

T: REDACTED
E: carolanne.brown@gov.scot

By email only to: btinney@spenergynetworks.co.uk

05 May 2022

Our Reference: ECU00003407
Your Reference:

Dear Mr Tinney

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

On 06 January 2022 the Scottish Ministers received a request under regulation 8(1) of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (“the EIA Regulations”) from SP Transmission Plc (SPT) (“the Applicant”) for an EIA screening opinion for a proposed new 132kV overhead line to connect the proposed Clauchrie Wind Farm to the transmission grid system at Mark Hill substation in South Ayrshire (“the proposed Development”) within South Ayrshire Council planning authority area.

Under regulation 9 of the EIA Regulations, the Scottish Ministers are required to adopt a screening opinion for the proposed Development. This letter contains such a screening opinion.

Information Requirements

The EIA Regulations set out (at 8(2)) the information that must accompany any request for a screening opinion. The Applicant submitted a comprehensive description of the infrastructure to be installed and the works to be undertaken; a description of the location, surrounding area and of the area of land on which the proposed Development is proposed, and of environmental sensitivities of such areas; as well as a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be affected. A description of proposed mitigation measures were included in the screening request and taken into account by the Applicant’s own conclusions regarding the potential for significant environmental effects. Plans were submitted outlining the route and detailing the location for the proposed Development. Plans were also submitted detailing landscape designations and landscape character types, visual receptor locations, ornithological activity and survey areas, designated sites and cultural heritage assets.

The proposed Development will comprise:

- Approximately 3.86km of new 132kV overhead line (OHL) supported on trident wood poles; and
- Approximately 500m of underground cable to connect the OHL to the Mark Hill substation.

Trident 'H' wood poles with galvanised steelwork on top of supporting aluminium conductors on insulators are proposed to be used. There are three types of poles;

- Intermediate: where the pole forms part of a straight line section;
- Angle: where the OHL requires a change of direction; and
- Terminal: where the OHL terminates into a substation or onto an underground cable section.

The wood poles will be typically between 11 to 16 metres in height, with 2.5 metres below ground.

Consultation

Regulation 8(5) of the EIA Regulations sets out that the Scottish Ministers must consult the planning authority as to the planning authority's views on whether the proposed Development is EIA development, unless the planning authority's views have already been conveyed to the Scottish Ministers. The Scottish Ministers consulted South Ayrshire Council on 17 January 2022. The planning authority responded on 25 February 2022, stating its view that the proposed Development does not constitute EIA development.

The planning authority advised in its consultation response that from the assessment undertaken in accordance with the Regulations, and taking into account the submitted screening report, they concluded that the proposed development comprising of the erection of an overhead line connection, located at the proposed Clauchrie Windfarm U52 from the A714 at Junction Pinwherry Bridge via Muck Foot and Bellamore to Mark Farm Roadend Pinwherry South Ayrshire, is unlikely to result in effects on the environment which are sufficiently significant to require the submission of an environmental statement.

Scottish Ministers' Screening Opinion

EIA development is defined in the EIA Regulations, in respect of an application for consent under the Electricity Act 1989, as Schedule 1 development or Schedule 2 development likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location.

The proposed Development falls under Schedule 2 development.

In adopting a screening opinion as to whether the proposed Development is EIA development, the Scottish Ministers must in all cases take into account such of the selection criteria in Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations as are relevant to the proposed Development, and the available results of any relevant assessment.

The Scottish Ministers have taken into account the selection criteria, all of the information submitted in respect of the request for a screening opinion, and the views of South Ayrshire Council, and adopt the opinion that **the proposed Development does not constitute EIA development and any forthcoming application for consent (under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989) does not require to be accompanied by a full Environmental Impact Assessment report.**

The planning authority's consultation response to the screening consultation is attached to this letter. In accordance with Regulation 7(2), this screening opinion is accompanied by the following written statement with reference to the selection criteria within Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations as are relevant to the proposed Development. In accordance with the EIA Regulations, a copy of the screening opinion has been issued to the planning authority.

Written Statement

Characteristics of the Proposed Development

The proposed Development will comprise of approximately 3.86km of OHL supported on trident wood poles and approximately 500m of underground cable to connect the OHL to the Mark Hill substation. The typical height of the trident poles above ground (including steel work and insulators) will vary from 11m to 16m, with span lengths between wood poles averaging between 80m and 100m but this can be increased if there is a requirement to span a larger distance due to the presence of a feature in the landscape such as a river or loch. Temporary accesses to all pole locations will be taken from the existing main road network wherever feasible, with the use of selected unclassified roads also likely to be required. The use of existing tracks and watercourse crossings will be maximised, with the upgrading of these where necessary. Temporary working areas will be required for the duration of the construction works. Temporary vehicular access is required to every pole location. Wood pole locations will have a working area of approximately 30m x 15m and could also extend to accommodate conductor pulling if required.

As part of the wider approach, a land right would be sought with each landowner for a corridor, typically 60m wide through commercial forestry with a 30m wayleave either side of the centre of the OHL, to protect the resilience of the line from future development and from falling trees.

Location of the Proposed Development

The proposed Development extends from the proposed Clauchrie Wind Farm substation, running in a south-westerly direction, through coniferous forest and crosses the forest track which provides access to Shalloch Wells. The proposed OHL route continues in a south-westerly direction, passing over open moorland on the valley side above the Muck Water before linking into Mark Hill substation. The landscape surrounding the proposed OHL route is largely defined by the upper southern fringes of the pastoral valley of the Muck Water and the upland plateaus which include areas of open moorland and coniferous forest cover across the centre and south. The closest settlement is the village of Pinwherry, approximately 4km outside and to the west of the proposed Development. The A714 and Glasgow South Western Railway runs to the west of the village.

Characteristics of the Potential Impact

Landscape and Visual Impact

In respect of potential visual impact on the receiving landscape (including local landscape designations), the proposed route is located within a landscape which has been altered by existing renewable energy development, electricity infrastructure and areas of commercial forestry. The design of the OHL will seek to further minimise potential effects upon receptors as far as practicable. As such it is considered unlikely that the project will give rise to significant adverse effects on the landscape resource or landscape character. Whilst visual effects may be experienced these are likely to be very geographically localised and are therefore not considered to be significant in EIA terms.

Ecology

No statutory designated sites have been identified within the relevant search buffers which would be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed Development.

LUC completed Phase 1 Habitat and National Vegetation Classification (NVC) surveys of the proposed wayleave route corridor in May 2021. The habitats recorded included marshy grassland, wet modified bog and coniferous woodland plantation. The proposed OHL will result in the loss of a limited amount of habitat including marshy grassland and wet modified bog, and a limited area of commercial coniferous woodland plantation would require felling to the east of the route to accommodate the wayleave. However, given the wood pole project design (with limited footprint) it is not anticipated the effects of habitat loss will be significant. Based on the results of the baseline ecology surveys, the proposed OHL route will not impact on any designated sites or protected species. A limited amount of habitat loss is anticipated as a result of the proposed OHL, however, this is very unlikely to have adverse impacts on the functioning of the wider habitat resources.

Ornithology

The proposed route does not pass through any site designated for its ornithological interest, and none are present within 5km. The nearest sites where birds are a qualifying feature are Glen App and Galloway Moors SPA and SSSI, 10km to the south-west, designated for breeding hen harrier, and Merrick Kells SSSI, 11km to the east, designated in part for its upland bird assemblage. Neither site has ornithological connectivity with the proposed Development. On this basis, no significant effects on birds are predicted. SPT will also ensure that suitable mitigation is in place to avoid disturbance to breeding birds during construction with the timing of construction periods to avoid disturbance to bird species.

Hydrology, Geology and Peat

The proposed OHL route extends from the western hillside of Pindonnan Craigs and initially runs in a westerly direction through coniferous forest, crossing two small watercourses and then continues in a south-westerly direction, passing over open moorland and another small watercourse on the valley side above the Muck Water before linking into Mark Hill substation. With the exception of the eastern part of the route, which drains to the south towards Roughlea Burn, most of the proposed route drains to the north towards the Muck Water. The Muck Water flows in a south-westerly direction approximately 300m north of the proposed route. With embedded mitigation and pollution control measures, and with avoidance of deep peat and watercourses during the routing stage, it is considered that there will be no significant effects on hydrology, geology and peat during either the construction or operational phases of the proposed Development.

Cultural Heritage

An historic environment desk-based assessment was undertaken, using publicly available information and supplemented by a walkover survey of the proposed route on 10th September 2021. This considered the presence, cultural significance, and likely sensitivity to change of the local historic environment, comprising historic buildings, archaeological assets, and historic landscapes. This assessment was informed by appraisal of the wider historic environment at routeing stage to identify the most appropriate route option that would minimise effects. Consideration of potential effects to the historic environment will continue to inform the iterative detailed design of the OHL and associated infrastructure, managed through the environmental appraisal process. Embedded mitigation in the final infrastructure design will ensure the avoidance of physical effects as far as is possible, and additional mitigation will ensure that any losses are appropriately compensated through recording. No significant physical or setting-related effects are predicted.

Traffic and Transport

On the basis of the short-term nature of the construction process, the geographic spread of the construction works and public road network, and SPT's commitment to appropriate management of traffic during construction, it is considered that there will be no significant traffic or transport effects during construction. Whilst no significant effects are anticipated, a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be produced as part of the wider CEMP for the construction phase of the proposed Development to monitor and minimise traffic effects.

Forestry

Not including any windblown trees outside the wayleave corridor, the loss of forestry as a result of this project equates to 6.2Ha of commercial conifer and 0.87 of mixed broadleaf forest. Mitigation will take the form of offsite compensatory planting equating to the area of forest lost by the proposed Development. On the basis of the committed delivery of the compensatory planting proposed there will be no significant forestry effect during either the construction or operational phases of the proposed Development.

Noise

Due to the short term and localised nature of the construction process, any temporary noise created during construction is likely to be minimal and concentrated in small areas at any one time as the contractor's progress along the course of the route. Due to the rural nature of the proposed Development, without noise-sensitive residential properties in close proximity to the proposed OHL (the closest property at Mark is approximately 400m from the proposed route) and the low level of noise generated by OHLs (even in wet conditions), operational noise levels would likely be imperceptible relative to background for any receptor in proximity to the OHL. On this basis, it is not anticipated that there will be significant noise effects during either the construction or operational phases of the proposed Development.

Air Quality

The proposed route is located in a predominantly rural area largely defined by the upper southern fringes of the pastoral valley of the Muck Water and the upland plateaus which include areas of open moorland and coniferous forest cover. There are no inhabited settlements or residential properties located within 200m of the proposed route. The closest settlement is the village of Pinwherry, approximately 4km outside and to the west of the study area. During construction, potential adverse effects may occur as a result of emissions of waste exhaust gas from construction plant and vehicle. Dust generated as a result of construction activities can result in temporary effects if unmanaged, for example, nuisance effects such as soiling of buildings and, if present over a long period of time, can affect human health. Best practice mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid and prevent likely significant air quality effects, therefore it is not anticipated that there will be any significant adverse effects on air quality during either the construction or operation stages of the proposed Development.

Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreational

There are no known formal areas of tourism or recreation located along the proposed route. There are also no OS promoted viewpoints, Sustrans routes, core paths, long distance trails or known tourist attractions within or adjacent to the proposed route or within the wider study

area. In one instance, the proposed route crosses a public access track/junction, however, through detailed design, this track can be spanned by the wood poles and no closures of the track are required. The entirety of the OHL route from the proposed Clauchrie substation to the underground cable section near the existing Mark Hill substation is located within the Galloway Forest Park. Approximately 1.15km of the proposed route is located within the Galloway Dark Skies Park where it exits the proposed Clauchrie substation and travels in a south-east then north-easterly direction towards the existing Mark Hill substation. No new lighting will be introduced to the area as a result of the proposed Development. There will also be no disturbances to access of the Galloway Forest Park. It is therefore, considered unlikely that there will be any significant effects arising from the construction and operation of the proposed Development.

Land Use

As areas lost to the pole locations are small in size, and land use activities can continue as per current uses, effects on agricultural activity are not likely to be significant.

Major Accidents and Disasters, Human Health and Climate Change

The proposed route is not located in an area with a history of natural disasters such as extreme weather events. The area surrounding the OHL is sparsely populated with few local roads and non-public vehicle access tracks. Therefore, significant adverse effects associated with major accidents and disasters, are considered unlikely.

Cumulative Effects

In addition to the proposed Development, SPT is also currently undertaking design and appraisal work to connect another proposed renewable generating development to the Mark Hill substation. This comprises the Knockodhar 132kV Connection Project. Whilst no significant cumulative effects are anticipated, as part of the Environmental Appraisal Report to accompany the Section 37 consent, an appraisal of cumulative effects will be undertaken of this other connection with the proposed Development.

Proposed Mitigation Measures to Avoid or Prevent Significant Adverse Effects:

SP Transmission is proposing the following measures to minimise the potential effects identified:

- Development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) incorporating appropriate mitigation measures to be followed during pre-construction and construction phase. Measures to be included in the CEMP are outlined in detail throughout the screening report.
- An ecological appraisal will be prepared to support the S37 application. The appraisal will consider in detail the potential effects on ecological features during the construction and operation of the OHL. The appraisal will also address potential additional mitigation options where necessary which will be detailed in the project CEMP.
- Good practice mitigation measures will be implemented during construction to prevent pollution and minimise the impact of construction on the receiving water environment in line with the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). SEPA Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP) will be followed, as will SEPA's general

binding rules (GBR) under the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) Scotland Regulations 2011, as amended (CAR Regulations).

- Good practice pollution prevention and control measures will be put in place during construction, which will reflect best practice guidance and recognised industry standards, as well as SPT's recent experience of constructing OHLs. Many of the measures mitigate several potential effects (e.g., mitigation to minimise sedimentation and pollution such as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) which can also serve to attenuate surface water run-off). Embedded mitigation measures that are incorporated into project design will include:
 - a) measures to reduce effects of increased surface water run-off;
 - b) measures to reduce sedimentation and erosion;
 - c) measures to reduce pollution and accidental spillage;
 - d) measures to be put in place at watercourse crossings;
 - e) peat management measures; and
 - f) measures to reduce sedimentation, erosion, and pollution during forestry felling.

- Deep peat will be avoided during the detailed design stage where possible. Peat management measures will be outlined in the CEMP, following best practice guidance. If it is necessary to remove any peat (for example, localised excavation at a wood pole base) a Peat Management Plan (PMP) will be produced. Excavated peat will be managed following SEPA requirements and guidelines (SEPA, WST-G052, 2017) and will be reused on site wherever possible.

- Historic Environment Policy for Scotland 2019 (HEPS) sets out policies (notably HEP2 and HEP4) that are relevant for conservation and preservation of the historic environment. HEP4, in particular, requires that "changes to specific assets and their context should be managed in a way that protects the historic environment. Opportunities for enhancement should be identified where appropriate. If detrimental impact on the historic environment is unavoidable, it should be minimised. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place" These mitigation measures would take place prior to, or (where appropriate) during, the construction of the proposed development. All works would be conducted by a professional archaeological organisation, and the scope of works agreed in advance with WoSAS, acting on behalf of South Ayrshire Council, in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

- SPT commit to offsite compensatory planting equating to the area of forest lost by the proposed Development.

- SPT is committed to implementing accepted good practice measures for controlling construction noise, which may include the following, as appropriate:
 - a) restricted hours of construction work to avoid sensitive periods;
 - b) the use of equipment with appropriate noise control measures (e.g. silencers, mufflers and acoustic hoods);
 - c) the positioning of temporary site compounds as far as practicably possible from neighbouring residential properties; and
 - d) additional good practice measures as set out in BS5228:2009.

- Best practice mitigation measures will be implemented and included in the CEMP to avoid and prevent likely significant air quality effects, and are likely to include the following:
 - a) the recorded maintenance of vehicles/plant and checks before use;

- b) vehicle/plant servicing as appropriate;
- c) measures to ensure that vehicles/plant are turned off when not in use; and
- d) appropriate dust control measures such as those outlined in PAN 50: Controlling the Environmental Effects of Surface Mineral Workings.

Yours sincerely
REDACTED

Carolanne Brown

Energy Consents Unit
(A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers)

THE ELECTRICITY WORKS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

RESPONSE OF SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL TO A REQUEST FOR A SCREENING OPINION SUBMITTED UNDER THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE IS LOCATED AT PROPOSED CLAUCHRIE WINDFARM U52 FROM A714 AT JUNCTION PINWHERRY BRIDGE VIA MUCK FOOT AND BELLAMORE TO MARK FARM ROADEND PINWHERRY SOUTH AYRSHIRE

The proposal is for erection of overhead line connection (3.9km / 132kv) between the site of the proposed Clauchrie wind farm and Mark Hill substation. The proposal is Schedule 2 development under the terms of the above Regulations and must therefore be screened in order to determine whether the proposal constitutes 'EIA development'.

This determination is referred to as a '**screening opinion**'. In each case, the basic question to be asked is: 'would this particular development be likely to have significant effects on the environment?'

For many types of development, perhaps the majority, it will be necessary to consider the characteristics of the development in combination with its proposed location in order to identify the potential for interactions between a development and its environment and therefore determine whether there are likely to be significant environmental effects. In determining whether a particular development is likely to have such effects, the Council has taken account of the selection criteria in Schedule 3 to the Regulations. Three categories of criteria are listed:-

- Characteristics of the development
- Location of the development
- Characteristics of the potential impact

Consideration of the third of these categories is designed to help in determining whether any interactions between the first two categories (i.e. between a development and its environment) are likely to be significant.

The content of this checklist meets the requirements of the Electricity Works (Environment Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 – Schedule 3 selection criteria for screening Schedule 2 development.

	Yes/No	Briefly describe	Is effect likely to be significant? Significance should be considered in terms of the extent, transboundary nature, magnitude and complexity, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of any impact(s).
1. Characteristics of the Development			
(a) Scale of the development			
Will the development be out of scale with the existing environment?	N	The form of the transmission line (wood poles) and height above ground level (max 16m) are in	N

	Yes/No	Briefly describe	Is effect likely to be significant? Significance should be considered in terms of the extent, transboundary nature, magnitude and complexity, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of any impact(s).
		keeping with the existing overhead lines within the general vicinity of the site.	
Will it lead to further consequential development or works (e.g. new roads, extraction of aggregate, generation or transmission of power)?	N	Any temporary construction tracks and laydown areas will be removed following completion of the construction of the line	
(b) Cumulation with other development			
Are there potential cumulative impacts with other existing development or for proposed development in the planning system?	Y	Part of the route of the proposed OHL runs parallel to an existing 275kV powerline (interconnector) and is in close proximity to the operational Markhill wind farm	No. Whilst the proposed line will add an additional manmade feature within this part of the Plateau Moorlands with Forestry and Wind Farms landscape character type it is not considered that any adverse effects would be of a magnitude that would merit assessment through an EIA. Landscape effects can be assessed through the submission of supporting information as part of the standard consultation process.
Should the application for this development be regarded as an integral part of a more substantial project? If so, can related developments which are subject to separate applications proceed independently?	Y	The Clauchrie 132kV Connection Project is required to connect the proposed Clauchrie Wind Farm to the electricity grid at Mark Hill substation. The application for the proposed Clauchrie Wind Farm was submitted to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in September 2020 and is currently going through the Inquiry process with the Scottish Government Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA) (ECU Reference: ECU00002001).	The proposed overhead line is dependent upon approval of the related Clauchrie wind farm proposal. In the event that the wind farm is refused permission there will be no requirement for the overhead line.
(c) Use of natural resources			
Will construction or operation of the development use natural resources i.e. land (especially undeveloped or agricultural land)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water or fisheries? • minerals or aggregates? • agriculture, forests and timber? • energy including electricity and fuels? • any other resources? 	Y	A small area of land will be used for the individual poles and resources including timber and metals will be required in the construction of the powerline.	No. The volume of materials required for the construction of the powerline is not considered to be significant in EIA terms.

	Yes/No	Briefly describe	Is effect likely to be significant? Significance should be considered in terms of the extent, transboundary nature, magnitude and complexity, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of any impact(s).
(d) Production of waste			
Will the development produce wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Y	There may be some residual peat and other soils resulting from excavation.	No. the volumes of residual materials are not significant in EIA terms.
(e) Pollution and nuisances			
Will the development cause noise and vibration or release of leachates, light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation during construction, operation or decommissioning?	n		
(f) Risk of accidents, having regard in particular to substances technologies used			
Will there be a risk of accidents during construction or operation of the development which could have effects on people or the environment?	n		
(g) Other characteristics: potential physical changes (topography, land use, changes in waterbodies etc) from construction, operation or decommissioning of the development			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • permanent or temporary change in land use, landcover or topography including increases in intensity of land use? 	n	Current land uses will be able to continue	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • peat land disturbance and/ or degradation leading to: carbon release, damage to habitats, affecting land stability or hydrology? 	Y	Some shallow areas of peat will be disturbed by the construction works	No. No significant areas of deep are affected. Effects on the peat resources present within the site can be adequately considered through submission of additional information with the consultation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pre-construction investigations e.g. boreholes, soil testing? 	n		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • construction, demolition, reclamation or excavation works? 	n		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • underground works ? 	Y	A short section of the power line will be constructed underground.	No. the area affected is not considered to be environmentally sensitive.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilities for storage of goods or materials? 	n		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new road, rail, air or sea traffic or infrastructure during construction or operation or decommissioning? 	n		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new or diverted transmission lines or pipelines? 	Y	The proposal is for a power transmission line.	No. The likely impacts can be assessed through the normal consultation process provided relevant additional information is provided by the applicant.

	Yes/No	Briefly describe	Is effect likely to be significant? Significance should be considered in terms of the extent, transboundary nature, magnitude and complexity, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of any impact(s).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any works requiring an authorisation under the Water Environment (Controlled Activities)(Scotland) Regulations 2005 	n		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> long-term/ongoing activity during restoration or decommissioning which could have an impact on the environment? 	n		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> influx of people to an area either temporarily or permanently? 	n		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any other changes? 	n		
2. Location of the Development			
(a) Existing land use			
Are there existing land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the development, e.g. undeveloped land, greenfield land, homes, other private property, industry, commerce, tourism and recreation, public open space, community facilities, agriculture, forestry, tourism, water catchments, functional floodplains, mining or quarrying?	n		
(b) Relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area			
Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources which could be affected by the development?	n		
(c) Absorption capacity of the natural environment			
Are there any areas on or around the location which are protected under international or national or local legislation for their ecological, landscape and visual, cultural or other value, which could be affected by the development? Particular attention should be paid to wetlands, watercourses or other waterbodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, nature reserves and parks.	n		
Are there any groundwater source protection zones or areas that contribute to the recharge of groundwater resources?	n		

	Yes/No	Briefly describe	Is effect likely to be significant? Significance should be considered in terms of the extent, transboundary nature, magnitude and complexity, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of any impact(s).
Are there protected species in or around the location, for example European Protected Species, which could be affected?	N	Whilst the Phase 1 Habitat Survey and NVC survey identified areas of habitat with potential to support protected species, no evidence was found for the use of the areas by protected species.	
Are there any routes or facilities on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected?	N		
Are there any areas or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the location which could be affected?	N		
Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected?	N		
Is the development in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	N		
Is the location of the development susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions which could cause the development to present environmental problems?	N		

Conclusions

The checklist is a useful tool for the purposes of identifying the wide range of environmental receptors which could be affected by proposed development. The main issues which have emerged from the checklist are:

From the assessment undertaken in accordance with the Regulations, and taking into account the submitted screening report, the Council concludes that the proposed development comprising erection of overhead line connection (3.9km / 132kv), located at Proposed Clauchrie Windfarm U52 From A714 At Junction Pinwherry Bridge Via Muck Foot And Bellamore To Mark Farm Roadend Pinwherry South Ayrshire, as shown on the map attached to this document, is **unlikely** to result in effects on the environment which are sufficiently significant to require the submission of an environmental statement.

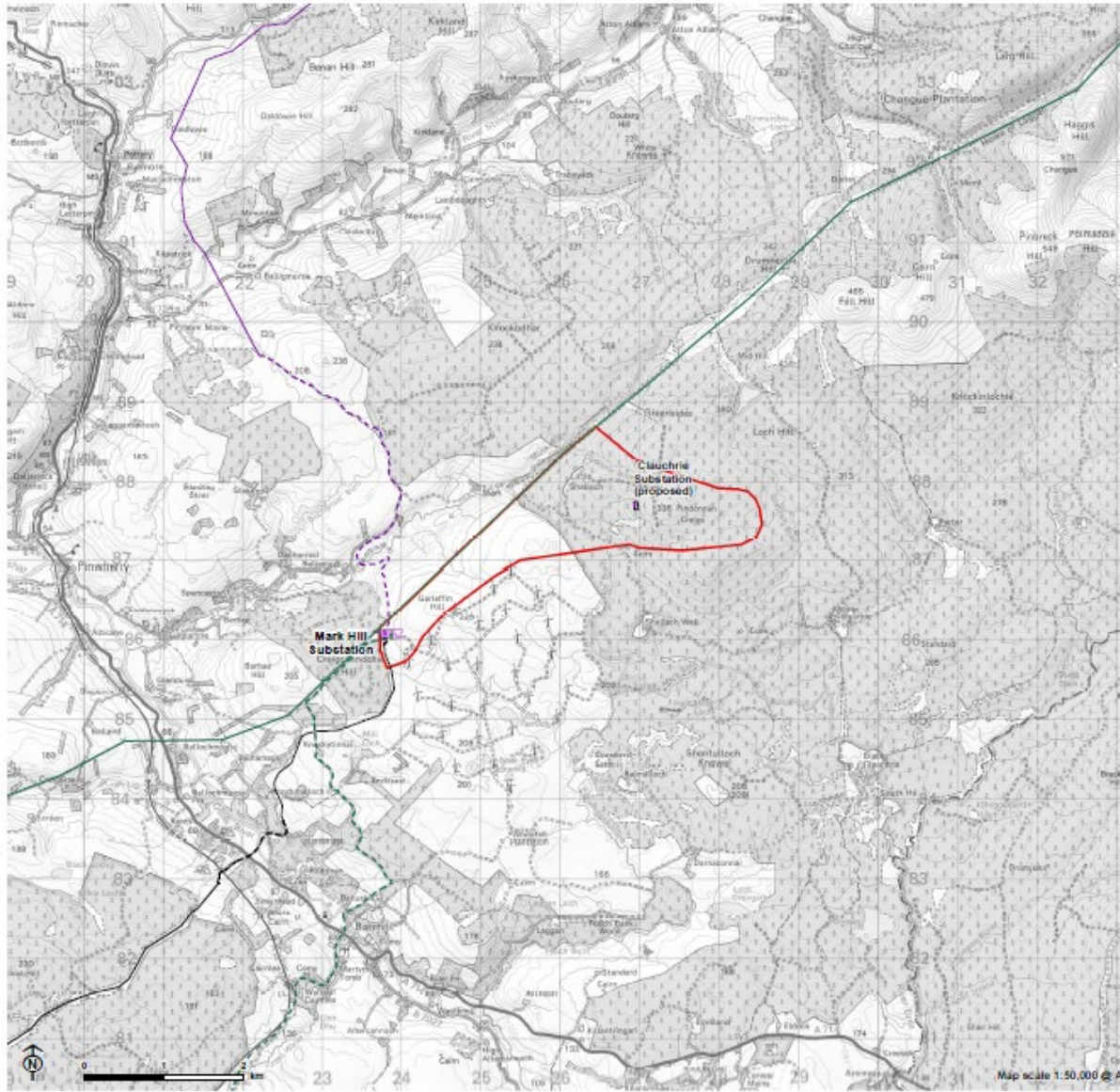


Figure 1.1: Location Plan

- Study area
- Substation
- Consented Mark Hill Substation Extension
- 275KV OHL
- 132KV OHL
- 33KV OHL
- 275KV UGC
- 132KV UGC
- 33KV UGC

