levelling and excavation (for turbine pads and foundations).
- Installation of electrical infrastructure.
- Cement pouring (mainly for the turbine foundations).
- Installation of the turbines.
- Installation of the new transformer.
- Commissioning the WPP and control systems.
- Landscaping the turbine bases.
- Final surfacing of the access tracks and maintenance pads.

The construction compound is temporary and will be removed following the completion of the construction. This compound will be used for storage of construction machinery, materials and wastes as well as the location for site office and welfare facilities. It will also include an area for worker and visitor parking.

Due to the size of the turbines, it will be necessary to construct substantial foundations. Each foundation is likely to be about 500m² and at least 3.5m deep. Piling may be required for some of the turbine foundations depending on the ground conditions. About 850m³ of concrete is required to complete the foundations for each WTG. The concrete will be prepared at the batching plant in the construction compound. There is no water supply on-site and all of the water required will be trucked to the batching plant. If the water is brought to site in 10m³ tankers, then 204 deliveries will be needed. The water will be brought from a treatment works in Žagubica.

Steel reinforcement for the structural concrete is expected to be sourced from a local provider but this will be confirmed at a later date. The turbine maintenance pads, which each cover an area of 2,000 m². Each pad will be surfaced with compacted, crushed stone. The sand, gravel, and crushed stone obtained locally.

It is possible that three borrow pits will be excavated on site; close to WTGs 8,14, and 16. These borrow pits will not be able to provide all of the stone required for construction. About half of the total requirement of crushed stone will be obtained from existing quarries near Žagubica and Bor.

The installation of the turbines requires two, or possibly three, large cranes. The biggest crane is transported to the site by truck and assembled on site. A construction pad (of compacted crushed stone) will be prepared at each turbine for the cranes. These pads will remain in place for the life of the WPP and will be available for use by access cranes should any major repair be required to the turbine. The large crane will move under its own power (“crawling”) from one to the construction pad to the next. The turbine components will be placed on the construction pad before being lifted into place. The base of the tower is bolted to the foundations. Each tower section is lifted into place and bolted to the section below. The blades may be bolted to the hub before being lifted to the nacelle or may be fixed once the hub is in place; this varies by turbine manufacturer.

The smaller, crawler cranes will be moved from one turbine location to the next along the site tracks. Existing tracks will be upgraded during the initial site preparation work and will connect the turbines and the substation compound. The roads will be constructed to a specification similar to the access road, including roadway preparation, stormwater controls, and placing gravel where needed. Roads connecting the compound to the turbines will be about 4 to 6 m wide, again similar to the access road.

A 33-kV underground power transmission line will be placed in a trench alongside each of the access tracks. These cables will be armoured with woven metal and buried to a depth of about 1m. Excavated material will be used to backfill the trenches.

The supplier of the WTGs has not yet been confirmed but they will be manufactured outside Serbia. It is likely that the WTG components will be delivered by river barges via the Danube River to the Port of Prahovo. The route is about 115km long. The route runs from the Port of Prahovo through the eastern edge of Prahovo village, continuing along the road No. 168 and road No. 35, bypassing the town of Negotin. After the Vražognac bypass, the road No. 37 climbs towards Bor and traverses the southern outskirts of the town to the northern edge of Brestovac village. The route then continues along the road No. 161 next to the small summer house settlement Brestovac Spa towards Bor Reservoir and northbound to the site.

The turbine components will be transported to site using oversized road transporters and will comprise:

- Turbine tower sections – Five loads per WTG (top section, middle 1, middle 2, middle 3, bottom section), each transported separately.
- Hub – One load per WTG.
- Blades – Three loads per WTG, each transported separately.
- Nacelle – One load per WTG.
- Drivetrain - One load per WTG.

These convoys will have a police escort and will pass through a number of villages on their way to site. Residents of each village will be given prior notification of the date and time of each convoy.

7.3 Operation

It is likely that the Energy Permit for the Jasikovo WPP will require Jasikovo doo to establish and maintain a small team to operate and maintain the WPP. The senior roles likely to be agreed under the Generating Licence are:

- General Manager;
- Operations Manager;
- Maintenance Manager.

The day-to-day responsibility for EHS matters lies with the Operations Manager (OM).

The WPP control room will be in the substation. The operation and performance of the turbines will be managed by a specialist team provided by the O&M Contractor. The control room is expected to be staffed from 08:00 to 16:00 from Monday to Friday. The control room team will also operate an out-of-hours standby system to manage breakdowns or emergencies.

The O&M Contractor will also provide continuous monitoring of the WTGs (including any fault or failure conditions) from an off-site Control Room. Should any operational issues arise then the O&M Contractor will try to resolve these from the Control Room and send an information email to their local team in Serbia.

The operation of the sub-station is the responsibility of Jasikovo doo, while the Interconnection infrastructure is the responsibility of the Serbian statutory transmission Electricity Supply operator, Elektromreža Srbije (“EMS”).

7.4 Decommissioning or Re-powering the WPP

The operational life of the WPP is expected to be 30 years; this is the typical working life of a wind turbine blade. As the wind power plant approaches the last few years of operation Jasikovo doo will consider the closure or the continued operation of the WPP by replacing the wind turbines (called re-powering). Should Jasikovo doo choose to re-power the WPP then the turbines could be replaced with new, higher capacity turbines. Re-powering can add another 30 years to the operational life of a WPP.

The decommissioning of a wind power plant is not a complicated process and largely comprises the dismantling of the turbines, removal of the turbine foundations and site clearance. Steel and other useful materials will be recycled. Inert materials that cannot be re-used or recycled will be taken to a suitable landfill.

It is unlikely that the turbine foundations will be removed completely. Instead, the concrete will be demolished and excavated down to a nominal depth of 1m. This will allow for agricultural activities to be undertaken safely once the excavation has been filled with top soil. All temporary roads, areas where the land has been compressed by heavy plant activities, and laybys and temporary platforms will be reinstated.

The sub-station may continue to be occupied, and the transmission line may continue to be used.

There will be no underground electrical cables laid less than 1m deep as, according to the local regulations and the conditions issued to Sage, the minimum depth for laying the cables must be 1.2m. All electrical cables laid more than 1m deep will be abandoned in place and will not cause any long term significant environmental impact.

8 Project Timeline

At the time of writing (November 2024), the construction timeline is expected to be:

- Plan of Detailed Regulation (“PDR”): December 2023.
- Location Conditions: July 2024.
- Issuing of building permit: Spring 2025.
- Start of construction: Spring 2025.
- Site tracks and roads construction: Spring 2025.
- Foundations and WTG crane pad construction: Summer 2025.
- OHL 110 kV and substation 33/110kV construction: Summer 2025 to Summer 2026.
- WTG installation: Autumn 2025
- WPP commissioning: Summer 2026.

9 Preparation of the ESIA

In line with Lender requirements, an ESIA Scoping Study report was issued in January 2023. The purpose of the Scoping Study was to identify the environmental and social impacts and benefits of Jasikovo and to plan the completion of the ESIA.

The Scoping Study indicated that the development of the WPP could lead to a number of environmental and social impacts, both negative and positive. The ESIA considered each impact and proposed a series of design changes and control measures to mitigate the negative impacts. The ESIA was prepared in the summer of 2024.

The impact mitigations and management controls required by this ESIA are summarised in the Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plan, or “ESMMP”, and will be delivered within the framework of the Project Environmental and Social Management System. The ESMMP is very detailed and is included in the main ESIA report.

The Scoping Study concluded that the ESIA should consider the following topics in detail:

- WTG layout (as the primary mitigation against the potential impact of shadow flicker and noise).
- Ecology and Nature Conservation – potential impact on birds;
- Ecology and Nature Conservation – potential impact on bats;
- Landscape and Visual - including cumulative landscape and visual impact;
- Shadow Flicker.
- Ecology and Nature Conservation – potential impacts on habitats and plant species of conservation concern;
- Socio-economic;
- Construction Traffic and Transport;
- Operational Noise;
- Ice Throw and Ice Fall Risk.

In addition, consideration would be given to:

- Noise during construction and decommissioning;
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage;
- Surface Water and Effluent;
- Land and Groundwater;
- Aviation Safety and Radars Obstructions;
- Electromagnetic Interference and Telecommunication;

- Ecosystem Services;
- Air Quality;
- Community Health, Safety and Security.

9.1 Baseline Studies

A series of surveys and studies were undertaken to obtain information that would be assessed during the ESIA. A summary of these surveys is provided in Table 9-1, below.

Table 9-1 ESIA Surveys

Key Issues for the ESIA	ESIA Surveys Undertaken
Ecology and Nature Conservation - Birds	<p>Extensive survey work over a one-year period was completed. The surveys were completed in compliance with NS Guidance (SNH 2000, 2012, 2017, 2018) and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vantage Point Surveys, • Breeding Raptor Surveys (walkover, total count). • Breeding Nocturnal Species (Owls) Surveys (walkover, total count), • Breeding Woodland and Farmland Bird Surveys (sampler points, Snapshot Method and Distance Sampling). <p>The VP surveys were designed to quantify the level of flight activity and its distribution over the survey area. Data was also used to inform potential disturbance and displacement. The VP surveys will provide input data for the Collision Risk Model ("CRM"). The CRM used in the assessment has been developed by NS and the British Wind Energy Association (BWEA) (Percival et al. 1999, Band 2001).</p> <p>If triggered by occurrence of qualifying species, CHA will be undertaken in accordance with IFC PS6/ EBRD PR6.</p> <p>The ESIA used the data to assess impacts and their significance, following CIEEM (2016), European Commission (2020) and NS (SNH 2018) guidelines. Cumulative impacts were considered and were assessed quantitatively wherever possible, in compliance with IFC (2013) and NS (SNH 2012) guidance.</p>
Ecology and Nature Conservation – Bats	<p>Extensive survey work over a one-year period was completed. EUROBATS guidelines were followed (e.g. details of survey methodologies), and the survey included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation of Roost Sites. • Trapping Surveys (mist-netting and harp-trapping). • Manual Bat Detector Surveys at Ground Level (transects). • Automated Bat Detector Surveys at WTG Locations, • Automated Bat Detector Surveys at Height, and Continuous Automated Bat Detector Survey (if mast is available for installation of the equipment). <p>If triggered by occurrence of qualifying species, CHA will be undertaken in accordance with IFC PS6/ EBRD PR6.</p> <p>The data was used in the ESIA to assess impacts and their significance, following CIEEM (2016), European Commission (2020), EUROBATS' (Rodrigues <i>et al.</i> 2015), and BCT (Hundt <i>ed.</i> 2012, Collins <i>ed.</i> 2016) guidance. Cumulative impacts were considered, in compliance with IFC (2013) guidance.</p>
Socio-economic	<p>Taking into account IFC's PS5 requirements, the ESIA specialists met with a sample of landowners whose land will be acquired for the Project and with households whose properties are located in the WTG safety zones, to determine if compensation is being provided at full replacement cost and if livelihoods will be fully restored.</p> <p>During the survey interviews, people were asked about general dependence of the local population on the effected land for any livelihood related activities, including exploitation of timber/ firewood, or for small orchards or vegetable gardens.</p> <p>Other identified stakeholders will be consulted during the development of the ESIA, to determine if any other impacts are likely to occur during the construction and/or operation stage of the project and how they should be managed, in accordance with IFC PS1 requirements. This included municipal and community representatives, as well as any active organisations involved in environmental protection. Engagement with stakeholders was carried out in accordance with IFC PS1 requirements and the guidance note</p>

Key Issues for the ESIA	ESIA Surveys Undertaken
	'Stakeholder Engagement: A Good Practice Handbook for Companies Doing Business in Emerging Markets' (2007).
Landscape and Visual Impact	<p>The landscape and visual assessment was based upon a desk study and field observations; a study area of 35km was used for the Jasikovo WPP. The fieldwork included the selection of viewpoints that were used as the basis of visualisations.</p> <p>Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) models will be calculated using the ArcGIS software for the candidate turbine model. ZTVs will include both hub height and blade tip scenarios. The LVIA examined the potential effects of the Project on the landscape and visual amenity of the study area.</p> <p>A range of visualisations (up to 10) were produced (photographs, photomontages and wirelines) using the WindPro software in accordance with NatureScot Visual Representation of WPPs (2017).</p>
Shadow Flicker	<p>A Study Area of ten rotor diameters around each proposed turbine was established to meet the requirements of international best practice and identify all potential receptors.</p> <p>The positions of potential receptors were fixed using the GIS database GeoSrbija. Both the worst-case and real-case shadow flicker models were developed using WindPro software. The predicted effects were evaluated for each receptor.</p> <p>A field survey was undertaken to inspect the receptors that modelling predicted would be effected by more than 30 hours of shadow flicker per year (or > 30 minutes per day).</p>
Ecology and Nature Conservation – Habitats and plant species of conservation concern	<p>Habitats survey work was completed throughout the vegetation season. The surveys were completed in line with PS6 and relevant best practice (European Commission 2020, Bennun <i>et al.</i> 2021). The surveys included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora and Habitats Walkover Surveys, • Detailed Habitat Mapping of the WTG locations and the routes of the site access tracks and OHLs, • Coarse Habitat Mapping and ecological evaluation of the entire WPP site area. <p>If triggered by occurrence of qualifying species, CHA will be undertaken in accordance with IFC PS6/ EBRD PR6.</p> <p>The data was used in the ESIA to assess impacts and their significance in line with PS6 Guidance Note, CIEEM (2016), European Commission (2020), and Bennun <i>et al.</i> (2021) guidance.</p>
Construction Traffic and Transport Impact	<p>A desk-based assessment of transport and traffic impacts was completed in line with the Guidelines for the Assessment of Road Traffic (UK IEMA, 1993) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the baseline traffic conditions along the routes (abnormal load transport and construction material transport), • Estimate the traffic levels likely to be generated during the construction phase, • Conduct qualitative assessment of potential impacts, and • Propose control and mitigation measures. <p>A route survey report for large WTG components was considered in the ESIA.</p>
Ice Throw and Ice Fall Risk	<p>The risk of ice throw at the residential structures within the safety zone of 500m-radius was estimated using a numerical model to quantify the risk based on a annual calculation of ice fragment strikes per square metre.</p> <p>The ice throw risk assessment was completed in-line with the 2018 International Recommendations for Ice Fall and Ice Throw Risk Assessments by IEA Wind Task 19: Wind Energy in Cold Climates.</p> <p>The potential receptors that might be affected by ice throw included the occupiers of the summer houses, users of roads and footpaths, WPP staff and maintenance contractors.</p>
Operational Noise	<p>All noise-sensitive receptors within 1,500 metres of each turbine were identified. The field work included the recording of the status of each receptor in terms of the current occupancy and the potential for future occupation.</p> <p>A baseline noise survey was undertaken at key representative locations of noise sensitive receptors. The survey was carried out in combination with anemometry measurements to determine the wind speed at the proposed turbine hub height. The survey considered the range of wind speeds and wind directions, during both daytime and night-time periods.</p> <p>Noise limits were determined with reference to the background noise levels and with reference to Serbian and international guidelines including the IFC EHS Guidelines and UNDP Guidelines on the Environmental Impact Assessment for WPPs.</p>

Key Issues for the ESIA	ESIA Surveys Undertaken
	<p>The noise impact of the WPP was assessed using modelling software. The assessment considered all relevant noise sources and their nature (levels and frequency spectrums).</p> <p>Noise propagation was modelled in accordance with International Standard ISO 9613-2: 1996 Acoustics – Attenuation of Sound Propagation Outdoors – Part 2: General Method of Calculation. Input parameters to the model and limitation for the ISO 9613-2 parameters will be chosen with reference to the recommendations of the UK Institute of Acoustics Good Practice Guide.</p>

9.2 Potential Impact and Benefit of the Jasikovo WPP

9.2.1 Design of the Wind Power Plant

Sage adopted the Scoping Study recommendations on the positioning of the turbines and the application for the Zoning Plan was based on these recommendations. The changes (mitigations) proposed by the Scoping Study were adopted in the local Zoning Plan and were detailed by the PDR Location Conditions. This included the adoption of a 500m safety zone around each turbine. These mitigations will ensure that almost all the potential negative impacts of the Project on the natural environment and property owners will be avoided or significantly reduced.

The total area of the wind power plant site is 1,141ha of 11km². Of this, the land required for the turbines, roads and buildings is very low and only 2.84% of the land within the site will be lost to the wind power plant infrastructure. In total 32.41ha of land will remain permanently unavailable for agriculture after construction.

The Zoning Plan allows Sage to develop a wind power plant of up to 78MW, using a maximum of 16 turbines. The ESIA assumed that all 16 turbines will be installed, and the assessment has been based on this ‘worst case’ design. However, as it is expected that Sage will use the Vestas V162 6.2MW turbine, only 12 turbines will be needed to meet the maximum capacity set by the Zoning Plan. Rather than using a smaller capacity turbine it is expected that Sage will drop three or four turbines from the scheme. Sage will want to keep those turbines that are expected to generate the most electricity but they will try to drop those turbines that have the greatest impact from noise and shadow flicker.

9.2.2 Habitats and biodiversity

The changes to the layout of the wind power plant (the “Primary Mitigations”) proposed by this ESIA, and adopted in the local Zoning Plan, will ensure that almost all the potential negative impacts of the Project on ecological features are either avoided or significantly reduced. Detailed biodiversity surveys identified a number of sensitive habitats or species that would be impacted by the construction of the WPP:

- The ESIA surveys identified habitats listed on the EU Habitats Directive. These include 0.37 ha of Lowland Hay Meadow (IUCN VU) and 2.89 ha of Moesian Beech Forest (IUCN NT), which will be impacted as a result of the construction of Project infrastructure. The loss of these habitats is considered of moderate significance.
- Three plant species of greater conservation concern/protection levels were recorded, with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) (IUCN NT), along with Burnt-tip (*Neotinea ustulate*) and Early Purple Orchids (*Orchis mascula*) which are both strictly protected in Serbia. Impacts to these species have been avoided.
- Eleven Strictly Protected butterfly species were recorded within the project area comprising Yellow-banded Skipper, Northern Blue, Sloe Hairstreak, Lesser Purple Emperor, Purple Emperor, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Lesser Marbled Fritillary, Lesser Lattice Brown, Nickerl’s Fritillary, Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell and Swallowtail. The Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary is also classified as an endangered (EN) species in Serbia and was recorded in open grassy and bushy habitats in five localities around the survey area. Lesser Lattice Brown is classified as a Vulnerable (VU) species in Serbia and is extremely rare in Europe. In the WPP area it was recorded in four localities, all drier grasslands and open shrubby habitats, with a large population identified, along with large areas of suitable habitats. Losses of small areas of habitat suitable for these species is considered not-significant.
- Beetle species Strictly Protected in Serbia and recorded on site are *Carabus ullrichii*, *Carabus violaceus*, *Molops piceus* *Morimus asper* (*funereus*), Alpine Longhorn Beetle (*Rosalia alpina*) and European Stag Beetle (*Lucanus cervus*).

- Five strictly Protected amphibian species recorded but minimal suitable habitat affected so unlikely to be significantly impacted.
- Eight Strictly Protected reptile species recorded but only European Green Lizard and Wall Lizard present in areas of work however these are unlikely to be significantly impacted based on population sizes and extent of suitable habitat available elsewhere.
- Of the bird species recorded, none are IUCN Critically Endangered (CR) or Endangered (EN) at an international or regional level and only European Turtle Dove is internationally IUCN Vulnerable (VU).
- An assessment of the conservation value of those species and habitats present/ potentially present was carried out for all 30 species of bat recorded. Populations of four species were assessed as having significant conservation value at the site based on the above criteria: Bechstein's Bats, Western Barbastelle, Brown Long-eared and Leisler's Bats. In addition to those, a further four species have been recorded that have a conservation status of VU or above according to IUCN criteria, these are: Mediterranean Horseshoe Bat, Schreiber's Bent-winged Bat, Pond Bat and Lesser Mouse-eared Bat.

Operational mortality is likely negligible however impacts to five bat species are considered possible, including resident and migratory populations of Leisler's Bat, Noctule Bat, Common and Nathusius' Pipistrelle Bat and Barbastelle. A conditional shutdown programme of WTGs 4, 7, 10, 12, 14 and 15 is proposed (pending the results of fatality monitoring). The preliminary shutdown programme must be prepared for implementation at these WTGs from 15 March until 15 November, from sunset until sunrise when all the following thresholds are met:

- wind speed (measured from nacelle) 6 m/s or below,
- temperature 10°C or above,
- no heavy rainfall.

The proposed shutdown programme would only be implemented if unsustainable mortality of the particular populations is recorded by the post-construction monitoring mortality surveys. In such a case, immediate implementation of the shutdown programme will be implemented to effectively mitigate fatalities. Therefore, the shutdown programme must be prepared and ready for implementation should it be needed. The conditional shutdown programme should be implemented through OESMP.

Some bird collision fatalities from WTGs are inevitable. The collision risk assessment and assessment of sustainability of the potentially affected populations concludes that there will be a negligible. The remaining species observed within the WPP site are considered not susceptible to collision mortality, of insignificant nature conservation value, or occur at the site only incidentally. Although incidental single collision fatalities cannot be completely excluded, such a low (potential) additional mortality could not affect their populations even at the site level, and no impact can be ascertained.

Between one and three years of post-construction bird and bat monitoring and mortality surveys will be undertaken in accordance with international best practice.

The ESIA concludes that if GIIP mitigation measures are adhered to, there will be no or no significant impact of construction on designated sites, habitats, birds and bats. Therefore, it is expected that construction of the Jasikovo WPP Project will result in no net loss for any ecological feature.

9.2.3 Landscape and Visual

The scale and topography of the local landscape is considered appropriate to accommodate the proposed WPP. Significant effects on landscape character are likely to occur out to about 2km, where the turbines would dominate the landscape both horizontally and vertically, creating major to moderate adverse impact. As the distance from the site increases, the turbines would appear in association with the broad-scale landform, reducing the impact significance to minor adverse.

The significant visual effects would be localised and confined to a distance of up to 5km. The wind turbines would be clearly visible and prominent in the views of a small number of receptors. The turbines will be very visible to about 12 of the weekend and residential houses to the north-east and north of the site and to walkers in the mountain. This impact is rated as major adverse. Beyond 5km of the site the views would be limited and intermittent due to the intervening landform and vegetation, resulting in minor to negligible adverse visual effect.

There is little that can be done to screen the wind turbines, but the growing of vegetation near the houses would reduce the impact over time.

9.2.4 Shadow Flicker

The term “shadow flicker” refers to the flickering effect caused when rotating wind turbine blades cast shadows over the ground. If the shadow crosses a house, it can create a nuisance for people living in the house. The intensity of shadow flicker depends on the time of year and time of day (due to the angle of the sun), wind direction as well as the distance between the turbine and the receptor. The effect is most intense when a wind turbine rotor is perpendicular to the line of sight between the receptor and the sun. For a turbine to work correctly, its’ rotor should be perpendicular to the wind direction. This means that each receptor will only be effected if the wind is blowing in a particular direction. For all other wind directions, the shadow flicker occurrence and magnitude will be greatly reduced.

Computer modelling programs for shadow flicker are aimed to calculate the maximum theoretical risk for the effected property and are therefore highly conservative and tend to overestimate the level of shadow flicker that would occur in reality. The models do not evaluate the flicker intensity but simply calculate the number of hours that the effect might be occur.

The shadow flicker assessment conducted for the proposed 16 turbines indicated that it is possible that the threshold of 30 hours per year will be exceeded at 20 properties. Two of the properties are residential houses and the other 18 are weekend houses occupied in summer months. For the affected residential houses (highly sensitive receptors) and weekend houses (medium sensitive), the shadow flicker impact is considered to be significant.

However, the assessment was based on the use of a computer model that took no account of existing vegetation or the limited occupancy of weekend houses. It is therefore considered that the actual amount of shadow flickering is likely to be much less. Jasikovo doo will inform the occupants of properties that may be effected by shadow flicker and will provide details on the timing and duration of the effect. Should the residents be effected by shadow flicker, consideration will be given to the installation of hard screens, such as fencing, or the planting of scrubs or trees.

9.2.5 Socio-economic

The development of the Jasikovo WPP will have a positive benefit on the local economy. Whilst the project will not employ large numbers of people, there will be some employment opportunities for locals.

Socio-economic impacts related to the construction phase are expected to be of minor significance. Negative impacts include those in relation to land use, as up to 63 ha will be used during construction, and possible damage of trees or to road surfaces. The use of land for construction (e.g. for the construction compound and storage areas) will be minimised, and any damage will be compensated by Sage at full replacement cost and roads repaired. With that, the significance of these impacts is reduced to negligible. In addition, after construction, up to 30 ha of land will be freed up and available for use again, which additionally reduces the significance of the land use impacts.

All other impacts are positive, and they are in relation to compensation gains that owners of structures which were acquired by the project, the creation of employment and procurement opportunities, causing further positive impacts on local livelihoods, as well as in relation to the upgrading of access tracks, enabling local land owners to access their land with more efficient agricultural or other machinery.

The most significant socio-economic impact during the operation phase is moderate beneficial and is in relation to revenue generation for the municipalities and donor support for local initiatives. Minor beneficial impacts are expected as a result of regular maintenance of access tracks used by local owners of land. All other impacts are negligible. The positive impacts are mostly long-term and all impacts are of a local character. Following proposed mitigation, there will be no change in the residual impact rating for these impacts.

9.2.6 Traffic and Transport

The construction of the proposed Jasikovo WPP would contribute to a significant increase (3-fold) in HGVs movements along the 5km-long section of the road No. 161 between Brestovac Spa and Bor Reservoir. The potential impact on traffic and transportation would be temporary and short-term, with medium magnitude of severance during summer months and moderate magnitude of driver delay. This would result in moderate adverse impact on visitors and residents in the area and moderate adverse impact significance on drivers.

It is possible that three borrow pits will be excavated on site; close to WTGs 8, 14, and 16. The local impact of construction traffic must be re-assessed once the need for, and operation of borrow pits has been confirmed

9.2.7 Operational Noise

The assessment has indicated that all locations can meet the Serbian daytime noise limits but some properties exceed the night-time limits. For many of these, agreement with the properties will be reached in respect of mitigation (for example sound insulation) and some properties very close to turbine will be demolished if the project goes ahead. However, if no agreement is reached, it will be possible to meet the Serbian night-time limits by running certain turbines in low noise modes at night.

Following proposed mitigation, the residual impact rating for the key impacts identified are **minor adverse**.

9.2.8 Ice Throw and Ice Fall Risk

The ice throw hazard area at the development site is expected to be up to 470m from the turbines, along the access tracks between the turbines and a small car park (3 cars) near the substation compound. The application of a 500m safety zone around each turbine has significantly reduced the impact of ice throw on local people.

The presence of pedestrians and vehicles at the site during the icing period is considered to be limited due to the mostly unpleasant weather conditions. The calculated ice throw risk levels are tolerable on the condition that risk reduction measures are implemented.

10 Stakeholder Engagement Plan

An initial Stakeholder Engagement Plan (“SEP”) was prepared at the same time as the Scoping Study. The purpose of the initial SEP was to identify, and then guide the consultation, with project stakeholders. The key stakeholders were invited to contribute their views on the project and to provide any information that they considered would be important in the preparation of the ESIA.

The Jasikovo WPP SEP includes the following information:

- Public consultation and information disclosure requirements according to national legislation and international requirements;
- identification of stakeholders and other affected parties;
- overview of previous engagement activities carried out for the project;
- future stakeholder engagement programme including methods of engagement and resources; and
- a grievance mechanism that can be used by stakeholders to record and manage complaints, concerns, queries and comments.

The SEP is a “living document” and will be reviewed and updated throughout the construction and operation of the wind power plant. The latest updated version of the SEP will be made available on the project website, which is to be set up by the Developer. All stakeholders will be invited to read, and comment upon, the SEP if they wish. Reports from various stakeholder engagement activities will also be available on the company website.

At the end of each year, an appendix will be added to the SEP which describes the stakeholder events that were held, comments made by the attendees, and a summary of any grievances raised during the year.

The initial SEP identified the key stakeholders as the residents of the municipalities Žagubica and Majdanpek, in particular Jasikovo village (Majdanpek municipality) which is closest to the project site. In addition, stakeholders included any people that may have been affected by land acquisition, active civil society organisations and those that received donations from the Developer as part of their corporate social responsibility programme, representatives of relevant municipal departments and institutions, as well as other statutory stakeholders.

Document End
