

Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm Grid Connection Works

Environmental Appraisal

October 2022



CONTENTS

Glossary and Abbreviations
1: Introduction and Background
2: Routeing Process and Alternatives
3: The Proposed Development
4: Landscape and Visual Impact
5: Ecology
6: Ornithology
7: Soils and Hydrology
8: Cultural Heritage
9: Forestry
10: Schedule of Mitigation

Figures

Figure 1.1: Location Plan

Figure 1.2: Proposed Development

Figure 2.1: Route Options

Figure 2.2: Alignment Options

Figure 3.1a-d: Proposed Development - Overhead Line and Underground Cable Works

Figure 3.2: Visualisation Locations

Figure 3.3: VL1 A887, Dundreggan

Figure 3.4: VL2 Near Dundreggan Dam

Figure 3.5: VL3 Old Military Road

Figure 3.6: VL4 A887, Dalchreichart

Figure 4.1: Study Area with ZTV

Figure 4.2: Landscape Character, Designations and Protected Areas with ZTV

Figure 4.3: Visual Receptors with ZTV

Figure 5.1a: Internationally Important Sites Designated for Nature Conservation

Figure 5.1b: Nationally Important Sites Designated for Nature Conservation

Figure 5.2a-d: Phase 1 Habitat Survey Results

Figure 5.3a-d: GWDTE Category Survey Results

Figure 5.4-d: Protected Species Survey Results (**Confidential**)

Figure 6.1: Ornithological Survey Areas

Figure 6.2: Vantage Point Locations and Viewsheds

Figure 6.3: Internationally Important Sites Designated for Nature Conservation (Ornithological)

Figure 6.4a-d: Breeding Bird Survey: Birds of Conservation Concern

Figure 6.5: Target Species Flight Activity (**Confidential**)

Figure 6.6: Black Grouse Survey Results

Figure 6.7: Breeding Raptor and Owl Survey Results (**Confidential**)

Figure 7.1a – 7.1d: Local Hydrology

Figure 7.2: Soils

Figure 7.3: Superficial Geology

Figure 7.4: Peatland Classification

Figure 7.5a – 7.5c: Peat Depth

Figure 7.6a – 7.6d: Peat Depth Greater than 0.5m

Figure 7.7a – 7.7d: Peat Slide Risk

Figure 7.8: Bedrock Geology and Linear Features

Figure 7.9: Groundwater Vulnerability

Figure 7.10: Regional Hydrogeology

Figure 8.1: Cultural Heritage Assets

Figure 9.1: Baseline Woodlands

Figure 9.2: Fell Operational Corridor

Appendices

Appendix 1.1: Underground Cable Works Impact Assessment

Annex 1.1A: UGC Landscape Effects Assessment Tables

Annex 1.1B: UGC Visual Effects Assessment Tables

Appendix 1.2: Screening Opinion

Appendix 3.1: SSEN Transmission General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs)

Appendix 3.2: SSEN Transmission Species Protection Plans (SPPs)

Appendix 3.3: Transport Assessment

Appendix 4.1: Landscape Assessment Tables

Appendix 4.2: Visual Assessment Tables

Appendix 5.1: Field Survey Methodology

Appendix 5.2: Target Notes

Appendix 5.3: Protected Species Records (**Confidential**)

Appendix 5.4: HMP Appraisal

Appendix 6.1: Ornithology Methodology

Appendix 6.2: Baseline Survey Results

Appendix 6.3: Local Ornithological Records

Appendix 6.4: Sensitive Bird Records (**Confidential**)

Appendix 8.1: Gazetteer of Cultural Heritage Sites

Appendix 9.1: Forestry Photographic Record

Appendix 9.2: OHL Woodland Report – Glenmoriston Estate

Appendix 9.3: OHL Woodland Report – FLS Woodland

Appendix 9.4: Compensatory Planting Management Strategy

GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

132 kV	132 kilovolt (132,000 volt) operating voltage electrical circuit
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle
AWI	Ancient Woodland Inventory
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BGS	British Geological Survey
BoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
CAR	Controlled Activities Regulations
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association
CLVIA	Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
CMS	Construction Method Statement
COSHH	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health
CP	Core Path
CSE	Cable Sealing End
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
DTM	Digital Terrain Model
EA	Environmental Appraisal
EC	European Commission
ECoW	Environmental Clerk of Works
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESA	Ecological Study Area
EU	European Union
GDL	Garden and Designed Landscape, as listed on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes held by Historic Environment Scotland
GEMPs	General Environmental Management Plans
GPP	Guidance for Pollution Prevention
GVLIA3	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition
GWDTE	Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems
Ha	Hectare. An area measuring 10,000 square metres
HER	Historic Environment Record
HES	Historic Environment Scotland

HGV	Heavy goods vehicle
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LB	Listed Building
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plans
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LI	Landscape Institute
LOD	Limit of Deviation
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
NBN	National Biodiversity Network
NGR	National Grid Reference
NS	NatureScot
NVC	National Vegetation Classification
OHL	Overhead Line. An electric line installed above ground, usually supported by lattice steel towers or wooden poles.
OS	Ordnance Survey
OSA	Ornithology Study Area
Planning Application	An application for planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006
PPC	Pollution Prevention and Control
PPG	Pollution Prevention Guidance Notes
Proposed Development	The Proposed Development is taken to be the description of: the OHL and UGC components, cable sealing ends, access arrangements and any associated construction activities and land-use requirements.
PWS	Private Water Supply
SAC	Special Area of Conservation – designated under Directive 92/42/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (known as – The Habitats Directive)
SBL	Scottish Biodiversity List
Section 37	An application for development consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SSEN Transmission	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission, operating under licence as Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc – part of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, and the transmission licence holder for the transmission of electricity in the north of Scotland

SNAWI	Semi-natural Ancient Woodland Inventory
SM	Scheduled Monument
SPA	Special Protection Area – designated under Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the Birds Directive)
SPP	Scottish Planning Policy
SPPs	Species Protection Plans
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest – designated by SNH under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
THC	The Highland Council
UGC	Underground Cable. An electric line installed below ground.
UKBAP	United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plans
VL	Visualisation Location
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility – the computer generated theoretical visibility of an object in the landscape