

VOLUME 2: CHAPTER 6 – SCOPE AND CONSULTATION

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Appendices (Volume 4 of this EIA Report)

Appendix 6.1: Scoping Report

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Figures (Volume 3 of this EIA Report)

There are no figures associated with this Chapter

6. SCOPE AND CONSULTATION

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The EIA Regulations¹ require that an EIA should describe the likely significant effects of a proposed development on the environment. Specifically, Schedule 4 sets out the information to be included in an EIA Report. Scoping is a process which seeks to identify and agree the scope and level of detail to be provided in an EIA Report, defining the issues considered most likely to represent significant environmental effects and the matters of greatest relevance to determining the consent application, ensuring a proportionate approach to EIA. Consultation and engagement with stakeholders informs and validates the scoping process.

6.1.2 This Chapter summarises the consultation that has informed the scoping process, and the subsequent EIA scope that has been agreed.

6.2 Consultation

6.2.1 SSEN Transmission has consulted with statutory and non-statutory consultees, landowners, elected members, local organisations and the local community throughout the different stages of the project. This has included consultation during the initial site selection stages, as well as formal consultation in accordance with the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) process as required by the Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) Regulations².

6.2.2 A full description of the scope and outcomes of formal consultation are set out in a Pre-Application Consultation Report, which is submitted to accompany the planning application. The main consultation activities are summarised below.

Initial Consultation

6.2.3 Initial consultation was conducted between May and July 2023 where options regarding the substation site selection were presented for a new proposed 400 kV substation near Tealing as described in the Consultation Document³. A series of in-person consultation events for Associated SSEN Transmission Developments were held between 2 May 2023 and 13 July 2023. The event held in Tealing Village Hall on 11 May 2023 focused on enabling communities in closest proximity to view the site options for the proposed substation. A virtual event was also held on 17 May 2023 for those who could not attend the in-person events. Various meetings were held in the weeks before, during and after the consultation events with other key stakeholders such as landowners, statutory and non-statutory consultees, councillors and community councils to discuss the proposals. The feedback received focused primarily on the following issues:

- project need;
- technology choice – e.g. potential for underground cabling;
- impacts to biodiversity;
- socio-economic impacts; and
- lack of promotion/tight timescale for consultation process

6.2.4 Following the May 2023 consultation, the feedback received was analysed by SSEN Transmission and a Report on Consultation (RoC)⁵ was published in November 2023, summarizing the consultation undertaken and comments received

¹ Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. Available [online]: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/102/contents>

² The Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021. Available [online]: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2021/99/made>

³ SSEN Transmission (May 2023). Consultation Document - Substation Site Selection. Available [online]: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/globalassets/projects/east-coast-phase-2-may-2023-docs/tealing-consultation-documents/consultation-document-substation-site-selection---stage-1---tealing-final-090523.pdf>

⁴ Similar consultation was undertaken for Associated SSEN Transmission Developments as defined in Chapter 1, Section 1.4 of this EIA Report.

⁵ SSEN Transmission (November 2023). Tealing 400 kV Substation. Report on Consultation. Available [online]: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/globalassets/projects/rocs/tealing/report-on-consultation---tealing-400kv-substation.pdf>

from the public and statutory and non-statutory consultees, the Applicants response and rationale for selecting a site near Tealing as the preferred option for the new substation.

First Pre-Application Consultation

6.2.5 A Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) was submitted to Angus Council on 31 January 2024, setting out the Applicant's proposals for consultation. The PAN was presented to Angus Council's Development and Standards Committee in March. The Council acknowledged the Notice and noted the recommendations from the Council's planning officer on the material issues of relevance to any future planning determination.

6.2.6 The first pre-application consultation (PAC1) event was held on 7 March 2024 at Tealing Village Hall. A PAC booklet⁶ was prepared to support the consultation event setting out information on the site selection process, the outcomes of the consultation undertaken through 2023, and the rationale for selecting the site proposed for development near Tealing. The Booklet summarised the key environmental and technical considerations relevant to the Proposed Development and presented key elements of the project design at that stage. One hundred and thirty-five people attended the event; 212 responses were received. The principal issues, in decreasing order of frequency were impacts on views, the loss of agricultural land and implications for food security, community health and mental wellbeing, impacts on wildlife, impacts on property values, disruption from traffic, and dissatisfaction with the consultation process (see PAC2 booklet which summarizes these).

Second Pre-Application Consultation (PAC2) event

6.2.7 The PAC2 event was held on 5 June 2024 at Tealing Village Hall; 65 attended. A second PAC booklet⁷ was published to support the consultation which summarised the feedback from the previous PAC events, and explained how the design and development proposals had been amended to address that feedback. The consultation process and outcomes are presented in a Pre-Application Consultation Report which is submitted alongside the Planning Application for the Proposed Development.

6.3 Further Consultee Engagement

6.3.1 Stakeholder consultation has been ongoing since the early stages of the project and has continued throughout the design development process. A number of pre-application and formal scoping consultation meetings were held on site selection, proposed scope, topics to be assessed in the EIA, and issues of related to assessment of topics by Angus Council, and other statutory and non-statutory consultees. These issues are addressed in the relevant technical chapters.

6.4 Scoping

6.4.1 An EIA Scoping Report was issued to Angus Council on 8 July 2024 (see **Volume 4, Appendix 6.1: Scoping Report**). A draft Scoping Opinion was provided by Angus Council in September 2024 and is included in **Volume 4, Appendix 6.2: Scoping Opinion**.

6.4.2 The responses, contained within the Scoping Opinion, were considered in detail during the EIA process.

6.5 Key Issues Identified by Angus Council and EIA Consultees

6.5.1 Angus Council is in agreement with the proposed scope and assessment approach and methodology of the EIA, as outlined in the Scoping Report. The Scoping Opinion makes reference to site specific issues of interest to Angus Council, to be considered and addressed in addition to those laid out in responses from consultees. These are presented in Table 6.1 below.

⁶ SSEN Transmission (2024) Emmock 400 kV Substation: Pre-application Consultation. Available [online]: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/globalassets/projects/emmock-400kv-substation-downloads/emmock-consultation-material/ssen---tealing-2024-brochure---28071---artwork-digital-pages12.pdf>

⁷ SSEN Transmission (2024) Emmock 400 kV Substation: Pre-application consultation feedback event. Available [online]: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/globalassets/projects/emmock-400kv-substation-downloads/june-2024-public-events/june-2024-public-consultation-booklet-final.pdf>

Table: 6.1 Scoping Opinion Topics

Topic	Angus Council Comments	Applicant Response
GWDTE, Peat, Watercourses	<i>“SEPA requests that the EIA Report must contain a series of scale drawings of sensitivities, for example peat depth, peat condition, Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE), proximity to watercourses, overlain with proposed development. They indicate that this is necessary to ensure the EIA process has informed the layout of the development to firstly avoid, then reduce and then mitigate significant impacts on the environment.”</i>	The ecology study area does not contain any Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE). There are no carbon rich soils (CRS) or peat within the Site area. Scale drawings of sensitivities such as proximity to watercourses are included in Volume 2: Chapter 13 – Hydrology and Hydrogeology.
Cultural Heritage	<i>“HES has identified a list of cultural heritage assets within the 3km outer study area and confirm a willingness to discuss whether they require assessment or the potential to scope out from assessment.”</i>	In consultation with the Council, the EIA includes a final list of cultural heritage assets warranting assessment. These assets have been assessed in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage. Supporting visualisations have also been prepared for the cultural heritage assessment chapter.
Noise and Vibration	<i>Angus Council’s Environmental Health Team “requests that operational noise levels are assessed against NR20 at night.”</i>	Operation noise levels have been investigated as part of the noise and vibration assessment in Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration. Night-time operation noise levels have been assessed against NR20 as discussed in the chapter.
Private Water Supplies (PWS)	<i>Angus Council’s Environmental Health Team “is content that potential impact on private water supplies in the vicinity of the development would be fully assessed in the EIA Report but is happy to discuss that matter further.”</i>	A complete assessment of potential impact on private water supplies in the vicinity of the Proposed Development is provided Chapter 11: Hydrology and Hydrogeology. Scottish Water assets and private water supplies have been investigated as part of the assessment of impacts on the water environment. Scottish Water were contacted to request data on any assets, DWPA’s and / or private water supplies within the vicinity of the Proposed Development, which are discussed in the noted chapter. Potential adverse effects on water quality, flood risk, PWS and groundwater abstractions during construction and operation have been scoped out based on establishment of appropriate buffers for watercourses and sensitive receptors. Embedded and Applied mitigation (described in the noted chapter) will mitigate potential effects on the water environment and

Topic	Angus Council Comments	Applicant Response
		reduce run-off from the Proposed Development to greenfield rates.
Traffic and Transport	<i>Angus Council's Roads Service "is satisfied with the proposed approach for assessment of construction traffic incorporating a traffic and transport chapter within the EIA Report, informed by a Transport Assessment and Route Survey Report to deal with abnormal loads."</i>	A Transport Assessment and Route Survey Report to deal with abnormal loads would be submitted with the application (See Volume 4: Appendix 12.1). A complete assessment of construction traffic for the Proposed Development is provided in Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport .
Landscape and Visual Impact	<i>Angus Council Access Officer "note(s) that the LVIA assessment would include recreational users, and suggest consideration be given to core paths which could be considered in the viewpoint preparation."</i>	Viewpoints have been prepared and core paths chosen that take into consideration recreational users. A complete list of viewpoint locations and related assessment is provided in Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Impact . A series of photomontage visualisations have been prepared to support the LVIA, included with the EIA Report in Volume 3, Figures 7.6 to 7.13 .
	<i>Angus Council notes, "The scope of the LVIA includes cumulative assessment with other existing, consented, proposed or foreseeable development (including the proposed new Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL) which is welcomed. It is also noted that feedback on the LVIA study area and viewpoints was provided to ERM in June 2024, which pre-dated the Scoping request."</i>	Both the cumulative project list and LVIA viewpoints have been subject to change prior to final assessment in the EIA to reflect the latest information on foreseeable projects, and opinions provided by the Council, consultees, and the determination of the LVIA team during assessment. In regard to cumulative assessment, the Council's update on the planning status of projects listed at 12.3 is appreciated. Cumulative LVIA assessment is included in Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Impact . A series of photomontage visualisations that show cumulative effects have been prepared to support the LVIA, included with the EIA Report in Volume 3, Figures 7.6 to 7.13 .

6.6 Issues Scoped out of Assessment

- 6.6.1 It is considered that the following topics, summarized in **Table 6.2: Issued Scoped Out of EIA** below, do not require to be the subject of detailed EIA work as it is considered that they are not likely to give rise to significant effects. The topics were scoped out from further consideration within the EIA Report, as discussed in the Scoping Report provided in **Volume 4: Appendix: 6.2**. There was general agreement amongst consultees, as detailed within the Scoping Opinion provided in **Volume 4: Appendix - 6.3**), as to the proposed scope of the EIA Report.

Table 6.2: Issued Scoped Out of EIA

Issues Scoped Out	Assessment	Conclusion
Land Use	Site consists of Class 2 non-prime agricultural land. Land use impacts would be minimal. Temporary loss of land or access restriction from construction managed through wayleave agreements.	Proposed Development (PD) will not significantly detract from the agricultural land available.
Recreation	No footpaths or cycleways present or adjacent to Site.	PD not anticipated to have likely significant effects on recreation.
Population and Human Health	<p>EMF</p> <p>Applicant ensures compliance with relevant legislation to ensure appropriate level of protection for the public from EMFs.</p> <p>Applicant can demonstrate that levels of EMF exposure are within the limits set within standards/guidelines and policy on phasing specified in the Energy Network Association Code of Practice and Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002.</p>	EMF from PD would not have a likely significant effect on population and human health.
	<p>Noise, dust and visual effects</p> <p>Changes in noise predicted from construction traffic for people living close to the PD, and elevated levels of dust from some construction works during dry periods would be mitigated and managed in a CEMP and construction noise management plan.</p> <p>Lighting effects during construction are temporary. Operational lighting would be low-level, narrow beam, kept to a minimum to minimize glare/light spill, and ensure safe operations and security.</p> <p>Landscape bund design will support the reduction of glare and light spill experienced by the local community.</p>	PD is not predicted to have significant effects from emissions to air or visual impact, which would give rise to significant human health effects. Noise impact related to operation of substation equipment, as well as cumulative noise impacts for inter and intra-related projects, is discussed further in Chapter 13 and Chapter 16 .
Air Quality	PD is not located within or adjacent to an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Emissions would be limited and temporary during construction. Potential effects would be managed and minimized by a CEMP, and a Dust Management GEMP.	No likely significant effects on air quality are anticipated.
Climate Change	According to NPF4, a GHG assessment of National Development concludes that grid transmission projects are part of renewables infrastructure that collectively delivers (net) emissions reductions. At the strategic level the negative effects are predicted to be minor.	Effects of the PD on climate change are predicted to be minor in significance.
Life Cycle/Embodied Carbon & Land Use Change Carbon	There are no carbon rich soils (CRS) or peat within the PD area. The project includes Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) to offset changes to land use both on and offsite, which would have a positive effect on retaining/increasing	PD would have an insignificant or potentially beneficial impact on carbon sequestration/retention.

Issues Scoped Out	Assessment	Conclusion
	<p>embodied carbon.</p> <p>The Applicant's environmental management plans would minimize life cycle emissions.</p>	
<p>Socio-Economic Considerations & Assessments</p>	<p>PD conforms to national planning policy, NPF4 framework for National Developments, National Grid's Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (HND) policy, and British Energy Security Strategy to provide homegrown power in the UK, reinforce the electricity grid, facilitate renewable energy transmission in Scotland, and provide wider social and economic benefits in Scotland and the UK.</p>	<p>A stand-alone Socio-Economic Impact Assessment addresses the broad benefits of the Proposed Development in terms of employment generation. Socio-economic considerations are also noted in the Planning Statement. Both are submitted to accompany the planning application and are separate from this EIA Report.</p>
<p>Major Accidents & Disasters</p>	<p>Limited vulnerability to major accidents due to rural location.</p> <p>Site would be secured by perimeter fencing.</p> <p>PD to be constructed/operated in accordance with Health and Safety at Work Act etc. 1974.</p> <p>Flood risk avoided in design.</p> <p>SuDS to minimize flood risk.</p>	<p>PD would not likely contribute to, nor is it particularly vulnerable to major accidents and disasters.</p> <p>A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) was carried out. (See Volume 4: Appendix 11.1)</p> <p>A discussion of hydrology including mitigation is provided in Chapter 11: Hydrology and Hydrogeology.</p>
<p>Geology & Soils</p>	<p>Site geology is common within the wider area and is not rare or of particular interest.</p> <p>The area is not associated with the release of radon gas.</p> <p>Construction is not likely to mobilise soil contaminants as soil pollution is unlikely given the Site is located on arable land.</p>	<p>PD would not have a significant impact on geology and soils.</p>
<p>Material Assets & Waste</p>	<p>PD was selected to avoid utilities infrastructure (such as gas pipelines).</p> <p>Construction waste will be managed in accordance with good practice guidance and implementation of a Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP).</p> <p>Substation operation does not produce any waste.</p> <p>Waste from maintenance would be managed on site and recycled.</p>	<p>PD would not have a significant impact on material assets or waste.</p>