

13 Other Environmental Aspects

13.1 Introduction

- 13.1.1 As described in Chapter 2 of this EIAR, the scope of the EIA is based on the scoping opinions provided by Fife and Clackmannanshire Councils in relation to KINN and the Scottish Ministers in relation to the overhead line upgrades. While it was agreed that a number of aspects could be scoped out, Fife Council requested that information was provided for them within the EIAR. Clackmannanshire Council made a small number of comments in relation to aspects which were scoped out which are also addressed below. For completeness, this chapter provides an overview of those aspects that were scoped out of the EIA.

13.2 Trees and Woodland

- 13.2.1 The impact of the Proposed Development on trees and woodland in relation to ecology and landscape is assessed in Chapter 6 Ecology and Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual Amenity.
- 13.2.2 There are no sites on the Ancient Woodland Inventory nor are there any ancient or notable trees on the Ancient Tree Inventory within or immediately adjacent to the proposed substation. The majority of the proposed substation, including where the new overhead line towers are proposed, is comprised of agricultural land with existing trees or woodland along the field boundaries. Localised tree and vegetation removal is required as part of access works. This includes vegetation removal at the proposed A876 access point, at the four-way junction on Hawkhill Road and on the southern side of Hawkhill Road to enable access improvements. Tree planting is proposed as part of landscape planting including planting to strengthen and increase the depth of the existing boundary planting.
- 13.2.3 Ancient Woodland Inventory sites are present in the vicinity of overhead line works. Firstly, to the east of the site where conductor pulling would be required on the ZCN and ZCS overhead lines, and secondly to the north of the site where a potential section of XL overhead line reconductoring works would occur. On the ZCN and ZCS routes, a short section of ZCS crosses the inventory site, however, no physical works are required within it as the conductors would be pulled from a location to the east of the site. ZCN is located outside of the inventory site and therefore works would not impact it. On the XL route, a section of the route to potentially be reconducted lies to the west of an inventory site but would not affect the woodland as it is within the existing wayleave.
- 13.2.4 Overall, while there is some localised tree removal this is limited and does not affect any protected or notable trees and is offset by tree planting proposed at the substation site. No significant effects on trees or woodland are likely as a result of the Proposed Development.

13.3 Land Use, Tourism and Recreation

- 13.3.1 The majority of the substation site including where the new overhead line towers are proposed is currently used for agriculture growing a range of crops. The national-scale Land Capability for Agriculture Map identifies the Site as class 3.2 which is land capable of average production though high yields of barley, oats and grass can be obtained. This is outside of the definition of prime agricultural land which is class 3.1 and above. While approximately 32ha of agricultural land will be permanently lost to the Proposed Development, there are extensive areas of class

3.2 land throughout Fife and Clackmannanshire and in this context the loss is considered to be minimal and therefore not significant. As set out in Chapter 3, the Site of the Proposed Development has been selected following consideration of alternatives. It was concluded that, on balance, no other suitable sites could be identified and there is a locational need for the proposed Site given its proximity to the existing overhead lines which will connect to it.

- 13.3.2 There are no tourism or recreational resources within the substation site or where the new overhead line towers are proposed, however, Tulliallan Golf Club lies around 360m to the east while National Cycle Network 76 (NCN76) and a Core Path follows the route of the Hawkhill Road to the south of the Proposed Development. Given distance and intervening vegetation and development, significant effects on the Golf Club or users of it are considered unlikely. With regard to Hawkhill Road and users of the NCN/Core Path, the application boundary includes an area running parallel to the road for the installation of a temporary path which would segregate users from any construction traffic using Hawkhill Road. As a result, no significant effects on users of the NCN/Core Path are likely.
- 13.3.3 In the wider area a small number of Core Paths are present as well as a glamping and caravan site lying approximately 1km to the west within Clackmannanshire. Impacts on these resources relate to secondary effects on the amenity of users of the paths or visitors to the glamping and caravan site (for example visual or noise impacts). These are assessed in Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual Amenity and Chapter 11 Construction and Operational Noise.
- 13.3.4 In its scoping opinion Clackmannanshire Council highlighted the glamping and caravan business advising that measures to mitigate impacts should be considered. Potential impacts on the glamping site would relate to impacts on amenity of visitors or which might deter visitors (for example noise or visual effects). Typically, the distance between the glamping site and the Proposed Development is such that it reduces potential adverse effects; in particular with the mitigation measures described in Chapter 11 significant noise effects will not occur. With regard to visual amenity, the Proposed Development includes planting proposals on its western boundary to reduce impacts in views from the west and integrate the Proposed Development into the Site. Significant visual effects including from viewpoints to the west of the Proposed Development are identified in construction and year 1 of operation but these will reduce as landscape planting matures such that they will be minor adverse and not significant in the long term. Noise and visual effects are not considered likely to impact on the amenity of users of glamping site nor would they deter visitors to the site such that they would significantly affect the business.

13.4 Major Accidents and Disasters

- 13.4.1 The Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (IMEA) defines major accidents as “events that threaten immediate or delayed serious environmental effects to human health, welfare and/or the environment and require the use of resources beyond those of the Client or its appointed representatives to manage. Whilst malicious intent is not accidental, the outcome (e.g. train derailment) may be the same and therefore many mitigation measures will apply to both deliberate and accidental events.” and disasters as “may be a natural hazard (e.g., earthquake) or a man-made/external hazard (e.g. act of terrorism) with the potential to cause an event or situation that meets the definition of a major accident.”
- 13.4.2 Consideration has been given to the vulnerability of the Proposed Development to a major accident or disaster, as well as the potential for the Proposed Development to cause a major

accident. With the exception of flood risk, which is considered within a separate Flood Risk Assessment, the Proposed Development is not located in an area in which natural disasters or extreme weather events such as earthquakes or wildfires are likely to impact it. The substation includes appropriate security measures including security fencing, lighting and cameras to reduce the risk of interference. As a result, the Proposed Development is not considered to be vulnerable to major accidents or disasters and unlikely result in significant environmental effects. The Proposed Development is not considered likely to be a cause of a major accident. The substation is designed in accordance with relevant standards and guidelines to ensure it can be safely operated and therefore is unlikely to be a cause of a major accident. No significant effects are likely to occur because of major accidents or disasters as a result of the Proposed Development.

13.5 Air Quality

- 13.5.1 The Proposed Development is not located in or close to an Air Quality Management Area and air quality is generally considered to be good. The nature of the Proposed Development is such that it does not result in emissions to air that are likely to reduce air quality. While there will be an increase in traffic as well as potential generation of dust during construction this is limited to relatively short periods and will be mitigated through good construction practices as set out in the Schedule of Mitigation in Chapter 14 of this EIAR. The Proposed Development is not considered to result in likely significant effects on air quality.

13.6 Climate Change

- 13.6.1 The Proposed Development is not considered likely to result in significant effects on climate change. By helping to increase the capacity of the electricity network and enable the increased connection of renewable energy, the Proposed Development is intended to help to mitigate the effects of climate change. With regard to climate resilience and potential impacts of climate change on the Proposed Development, the main risk of climate induced effects relates to flood risk which is considered in the Flood Risk Assessment which accompanies the applications. No significant effects on climate change are likely as a result of the Proposed Development.

13.7 Human Health

- 13.7.1 The Proposed Development has been sited away from residential properties as far as possible reducing potential impacts on people including human health from the construction and operation of the substation. Potential impacts on human health as a result of construction activities, such as noise and dust are not likely to significantly affect people due to a combination of measures embedded into the design and construction of the Proposed Development and the distance from the substation to settlement or other community areas.
- 13.7.2 With regard to Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF), information is provided in Chapter 4 Project Description. The Proposed Development is designed to comply with exposure limits which are set by the Government on advice from public health bodies. The exposure limits for EMFs are derived from the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines, published in 1994 and 1998 respectively and recently updated in March 2020. Electricity transmission substations, such as the Proposed Development, do not produce very large fields themselves (generally less than a microtesla). No significant effects on human health are likely as a result of the Proposed Development.