Eastern Green Link 4:

Scottish Onshore Scheme

Volume 2: Main Report

Chapter 15: Summary and Conclusions

December 2025

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15.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a summary of the residual effects of the Scottish Onshore Scheme EIAR following the implementation of the embedded and any additional mitigation measures as required. Full details can be found in the respective topic chapters of this EIAR.

15.2 Summary of Mitigation Measures

Schedule 4, part 7 of the EIA Regulations requires an EIA report to include "*a description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements*".

The Mitigation Register appended to this chapter (**Appendix 15.1 Mitigation Register**, **Volume 4: Appendices**) lists each item of mitigation relied on or identified in the EIAR and shows how it is secured, either through the Application or through other mechanisms.

15.3 Summary of Assessment

SP Energy Networks is seeking planning permission from Fife Council for the Scottish onshore components of Eastern Green Link 4. The onshore elements in Scotland comprise underground cables and a converter station as well as associated access, drainage and landscaping enhancement (collectively referred to as the 'Scottish Onshore Scheme'.). A detailed description of the Scottish Onshore Scheme can be found within **Chapter 2 Project Description.** An EIA of the Scottish Onshore Scheme has been undertaken and results reported in this EIA Report.

Tables 15.1 Summary of Assessment – Likely Significant Effects: Converter Station and **15.2 Summary of Assessment – Likely Significant Effects: Cable Corridors** below provide a summary of the assessment of the converter station and cable corridor respectively, in particular highlighting whether a likely significant effect has been predicted for those environmental aspects scoped into the assessment when taking into account proposed mitigation measures i.e. it presents a summary of the residual effects.

Table 15-1 Summary of Assessment – Likely Significant Effects: Converter Station

Environmental Aspect	Construction Effects	Operational Effects
Landscape and Visual Amenity	Likely **significant** effects on visual amenity on: • Viewpoint 2 - B9097 east of Lochore • Viewpoint 3 - Core path network east of Lochore	Likely **significant** effect on visual receptor for a short section of the B9097 at operation year 1.

Environmental Aspect	Construction Effects	Operational Effects
	• Viewpoint 5 - Northern edge of Dunmore Fort	
Ecology and Nature Conservation	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Water Environment and Flood Risk	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Cultural Heritage	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Access, Traffic & Transport	No likely significant effects	Scoped out
Noise	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Geology and Ground Conditions	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Climate Change	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects

Table 15-2 Summary of Assessment – Likely Significant Effects: Cable Corridors

Environmental Aspect	Construction Effects	Operational Effects
Landscape and Visual Amenity	Likely **significant** effects on visual amenity on: • Viewpoint 2 - B9097 east of Lochore • Viewpoint 3 - Core path network east of Lochore • Viewpoint 5 - Northern edge of Dunmore Fort	Scoped out
Ecology and Nature Conservation	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Water Environment and Flood Risk	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Cultural Heritage	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Access, Traffic & Transport	No likely significant effects	Scoped out
Noise	Likely **significant** effects on: • Four noise sensitive receptors (NSRs) <40 m from cable corridor during cable	Scoped out

Environmental Aspect	Construction Effects	Operational Effects
	installation during evenings and weekends • NSRs in the vicinity of longer HDD spans along the cable route from HDD works during the night time • NSRs at Long Craigs Terrace during landfall HDD works during the night time.	
Geology and Ground Conditions	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Climate Change	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects

15.4 Conclusions

This EIA ensure that Fife Council, statutory consultees as well as other interested parties including local communities are aware of the likely environmental effects of the Scottish Onshore Scheme and whether these may be significant or not. It is important to note that a significant adverse effect is not necessarily one that would make the Scottish Onshore Scheme unacceptable. The purpose of identifying the significant effects is to ensure that all parties are aware of the Scottish Onshore Scheme's environmental effects so that they may be considered alongside other material considerations in determining the planning application.

The EIA of the Scottish Onshore Scheme has identified and assessed the likely significant effects resulting from its construction and operation. Through careful routeing and siting and including mitigation within the design and construction of the Scottish Onshore Scheme, the majority of likely significant environmental effects have been prevented, avoided or reduced. While some significant effects have been identified these are for the vast majority temporary and are limited to effects on visual amenity and noise. These have been mitigated as far as possible through the inclusion of landscape planting within the design of the converter station including planting and land profiling, however, due to the open nature of the landscape and views into the site some significant effects will remain. Noise impacts are considered to be for a number of days at worst with construction plant and methodologies to be reviewed at later stages when more detail is available and further mitigation can be implemented such as additional temporary screening should exceedances be predicted to occur once construction plant and methodologies are reviewed and compared against limits, and phasing of works, should it be deemed necessary.

One significant effect will occur on a visual receptor during year 1 for road users of a short section of the B9097 as a result of the operation of the Scottish Onshore Scheme. There are no other anticipated operational effects as a result of the Scottish Onshore Scheme.