

MEARNS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

SCOPING OPINION FOR PROPOSED SECTION 37 APPLICATION FOR KINTORE TO TEALING 400 kV OVERHEAD LINE

The above Request raise a series of issues and concerns on a number of levels. Given the lack of resources available to make a point-by-point response this letter will highlight the overarching matters as they are currently perceived. Having said that, in terms of viewpoints and natural heritage members of our Community demand that the impacts at the locations given in the attached schedule are amongst those included in any assessment.

Strategically, the case for the chosen transmission technology is not compelling and lacks objectivity, there is no clear evidence of robust, fully costed optioneering that includes comparative benchmarking of what is available and their relative impacts on the environment.

Thus far the approach of SSEN has been lamentable. This is an opportunity for them to conduct a transparent and meaningful exercise that may help restore some credibility of the operational and political intent within the community. A valuable first step would be for them to commit to adhere to International Best Practice where ever it is reasonably practicable to do so, and where they believe this is not possible, provide a full and clear reason why an organisation with their resources cannot.

We know that the UK Government has committed that *“this infrastructure must be delivered strategically and sensitively by the Transmission Owners and developers, using a mix of onshore reinforcements upgrades to existing technology, offshore transmission cables and, where appropriate, undergrounding.”* This was what the Secretary for State wrote on 26th September 2024. It is worthy of note that that within the *“mix”* The Minister does not mention the wholesale, permanent disfigurement of the environment which a project of this type would mean. Given that, even with the most generous interpretation of the Minister’s *“mix”* a large-scale new build project of this type clearly falls out with his scope.

Notwithstanding the welcome clarity of the Minister’s definition, it seems there is a presumption that the proposed project will proceed as SSEN see fit and as such numerous aspects of the rich and varied environment of North East Scotland will be sacrificed in name of a cynical and opportunistic green washed agenda that has more to do with profit and political expediency.

To emphasise that point, the matter of the very real and present threat posed by Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) (its spread facilitated by this proposed project and ultimately its supporters and enablers) appears to be being ignored on scale and consequential impact of recent scandals like the Contaminated Blood and the Post Office’s Horizon debacle. PCN, if allowed to spread (as this project will undoubtedly facilitate) will destroy the existing agricultural environment and economy which will have international consequences. Turning a blind eye is not a satisfactory solution and this subject document falls well short the need to specifically and fully address this existential threat.

Schedule of valuable natural heritage, including but not limited to :

56°52'48"N 2°25'29"W

56°53'29"N 2°27'02"W

56°53'29"N 2°27'02"W

56°50'07"N 2°30'49"W

56°53'17"N 2°24'55"W

56°51'36"N 2°28'56"W

56°56'25"N 2°21'30"W

56°53'31"N 2°27'03"W

56°49'07"N 2°34'39"W

56°48'57"N 2°33'26"W

56°51'14"N 2°29'26"W

56°52'07"N 2°28'38"W

Demi Gray

From: ROSSI, Sacha [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 September 2024 13:57
To: Econsents Admin
Cc: NATS Safeguarding
Subject: RE: 240918 - Consultation Email to Consultee - Request for Scoping Opinion for proposed Section 37 Application for Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line [SG35319]

Dear Sirs,

NATS has reviewed the basic routing and does not anticipate any of these passing within proximity of its infrastructure. It has engaged with the Applicant and understands that most of the work will involve replacing existent towers and masts; accordingly it anticipates no impact from this.
With regards to the selection of new routes, again the Applicant has advised this is ongoing and NATS has no major concerns. It has identified its installation at Durrus Slug as potentially being in relative proximity, but the ground height advantage of this site, means it considers the risk to be very low.

As such, NATS's position is that it considers that Aviation does not need to be scoped in.

Regards
S. Rossi
NATS Safeguarding Office



Sacha Rossi
ATC Systems Safeguarding Engineer

D: 01489 444205

E: [REDACTED]

4000 Parkway, Whiteley,
Fareham, Hants PO15 7FL
www.nats.co.uk





The Scottish Government
Energy Consents Unit
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
G2 8LU

Network Rail
Town Planning
151 St Vincent Street
Glasgow
G2 5NW

Selina Gourlay
Town Planning Technician

Planning reference: ECU00005225
Case Officer: Shah Khataza

E-Mail:
TownPlanningScotland@networkrail.co.uk

Network Rail ref: 278 2024
20/09/2024

Dear Ms Khataza,

**ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 RE:
REQUEST FOR SCOPING OPINION FOR PROPOSED SECTION 37
APPLICATION FOR KINTORE TO TEALING 400 kV OVERHEAD LINE.**

Thank you for consulting Network Rail regarding the above development.

We would strongly suggest that reference to the significant issues below are included in the Scoping Opinion to ensure that potential impacts of both the construction and completed development on the current and future safe and efficient operation of the railway are assessed:

- A Traffic Assessment should be included to assess the effects of construction traffic on existing traffic flows and the public road network. Preferred construction traffic routes should be indicated. This will enable Network Rail to assess the possible impacts where/if the traffic crosses over/under our infrastructure and the suitability of these crossings.
- Details of proposed construction and engineering works in the vicinity of the railway line. This should include the location, design and construction of the proposed buried cable route where it will cross underneath the railway.

Yours sincerely

REDACTED

Selina Gourlay
Town Planning Technician

Tuesday, 01 October 2024



Local Planner
Energy Consents Unit
5 Atlantic Quay
Glasgow
G2 8LU

Development Operations
The Bridge
Buchanan Gate Business Park
Cumbernauld Road
Stepps
Glasgow
G33 6FB

Development Operations
Freephone Number - 0800 3890379
E-Mail - DevelopmentOperations@scottishwater.co.uk
www.scottishwater.co.uk



Dear Customer,

Kintore to Tealing 400 kV Overhead Line, Aberdeen, DD8 2UY

Planning Ref: ECU00005225

Our Ref: DSCAS-0118024-CCB

Proposal: SSEN Transmission, is proposing to submit an application for permission under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 to install and keep installed an approximately 106 kilometre (km) 400 kV OHL, supported by steel lattice towers between a proposed new substation at Emmock, near to Tealing in Angus and an existing substation at Kintore via a second proposed new substation to be named Hurlie, which is to be located within Fetteresso Forest west of Stonehaven.

Please quote our reference in all future correspondence

Scottish Water has no objection to this proposal. Please read the following carefully as there may be further action required. Scottish Water would advise the following:

Drinking Water Protected Areas

A review of our records indicates that the proposed activity falls partly within two drinking water catchments where a Scottish Water abstraction is located. Scottish Water abstractions are designated as Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPA) under Article 7 of the Water Framework Directive. The River Dee (Inchgarth) supplies Mannofield Water Treatment Works (WTW) and the River Tay supplies Perth Gowans Terrace Water Treatment Works (WTW), therefore it is essential that water quality and water quantity in the area are protected. In the event of an incident occurring that could affect Scottish Water we should be notified without delay using the Customer Helpline number **0800 0778 778**.

I can confirm the route is likely to be of low risk to water quality given the location within the catchments, it would be useful to liaise with us further to ensure water quality mitigations are robust and we are aware of work taking place in the catchments ahead of starting on site. In

particular we would prefer that any refuelling of vehicles and plant takes place out with the catchments and that there are specific mitigations in place to prevent and reduce the risk of hydrocarbon leaks and spills, as well as mitigations to collect any run off from wet weather events which could impact on water quality.

Scottish Water have produced a list of precautions for a range of activities. This details protection measures to be taken within a DWPA, the wider drinking water catchment and if there are assets in the area. Please note that site specific risks and mitigation measures will require to be assessed and implemented. These documents and other supporting information can be found on the activities within our catchments page of our website at www.scottishwater.co.uk/slm.

We welcome receipt of this notification about the proposed activity within a drinking water catchment where a Scottish Water abstraction is located.

The fact that this area is located within a drinking water catchment should be noted in documentation. Also anyone working on site should be made aware of this during site inductions and we would also like to take the opportunity, to request that 3 months in advance of any works commencing on site, Scottish Water is notified at protectdwsources@scottishwater.co.uk so we can make our operational teams aware there will be activity taking place in the catchment.

Scottish Water Assets

A review of our records indicates that there are multiple Scottish Water assets in the areas detailed. The assets and their importance should be confirmed through obtaining plans from our Asset Plan Providers. Details of our Asset Plan Providers are included in the SW list of precautions for assets, which can be found on the activities within our catchments page of our website at www.scottishwater.co.uk/slm.

All Scottish Water assets potentially affected by the activity should be identified, with particular consideration being given to access roads and pipe crossings. If necessary, local Scottish Water personnel may be able to visit the site to offer advice. All of Scottish Water's processes, standards and policies in relation to dealing with asset conflicts must be complied with.

In the event that asset conflicts are identified then early contact should be made with the **HAUC** Diversions Team via the Development Services portal - www.scottishwater.co.uk/portal All detailed design proposals relating to the protection of Scottish Water's assets should be submitted to the HAUC for review and written acceptance. Works should not take place on site without prior written acceptance by Scottish Water.

Scottish Water have produced a list of precautions for a range of activities. The list of precautions for assets details protection measures to be taken if there are assets in the area. Please note that site specific risks and mitigation measures will require to be assessed and implemented. The document/s and other supporting information can be found on the activities within our catchments page of our website at www.scottishwater.co.uk/slm.

It should be noted that the proposals will be required to comply with Sewers for Scotland and Water for Scotland 4th Editions 2018, including provision of appropriate clearance distances from Scottish Water assets.

Surface Water

For reasons of sustainability and to protect our customers from potential future sewer flooding, Scottish Water will not accept any surface water connections into our combined sewer system.

There may be limited exceptional circumstances where we would allow such a connection for brownfield sites only, however this will require significant justification from the customer taking account of various factors including legal, physical, and technical challenges.

In order to avoid costs and delays where a surface water discharge to our combined sewer system is anticipated, the developer should refer to our guides which can be found at <https://www.scottishwater.co.uk/Help-and-Resources/Document-Hub/Business-and-Developers/Connecting-to-Our-Network> which detail our policy and processes to support the application process, evidence to support the intended drainage plan should be submitted at the technical application stage where we will assess this evidence in a robust manner and provide a decision that reflects the best option from environmental and customer perspectives.

Next Steps:

All developments that propose a connection to the public water or waste water infrastructure are required to submit a Pre-Development Enquiry (PDE) Form via our Customer Portal prior to any formal technical application being submitted, allowing us to fully appraise the proposals

I trust the above is acceptable however if you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact me on **0800 389 0379** or via the e-mail address below or at planningconsultations@scottishwater.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Allison

Development Services Analyst

PlanningConsultations@scottishwater.co.uk

Scottish Water Disclaimer:

"It is important to note that the information on any such plan provided on Scottish Water's infrastructure, is for indicative purposes only and its accuracy cannot be relied upon. When the exact location and the nature of the infrastructure on the plan is a material requirement then you should undertake an appropriate site investigation to confirm its actual position in the ground and to determine if it is suitable for its intended purpose. By using the plan you agree that Scottish Water will not be liable for any loss, damage or costs caused by relying upon it or from carrying out any such site investigation."

Supplementary Guidance

- Scottish Water asset plans can be obtained from our appointed asset plan providers:
 - Site Investigation Services (UK) Ltd
 - Tel: 0333 123 1223
 - Email: sw@sisplan.co.uk
 - www.sisplan.co.uk
- Scottish Water's current minimum level of service for water pressure is 1.0 bar or 10m head at the customer's boundary internal outlet. Any property which cannot be adequately serviced from the available pressure may require private pumping arrangements to be installed, subject to compliance with Water Byelaws. If the developer wishes to enquire about Scottish Water's procedure for checking the water pressure in the area, then they should write to the Development Operations department at the above address.
- If a connection to the public sewer and/or water main requires to be laid through land out-with public ownership, the developer must provide evidence of formal approval from the affected landowner(s) by way of a deed of servitude.
- Scottish Water may only vest new water or waste water infrastructure which is to be laid through land out with public ownership where a Deed of Servitude has been obtained in our favour by the developer.
- The developer should also be aware that Scottish Water requires land title to the area of land where a pumping station and/or a Sustainable Drainage System (SUDS) proposed to vest in Scottish Water is constructed.
- Please find information on how to submit application to Scottish Water at our Customer Portal.

	Viewpoint location	Grid reference	Other references	What3Words	Description
1	A90 layby Parkford		56°41'15"N, 2°51'02"W		
2	The outlook from near little Brechin, Piperton and Brathinch	OS map reference NO 58867 62894	56.7557965, -2.6743203		Outlook will have multiple pylons
3	Lochty	NO 53811 62623			Line of pylons south facing view from property recently purchased and now renovating after being derelict nearly 40 years. Line of pylons now in view
4	Lochty Cottages	NO 54075 61965 - NO 54191 61985 and 541619 (54179 61968)			A cluster of 8 cottages seeing the same line of pylons facing north as in 3 above, towards the heritage sight of the Caturthuns - completely obliterating the view.
5	Montboy cottages	N53.8 W61.5 (OS Explorer map 389)			Cluster of 3 homes Properies looking directly out onto line of pylons, within 170m, with no barriers to screen the pylons
6	Gardener's cottage campsite, near Noranside		Coordinates: 56.7413460,- 2.8562928 This is the mid point with the viewable border stretching 0.3miles.		Direct view across the valley to the south and south east from all the camping pitches, reason for purchasing site.

7	Careston Castle		56°43'41"N 2°46'07"W		Careston castle is a 16 th century house with large estate
7a	Tourism business near Careston Castle	Grid Reference NO531599			AirBnB business reliant on view
7b	Waterstone, near Careston Castle		56.727665,-2.787634	fanfare.events.freshest	
8	Taigh Gleusta, near Tannadice	NO 47132 58260	Easting, Northing, 347132 , 758260 56.713022 , -2.8652498		Self catering holiday accommodation reliant on views(photos available)
9	B957		56.6960517, -2.8992078		Cluster of houses with views to Inshewan House (Historic Scotland) over the South Esk (photos available)
10	Balnuith Alpacas Tealing		56.52720° N 2.98489° W		Business dependant on rural location
11	Hilton of Fern Agri Tech Centre		56.731621, -2.804627	carpentry.swooned.splits	Agricultural centre funded by Angus Council/Scottish Government
12	Aberlemno layby		56.700478, -2.763187	opposing.prune.smudges	View from popular scenic view (photos available)
13	Law of Windsor		56.73317859, - 2.79754471	imply.captures.moment	View from Law of Windsor Ancient monument(photos available)
14	Inchbare		Between 56.783471, - 2.653507 and 56.782951, -2.656331 and extending to 56.78324, -2.64906		Cluster of homes looking directly onto line of pylons and within 170m. 2 homes built specifically to factor in the view.

15	Fern to Tigerton road		Easting 550 Northing 645		Tourist route traversing hills with White Caterthun behind and Glen Lethnot. Stunning views along vast valley to Roughmount Wood, Weires Wood, Duns Wood and Lochty Wood Route used for Ride the North 2024, Brechin Bikes Trike Fest 2024 and Vintage car rally 2022
16	A90 From Glamis junction heading north to Mearns				Stunning views along Strathmore valley, seen from roadside (tourist route) and small clusters of homes looking down towards the Strathmore Valley
17	North Quilkoe		56°40'24"N, 2°53'48"W		Cluster of homes looking down towards Strathmore Valley
18	Edzell road (behind Tigerton)				Tourist route which will see the line from Edzell Woods
19	Craigeassie Farm		56°42'06"N, 2°53'28"W		Photos available. Multiple viewpoints within and to the South Esk valley- grid references available
20	Craigowl Hill		56°32'52N, 3°00'56"W		Walking route and local viewpoint. Will look down on OHLs and substation
21	Coldstream, Hillside of Prieston, Tealing	NO393396			Three properties, one, Grand View, not even

					acknowledged as being on SSEN map, beside Coldstream, Hillside of Prieston. New build home looking directly onto pylons north and west of property running to substation.
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The Coal
Authority

200 Lichfield Lane
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4RG

T: 01623 637 119 (Planning Enquiries)

E: planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk

W: www.gov.uk/coalauthority

For the attention of: Shafharia Khataza

Energy Development

[By email: EconsentsAdmin@gov.scot]

20 September 2024

Dear Shafharia Khataza

Re: ECU00005225 Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Request for scoping opinion for proposed section 37 application for kintore to tealing 400 KV overhead line.; KINTORE IN ABERDEENSHIRE AND, TEALING IN ANGUS, SCOTLAND

Thank you for your notification of 18 September 2024 seeking the views of the Coal Authority on the above.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. As a statutory consultee, the Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

The site to which this submission relates is not located within the defined coalfield. On this basis we have no specific comment to make.

Yours

The Coal Authority Planning Team

From: [Tim Allott](#) on behalf of [metofficesafeguarding](#)
To: [Shafharia Khataza](#)
Subject: RE: 240918 - Consultation Email to Consultee - Request for Scoping Opinion for proposed Section 37 Application for Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line
Date: 25 September 2024 14:53:37

OFFICIAL

Dear Shah,

Thanks for consulting the Met Office regarding the above proposal. The overhead line route isn't inside any of our consultations zones and will have no impact on the data or services from our weather radar network. Therefore we have no objections and wouldn't expect to be consulted if a planning application was submitted.

Kind regards,

Tim Allott

Upper Air Observations

Met Office, FitzRoy Road, Exeter, Devon, EX1 3PB, United Kingdom

E-mail: metofficesafeguarding@metoffice.gov.uk

Web: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/business-industry/energy/safeguarding>

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL



Energy Consents Unit
Directorate for Energy and Climate Change
Scottish Government

9th October 2024

Dear Shafharia Khataza

Reference: ECU00005225

Proposal: Request for Scoping Opinion for proposed Section 36 application for Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity. We have four main aims: ensuring no further loss of ancient woodland, restoring and improving woodland biodiversity, increasing new native woodland creation and increasing people's understanding and enjoyment of woodland.

We own over 1,000 sites across the UK, covering over 30,000 hectares (ha). In Scotland we own and care for around 60 sites covering in excess of 11,300ha which include the 4,000ha Glen Finglas estate and significant urban forestry holdings in Glenrothes and Livingston. We combine the promotion of public access with forestry, farming and conservation of the natural and cultural heritage. We have over 500,000 members and supporters.

We are an evidence-led organisation, using existing policy and our conservation and planning expertise to assess the impacts of development on ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees.

The Trust would like to ensure that ancient woodland, and ancient and veteran trees, are appropriately considered as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for this development. Ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees are afforded protection within the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4 (Policy 6 - Forestry, woodland and trees).

The development site encompasses within its boundary numerous areas of ancient woodland, including woodlands of Ancient Semi Natural Origin, Long Established of Plantation Origin, and Roy woodlands. There are also ancient woodlands adjacent to the boundary.

We are pleased to see that the presence of ancient woodland has been acknowledged. The applicant should carry out a full assessment of potential direct and indirect impacts on ancient woodland along with proposals for mitigation.

We also note the presence of two ATI Notable trees within the site boundary (Giant Sequoia ID 98042 and Holly ID 113081). We are pleased to see the commitment to assessing impact on veteran trees. We recommend that an Arboricultural Impact Assessment is undertaken to ensure that any important trees (including any ancient or veteran trees) are identified and accounted for ahead of the full planning application. As part of the assessment the applicant should review the Ancient Tree Inventory¹ (ATI) in addition to identifying other ancient or veteran trees that may not be recorded on the ATI. Please note that the ATI is a live database so new tree records are added and updated regularly.

We hope you find these comments helpful - if you would like to discuss any of the points raised, please contact us at planningcasework@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Kind regards

Cathy Johannesen
Programme Officer – Woods Under Threat
Woods Under Threat team

¹ <http://www.ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>



Scottish
Forestry
Coilltearachd
na h-Alba

ANNEX A Page 123
Grampian Conservancy
Portsoy Road
Huntly
AB54 4SJ

Conservator: Steven Hutcheon

Phone: 0300 067 6210

Email: grampian.cons@forestry.gov.scot

Wednesday 09 October 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for consulting Scottish Forestry regarding the proposed Construction of a 106 kilometre (km) 400 kV OHL between a proposed new substation at Emmock2 and an existing substation at Kintore via a second proposed new substation located within Fetteresso Forest.

There is a strong presumption in favour of protecting Scotland's woodland resources. For this reason the Scottish Government published a [policy](#) on the control of woodland removal (COWRP). The policy aims to protect the existing forest resource in Scotland and supports woodland removal only where it would achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits. These principles are reiterated in NPF 4 - Policy 6 Forestry, Woodlands and Trees. In some cases, including those associated with development, a proposal for compensatory planting may form part of this balance.

The criteria for determining the acceptability of woodland removal and further information on the implementation of the policy is explained in COWRP. These should be taken into account when preparing the development proposals. Beyond this, applicants should refer to guidance documents issued by Scottish Forestry in relation to good forestry practice, sustainable forest management and associated environmental issues.

Any scoping should utilise information available through the Scottish Forestry Open Data Portal ([Scottish Forestry Open Data \(arcgis.com\)](#)) including, but not limited to, the Ancient Woodland Inventory, Native Woodland Survey of Scotland, the National Forest Inventory and approved Forestry Grant Scheme funded applications.

The [Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal](#) clearly establishes a strong presumption in favour of protecting Scotland's woodland resources. *Only in exceptional circumstances should the strong presumption against woodland removal be overridden. Proposals to remove these types of woodland should be judged on their individual merits and such cases will require a high level of supporting evidence. Design approaches that reduce the scale of felling required and/or converting the type of woodland must be considered from the earliest stages. Once the decision to remove woodland has been made, then the purpose of any required CP is to secure at least the equivalent woodland-related net public benefit embodied in the woodland to be removed.*

National Planning Framework 4 - Policy 6 Forestry, Woodlands and Trees identifies several themes that should be considered relevant to this application:

b) Development proposals will not be supported where they will result in:

- i. Any loss of ancient woodlands, ancient and veteran trees, or adverse impact on their ecological condition;*
- ii. Adverse impacts on native woodlands, hedgerows and individual trees of high biodiversity value, or identified for protection in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy;*
- iii. Fragmenting or severing woodland habitats, unless appropriate mitigation measures are identified and implemented in line with the mitigation hierarchy;*



c) Development proposals involving woodland removal will only be supported where they will achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits in accordance with relevant Scottish Government policy on woodland removal. Where woodland is removed, compensatory planting will most likely be expected to be delivered.

d) Development proposals on sites which include an area of existing woodland or land identified in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy as being suitable for woodland creation will only be supported where the enhancement and improvement of woodlands and the planting of new trees on the site (in accordance with the Forestry and Woodland Strategy) are integrated into the design.

Broader Scottish Government environmental strategies must also be considered in relation to this application, including but not limited to:

- ‘Biodiversity Strategy to 2045: tackling the nature emergency’: The Scottish Government Biodiversity Strategy’s Vision and Outcomes directly references Riparian Woodland and Woodland Connectivity: [3. Strategic Vision And Outcomes](#)
- ‘Scotland’s Forestry Strategy 2019-2029’: [Scotland Forestry Strategy](#) Strategic Drivers include: ‘Natural assets, environmental quality and biodiversity’, in which the importance of native and semi natural woodland is specifically referenced and includes: “All Scotland’s forests, woodlands and associated open ground habitats provide some biodiversity value. However, suitably managed native, and in particular ancient and semi-natural woodlands, including appropriately restored plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS), will contribute the most.”

Woodland Management and tree felling

The first consideration for the developer should be whether the underlying purpose of the proposals can reasonably be met without resorting to woodland removal. Design approaches which reduce the scale of felling required to facilitate the development should be considered and integration of the development with the existing woodland structure is a key part of the consenting process.

Where a developer intends undertake construction within a forest, partially within a forest, or that will affect the forest environment, it is important that pre-application discussions takes place with Scottish Forestry (SF), the planning authority and other relevant key agencies, at the earliest possible stage of the project to ensure all parties have a shared understanding of the nature of the proposed development, information requirements and the likely timescale for determination. This collaborative approach will ensure that all forestry issues are identified and mitigated at the earliest opportunity.

The developer should consider the potential cumulative impact of the proposed development in respect to the local and regional context. This should include consideration of the potential cumulative impact of proposed woodland removal, when considering existing development in the surrounding woodland. In particular consideration needs to be given to the implication of felling operations on such things as habitat connectivity, landscape impact, impact on timber transport network and forestry policies included in the local and regional Forestry and Woodland Strategies and local development plans.

The EIA Report should include a stand-alone chapter on ‘Woodland management and tree felling’ that describes and recognises the social, economic and environmental values of the forest and the woodland habitat and take into account the fact that, once mature, the forest would have been managed into a subsequent rotation, often through a restructuring proposal that would have increased the diversity of tree species and the landscape design of the forest.

[Scottish Government's policy on control of woodland removal: implementation guidance February 2019](#) provides guidance on the level and detail of information Scottish Forestry expects to be contained within the EIA Report, to help us reach an informed decision on the potential impact of the proposed development.

The chapter should describe the baseline conditions of the forest, including its ownership. This will include information on species composition, age class structure, yield class and other relevant crop information. The baseline should be prepared from existing records, site surveys and aerial photographs. The chapter should clearly indicate proposed areas of woodland for felling to accommodate new turbines, access roads and other infrastructure. Details of the area to be cleared around those structures should also be provided, along with evidence to support the proposed scale and phasing of felling. There should be a distinction made between felling required for construction and associated resilience felling, necessitated due to increased vulnerability or isolation. The chapter should describe the changes to the forest structure, the woodland composition and describe the work programme. The felling plan should clearly identify which areas are to be felled and when. The restocking plan should show which areas are to be replanted and when. The plan should clearly identify and describe the restocking operations including changes to the species composition, age class structure, timber production and traffic movements.

Scottish Forestry is the principle forestry consultee and should be consulted throughout the development of the proposal to ensure that proposed changes to the woodland are appropriate and address the requirements of the policy on control of woodland removal.

It should be made clear that both felling operations and compensatory planting (if relevant) must be carried out according to good forestry practice as defined in the [UK Forestry Standard \(5th Edition\)](#). The UKFS, supported by a series of guidelines, is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK and provides a basis for regulation and monitoring. The Scottish Government expects all forestry plans and operations in Scotland to comply with the standards. SF therefore expects EIA Reports to clearly state that the project will be developed and implemented in accordance with the UKFS and associated guidelines. A key component of this is to ensure that even-age woodlands are progressively restructured in a sustainable manner: felling coupes should be phased to meet adjacency requirements and their size should be of a scale which is appropriate in the context of the surrounding woodland environment.

Any additional felling which is not part of the planning application will require [permission](#) from Scottish Forestry under the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018 (the Act). For areas managed under an approved Long Term Forest Plan (LTFP), any felling request (and subsequent restocking) needs to be presented as an LTFP amendment.

The applicant should note that any compensatory planting required as a result of the proposed development, may also need to be considered under [The Forestry \(Environmental Impact Assessment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2017](#) and follow the process for preparing a woodland creation proposal, as set out in our guidance booklet: [Woodland Creation Application Guidance](#). Details of the proposed mitigation should not be left to post-consent Habitat Management Plans (or others) to decide and implement. The specifics of the proposed mitigation should be included in a Compensatory Planting Plan, appropriately described in the EIA Report, as they are vital in understanding the development in full.

Please don't hesitate to contact Grampian Conservancy if you have any questions regarding Scottish Forestry's response.

Yours Faithfully

REDACTED

Bartholomew Digby | Operations Manager

Development Management and Strategic Road Safety
Roads Directorate

George House 36 North Hanover St Glasgow G1 2AD
Direct Line: 0141 272 7593
[REDACTED]



Shafharia Khataza
Energy Consents Unit
The Scottish Government
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
G2 8LU

Your ref:
ECU00005225

Our ref:
GB01T19K05

Date:
08/10/2024

econsents_admin@gov.scot

Dear Sirs,

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

REQUEST FOR SCOPING OPINION FOR PROPOSED SECTION 37 APPLICATION FOR KINTORE TO TEALING 400 kV OVERHEAD LINE

With reference to your recent correspondence on the above development, we acknowledge receipt of the Scoping Report (SR) prepared by Land Use Consultants Limited (LUC) in support of the above development.

This information has been passed to SYSTRA Limited for review in their capacity as Term Consultants to Transport Scotland – Roads Directorate. Based on the review undertaken, Transport Scotland would provide the following comments.

Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises a new 106km long 400 kilovolt (kV) overhead line (OHL) transmission connection between Kintore in Aberdeenshire and Tealing in Angus.

The nearest trunk road to the site is the A90(T) which lies to the east of the OHL for the entirety of its route. In addition, the A96(T) lies to the north of the “Kintore end” of the OHL.

Transport Scotland was consulted on the proposed route of the OHL during two consultation events, with responses provided in May 2023 and March 2024.

Assessment of Environmental Impacts

Chapter 10 of the SR presents the proposed methodology for the assessment of Traffic and Transport.

This states that the assessment will be carried out in accordance with both Transport Scotland's Transport Assessment Guidance (2012) and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidelines, entitled Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement (July 2023).

Chapter 10 states that the study area will include, amongst various local roads, the A90(T) between Aberdeen and Dundee. We also note that the Traffic and Transport chapter will:

- Consider potential disruption to pedestrians, cyclists and existing road users during the construction phase;
- Assess likely changes to local road traffic flows during the construction phase;
- Assess the effect of the changes on the transport network and the level of significance of any effects established; and
- Take account of the objectives of relevant local and strategic policy and guidance.

We note that the thresholds as indicated within the IEMA Guidelines will be used as a screening process for the assessment. These specify that road links should be taken forward for further detailed assessment of environmental effects where the following two rules are breached:

- Rule 1: Include road links where traffic flows will increase by more than 30% (or the number of heavy goods vehicles will increase by more than 30%)
- Rule 2: Include road links of high sensitivity where traffic flows have increased by 10% or more.

This is considered appropriate.

Chapter 10 indicates that base traffic data will be obtained from Transport Scotland, the Department for Transport (DfT) and relevant local authorities. This is considered acceptable, however, we would ask that “estimated” data from the DfT site is not used. We also note that Low National Road Traffic Forecasts (NRTF) will be used to forecast future year traffic flows. This is considered acceptable.

It is noted that any impacts associated with the operational and decommissioning phases of the development are to be scoped out of the EIA. We would consider this to be acceptable in this instance.

Abnormal Loads Assessment

The SR makes no mention of the need for Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) deliveries during construction. Should these be required, we would state that Transport Scotland will require to be satisfied that the size of loads proposed can negotiate the selected route and that their transportation will not have any detrimental effect on structures within the trunk road route path.

If abnormal loads are envisaged then a full Abnormal Loads Assessment report should be provided that identifies key pinch points on the trunk road network. Swept path analysis should be undertaken, and details provided with regard to any required changes to street furniture or structures along the route.

We would also reiterate our comment made in our previous response that any proposed changes to the trunk road network, with particular reference to access points etc, must be discussed and approved (via a technical approval process) by the appropriate Area Manager prior to any works being carried out.

I trust that the above is satisfactory but should you wish to discuss any issues raised in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact me or alternatively, Alan DeVenny at SYSTRA's Glasgow Office can assist on 0141 343 9636.

Yours faithfully,

REDACT

Iain Clement

**Transport Scotland
Roads Directorate**

cc Alan DeVenny – SYSTRA Ltd.