



Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

SCREENING OPINION

This Screening Opinion considers whether the proposal is EIA Development as by having regard to the descriptions of development, and applicable thresholds and criteria, within either Schedule 1 or Schedule 2.

Part I – Particulars of Screening Request/Planning Application

Applicant's Name & Address	Agent/Applicant's Name & Address
Keith Smith Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Grampian House 200 Dunkeld Road Perth, PH1 3AQ	N/A

Date Request/Application received	Application Ref. (if applicable)
17 th January 2024	23/02147/SCRN

Part 2 – Information Provided by the Developer in the Screening Request Under Regulation 8(1)

Site Location	Description of Proposal
Cambushinnie 400kV Substation Braco	Installation of a 400kV substation and associated infrastructure
Description of the Aspects of the Environment Likely to be Significantly Affected by the Proposed Development [8(2)(c)]	
The factors are— <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential landscape and visual impacts,• Ecology,	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human - Potential impact on nearby residential amenity from noise
Description of Likely Significant Affects by the Proposed Development [8(2)(d)]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape and visual impact, Ecology and biodiversity including protected species, Potentially visible from core path BRAC/111; path from Feddal Road at Braco Hall to Braes of Doune, Stirling and BRAC/108; B8033 at Wester Feddal to B8033 Muckle Burn via Bentick. Ancient/Woodland/Semi-natural woodland. Archaeology. Hydrology and hydrogeology Traffic and Transport Carsebreck and Rhynd Lochs Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) South Tayside Goose Roosts (STGR) Special Protection Area (SPA)/Ramsar Shelforkie Moss Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Drummond Lochs SSSI/Upper Strathern Oakwoods SAC
Description of Features or Proposed Measures to Avoid or Prevent Significant Adverse Effects on the Environment [8(3)] (elective)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 Habitat Survey including Protected Species Survey Ecological Impact Assessment Tree/Woodland Survey Transport Assessment/Statement including Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) Flood Risk (Surface) including Drainage Assessment Cultural Heritage Assessment – Archaeology Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) Noise and Lighting Assessment Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Sustainability including Carbon Assessment Decommissioning and Restoration Plan (if required) Peat Management Plan

Part 3 – Particulars of Screening Decision

Perth and Kinross Council hereby give notice, in accordance with the provisions of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (hereafter referred to as the 'EIA Regulations') that the development referred to in Part I above is **unlikely** to have significant effects on the environment. The Council's reasons for reaching this conclusion are set out below.

1. Does the development fall within a description of development as defined in Schedule 1?

YES		NO	X
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If YES – the proposal is EIA Development and EIA is required.

If NO – proceed to consideration of selection criteria under Schedule 2.

2. Does the development fall within Schedule 2, AND if it does, are the stated threshold and criteria of this schedule also met?

The proposal does not neatly fall within any extract of Schedule 2, however, the applicant has requested a screening opinion be undertaken to identify any potential significant environmental effects.

3. Does the development fall within a sensitive area?

In terms of the EIA Regulations “sensitive area” means any of the following:

- (a) Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- (b) Land subject to Nature Conservation Orders;
- (c) European Sites [Special Area of Conservation (SAC); an area classified under the Wild Birds Directive – Special Protection Areas (SPAs); OR a site housing a priority habitat or priority species being consulted upon (through the Habitats Directive)];
- (d) World Heritage Sites;
- (e) Scheduled Ancient Monuments;
- (f) National Scenic Areas;
- (g) National Parks; and
- (h) Marine Protected Areas.

Circular 1/2017 advises that the more environmentally sensitive the location, the more likely it is that the effects of a Schedule 2 development will be significant and will require EIA. For the purposes of reaching a screening determination special consideration will apply to these areas. In certain cases other statutory and non-statutory designations, which do not meet the definition of ‘sensitive areas’, but are nonetheless environmentally sensitive, may also be relevant in determining whether EIA is needed. These can include local landscape or biodiversity designations.

There are no “sensitive areas” as defined by the EIA regulations within the site.

4. Is the development likely to have a significant effect(s) on the environment?

Circular 1/2017 advises that the basic question to be asked is ‘Would this particular development be likely to have significant effects on the environment?’ by virtue of considering factors such as its nature, size or location, taking account of the selection criteria set out in Schedule 3 to the EIA Regulations; the information supplied by the developer; and the available results of any relevant assessment.

The selection criteria in Schedule 3 of the Regulations (Annex A of Circular 1/2017). The three categories of criteria are listed:

1. Characteristics of development
2. Location of development
3. Characteristics of the potential impact

The Scottish Government and The European Commission have prepared checklists to assist this process by providing a systematic approach to screening. Such checklists also provide a clear record of the basis for which the opinion was reached and as a point of reference for scoping opinions or queries.

I have taken cognisance of these checklists in the assessment of the characteristics and location of the development, and the potential impacts upon the environment are identified in Appendix 1 below. The potential significance of each environmental effect found has been used to decide whether the interaction between the development and location are likely to be significant.

It is the opinion of the planning authority, having taking account of the characteristics of the potential impact of the development, in terms of extent, scale, magnitude, complexity, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility, it is unlikely that the development would have a significant effect on the environment. A detailed study through an **EIA is therefore not required.**

This screening opinion does not constitute pre-application planning advice and any views or opinions expressed are made without prejudice to the Council's determination of any subsequent planning application. Therefore, this opinion should not be taken as implying that the planning authority considers this to be an acceptable development in this location.

Kind Regards,

Sean Panton,
Team Leader (Major Applications and Enforcement)

Dated: 5 February 2024

APPENDIX 1: EIA SCREENING CHECKLIST

APPLICATION REFERENCE: 23/02147/SCRN

SITE LOCATION: Cambushinnie 400kV Substation, Braco

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: Installation of a 400kV substation and associated infrastructure

DECISION: EIA NOT REQUIRED

OFFICER: Gillian Peebles

DATE: 5 February 2024

AUTHORISED: Sean Panton

DATE: 5 February 2024

	Yes/No	Briefly describe	Is effect likely to be significant? Significance should be considered in terms of the extent, transboundary nature, magnitude and complexity, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of any impact(s).
1. Characteristics of the Development	The characteristics of development must be considered having regard, in particular, to:		
(a) Scale of the development			
Will the development be out of scale with the existing environment?	No	The development will introduce a new substation approximately 250m to the southwest of the existing Braco West Substation.	Not likely to be significant given its current land use and proximity to existing equipment.
Will it lead to further consequential development or works (e.g. new roads, extraction of aggregate, generation or transmission of power)?	Yes	There will be consequential development in the form of additional 132kV underground cabling.	Unlikely to be significant.
(b) Cumulation with other development			
Are there potential cumulative impacts with other existing development or for proposed development in the planning system?	Yes	There may be potential cumulative effects with other battery storage projects within close proximity of the site. Planning consents 21/00756/FLM and 22/02231/FLM refer.	Moderate.
Should the application for this development be regarded as an integral part of a more substantial project? If so, can related developments which are subject to separate applications proceed independently?	Yes	The proposed development forms part of several upgrades to the Beauldy-Denny transmission circuit to operate at 400kV.	Unlikely to be significant.

	Yes/No	Briefly describe	Is effect likely to be significant? Significance should be considered in terms of the extent, transboundary nature, magnitude and complexity, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of any impact(s).
(c) Use of natural resources			
Will construction or operation of the development use natural resources i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> land (especially undeveloped or agricultural land)? 	No	A new section of track may be required on agricultural land, however, the land is not currently used for crop farming.	Unlikely to be significant.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> water or fisheries? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> minerals or aggregates? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> agriculture, forests and timber? 	Yes	Agricultural land.	The footprint of the development on the land will be relatively small, but it could result in a change to the landscape character of the area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> energy including electricity and fuels? 	Yes	Construction process will use materials, fuel and electricity.	Minimal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any other resources? 	No		
(d) Production of waste			
Will the development produce wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Yes	Construction waste and decommissioning waste.	Unlikely to be significant.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spoil, overburden or mine wastes? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> municipal waste (household and/or commercial)? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hazardous or toxic wastes (including radioactive)? 	Possibly	Some decommissioned materials may contain paint and coatings or the use of oils in transformer operations.	Unlikely to be significant.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> other industrial process wastes? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> surplus product? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sewage sludge or other sludges from effluent treatment? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> construction or demolition wastes? 	Yes	Minimal	No significant impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> redundant machinery or equipment? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contaminated soils or other material 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> agricultural wastes? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any other solid wastes? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> liquid or solid wastes in suspension? 	No		
(e) Pollution and nuisances			

	Yes/No	Briefly describe	Is effect likely to be significant? Significance should be considered in terms of the extent, transboundary nature, magnitude and complexity, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of any impact(s).
Will the development cause noise and vibration or release of leachates, light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation during construction or operation or decommissioning?			
Emissions from:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> combustion of fossil fuels from stationary or mobile sources? 	Yes	During construction. Throughout the operational phase will be limited to routine operational activity.	Duration of impact largely limited to construction and decommissioning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> production processes? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> materials handling including storage or transport? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> construction activities including plant & equipment? 	Yes	Construction plant.	Minor. Duration of impact limited construction and decommissioning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dust or odours from handling of materials including construction materials, sewage & waste? 	Yes	Potential increase in particulate pollution during site works. CEMP is to be produced.	Minor.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> incineration of waste? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> burning of waste in open air (e.g. slash material, construction debris)? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any other sources? 	No		
Is there a potential risk from:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> leachates? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Escape of wastes or other products/by-products that may constitute a contaminant in the environment? 	No		
Will the development cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> from operation of equipment e.g. engines, ventilation plant, crushers? 	Yes	Noise, vibration and the release of light throughout the construction and decommissioning phases. Lighting may be required during operation.	Duration of impact most likely limited to construction and decommissioning. Appropriate control measures identified in the CEMP.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> from industrial or similar processes? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> from blasting or piling? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> from construction or operational traffic? 	Yes	Construction process will potentially cause noise and vibration.	Duration of impact limited to construction and decommissioning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> from lighting or cooling systems? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> from sources of electromagnetic radiation (effects on nearby sensitive equipment as well as people)? 	No		

	Yes/No	Briefly describe	Is effect likely to be significant? Significance should be considered in terms of the extent, transboundary nature, magnitude and complexity, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of any impact(s).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> from any other sources? 	No		
(f) Risk of accidents, having regard in particular to substances technologies used			
Will there be a risk of accidents during construction or operation of the development which could have effects on people or the environment?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> from explosions, spillages, fires etc from storage, handling, use or production of hazardous or toxic substances? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> from events beyond the limits of normal environmental protection e.g. failure of pollution control systems? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> from any other causes? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> could the development be affected by natural disasters causing environmental damage (e.g. floods, earthquakes, landslip, etc)? 	No		
Will the development involve use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to people or the environment (flora, fauna, water supplies)?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use of hazardous or toxic substances? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> potential changes in occurrence of disease or effect on disease carriers (e.g. insect or water borne diseases)? 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> effect on welfare of people (e.g. change of living conditions) 	No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> effects on vulnerable groups (e.g. the elderly)? 	No		
(g) Risks to human health			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> arising from effects due to water contamination or air pollution etc. 	No		
(h) Other characteristics: potential physical changes (topography, land use, changes in waterbodies etc) from construction, operation or decommissioning of the development			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> permanent or temporary change in land use, landcover or topography including increases in intensity of land use? 	Yes	Land take for built development and infrastructure	Moderate.

	Yes/No	Briefly describe	Is effect likely to be significant? Significance should be considered in terms of the extent, transboundary nature, magnitude and complexity, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of any impact(s).
• clearance of existing land, vegetation & buildings?	No		
• peat land disturbance and/ or degradation leading to: carbon release, damage to habitats, affecting land stability or hydrology?	Maybe	Hydrology impacts need to be considered.	
• ff			
• creation of new land uses?	No		
• pre-construction investigations e.g. boreholes, soil testing?	No		
• construction, demolition, reclamation or excavation works?	Yes	Engineering works.	Minimal
• temporary sites or housing for construction workers?	Yes	Potential need for some site facilities for construction workers.	Minor and temporary impact.
• above ground buildings, structures?	Yes	Development will result in above ground structures/buildings.	Effects on the environment relate mainly to landscape and visual impacts.
• underground works including mining or tunnelling?	No		
• dredging?	No		
• coastal structures (seawalls, piers)?	No		
• offshore structures?	No		
• production and manufacturing processes?	No		
• facilities for storage of goods or materials?	No		
• facilities for treatment or disposal of solid wastes or liquid effluents?	No		
• facilities for long term housing of operational workers?	No		
• new road, rail, air or sea traffic or infrastructure during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Yes	A new track may be required during construction and operation.	Minimal.
• new road, rail, air, waterborne or other transport infrastructure including new or altered routes and stations, ports, airports etc?	No		
• closure or diversion of existing transport routes or infrastructure leading to changes in traffic movements?	Yes	There may be a short-term requirement for traffic control measures during construction phase.	Minor and temporary impact.
• transport of personnel or materials for construction, operation or decommissioning?	Yes	Construction workers will have to travel to the site. Routine visits.	Minor and temporary impact.
• new or diverted transmission lines or pipelines?	No		
• any works requiring an authorisation under the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005. impounding, damming, culverting, realignment or other changes to the hydrology of watercourses or aquifers? abstraction or transfers of water from ground or	No		

	Yes/No	Briefly describe	Is effect likely to be significant? Significance should be considered in terms of the extent, transboundary nature, magnitude and complexity, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of any impact(s).
surface waters?			
• changes in waterbodies or the land surface affecting drainage or run-off?	No		
• long-term/ongoing activity during restoration or decommissioning which could have an impact on the environment?	No		
• influx of people to an area either temporarily or permanently?	No		
• introduction of alien species? loss of native species or genetic diversity?	No		
• any other changes?	No		
2. Location of the Development	The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by development must be considered having regard, in particular, to:		
(a) Existing land use			
Are there existing land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the development, e.g. undeveloped land, Greenfield land, homes, other private property, industry, commerce, tourism and recreation, public open space, community facilities, agriculture, forestry, tourism, water catchments, functional floodplains, mining or quarrying?	Yes	The existing land use sits within an existing commercial forestry. A new track is proposed within the boundary of a field used for livestock farming.	Not considered to be significant.
Are there any areas on or around the location which is occupied by sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities, which could be affected?	No		
Is the development located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of greenfield land?	No		
(b) Relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area			
Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources which could be affected by the development?	Yes	Drinking Water Protected Area.	Not considered significant as no deep excavation is anticipated.
• groundwater resources	No		
• surface waters	No		
• forestry	No		
• agriculture	No		

	Yes/No	Briefly describe	Is effect likely to be significant? Significance should be considered in terms of the extent, transboundary nature, magnitude and complexity, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of any impact(s).
• fisheries	No		
• tourism	No		
• minerals	No		
(c) Absorption capacity of the natural environment			
Are there any areas on or around the location which are protected under international or national or local legislation for their ecological, landscape and visual, cultural or other value, which could be affected by the development? Particular attention should be paid to wetlands, watercourses or other waterbodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, nature reserves and parks.	Yes	SSSI and SAC designations outwith the site but within 5-10km of the site.	Not considered significant as the designations are not within close proximity of the site..
Are there any groundwater source protection zones or areas that contribute to the recharge of groundwater resources?	No		
Are there protected species in/around the location, for example European Protected Species, which could be affected?	Yes	A number of protected species have been identified in the area.	A habitat survey including a protected species survey will be required and mitigation measures may be necessary.
Are there any routes or facilities on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected?	Yes	Two core paths are located between 1.1km and 4.6km of the site.	Not considered significant due to distance from core path.
Are there any areas or features of historical, cultural or archaeological significance on or around the location which could be affected?	No	Archaeology and Listed Buildings but not within close proximity to the site.	No..
Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected?	No		
Is the development in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	No		
Is the development in a densely populated area and/or likely to impact on a large number of people?	No		
Is the location of the development susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions which could cause the development to present environmental problems?	No		
3. Characteristics of the potential impact	Establishing the potential significant effects of development must be considered in relation to criteria set out under Sections 1 and 2 above, and having regard in particular to:		

	Yes/No	Briefly describe	Is effect likely to be significant? Significance should be considered in terms of the extent, transboundary nature, magnitude and complexity, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of any impact(s).
<p>(a) the extent of the impact (geographical area and size of the affected population); None, proposal will be confined to the area and other developments in close proximity.</p> <p>(b) the transfrontier nature of the impact; None, any impact will be local to the site area.</p> <p>(c) the magnitude and complexity of the impact; None. The proposal affects only a small area of land.</p> <p>(d) the probability of the impact; None. The proposal is not expected to result in a significant effect.</p> <p>(e) the duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact. Low. The impact of the development is reversible, however, it is likely to be a feature of the landscape for an extensive time period.</p>			