APPENDIX E
ECoW REPORT

Style: APPENDIX E File: P:\GINTW\PROJECTS\26491.GPJ Printed: 19/11/2023 11:28:55 Raeburn Drilling and Geotechnical, Whisteberry Rd, Hamilton ML3 0HP Tel: 01698-711177 E-mail: enquiries@raeburndrilling.com

ECoW Report: Fort Augustus Substation GI Works

Project: Fort Augustus Substation GI ECoW	**Project number**: 678754	**Report Author:** Mike Coleman (Mike Coleman Ecology)	**Report No:** 001
ECoW(s) on site: Mike Coleman (and Sarah-Rauch-Lynch (SSEN)).			
Reporting to: Joe Dolan and Craig Ritchie (Raeburn Drilling and Geotechnical)			
Date: 11/08/23			
Weather: WS-2, WD-S, CC-5>3, CB-c.900, T-16>22, V-Excellent, P-0, GC-firm			

This report documents the ECoW work undertaken on 11/08/23.

SITE VISIT

The ECoW undertook a site visit at the Fort Augustus Substation GI site to undertake a pre-works check for any ecological or environmental constraints. The GI works include boreholes (BH) and trial pits (TP).

All GI positions on the site were checked on foot, with the majority of positions requiring micrositing to avoid the requirement of vegetation clearance or tree felling; undertaking GI work on a man-made bund; or drilling within 10m of a watercourse.

TP7 – moved 11m N – no issues
BH2 – moved 11m W – no issues
TP1 – moved 11m S – no issues
BH1 – moved 11m SW – no issues
TP2 – moved to W of watercourse – no issues
BH4 – moved c.19m into ryderal vegetation – no issues
TP3 – no issues
TP9 – moved c.30m E into clearfell area – no issues
BH9 – moved W into clearfell area – no issues
TP10 – no issues
BH7 – no issues*
BH6 – no issues*
TP6 – no issues
TP5 – no issues
BH5 – moved off bund onto track – no issues
BH8 – to be moved c.4m S away from watercourse – no issues
TP14 – no issues
TP11 – to be moved 10m E away from watercourse – no issues
BH10 – moved into corner of clearfell area – no issues
TP12 – moved into open land S – no issues
BH11 – no issues
TP13 – no issues
BH12 – no issues
TP16 – no issues**
TP17 – no issues**
TP18 – no issues**
TP15 – to be moved into open area away from Overhead Line (OHL) – no issues
TP8 – no issues

In addition to the proposed positions, the water extraction point, in the watercourse to the east of the SuDS pond has no access issues, and water appears available and of clear appearance.

* = The access route between BH6 and BH7 should be along the fenceline of the clearfell area to avoid an area of marshy grassland and sphagnum bog.

** = Access to TP16, TP17 and TP18 should be taken on the track around the perimeter of the SuDS pond before heading to the specified GI position. This is to minimise the unnecesary destruction of the saplings being grown in this area.

SUMMARY

No immediate ecological or environmental concerns were noted during the pre-works checks. Most positions were microsited to avoid potential issues with watercourses, vegetation, or from an engineering perspective to avoid placing positions on man-made bunds.

One Toad (*Bufo bufo*) was recorded, along with a variety of common woodland and scrubland bird species. No sign of nesting was recorded. Two scats (likely to be Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and Pine Marten (*Martes martes*) were recorded on the track to the water extraction point.

The microsited positions are likely to require approval from the consultant engineers for the project, and if not approved, or if further micrositing is required, may require the presence of an ECoW.

Despite the overall paucity of ecological or environmental constraints on site, it is recommended that weekly ECoW visits are made to ensure compliance with all relevant legislation, including use of drip-mats, correct storage of chemicals, separated waste, no litter, and appropriate levels of reinstatement where earthworks are necessary for access.

PHOTOS



PHOTO 1 – The area between BH6 and BH7, showing the fenceline (left) where access should be taken, in order to avoid the pale green area (centre-right) of bog and marshy grassland.



PHOTO 2 – The microsited area of TP11, maintaining at least 16m from the OHL, and avoiding the narrow drainage ditch/watercourse present beyond the trees (centre-right of picture).



PHOTO 3 – Access route to TP16, TP17 and TP18, along the edge of the SuDS poind (left), taking direct routes to each of the GI positions within the tree-planting zone. This is to minimise the number of saplings to be destroyed during the works.

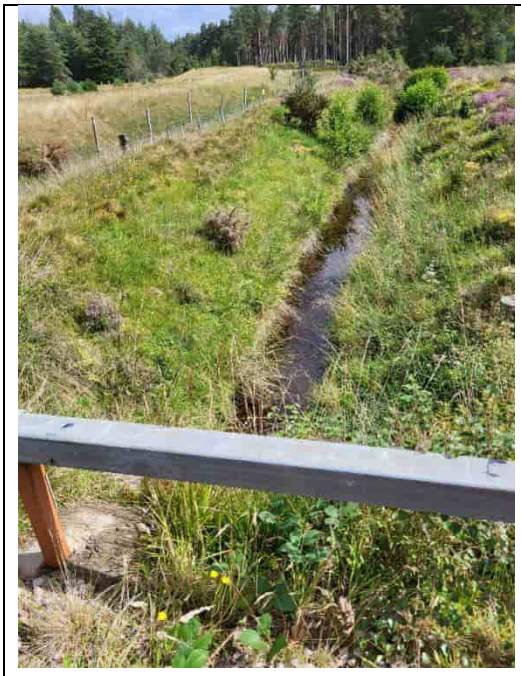


PHOTO 4 – The water extraction point, showing the northern half of the watercourse.