

Netherton Hub 400 kV OHL Connection to New Deer and Peterhead: Tie-In

Environmental Appraisal Report Volume 1 Chapter 4: Approach to Appraisal

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CONTENTS

4.	APPROACH TO APPRAISAL	4-1
4.1	Introduction	4-1
4.2	Approach to the Environmental Appraisal	4-1
4.3	Scope of Appraisal	4-1

TABLES

Table 4.1: Scoping Review

4. APPROACH TO APPRAISAL

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This chapter sets out the approach to appraisal used for preparation of this EAR. It provides an overview of topics that have been included within this EAR, topics which have not been appraised and justifies the scope.

4.2 Approach to the Environmental Appraisal

- 4.2.1 As presented in **Chapter 1: Introduction (Volume 1)**, the EIA Screening Opinion (**Appendix 1.2 (Volume 3)**), confirmed that the Proposed Development is not EIA development. However, this EAR provides an overview of the environmental information required to support the Section 37 application, in line with the detail presented in the EIA Screening Opinion. As such, the following environmental topics are considered in this EAR:

- **Chapter 5 – Landscape and Visual (Volume 1)**
- **Chapter 6 – Cultural Heritage (Volume 1)**
- **Chapter 7 – Ecology (Volume 1)**
- **Chapter 8 – Ornithology (Volume 1)**
- **Chapter 9 – Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils (Volume 1)**
- **Chapter 10 – Forestry and Land Use (Volume 1)**
- **Chapter 11 – Noise Environment (Volume 1)**
- **Chapter 12 – Cumulative Appraisal (Volume 1)**

- 4.2.2 For those topics listed above, this EAR provides an appraisal using best practice guidance and professional judgement of the likely direct and indirect environmental effects resulting from the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. Recommendations for mitigation measures are presented where required. Further detail on topic-specific methodology is provided in each topic chapter. Proposed construction phase mitigation measures recommended in each of the topic chapters are taken forward for inclusion in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), which will be provided post-consent by the Principal Contractor.

4.3 Scope of Appraisal

- 4.3.1 For each environmental topic, the potential for environmental effects has been considered and is documented in **Table 4.1**.

Table 4.1: Scoping Review

Topic	Description	Scoped in / out of the EAR
Landscape Character & Visual Amenity	The EIA Screening Opinion (Appendix 1.2 (Volume 3)) indicates that visual and landscape impacts are likely, and that a Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal should consider these impacts individually and in a cumulative context with other developments.	In
Cultural Heritage	The EIA Screening Opinion (Appendix 1.2 (Volume 3)) sets out the pre-application response from Historic Environment Scotland, who confirmed that there are no designated heritage assets within the Site or surrounding area that are at risk of significant effects as a result of the Proposed Development.	In

Topic	Description	Scoped in / out of the EAR
	As such, this EAR provides an appraisal of the potential for construction and operational impacts of the Proposed Development on non-designated heritage assets only.	
Ecology	The EIA Screening Opinion (Appendix 1.2 (Volume 3)) advises certain mitigation measures to avoid or prevent significant adverse effects which includes ecological surveys to identify the presence of any protected species. The potential impact of the Proposed Development on habitats and protected species during the construction and operational phase is considered within the EAR, following the completion of baseline and targeted surveys (which follow standard guidance) within the Proposed Development and surrounding area. The presence of statutory, non-statutory and nationally designated sites within the Zone of Influence (Zol) is also assessed.	In
Ornithology	The EIA Screening Opinion (Appendix 1.2 (Volume 3)) determined that there would be no likely significant effects on ornithological species as a result of the Proposed Development. However, the Proposed Development is within a Zol of Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast Special Protection Area (SPA), Loch of Strathbeg SPA and Ramsar, and Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA, all designated for ornithological qualifying interests. As such, this EAR provides an appraisal of the potential for construction and operational impacts of the Proposed Development on ornithology features. Further to this, a separate Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) (Appendix 8.1 (Volume 3)) has been produced in consideration of the potential for Likely Significant Effects (LSE) to the above European sites.	In
Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Soils	The EIA Screening Opinion (Appendix 1.2 (Volume 3)) determined that there would be potentially significant effects that may result from the construction phase of the Proposed Development, particularly regarding adverse impacts on both water quality and quantity for Private Water Supplies ("PWS"). There is one area of Class 1 peatland adjacent to the Proposed Development near Nether Kinmundy. The potential impact of the Proposed Development on PWS and peatland is considered within this EAR, following the completion of PWS and peat probing surveys undertaken within the Site and surrounding area.	In
Forestry and Land Use	The EIA Screening Opinion (Appendix 1.2 (Volume 3)) confirmed that there would be no likely significant effects on Forestry and Land Use. However, the EIA Screening Opinion stated 'whilst the total area involved would not necessarily be significant in a local or regional context, the relative scarcity of prime agricultural land in a national context should be considered.' Land Use with respect to agricultural land, and its context on a national scale, is considered in this EAR. Forestry is also reviewed in this EAR for the purposes of identifying if any forestry designations are present in proximity to the Proposed Development and, if required, setting out appropriate mitigation.	In
Noise and Vibration	There is potential for noise and vibration effects to arise at local sensitive receptors due to activities to be undertaken during the demolition and construction phase. In line with the EIA Screening Opinion (Appendix 1.2 (Volume 3)), such effects may be	In

Topic	Description	Scoped in / out of the EAR
	associated with both on-site activities and construction traffic. There is also potential for cumulative construction phase effects as a result of the Proposed Development and other nearby Committed or Proposed Developments.	
Cumulative Effects	The EIA Screening Opinion (Appendix 1.2 (Volume 3)) agreed with the findings of the EIA Screening Request in anticipating likely significant cumulative effects with other existing or approved developments, particularly on noise and landscape and visual impact. The Cumulative Effects chapter considers cumulative effects in the context of all topics scoped into this EAR.	In
Major Accidents and Disasters	The EIA Screening Opinion (Appendix 1.2 (Volume 3)) agreed with the findings of the EIA Screening Request that the risk of major accidents and/or disaster will likely not be significant. Potential risk can be managed through the use of a Construction and Environment Management Plan (CEMP), and as such further appraisal is not required.	Out
Material Assets	The EIA Screening Opinion (Appendix 1.2 (Volume 3)) agreed that no likely significant effects are anticipated in relation to impacts on material assets.	Out