



# **Holm Hill Substation**

## **Environmental Appraisal**

### **Chapter 1: Introduction**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Purpose of the Proposed Development

- 1.1.1 Scottish Power Transmission (SPT) (hereafter referred to as "The Applicant") has a legal duty under the Electricity Act 1989<sup>1</sup> to provide grid connections for new electricity-generating developments. To meet this obligation, The Applicant proposes to construct a new 132 Kilovolt (kV) electricity substation, known as "Holm Hill Substation" (hereafter referred to as "the Proposed Development").
- 1.1.2 The Proposed Development is essential for connecting local wind farms to the existing electricity transmission network. Two 132 kV wind farm connections would connect to the Proposed Development: the Lorg Wind Farm connection, which includes Euchanhead and Shepherd's Rig teed to the line, and the Quantans Hill Wind Farm connection, which includes Wether Hill and Cornharrow, connected to the collector at Quantans Hill. The Applicant is required to provide a single point of connection for these wind farms to the electricity transmission network.
- 1.1.3 In response to this, The Applicant is proposing to construct a new 132 kV electricity substation, known as 'Holm Hill Substation' (hereafter referred to as 'The Proposed Development'). The Proposed Development would comprise a substation platform featuring earth switches, disconnectors, a Capacitive Voltage Transformer (CVT), associated plant, and a Sealing End Compound, located approximately 85 m to the south-east of the proposed substation platform. The Proposed Development would also include two temporary contractor compounds, stone access roads, four car parking spaces, Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS), and landscape planting. The Proposed Development is situated in Dumfries and Galloway, at National Grid Reference NX 54607 95825 and lies approximately 3.5 kilometres (km) north-west of Carsphairn, as shown in **Figure 1.1: Site Location**.
- 1.1.4 Further information regarding the design, layout, and operational aspects of the Proposed Development is provided in **Chapter 2: The Proposed Development**. Chapter 2, of this Environmental Appraisal (EA) outlines the key components of the Proposed Development. This includes permanent infrastructure details and anticipated construction timelines, offering a comprehensive overview to support the site context, of the Proposed Development, as described above.

### 1.2 EIA Screening

- 1.2.1 The Applicant submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Request to Dumfries and Galloway Council on 04 October 2024. On 06 November 2024, the Council confirmed that the Proposed Development is unlikely to have significant environmental impacts. Therefore, an EIA was not required to be completed or submitted to Dumfries and Galloway Council, in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017<sup>2</sup>.

### 1.3 Environmental Appraisal Report

- 1.3.1 This EA has been prepared to support the Holm Hill Substation planning application and includes the following chapters:
  - Chapter 1: Introduction;
  - Chapter 2: The Proposed Development;
  - Chapter 3: Ecology and Ornithology;
  - Chapter 4: Cultural Heritage & Archaeology;

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<sup>1</sup> UK Government (1989). Electricity Act 1989. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/29/contents>

<sup>2</sup> Scottish Government (2017). The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/102/contents>

- Chapter 5: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils;
- Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual; and
- Chapter 7: Schedule of Mitigation.

- 1.3.2 The Holm Hill EA also includes a **Planning Statement** that sets out the purpose and scope of this EA, ensuring alignment with relevant planning and environmental policies. A **Tree Removal Plan and Pre-Application Consultation Report**, which summarises completed stakeholder engagement and feedback, also forms part of this planning application.
- 1.3.3 **Chapter 7: Schedule of Mitigation** provides an overview of the environmental mitigation measures and good practice commitments outlined in Chapters 3 - 6. These measures, listed in **Table 7.1**, form part of the Applicant's commitments and are detailed in the submitted Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). A Detailed CEMP will be prepared by the Principal Contractor post-consent and implemented on-site with support from an Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW) and other professionals as required.

