

## APPENDIX 6.5: SCOPING MATRIX

Table 1 presents the comments made in Aberdeenshire Council's Scoping Opinion, which is included in full in **Volume 4, Appendix 6.4: Scoping Opinion**, and the Applicant's responses to these.

**Table 1 Scoping Matrix**

No.	Subject	Comment	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Reference	EIA Report Reference	Response
1.	Water Environment	<p>Scottish Water has no objection to the proposal. They confirmed there are no Scottish Water drinking water catchments or water abstraction sources, which are designated as Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPA) under the Water Framework Directive, in the area that may be affected.</p> <p>Scottish Water records indicate that there is live infrastructure in the proximity of the development area that may impact on Scottish Water assets. Any conflicts must be identified and permission must be obtained before any works start within proximity of their assets.</p> <p>Scottish Water will not accept any surface water connections into their combined sewer system.</p>	Scottish Water	ENQ/2024/0903	<b>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils</b>	<p>Comment noted.</p> <p>Mitigation to identify Scottish Water assets is outlined within <b>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils</b> of the EIA Report.</p>
2.	Natural Heritage	The consultee finds range of surveys and topics proposed to be scoped into the EIA is acceptable.	Aberdeenshire Council – Natural Environment Team	ENQ/2024/0903	<b>Volume 2, Chapter 9: Ecology, Nature Conservation and Ornithology</b>	<p>Comment noted.</p> <p>Further detail on surveys and scoped in topics can be found in <b>Volume 2, Chapter 9: Ecology, Nature Conservation and Ornithology</b> of the EIA Report.</p>
3.	Trees / Forestry	The consultee finds the approach to consider Trees / Forestry in a separate chapter to Natural Heritage is acceptable.	Aberdeenshire Council – Natural Environment Team	ENQ/2024/0903	<b>Volume 2, Chapter 7: Forestry</b>	Comment noted.
4.	Roads Development (Vehicular Access, Parking Standards, Traffic Assessment)	<p>The consultee has no comment on the Scoping Report but has raised the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum gradient in the first 10 m of access must not exceed 1 in 20. The centreline of proposed access should be a minimum of 40 m from the existing junction centreline.</li> <li>Construction and operational parking arrangements must be included in the planning application.</li> </ul>	Aberdeenshire Council – Infrastructure Services Roads Development	ENQ/2024/0903	<b>Volume 2, Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport</b>	<p>The points raised have been considered as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The location and form of the proposed Site Access on the unclassified C29S would be provided in accordance with standards, with the junction a minimum of 40 m from the existing junction centreline, and the design would not exceed a 1 in 20 gradient within the first 10 m of the access.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A traffic assessment should be undertaken.</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The location and formation of the Site parking provision for the construction and operation of the Proposed Development would consider both the parking requirements during construction so that no queueing occurs of the adopted road network, and the requirement for operational parking.</li> <li><b>Volume 2, Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport</b> undertakes a Road Capacity Assessment as part of a traffic assessment of the road network which concludes that there is substantial capacity remaining with the addition of construction traffic.</li> </ul>
5.	Roads Development (Construction Traffic Management Plan)	<p>A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) must be agreed with planning authority and developed with consultation of the local roads maintenance team.</p> <p>As the proposed construction routes incorporate unclassified roads, it is likely that modifications to roads and junctions and a wear and tear agreement will be required. Single track sections will require more and lengthened passing places. Where lengthened beyond standard length, they should be returned to standard after construction, likewise for additional passing places. Minimum spacing of 150 m for passing places and to be intervisible.</p> <p>Modifications to adopted roads will require a section 56 application and a land transfer agreement.</p>	Aberdeenshire Council – Infrastructure Services Roads Development	ENQ/2024/0903	<b>Volume 4, Appendix 11.1: Construction Traffic Management Plan</b>	<p>The points raised by Roads Development have been considered, with the inclusion of the CTMP within <b>Volume 4, Appendix 11.1: Construction Traffic Management Plan</b> of the EIA Report.</p> <p>This CTMP is to be treated as a live document and details the consultation carried out for the production of the traffic management plan.</p>

6.	Flood Risk and Coast Protection	<p>The consultee noted full drainage details were not yet available therefore provided comments to be considered in the drainage design and associated flood risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drainage Impact Assessment, prepared in accordance with Council Guidelines would be required. This should cover all potential phases of the application.</li> <li>• If surface water soakaways are to be used to disperse surface water, testing and sizing calculations should be done by a suitably competent person and in accordance with BRE Digest 365 or Ciria Project Report 23. Consideration should be made to the location of soakaways to ensure a minimum distance of 5 m from any building foundations or boundaries.</li> <li>• If infiltration testing proves that the ground is impervious, then suitable attenuation calculations should be provided to prove that on-site surface water drainage system has adequate storage capacity for 30 year return period rainfall event. Prior to a controlled discharge into either an available watercourse or public sewer, controlled as a minimum to the pre-development runoff rate should be confirmed and a reduction made for any areas not included in the drainage design.</li> <li>• Soakaway or Attenuation System construction details to be provided (including discharge control if necessary).</li> <li>• A statement on how future maintenance of the proposed drainage system will be</li> </ul>	Aberdeenshire Council – Roads and Infrastructure Services – Flood Risk and Coastal Protection	ENQ/2024/0903	<p><b>Volume 4, Appendix 12.2: Drainage Impact Assessment, and Volume 4, Appendix 12.3: Flood Risk Assessment</b></p>	<p>A Drainage Impact Assessment and Flood Risk Assessment has been produced by the Principal Contractor, and can be found in <b>Volume 4, Appendix 12.2</b> and <b>Appendix 12.3</b> respectively.</p> <p>Many of the comments received from Aberdeenshire Council on Flood Risk and Coast Protection relate to drainage design and associated flood risk. These comments have been considered by the Principal Contractor in both the design of the Proposed Development, and in the accompanying DIA and FRA.</p> <p>This is considered further within <b>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils</b> of the EIA Report.</p>
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		<p>performed and confirmation of who will be responsible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmation that any existing site or field drainage will be located and suitably altered, if indeed disturbed.</li> <li>All calculations must be approved and certified by a suitably qualified person.</li> <li>A Flood Risk Assessment will need to be submitted, which must consider flood risk from all sources. This will be undertaken in accordance with SEPA guidance.</li> <li>SEPA should be consulted as part of the production of the FRA and DIA.</li> </ul>				
7.	Built Heritage	The consultee confirms that the proposed scope of the EIA is acceptable for Built Heritage. They conclude that the proposed location of the substation does not raise immediate concern with respect to impact on the historic built environment. The consultee advises that the proposal accords with Policy 7 of National Planning Framework 4 and Section 11 of the 2023 Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan.	Aberdeenshire Council – Environment and Infrastructure Services, Built Heritage	ENQ/2024/0903	<b>Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage</b>	Comment noted.
8.	Natural Heritage	NatureScot are content with the proposed scope of survey and assessment.	NatureScot	ENQ/2024/0903	<b>Volume 2, Chapter 9: Ecology, Nature Conservation and Ornithology</b>	Comment noted.
9.	Water Environment	<p>SEPA have provided the following site specific comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree with the proposed elements to be scoped in and out of the EIA as detailed within the Scoping Report.</li> <li>A strong preference, in accordance with mitigation hierarchy, is to minimise</li> </ul>	SEPA	ENQ/2024/0903	<b>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils</b>	Comment noted, mitigation through design and additional mitigation measures are outlined within <b>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils</b> of the EIA Report and associated appendices.

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		<p>watercourse crossings and for the proposed access road to make use of the existing minor road to the south of the site, with an upgrade of this and the associated existing crossing of Burn of Greens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEPA regard the central watercourse running through the site as a natural watercourse. Authorisation for any channel realignment of this watercourse will be required under CAR. As the current channel is considered to be very modified, there could be the opportunity to create a better quality morphology through realignment. However this depends on the constraints imposed by the significant earthworks that will need to be undertaken to form the substation platform. More detailed topographic plans illustrating changes that will be created by the proposed substation platform and how the watercourse / realigned watercourse relates to this are required to be submitted with the application.</li> <li>• Another small watercourse exists in the northeast of the Site. Similar challenges with realigning this watercourse exist, and further detailed topographic plans illustrating changes that will be created by the proposed substation platform and how the watercourse / realigned watercourse relates to this are required to be submitted with the application.</li> <li>• A 10 m minimum unrestricted buffer either side of watercourses will be required to allow for natural movement in future.</li> <li>• Watercourse diversion will need to be demonstrated as achievable and capable of being authorised under the Water</li> </ul>				<p>Many of the comments received from SEPA relate to design of the Proposed Development. These comments have been considered by the Principal Contractor in both the design of the Proposed Development, and in the accompanying DIA and FRA. This has then been assessed as part of the Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils Impact Assessment in <b>Volume 2, Chapter 12</b>.</p>

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		<p>Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) 2011. Detailed design drawings of both proposed watercourse realignments will be required, including proposed cross sections, long sections and within a detailed hydromorphological study and Flood Risk Assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No land raising will be considered acceptable within the flood extent without suitable compensatory storage. The Flood Risk Assessment will need to demonstrate this.</li> <li>All new watercourses will need to be designed to be open span or arch culverts and will need to be designed to the 1:200 plus climate change levels.</li> </ul> <p>Notwithstanding the above, SEPA agree with the proposed scope of the EIA.</p>				
10.	Historic Environment	The consultee considers it unlikely that the Proposed Development would have significant adverse impacts on heritage assets in their remit and therefore feel their historic environment interest can be scoped out of the EIA to be undertaken.	Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	ENQ/2024/0903	<b>Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage</b>	Comment noted.
11.	Environmental Health (Noise Impact Assessment)	A Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) is required to predict the impact on sensitive receptors and specify necessary control measures. The NIA should be undertaken in accordance with BS4142:209 for external noise to achieve a low impact when compared to background LA90 and NR25 and NR20 Curve assessment for internal noise during the daytime and nighttime respectively. The specific methodology must be	Aberdeenshire Council – Environment and Infrastructure Services, Environmental Health	ENQ/2024/0903	<b>Volume 2, Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration</b>	<p>A Noise Impact Assessment has been included as part of <b>Volume 2, Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration</b>. This has been undertaken in accordance with BS4142:209.</p> <p>As detailed in <b>Chapter 13</b>, further consultation with Aberdeenshire Council’s Environmental Health Officer has been undertaken to discuss and agree assessment methodology.</p>

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		agreed with the Environmental Health Service prior to the NIA.  A 'Low level of impact' with a Rating Level Limit of <5dB above background LA90 in all settings is envisioned to ensure adverse impacts are minimised.				
12.	Environmental Health (Construction Environmental Management Plan)	A separate assessment for fugitive dust emissions, construction noise and vibration and artificial light impact are not required and can be included within the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).	Aberdeenshire Council – Environment and Infrastructure Services, Environmental Health	ENQ/2024/0903	<b>Volume 4, Appendix 3.2: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan</b>	Comment noted.  At the time this scoping response was received, the decision had already been taken to scope in an assessment of construction noise and vibration, therefore it has been included in <b>Volume 2, Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration</b> , as well as being included within <b>Volume 4, Appendix 3.2: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP)</b> .  A separate Construction Lighting Management Plan has been prepared and is submitted as part of the planning application.
13.	Environmental Health (Private Water Supplies)	The consultee confirms the Proposed Development may impact Private Water Supplies (PWS) in the area. PWS that may be affected should be identified, an appropriate assessment carried out, and mitigation measures introduced.	Aberdeenshire Council – Environment and Infrastructure Services, Environmental Health	ENQ/2024/0903	<b>Volume 4, Appendix 12.1: Private Water Supply Risk Assessment</b>	Private water supplies are assessed within <b>Volume 4, Appendix 12.1: Private Water Supply Risk Assessment (PWSRA)</b> . The findings of the PWSRA and proposed additional mitigation are also summarised within <b>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils</b> of the EIA Report.
14.	Archaeology	The consultee is happy with the proposed scope and methodology for the Cultural Heritage assessment. However, the consultee has added that potential Cultural Heritage impacts along the proposed transportation / construction routes are included in the assessment.	Aberdeenshire Council – Environment and Infrastructure Services, Archaeology	ENQ/2024/0903	<b>Volume 4, Appendix 3.3: Public Road Improvements Appraisal</b>	An appraisal of potential impacts on environmental receptors, including heritage assets where applicable, along the proposed transportation / construction routes due to road widening and upgrades is contained within <b>Volume 4, Appendix 3.3: Public Road Improvements (PRI) Appraisal</b> .



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15.	Contaminated Land	The consultee notes there is no mention of prior contaminative uses of the site (sheep wash, timber / threshing mill and dam at Mains of Greens) and how they may impact of the proposed site use. They feel the EIA should include an assessment of the risks arising from the prior use to the proposed site use.	Aberdeenshire Council – Environment and Infrastructure Services, Contaminated Land	ENQ/2024/0903	<b>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils</b>	Following the scoping response received from Aberdeenshire Council, prior contaminative uses of the Site have been considered within <b>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils.</b>