Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Beauly-Denny Overhead Line Diversion

Environmental Appraisal

Technical Appendices

Appendix A – General Environmental Management Plan (GEMP) - Restoration

July 2025

TG-NET-ENV-522	General Environmental Management Plan (GEMP) - Restoration		Applies to Transmission ✓
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Contents

1 Introduction

1.1 The way in which stripping, storage and replacement of soils / turfs is undertaken can significantly increase the successfulness of any reinstatement. The following guidance should form a basis of the restoration plan for the project.

1.2 Important guidance on soil management principles is contained in the Soil Removal, Storage and Reinstatement General Environmental Management Plan (GEMP) and should be followed in conjunction with this GEMP.

1.3 Reinstatement is the replacement of soils and vegetation set aside during works post construction, to a condition which can recover to the previous habitat present prior to works in a timely manner. Restoration is the enhancement of the ground to make good any failed reinstatement, or to enhance recovery of the habitat, or establishment of desired habitat, post construction and may include seeding / planting or other means to establish specific habitat, as may be required.

2 Legislation

2.1 Reinstatement and restoration obligations will be imposed on the works through the core consenting regimes, including:

- Planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended);
- The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992;
- S37 consent under the Electricity Act 1998 (as amended);
- SSSI consent under Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (as amended);
- Natura Consent under Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended); and
- CAR authorisations under The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (as amended).

2.2 Any obligations imposed under these consents must be complied with.

3 General Compliance requirements

3.1 Planning Construction Works

3.1.1 In planning construction works seek to avoid intrusive work wherever possible. As a result there will be less reinstatement and restoration required once construction is finished.

3.1.2 Seek to:

- Avoid major earthworks wherever possible;
- Retain natural features such as rocky outcrops;
- Avoid loss of mature trees; for example, remove young regenerating birch in preference to mature trees which may have biodiversity and landscape value and will give structure to the finished works;
- Site tracks and micro-site route around groups of trees to leave natural features rather than dissecting groups/copses;
- When crossing hedges, walls or watercourses plan to use existing gaps/ wayleaves;
- Design any permanent drainage ditches to be as natural as possible (sinuous with varied banks and alignments, etc.). Ensure Controlled Activity Regulations (CAR) compliance and that any CAR authorisations required are in place;
- Design drainage measures carefully to avoid unnecessary long-term effects on adjacent habitats which could be difficult to restore; and
- Plan all site activities to reduce the need for vehicle movements. This will help in final restoration by minimising compression etc.

3.2 Planning Restoration

3.2.1 Restoration at the end of the works will always be more successful if planned in advance. A soil management and restoration plan should be developed in advance of the works.

3.2.2 Always:

- Plan restoration in advance of working on-site. This will save time and money at a later stage and will ensure that opportunities are not lost, and a more successful outcome is achieved;
- Ensure that detailed restoration plans take account of specific habitat types and locations, including those which may be identified within any Landscape & Habitat Management Plan, or BNG report, for the project;
- Identify where soils and peat and turfs will be stored;
- Take account of all agreements made during consenting process and with landowners;
- Take account of all environmental interests, for example, seek to enhance local biodiversity (avoiding planting on sensitive archaeological or geological sites);
- Plan how monitoring of restoration will be undertaken identifying when, how frequently and by whom;
- Consider how deer pressures (grazing and wallowing) or other grazing may affect the success of planting and plan restoration works accordingly; and
- Plan restoration taking account of run-off erosion risks on steep slopes in poor conditions; be aware of the potential for sediment rich run-off to smother sensitive or newly established vegetation in poor weather conditions and seek to minimise this.

3.3 Early Works

3.3.1 Early works will help in achieving more successful final restoration. These include the following:

- Always take photographs of the site before works start to guide later restoration including of any drainage that will be disturbed;
- Strip turfs and vegetation carefully and use in temporary works to prevent erosion;
- Turfs can be stored successfully in temporary cut-off ditches in some locations which can aid water attenuation and prevent turfs / vegetation from drying out;
- Store top soil and subsoil separately according to best practice;
- Store stripped materials in the immediate vicinity (or as close as feasible) for future re-use in site restoration;
- Keep a record of where all soils and turfs are stored. Consider signage on storage areas to help identifying source and type of material storage, to assist in subsequent reinstatement;
- Remove large boulders (rather than cover) to replace in restoration works;
- Remove/ treat noxious weeds in accordance with best practice and legal requirements. Do not allow unnecessary spread or this will compromise the success of final restoration works;
- Seek to avoid compression of soils as much as possible on restoration. Drainage may be impeded and may result in extensive areas of rush being created; and
- During construction seek to avoid creating eroded areas which can be difficult to restore successfully.

3.4 Final Restoration

3.4.1 At the end of construction in any area the land and vegetation must be restored to pre-construction conditions, or as otherwise specified in any Landscape and Habitat Management Plan or BNG report. This should be done carefully and sympathetically taking account of all required mitigation and of the conditions. The following principles should also be adopted where appropriate:

- Undertake restoration works in suitable weather conditions - wet ground conditions can be difficult as can hot dry and windy spells;
- Restoration should ensure the successful integration of the site with surrounding land uses and habitats;
- All field, roadside or other boundaries disturbed during construction operations would be reinstated using the original materials (in the case of stone dykes, this having been carefully set aside for re-use) or to the original specification, and to at least the pre-existing condition, or better;
- Natural regeneration of habitats should be promoted in all appropriate areas, or as otherwise specified in any Landscape and Habitat Management Plan or BNG report;
- Where hedgerow field boundaries are removed, they are to be replanted with the same species and at the same spacing intervals, or as otherwise specified in any Landscape and Habitat Management Plan or BNG report;
- Any required replanting and / or reseeding should be undertaken at appropriate times of the year and with the agreement of landowners / occupiers (and NatureScot if within designated sites);
- Identify the most appropriate machinery to use for restoration in any area (small digger or large machine, etc.) according to the sensitivity of the habitats and the extent of areas to be restored (take advice from the site ecologist);
- Undertake small sections of the site for restoration and monitor success with input from the site environmental representative(s) before restoring large areas;
- All temporary accesses are to be restored to original condition;
- A pro-active approach to restoration i.e. use of temporary access materials such as Trackway panels and appropriate low pressure construction vehicles, particularly in areas of wet ground, is encouraged; and
- Unless otherwise specified (e.g. in landowner commitments), all decommissioned tower foundations are to be removed to 1.5 m below ground level.

4 Revision History

No	Overview of Amendments	Previous Document	Revision	Authorisation
01	New Document Created	N/A	1.00	Richard Baldwin
02	Review and Updated	TG-NET-ENV-522 General Environmental Management Plan (GEMP) – Restoration (Rev 1.00)	1.01	Richard Baldwin
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