

THE ELECTRICITY WORKS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

RESPONSE OF SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL TO A REQUEST FOR A SCREENING OPINION SUBMITTED UNDER THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE IS LOCATED AT PROPOSED CLAUCHRIE WINDFARM U52 FROM A714 AT JUNCTION PINWHERRY BRIDGE VIA MUCK FOOT AND BELLAMORE TO MARK FARM ROADEND PINWHERRY SOUTH AYRSHIRE

The proposal is for erection of overhead line connection (3.9km / 132kv) between the site of the proposed Clauchrie wind farm and Mark Hill substation. The proposal is Schedule 2 development under the terms of the above Regulations and must therefore be screened in order to determine whether the proposal constitutes 'EIA development'.

This determination is referred to as a '**screening opinion**'. In each case, the basic question to be asked is: 'would this particular development be likely to have significant effects on the environment?'

For many types of development, perhaps the majority, it will be necessary to consider the characteristics of the development in combination with its proposed location in order to identify the potential for interactions between a development and its environment and therefore determine whether there are likely to be significant environmental effects. In determining whether a particular development is likely to have such effects, the Council has taken account of the selection criteria in Schedule 3 to the Regulations. Three categories of criteria are listed:-

- Characteristics of the development
- Location of the development
- Characteristics of the potential impact

Consideration of the third of these categories is designed to help in determining whether any interactions between the first two categories (i.e. between a development and its environment) are likely to be significant.

The content of this checklist meets the requirements of the Electricity Works (Environment Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 – Schedule 3 selection criteria for screening Schedule 2 development.

	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			
(a) Scale of the development			
Will the development be out of scale with the existing environment?	N	The form of the transmission line (wood poles) and height above ground level (max 16m) are in	N

	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).
		keeping with the existing overhead lines within the general vicinity of the site.	
Will it lead to further consequential development or works (e.g. new roads, extraction of aggregate, generation or transmission of power)?	N	Any temporary construction tracks and laydown areas will be removed following completion of the construction of the line	
(b) Cumulation with other development			
Are there potential cumulative impacts with other existing development or for proposed development in the planning system?	Y	Part of the route of the proposed OHL runs parallel to an existing 275kV powerline (interconnector) and is in close proximity to the operational Markhill wind farm	No. Whilst the proposed line will add an additional manmade feature within this part of the Plateau Moorlands with Forestry and Wind Farms landscape character type it is not considered that any adverse effects would be of a magnitude that would merit assessment through an EIA. Landscape effects can be assessed through the submission of supporting information as part of the standard consultation process.
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?	Y	The Clauchrie 132kV Connection Project is required to connect the proposed Clauchrie Wind Farm to the electricity grid at Mark Hill substation. The application for the proposed Clauchrie Wind Farm was submitted to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in September 2020 and is currently going through the Inquiry process with the Scottish Government Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA) (ECU Reference: ECU00002001).	The proposed overhead line is dependent upon approval of the related Clauchrie wind farm proposal. In the event that the wind farm is refused permission there will be no requirement for the overhead line.
(c) Use of natural resources			
Will construction or operation of the development use natural resources i.e. land (especially undeveloped or agricultural land)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water or fisheries? • minerals or aggregates? • agriculture, forests and timber? • energy including electricity and fuels? • any other resources? 	Y	A small area of land will be used for the individual poles and resources including timber and metals will be required in the construction of the powerline.	No. The volume of materials required for the construction of the powerline is not considered to be significant in EIA terms.

	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).
(d) Production of waste			
Will the development produce wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Y	There may be some residual peat and other soils resulting from excavation.	No. the volumes of residual materials are not significant in EIA terms.
(e) Pollution and nuisances			
Will the development cause noise and vibration or release of leachates, light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation during construction, operation or decommissioning?	n		
(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?	n		
(g) 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? 	n	Current land uses will be able to continue	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • peat land disturbance and/ or degradation leading to: carbon release, damage to habitats, affecting land stability or hydrology? 	Y	Some shallow areas of peat will be disturbed by the construction works	No. No significant areas of deep are affected. Effects on the peat resources present within the site can be adequately considered through submission of additional information with the consultation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pre-construction investigations e.g. boreholes, soil testing? 	n		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • construction, demolition, reclamation or excavation works? 	n		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • underground works ? 	Y	A short section of the powerline will be constructed underground.	No. the area affected is not considered to be environmentally sensitive.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilities for storage of goods or materials? 	n		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new road, rail, air or sea traffic or infrastructure during construction or operation or decommissioning? 	n		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new or diverted transmission lines or pipelines? 	Y	The proposal is for a power transmission line.	No. The likely impacts can be assessed through the normal consultation process provided relevant additional information is provided by the applicant.

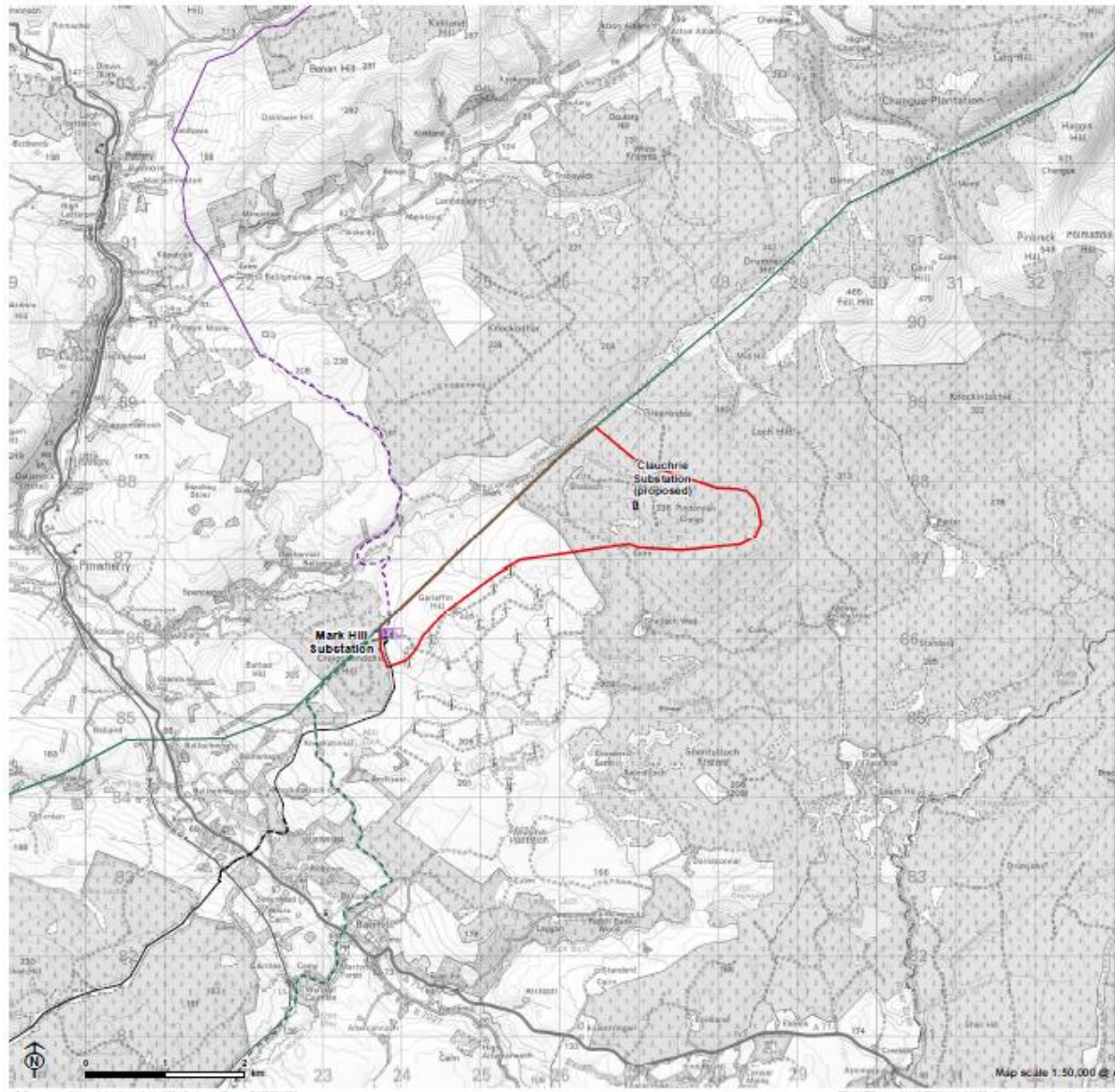
	Yes/No	Briefly describe	Is effect likely to be significant? Significance should be considered in terms of the extent, transboundary nature, magnitude and complexity, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of any impact(s).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any works requiring an authorisation under the Water Environment (Controlled Activities)(Scotland) Regulations 2005 	n		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> long-term/ongoing activity during restoration or decommissioning which could have an impact on the environment? 	n		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> influx of people to an area either temporarily or permanently? 	n		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any other changes? 	n		
2. Location of the Development			
(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?	n		
(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?	n		
(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.	n		
Are there any groundwater source protection zones or areas that contribute to the recharge of groundwater resources?	n		

	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).
Are there protected species in or around the location, for example European Protected Species, which could be affected?	N	Whilst the Phase 1 Habitat Survey and NVC survey identified areas of habitat with potential to support protected species, no evidence was found for the use of the areas by protected species.	
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?	N		
Are there any areas or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the location which could be affected?	N		
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?	N		
Is the development in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	N		
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?	N		

Conclusions

The checklist is a useful tool for the purposes of identifying the wide range of environmental receptors which could be affected by proposed development. The main issues which have emerged from the checklist are:

From the assessment undertaken in accordance with the Regulations, and taking into account the submitted screening report, the Council concludes that the proposed development comprising erection of overhead line connection (3.9km / 132kv), located at Proposed Clauchrie Windfarm U52 From A714 At Junction Pinwherry Bridge Via Muck Foot And Bellamore To Mark Farm Roadend Pinwherry South Ayrshire, as shown on the map attached to this document, is **unlikely** to result in effects on the environment which are sufficiently significant to require the submission of an environmental statement.



Clauchrie Windfarm 132KV Grid Connection
Screening Report
for SP Energy Networks



Figure 1.1: Location Plan

- Study area
- Substation
- Consented Mark Hill Substation Extension
- 275KV OHL
- 132KV OHL
- 33KV OHL
- 275KV UGC
- 132KV UGC
- 33KV UGC

