DEVELOPER APPLICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT CHECKLIST

	Enclosed
1. Developer cover letter and fee cheque	□
2. Copies of ES and associated OS maps	□
3. Copies of Non Technical Summary	□
4. Confidential Bird Annexes	□
5. Draft Adverts	□
6. E Data – CDs and PDFs	□

Environmental Statement	Enclosed	ES Reference (Section & Page No.)
7. Development Description	□	
8. OS co-ordinates for site and pole layout	□	
9. Planning Policies, Guidance and Agreements	□	
10. Natural Heritage	□	
11. Economic Benefits	□	
12. Site Selection and Alternatives	□	
13. Construction and Operations (outline methods)	□	
14. Decommissioning	□	
15. Design, Landscape and Visual Amenity	□	
16. Archaeology	□	
17. Ecology, Biodiversity & Nature Conservation	□	
18. Designated Sites	□	
19. Habitat Management	□	
20. Species, Plants and Animals	□	
21. Water Environment - Hydrology	□	
22. Geology	□	
23. Forestry	□	
24. Telecommunications	□	
25. Noise	□	
26. Traffic Management	□	
27. Cumulative Impacts	□	

N.B. Developers are encouraged to use this checklist when progressing towards application stage and formulating their Environmental Statements. The checklist will also be used by officials when considering acceptance of formal applications. Developers should not publicise applications in the local or national press, until their application has been checked and accepted by officials.

Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) Scoping Opinion

Our ref: S13/26
Your ref: Andershaw to Coalburn

Enterprise, Energy and Tourism Directorate
Energy and Telecommunications Division
Merdian Court
5 Cadogan Street
Glasgow
G2 6AT

28 August 2008

Dear Mr Lanigan

Electricity Act 1989
The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000
Scoping Opinion for the Proposed Installation Of A 132kV Overhead Line from the Proposed Andershaw Windfarm to Coalburn Substation, South Lanarkshire.

Thank you for consulting Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) on the Scoping Opinion for the proposed installation of a 132kV overhead Line from Andershaw Windfarm to Coalburn Substation. Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) acts as the Scottish Government's Forestry Directorate. It has a statutory duty to promote sustainable forestry in Scotland, endeavouring to achieve a balance between environmental, social and economic sustainability.

The main issue of concern to FCS is the potential effects the proposed installation of the Overhead Line may have on woodlands and specifically the consequences that any tree felling may have on the ecology and landscape of the area and environs.

The proposed route of the overhead line appears to dissect two areas of coniferous woodland known as Andershaw Forest and Cumberhead Complex. Forestry Commission Scotland considers this proposal to be of High Landscape Significance and long lasting in nature. We would suggest that the landscape impact of routing the overhead line through the coniferous woodland should be investigated and detailed within the Environmental Statement. Particular reference should be made to the visual impact of felling a corridor of trees through woodland and the potential for subsequent stand instability resulting in windthrow.
FCS would suggest that alternative routes avoiding the forest should be investigated and may be more appropriate.

The National Forestry Policy includes a presumption against clearance of any woodland for conversion to other land uses, and in particular seeks to maintain the special interest of ancient and semi-natural woodland.
National Planning Policy Guidance 14 provides detailed guidance on the planning system's role in relation to woodland: [para.] 51. Planning authorities should seek to protect trees, groups of trees and areas of woodland where they have natural heritage value or contribute to the character or amenity of a particular locality. Ancient and semi-natural woodlands have the greatest value for nature conservation.

With this in mind we agree that any application for consent should be supported by a detailed habitat and species survey, to be undertaken on and surrounding the application area. We especially support the requirement of "a Phase 1 Habitat Survey, including all woodland, with target notes specifying ancient woodland species".

The *Scottish Forestry Strategy 2006* and the *Scottish Biodiversity Strategy* (both of which have Ministerial endorsement) and *Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004* should be essential documents that the developer should be aware of. The *Scottish Forestry Strategy* recognises the importance of native woodlands, especially those that are of ancient and semi-natural origin. It also incorporates targets for priority habitats and species, sets priorities for action in terms of improving the management of semi-natural woodlands, and extending and enhancing woodlands by developing forest habitat networks (page 48).

We support the protection and the retention of existing woodland as these are key elements in the South Lanarkshire landscape. Also, such woodland corridors are essential linkages for local biodiversity.

We strongly recommend that all proposals involving woodlands meets the sustainable woodland management standards stated in the UK Forestry Standard (2004). In addition all woodland operations should be carried out using best practice techniques illustrated in Forestry Commission Guidelines, Guidance Notes and Forestry Practice Guides and Notes (refer to: http://www.forestry.gov.uk/publications).

FCS would be delighted to contribute towards any relevant consultations.

Yours sincerely,

David Galloway
Woodland Officer

Health & Safety Executive (HSE) Scoping Opinion

HSE

Health and Safety Executive

Hazardous Installations Directorate

Dr G A Cook

Chemical Industries Division
Belford House
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http://www.hse.gov.uk/

Head of Unit
Anne Wilson

The Scottish Government
Energy and Telecommunications Division
Meridian Court
5 Cadogan Street
Glasgow
G2 6AT

RECEIVED

Date 14 August 2008

Reference GC/2008/37450/FR
Andershaw to Coalburn

Dear Sirs

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT proposed overhead line from Andershaw to Coalburn Substation South Lanarkshire.

Thank you for your letter of 8 August 2008 asking what information should be provided in the environmental statement for the proposed development at Andershaw to Coalburn Substation South Lanarkshire.

Environmental Impact Assessments are concerned with projects, which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. HSE's principal concerns are the health and safety of people affected by work activities. HSE cannot usefully comment on what information should be included in the environmental statement of the proposed development. However, the environmental statements should not include measures, which would conflict with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and its relevant statutory provisions.

HSE has no comments to make on the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Yours faithfully

Dr G A Cook
HM Principal Inspector of Health and Safety

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Scoping Opinion

SEPA
Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Our Ref: DK/KT/ScotGov/2008
Your Ref: Andershaw, Limmer Hill, Coalburn Scoping

The Scottish Government
Enterprise, Energy & Tourism Directorate
Energy and Telecommunications Division
Meridian Court
5 Cadogan Street
Glasgow
G2 6AT

If telephoning ask for:
Dennis Kasap

16 July 2008

Dear Sir/Madam

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000
SCOPING OPINION FOR THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF A 132KV OVERHEAD LINE, BETWEEN THE PROPOSED ANDERSHAW WINDFARM AND THE PROPOSED LIMMER HILL AND COALBURN SUBSTATION, SOUTH LANARKSHIRE
SCOTTISH POWER TRANSMISSION LIMITED

Thank you for your consultation letter, received on 9 July 2008, regarding the above matter.

SEPA has reviewed the Scoping Report and the draft opinion and is generally satisfied that most of the issues relevant to its interests have been identified for further assessment. SEPA also welcomes the Scottish Ministers' view that the EIA process should inform the detailed route selection process.

At this stage, SEPA would note that issues related to the construction phase of a project may not necessarily be temporary in nature. In fact, SEPA's principal concern about this proposal is centred on construction activities and the creation of access roads. Previous experience has shown that such activities can pose a threat of water pollution due to release of sediment from exposed surfaces and accidental spillages. Environmental problems associated with these issues may not be temporary.

As requested in your letter dated 9 July 2008, SEPA is providing comments on the draft scoping opinion. SEPA's comments are presented according to the different sections/headings of the draft opinion, as follows.

1. Description of the Environmental Impacts

Water Environment & Flooding

Chapter 10 of the Scoping Report notes the types of baseline desk studies that will be undertaken in relation to the water environment, as part of the process for the preparation of the Environmental Statement (ES). In this regard, we note that the ES will be assessing all surface water bodies within 500m of the route corridor.

We also welcome the applicant's intention to discuss issues related to the water environment with SEPA. In terms of information on flood risk, we would highlight that the ES should also have regard to SEPA's 1 in 200 Indicative River & Coastal Flood Map (Scotland) which was published by SEPA in 2006.

Ecology

SEPA has an interest in the ecology of the water environment and water-dependant habitats and wildlife species. Chapter 10 of the Scoping Report states that the potential impacts on the ecology associated with aquatic features will be addressed under the 'Ecology and Nature Conservation' chapter.

Cont'd/...

East Kilbride Office
Redwood Crescent, Peel Park, East Kilbride G74 5PP
tel 01355 574200 fax 01355 574688
www.sepa.org.uk

Scottish Government
GLASGOW

16 July 2008

SEPA would note that the proposed overhead line will cross various watercourses of different sizes. The exact location of the proposed poles, access routes, storage areas, loading/unloading areas, etc are currently unknown and therefore, these should be clearly identified in the ES. SEPA also recommends that the Environmental Statement (ES) should include dedicated River Corridor Surveys covering both habitats and wild species.

Moreover, we would note that Coalburn Moss, Red Moss and Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands are groundwater-dependent Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Areas (SPA). SEPA considers that the ES should clearly identify the links between such designated areas and hydrology/hydrogeology.

2. Analysis of Environmental Impacts including Methodology

Fisheries

SEPA welcomes and endorses your comments in relation to the potential impacts that construction works could have on watercourses, water quality and migratory (and other) fish species. SEPA recommends that such issues should be fully identified and assessed in the ES and should also be examined in relation to the objectives and requirements of the EC Water Framework Directive and the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (as amended). Other nature conservation legislation/policies may also apply.

Ecology

SEPA recommends that the ES should address any potential significant impacts on the physical and ecological status of the water environment (e.g. watercourses and groundwater) and should also identify suitable mitigation measures in order to address such impacts. The potential ecological impacts associated with the proposed development, which may include engineering works to watercourses and/or their banks (e.g. riparian zones); discharges to the water environment, including groundwater; abstractions and impoundment (if any); any changes to the geomorphology and hydrology of watercourses and the site (or parts thereof); sedimentation; etc need to be addressed in the ES.

The above investigations/assessments should also have regard to the requirements of the EC Water Framework Directive and the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (as amended) (CAR). At this stage, we would note that any engineering works (e.g. culverting or bridges) which are likely to affect the water environment (e.g. watercourse) may require prior authorisation from SEPA under CAR. Further information on this matter can be found at www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/wfd/regimes/car_practical_guide.pdf. The ES should also have regard to SEPA's Policy on Culverting of Watercourses (www.sepa.org.uk).

Proposals for surface water management at this site should also take consideration of any potential impacts (direct or indirect) on the ecological status of the water environment, including groundwater-dependent SACs/SPAs. Issues related to attenuation and the rate of discharge of treated surface water from the site to the water environment should also be discussed with the South Lanarkshire Council.

The ES should also have regard to the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for the area. The Local Biodiversity Officer should be contacted in this regard.

SEPA would also need to be involved in the design of any rehabilitation/restoration proposals that could affect the water environment.

Hydrogeology & Contamination

From the submitted Scoping Report, SEPA notes that the ES will also be considering the potential impacts of the proposal on hydrogeology and the risks of contamination to groundwater. SEPA welcomes the intention to carry out such investigation. In this regard, SEPA recommends that the ES should also have regard to SEPA's Policy No 19 – Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland, which is available from www.sepa.org.uk.

Cont'd/...

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16 July 2008

Water Environment

SEPA notes that the ES will also be assessing the implication of the proposed development in view of the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and CAR. The Scoping Report notes that the potential effects on surface water quality may include contamination from surface water drainage from construction sites/maintenance and dewatering of excavations; contamination from accidents or spillages of oils etc; possible effects of herbicide usage; and increase in surface water runoff. These issues should be addressed in detailed in the ES. Additional information regarding the requirements of WFD and CAR can be found from SEPA's website www.sepa.org.uk and in SEPA's Practical Guide: The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005, version 5, published in June 2008.

SEPA recommends that the ES should also have regard to the terms of the recently introduced legislation: The Water Environment (Diffuse Pollution) (Scotland) Regulations 2008.

SEPA considers that this section of the ES should also have regard to any localised flood risk at this site.

3. Description of Methods to Offset Adverse Environmental Effects

SEPA welcomes and endorses the comments in this section of your scoping opinion. However, SEPA would still provide the following comments which we recommend for inclusion in your final scoping opinion.

SEPA notes that the draft opinion includes suitable reference to SEPA's Pollution Prevention Guide (PPGs) Notes. We would expect to see the principles contained within these PPGs to be incorporated in the assessments within the ES and addressed through suitable mitigation measures and detailed method statements.

As noted in the draft opinion, the risk of pollution to the water environment will increase during periods of high rainfall. The developer must ensure that particulate or chemical contamination of watercourses will not occur due to potential impacts on the habitats and water quality issues such as the sensitivity of receiving waters to siltation. SEPA will require the provision of silt traps and possibly a silt settlement lagoon. The design and location of these facilities will have to be agreed in advance with SEPA's South Lanarkshire Regulatory Unit. Consideration will also be given to whether any discharge will require SEPA's formal authorisation, subject to effluent quality conditions. Please note the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (CAR) were implemented on 1 April 2006. All developments completed after this date, will require to comply with this legislation. A useful 'Practical Guide' to these Regulations can be obtained on SEPA's website at http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/wfd/regimes/car_practical_guide.pdf.

In this regard, SEPA will require the applicant to supply details in the ES, in the form of a site drainage strategy, on how they propose to deal with site drainage arising from the proposal. SEPA will require details on how the applicant intends to collect, contain, treat and dispose of contaminated site drainage arising at the site to ensure that groundwater and surface waters, including protected areas, are not polluted or adversely affected. The drainage strategy should also identify suitable methods for the collection and treatment of all surface water runoff from this site, including hardstanding areas and road drainage. SEPA would expect no direct surface water run-off or direct discharge from the site to the watercourses.

The requirements of CAR, its relevant General Binding Rules and SEPA's PPGs should be integrated as part of the drainage strategy for the site. The SUDS Manual (C697) which was published by CIRIA in March 2007 provides additional guidance in this regard. The applicant should be aware that discharges to the water environment, including watercourses, may require SEPA's prior authorisation under CAR.

Method statements should be produced for all aspects of site work, including storage of material on-site, that might impact upon the water environment, e.g. watercourses, containing further preventative action and mitigation to limit impacts. It is essential that SEPA is provided with the opportunity to view these method statements in draft form prior to any works commencing at the site their being finalised should development take place. In particular, SEPA would expect all necessary mitigation measures to be identified and assessed to ensure that the pollutants typically associated with this type of activity do not enter the water environment. In this regard, SEPA would encourage the use of a closed cycle system for site water needs.

Cont'd /...

Scottish Government
GLASGOW

16 July 2008

SEPA would also expect details of all operations involving water usage to be specified.

In relation to fuel transport and storage management, the applicant should also have regard to and comply with the terms of The Water Environment (Oil Storage) (Scotland) Regulations 2006 which were implemented on 1 April 2006. SEPA's PPG2 provides additional guidance in this regard.

With respect to your comments on waste management, SEPA would add that the applicant should also assess accurately the quantities of waste peat (if any) likely to arise from activities associated with the development, and should identify a disposal route for the material. The proposal should attempt to minimise the removal of peat. Any waste peat arising should be used wherever practicable for beneficial use.

SEPA would also recommend the production of method statements, as part of the ES, identifying the potential waste implications of this project (such as residual wastes) and the measures that will be taken to minimise and manage the waste generated. SEPA would note that the recovery and reuse of controlled waste should be in accordance with the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 as amended (or exemption). Further information on the provisions of the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 is available from SEPA's South Lanarkshire Regulatory Unit.

All wastes produced during the development of the site must be disposed of at a suitably licensed or exempt waste management facility in accordance with the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 (as amended).

I hope that the above comments are useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully

Dennis Kasap
Senior Planning Officer

Copy to:

Claire Watson
Scottish Power Energy Networks
3 Prenton Way
Prenton
CH43 3ET

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Scoping Opinion

The Scottish Government
Energy and Telecommunications Division
Meridian Court
5 Cadogan Street
Glasgow
G2 6AT

Your Ref: Andershaw, Limmer Hill, Coalburn Scoping

Our Ref: CNS/ELY/49109

Date: 7th August 2008

For the attention of: Mr Andrew Lanigan

Dear Sir,

ELECTICITY ACT 1989
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000
SCOPING OPINION FOR THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF A 132KV OVERHEAD LINE, BETWEEN THE PROPOSED ANDERSHAW WINDFARM AND THE PROPOSED LIMMER HILL AND COALBURN SUBSTATION, SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

I write in response to your letter dated 3rd July 2008 requesting comments from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) regarding the above proposed development. I would firstly like to thank you for agreeing to an extension to our consultation period.

Our detailed comments on the natural heritage issues relevant to this particular proposal are contained in Annex 1 of this response. These comments are based on the document submitted in support of the request for scoping from SP Transmission "Scoping Document: Limmer Hill Windfarm – Andershaw Windfarm to Coalburn Substation 132kV Overhead Transmission Line" (June 2008).

In summary, the key issues which we would expect to see addressed in detail in the Environmental Statement for this development are:

- Ecological impacts, including direct and indirect impacts on protected and important species, habitats and sites.
- Landscape and visual impacts, including cumulative and sequential impacts.
- Impacts on public access.

Full details of the proposed development and all related works must be presented within the Environmental Statement.

The information provided in this response is given without prejudice to any views that we may wish to express at a later date, and are based upon our understanding of the project at this time.

If you require any further information regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact me at the above address.

Yours faithfully

Shelagh Macmillan
Area Officer
Lanarkshire

Enc: Annex 1 - Detailed comments from Scottish Natural Heritage

ANNEX 1

SCOPING OPINION FOR THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF A 132KV OVERHEAD LINE, BETWEEN THE PROPOSED ANDERSHAW WINDFARM AND THE PROPOSED LIMMER HILL AND COALBURN SUBSTATION, SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

Detailed comments from Scottish Natural Heritage

1. Route of the Overhead Line (OHL)

Ideally this OHL would create less impact on the natural heritage if an existing line was upgraded to carry this voltage. We believe that this is technically possible but due to the higher cost to the developer a new route is preferred. With so many windfarms being built and proposed in Scotland the developer should be encouraged to incur this extra cost in order to reduce the number of lines and their associated ecological impacts and landscape and visual impacts.

If this course of action is still not possible then the next best option would be to combine the lines from each of the proposed windfarms up to Coalburn substation instead of constructing two separate lines. The combined option is the preferred route shown in the scoping report

A separate response shall be made in the next week to the Consultation Document sent from SP Transmissions which gives details of a number of alternative routes for the OHL and outlines the preferred route. SNH will state whether it agrees that the route proposed is the best option.

From a landscape and visual impact point of view the route of the OHL would have been better going along the M74 corridor, so SNH will want to see strong justification for this not being the preferred route.

2. Ecological Impact

2.1 Designated Sites

The preferred overhead line route runs close to Coalburn Moss Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Red Moss SSSI and SAC which are designated for their raised bog habitat and Millers Wood SSSI which is designated for birch woodland habitat. Information on these designated sites can be found on our Site Link facility on our website at:

http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/portal/page?_pageid=53,910284,53_920284&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

The line is to be put underground near Coalburn substation and it is important that the Environmental Statement (ES) considers what impacts, if any, this work could have on Coalburn Moss SAC and states mitigation measures to reduce any impact.

The ES should state the width of the working corridor along the route of the line and assess whether work carried out in this corridor will have an impact on any of the SSSIs. The nearest distance from the working corridor to each SSSI should also be stated. If the line is consented no machinery or equipment should taken into any of the SSSIs. It is vital that contactors are aware of the boundary of these sites and do not enter into them.

2.2 Ornithology

The ES should explain the survey methodology clearly. This should include transect details for the Breeding Bird Survey, weather conditions, and the start and finish times of surveys. The vantage point (VP) watches should form a representative sample of diurnal bird activity including the dawn and dusk periods.

SNH recommend at least 36 hours of vantage point survey work for each season (breeding, non-breeding and migratory). This would mean undertaking 36 hours at each vantage point not just undertaking 36 hours across the whole area.

Although the Scoping Report gives the impression that a less intensive vantage point survey will be needed (7.2.2) SNH understands that 36 hours has actually been undertaken after previous advice from us.

The Scoping Report mentions the various sources that have been consulted for information, such as the Scottish Raptor Study Group. The ES should state the results of this, such as, records of raptor nests in the vicinity of the proposed OHL.

In order for SNH to fully assess any likely impacts, it is essential that the record of survey work undertaken is presented clearly and in a transparent manner. Maps should be clearly laid out and it is helpful for flight-line maps to be marked with the finalised overhead line route. Information should not be overcrowded and is better presented in smaller sections, either by season or month if significant numbers of flights have been recorded. SNH will advise on the need for further survey work on receipt of the results from current surveys.

In the ES we would like to see some reassurance of how the pole design will minimize the risk to birds of collision and electrocution. We would also like to see mitigation measures, such as bird diverters, used on the line. Undergrounding the line in areas where survey work has shown a higher risk to birds of collision should be considered.

2.3 Protected species surveys

The mammal surveys suggested in the Scoping Report appear to cover the main protected species that are likely to be found in the area (otter, bat, water vole and badger). Surveys should also record any other important or notable species along the route of the OHL. We will provide further advice on these species on receipt of survey results.

2.4 Habitats and soils

The Land Cover of Scotland 1988 GIS data shows peatland habitat at Flow Moss, near the proposed Andershaw windfarm, and also at Muirburn, near the Coalburn substation. As this is a sensitive and important habitat the line should be positioned in a manner which will not impact upon it. The Phase 1 Habitat Survey along the route of the line will help to identify any other habitats and vegetation of interest to avoid.

As there is new broadleaf woodland planting near to Millers Wood SSSI the preferred route may run through this. If this is the case it might be better to re-route the line in this area so as it does not run through an area that will be wooded in the future and require frequent cutting around the line.

Close attention should also be paid to construction methods. The ES should therefore state whether there will be a Construction Methods Statement and outline its structure and content.

The creation of any temporary access tracks may adversely affect both habitats and soils. Where no access tracks are to be created, SNH would expect that site vehicles would have ground pressure no greater than 0.15kg/cm^2. If this is not achievable, a specification for temporary tracks should be included in the ES.

3. Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

3.1 General

SNH is aware that the grid connection for Harestanes windfarm (recently consented, 71 turbines) will be laid underground alongside minor roads to the proposed substation at Moffat, a distance of some 16 km. We note that the grid connection for Andershaw and Limmer Hill windfarms (some 14 and 33 turbines respectively) is some 20 km long (measured approximately), and would be supported by wooden "H" poles, 13-15m high. Although this is less visually intrusive than a line carried on towers, it is likely to be more visually intrusive than an underground route, although this may be offset by impacts on habitats. The ES should therefore include a robust justification for an overhead route as opposed to an underground route, at least within the higher, more open / less wooded landscapes.

3.2 Landscape impacts

Development sensitivities and guidelines for reducing impacts for each landscape character type along the route of the line can be found in the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Landscape Character Assessment. This Assessment can be downloaded from the SNH web site.

3.3 Visual impacts and selection of viewpoints

We anticipate that the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) will cover an area up to 5 km from the OHL on timber poles, but the study area may have to be drawn wider to take account of cumulative impacts with similar development.

We agree with the approach set out at 6.2.2, whereby viewpoints are agreed with South Lanarkshire Council and SNH. In particular, the sequence of views along surrounding roads and paths should be assessed.

The ES should assess the extent to which the visual impacts may affect the integrity of the Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) around Douglas and the Regional Scenic Area (RSA) to the south of the line where it crosses from Limmer Hill to Andershaw.

Reference: *Identification of Regional Scenic Areas*, Dumfries and Galloway Structure Plan TECHNICAL PAPER NO. 6 (approved by the Scottish Ministers 10 December 1999). There is no citation for the South Lanarkshire RSA but as it straddles the administrative boundary, and in the absence of a citation, the Dumfries & Galloway paper is an essential reference (in particular the section on the Thornhill Uplands RSA) for informing the assessment of the impacts on the integrity of the designation.

3.4 Wireline and photomontage representations

The landscape and visual impact assessment should incorporate representations from key viewpoints that clearly identify and illustrate the principle components of the proposal and in relation to baseline conditions. Clear annotation or illustration of the key components of the development will be necessary.

4. Mitigation measures

SNH welcomes the potential mitigation outlined in the Scoping Report and the micro-positioning of poles. We suggest that all mitigation measures are clearly described and illustrated in a separate section of the ES. This should include layout details of any planting within the application area.

One of the landscape mitigation measures in 6.6 mentions planting using native species to increase biodiversity and nature conservation value and habitat interest along the route of the corridor. SNH would strongly recommend using not just native but locally appropriate species.

SNH would also recommend, as a general mitigation measure to add to the list at section 7.5, that all waste materials were taken off site and appropriately disposed of. A supervisor should walk the line at the end of construction to ensure this has taken place.

5. Recreation and Access

Based on current information, it is unlikely that the scheme will have a wide-ranging impact on access and recreation in this area. However, there are several claimed Rights of Way (RoW) within the preferred route corridor and we would expect an appraisal of potential impacts and proposed mitigation to be included in the ES. This should include impacts both during and after construction. Mitigation, if necessary, may include signs with the dates of any temporary closure of RoW and if possible signs to divert the public to another route.

SNH Consultation Document Response

(SNH also provided a detailed response to the Consultation Document)

Scottish Power Energy Networks
New Alderston House
Dove Wynd
Strathclyde Business Park
Bellshill
ML4 3FF

Your Ref: ANDCW/0781 &
ANDCW/0802

Our Ref: CNS/ELY/48832 &
CNS/ELY/49985

Date: 28th August 2008

For the attention of: Ms Claire Watson

Dear Madam,

ANDERSHAW AND LIMMER HILL WINDFARMS GRID CONNECTION – OVERHEAD LINE ROUTE CONSULTATION

SCOPING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ANDERSHAW SUBSTATION CONSULTAION

I write in response to your letters dated 23rd June 2008 and 11th August 2008 requesting comments from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) regarding the above proposed development.

Overhead Line Route Consultation

Landscape and visual impacts

SNH broadly agrees with the choice of the Preferred Route. However, we recommend that the following matters are considered prior to finalising the Proposed Route that will be presented in the Environmental Statement (ES).

Consultation Report

We note that some important information is missing from the plans in the Consultation Report:

- The boundary of the Douglas Valley AGLV (Area of Great Landscape Value) is missing from the Environmental Constraints and the Combined Constraints Figures (figures 5 and 7) and has therefore not been considered as part of the route appraisal process. This carries the same policy weight as the RSA (Regional Scenic Area) which is mapped and both are Local Landscape Designations.
- Woodland planting on lower ground on the opposite side of the road from Millers Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is not shown.

We recommend that the overhead line is divided into logical sections and each section is given its own Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV). There should also be a distinction made between where the line is seen backclothed and where it is visible on the skyline. This was done for the Arecleoch Windfarm grid connection ES, and was helpful.

The route options and their appraisals should also be presented in a clear fashion in the ES. A good example of this can be seen in the Arecleoch Windfarm grid connection ES.

Limmer Hill substation

The proposed substation for the Limmer Hill windfarm is located in a prominent position on a steep slope. We are concerned that the building, and the large area of level ground that must be cut for the switchgear, together with the access track, will together result in significant adverse impacts on the smooth landform which determines the Foothills landscape character type, and significant adverse impacts on the views from the M74, 'old A74' and long-distance cycle route. We therefore advise that consideration should be given to relocating the Limmer Hill substation or combining it with Andershaw substation. This is on the assumption that the Limmer Hill windfarm planning application, which we understand has been withdrawn, will be resubmitted at some time as a smaller proposal.

Douglas Valley

SNH has major concerns about the section of the Preferred Route between Millers Wood SSSI (in the Glespin area) and Windrow Wood, in particular the impacts on the views from the area of Jeanfield Bridge where the A70 Ayr Road crosses over the Douglas Water. These concerns are sufficient for us to advise that consideration be given to undergrounding this section. We cite as precedent for this the proposed undergrounding of the Arecleoch windfarm grid connection across the floor of the Duisk Valley in Ayrshire, which is similarly sensitive to change.

Briefly, we are concerned about the impact on landscape character and visual amenity of this part of the Douglas valley, and on the integrity of the AGLV designation. The reasons for this are:

- The *Upland River Valley* landscape type is more sensitive to the overhead line than the *Plateau Moorlands* and *Foothills* character types that it crosses in other sections of the route to the south and north.
- The overhead line will detract from the local landscape quality, which is reflected in its designation as the *Douglas Valley AGLV*. The Douglas Water and the woodlands add an attractive feature to a pleasant rural valley that is blighted by open cast coal mining at Glespin to the south west. SNH considers that the integrity of the Local Landscape Designation will be diminished by the detracting presence of the overhead grid connection.
- We refer you to OS map evidence at www.nls.uk Ordnance Survey, 1" Popular Edition of 1922, Sheet 79 Lanark. From this, it can be seen that the track from Hazelside (a lodge house on higher ground west of the bridge) formerly led east to Douglas Castle. We also note that Windrow Wood and Millers Wood are policy woodlands enclosing Douglas Castle. Together with the water crossing (Jeanfield

Bridge), the area where the overhead line crosses the Douglas Valley was clearly part of the designed landscape of Douglas Castle and as such, the landscape features laid out for aesthetic reasons contribute to the AGLV. This contribution will be reduced by the overhead line, which will replace these as the dominant feature in the valley.

- The topography map in the Consultation Report, and the published *Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment*, confirm the valley at this location is at a pinch point. This is reflected by the road alignment as it negotiates the valley flanks, floor and river crossing. People's views are focussed and contained by the valley landform, which is particularly distinctive at this location. The overhead line cuts across this pinch point.

Finally, SNH recommends that the overhead line is taken as an opportunity to rationalise some of the overhead lines that proliferate in the AGLV at the Douglas Valley. This rationalisation was carried out in the Moniaive area as part of the Wether Hill windfarm grid connection, to the benefit of the local amenity.

Advice on the Andershaw Substation Consultation

The advice given in SNH's scoping response (ref: CNS/ELY/49109) on the overhead line will also be relevant for the inclusion of the substation. The construction of the substation should be included in the ecological, access, landscape and visual impact assessments. A few important points regarding the construction of the substation have been highlighted below.

Landscape impacts

A design strategy with landscape objectives should be included, together with proposals to integrate the substation into the existing landscape.

Visual impacts and selection of viewpoints

The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) should include all the components of the proposal, such as the substation and the overhead line on timber poles. Drawings and/or photographs would be helpful to demonstrate the scale of the proposal.

Wireline and photomontage representations

The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment should incorporate representations from key viewpoints that clearly identify and illustrate the principle components of the proposal, including the substation, and in relation to baseline conditions. Clear annotation or illustration of the key components of the development will be necessary.

Method Statement

A Construction Methods Statement should also include the construction of the substation as well as the overhead line.

If you require any further information regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact me at the above address.

Yours faithfully

Shelagh Macmillan
Area Officer
Lanarkshire

cc: Mr Andrew Lanigan, Scottish Government, Energy and Telecommunications Division

Historic Scotland Scoping Opinion

HISTORIC SCOTLAND

We safeguard the nation's historic environment and promote its understanding and enjoyment

Andrew Lanigan
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Energy and Telecommunications Division
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Our ref: AMN/16/SR
Your ref:Andershaw,Limmer Hill, Coalburn Scoping dated 03 July 2008

22 July 2008

Dear Mr Lanigan

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000
SCOPING OPINION FOR THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF A 132kV OVERHEAD LINE, BETWEEN THE PROPOSED ANDERSHAW WINDFARM AND THE PROPOSED LIMMER HILL AND COALBURN SUBSTATION, SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

I refer to your letter of 3 July 2008 seeking relevant information/comments on the above. We have treated this as a request for information on the potential scope of any Environmental Impact Assessment under the above Regulations which might be required for this development. Our comments concentrate on Historic Scotland's statutory remit at the national level for:

- scheduled monuments
- listed buildings
- historic gardens and designed landscapes

Whilst much of the advice offered will also be of general relevance for historic environment resources of regional or local importance, we advise that the developer must seek detailed information and advice on those issues from the relevant Council Archaeological Service. In this case, this is West of Scotland Archaeology Service, Charing Cross Complex, 20

HISTORIC SCOTLAND

India Street, Glasgow. G2 4PF The Archaeological Service will also be able to clarify their scale of charges for work of this nature.

General Principles
Historic environment issues should be taken into consideration as part of the site selection process and alternatives considered.

We recommend that the developer engage suitably qualified archaeological/historic environment consultants to advise on, and undertake the detailed assessment of impacts on the historic environment. Their advice should also be sought on appropriate mitigation strategies to address any adverse impacts.

Desk assessment of existing historic environment records and other sources of information should be used to gather baseline information. The developer's consultant will be able to advise on the details of this requirement. The baseline information should identify the site and setting of the historic environment assets both within the boundary of the development area and within the Zone of Visual Influence once that has been identified. A Zone of Visual Influence may be helpful in giving initial consideration to setting issues. This should include information on:

- scheduled monuments
- archaeological sites and landscapes
- listed buildings
- historic gardens and designed landscapes
- conservation areas

A non-invasive walk over survey and field evaluation should be undertaken to augment this information. It should also assess the area's potential for the discovery of further, as yet unrecorded archaeological sites. As noted above, the Council Archaeological Service would be able to advise further on the latter.

National policy for the historic environment is set out in:

The historic environment is defined section 2 of Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) 1 Scotland's Historic Environment (www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/policyandguidance/sheps/shep1.htm. National policy for the historic environment is set out in:

- National Planning Policy Guideline (NPPG) 5, *Planning and Archaeology*: www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/1998/10/nppg5
- National Planning Policy Guideline (NPPG)18, *Planning and the Historic Environment:* www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/1999/04/nppg18.
- Scottish Historic Environment Policies (SHEPs). These are a new series of Scottish Government policy documents which set out Scottish Ministers strategic policies for the historic environment and can be found at www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/policyandguidance/sheps.htm.

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- The *Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas, 1998* text available at www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/policyandguidance/memorandumofguidance.htm.

Amongst other things, NPPG 5 stresses that scheduled monuments should be preserved *in situ* and within an appropriate setting, whilst NPPG 18 confirms that legislation requires that special regard must be had to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses. Consequently both direct impacts on the resource itself and indirect impact on its setting must be addressed in any Environmental Impact Assessment undertaken for this proposed development.

An appropriate mitigation strategy should be devised which states how significant impacts can be avoided or reduced, and if possible, remedied. Offsetting methods, including prior archaeological excavation of threatened features may be appropriate in some cases but as Planning Advice Note (PAN) 58, *Environmental Impact Assessment* indicates, it is at the lower end of the mitigation hierarchy. NPPG 5 stresses that "the preservation *in situ* of important archaeological remains is always to be preferred, particularly in relation to nationally important sites".

Potential Direct Impacts
In this case we confirm that there are no scheduled monuments/listed buildings, historic gardens or designed landscapes within your search area.

Information on the location of all scheduled monuments, listed buildings and historic gardens and designed landscapes can be obtained from www.PASTMAP.org.uk This is a free, interactive website produced jointly by Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland which allows anyone with internet access to display and search data on Scotland's historic environment. We would also be happy to provide any further information or advice on any such sites identified as potentially significant.

Impact on Setting
The annex attached to this letter provides further advice on general principles which we consider should be taken into account when assessing impact on the setting of historic environment resources. It is possible that a development in this location could affect the setting of cultural heritage resources beyond the boundary of both your search area and development site - for example, the scheduled monument known as Auchensaugh Hill cairn (Index No. 4234) to the north of the proposed overhead line. The information in the annex may also be of general relevance in the assessment of cumulative impacts on historic environment assets. These could result from the development itself, if it consists of scattered components, and could arise from this development in combination with others in the vicinity.

Impact on Setting
The annex attached to this letter provides further advice on general principles which we consider should be taken into account when assessing impact on the setting of historic

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environment resources. It is possible that a development in this location could affect the setting of cultural heritage resources across a wide area beyond the boundary of both your search area and development site. The information in the annex may also be of general relevance in the assessment of cumulative impacts on historic environment assets. These could result from the development itself, if it consists of scattered components, and could arise from this development in combination with other developments in the vicinity.

It is not possible for us to provide definitive information on any of these issues at this stage but we would be happy to discuss these with the developer as part of the assessment progresses. We would also be happy to discuss the details of visualisations such as wirelines or photomontages which may be required to illustrate the nature and degree of impacts on key sites.

Should you wish to discuss any of the issues raised in this letter or its annex, please do not hesitate to contact Nicola Hall on 0131 668 8994 or by email at nicola.hall@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

William Kidd
Development Assessment Administrator

ANNEX

SCOPING OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT ON THE SETTING OF THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RESOURCE

SOME GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Defining Setting

There is currently no statutory definition of the term "setting". In her report of the Abercairny Wind Farm Public Local Inquiry[i] the Reporter took a broad approach to its meaning and application. At para 14.35 she states:

> "The proposal would not physically affect any of the categories of cultural heritage resource… However, there is a wide range of buildings, monuments and locations of archaeological, architectural, historic and/or cultural interest within the application site and the surrounding area. In the absence of any statutory definition, what comprises "setting" is a matter of fact and degree and ultimately judgement, although a visual and contextual relationship between the feature and its surroundings is clearly implied"…

Historic Scotland supports this broad interpretation. In the specific case of listed buildings the *Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas 1998,*[ii] chapter 10 "firmly encourages authorities not to interpret the word narrowly". We consider that this principle also applies more generally to other historic environment resources. In summary, we recognise that the archaeological/historic context, the visual appearance and the aesthetic qualities of a site's surroundings play an important role in modern perceptions of the site and that the alteration of those qualities has the potential to impact upon its character and value.

Characterising Setting

The following list is not all inclusive or in any particular order but simply suggests a number of factors which might be helpful in approaching an understanding of what characterises the particular setting of any historic environment asset; the relative significance of that setting to the preservation of its character and value; and whether the affect of the development on that setting is likely to be significant.

In weighing up these issues the focus is on the historic environment asset itself.

- The relative weight which statute and policy attach to the asset in question;
- importance of topographic location for understanding the function of the site and the choice of its location;
- relevance of current or past land use;
- group setting and relationship to, and intervisibility with, other sites in the landscape;
- visual prominence of the site, but bearing in mind that sites need not necessarily be visually prominent to have a significant setting;[iii]
- visual dominance of the proposed development relative to the scale of the site and its current place in the landscape;
- scale and extent both of the site and of the development;
- views both to and from the site, including cases where the development and the site may not be intervisible but are both caught in important views – key vistas/prospects/ panoramas/sightlines[iv];
- presence, extent and scale of existing development within the surroundings of the site and how that currently affects/defines the site's setting;
- relatively unaltered settings or those little changed from the period when the site was constructed;
- distance between the site and the development[v];
- presence of intervening buildings/vegetation/topography between the site and the development;
- nature and scale of the landscape which comprises the setting of the site and its ability to absorb new development without eroding the key characteristics and value of the site;
- visual distraction through, for example, scale, physical relationship, movement or light effects[vi].
- recreational/leisure value of the site within its surroundings either formally or informally[vii];
- potential role as an educational resource, either formally or informally e.g. in explaining both the cultural history of an area and the evolution of its landscape;
- less tangible experiential qualities e.g. sense of remoteness/evocation of historic past/sense of place/cultural identity/ spiritual responses;
- contribution of the site within its setting to local diversity and distinctiveness;
- cumulative impact on setting of the development as a whole, not simply an assessment of its individual features; and
- cumulative impact measured with other similar developments in the wider area.

Assessing Impacts on Setting

In assessing the impact of developments on the setting of historic environment assets the focus of the assessment must always be the asset within its surroundings and context. In terms of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) it is the asset which is the receptor of the impact. The primary measure is thus the impact of physical change and how that affects the nature and character of the asset, taking full account of its relative significance in terms of the nation's heritage. This must not be confused with measuring impacts on landscape. The latter will be the subject of separate assessment within EIA and that will subsume, where appropriate, the historic dimension of the landscape.

In determining what constitutes the setting of any particular site Historic Scotland does not consider that there are any fixed criteria which can be universally applied. Much will depend upon the circumstances of the individual case, including such variables as the nature, extent, design, location of the development proposed, the nature, extent and significance of the asset in question, its current relationship with its surroundings and the degree to which that would be altered by the development proposed.

Different attributes will be important both singly and in combination for different sites and situations. In general it is the relationship of the historic environment asset with its current surroundings, not with any hypothetical sense of "original" (i.e. historic) setting which is of concern, though clearly any elements of original, historic setting will be very important. In the case of archaeological sites in particular, such potentially rare survivors might, in certain circumstances, constitute part of the site rather than its setting.

Consequently, the determination of what comprises the setting of any particular site and the degree to which any proposed development might affect it require careful thought and the exercise of a high degree of professional judgement. The latter must be based on a sound understanding of the site, its context and current setting; the relative significance of the latter to the character and value of the site; the particular characteristics of the development proposed and how those would affect the site and its current setting; and the application and interpretation of policy in those circumstances.

> *Following from this Historic Scotland believes that in order to gain any clear view of the impact of the development on the setting of any historic environment asset, its significance and whether mitigation is likely to be effective in preventing, reducing or offsetting any adverse impacts, the following issues need to be clearly assessed and articulated in the Environmental Statement (ES).*

- The current setting of the site in the widest terms, taking account of the particular factors relevant to that site. That will be the baseline against which the change which would be introduced by the development must be measured.
- Physical changes which the development will bring to that setting, taking account of all aspects of the development proposed, both singly and cumulatively. The inclusion in the ES of photomontages or other suitable illustrative material will be helpful in illustrating this.
- The significance of this change for the monument, taking particular account of the significance of setting issues identified in the baseline and the principles of legislation and policy which apply to that particular historic environment asset.
- Mitigation measures designed to prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse impacts and their likely effectiveness.
- Residual impacts after mitigation.

We would expect that thought process, including the matters considered and conclusions reached, to be carefully and clearly articulated in the ES so that consultees and, indeed, the public are able to understand the basis of those conclusions and consider whether or not they are reasonable or valid in the circumstances. The need to set this out clearly, in writing, applies whether or not tables or matrices are employed to measure the value of the assets affected against the magnitude of the impact to arrive at a measure of significance. Such tables and matrices are not themselves objective, but derived from subjective thought processes. They cannot be prescriptive and professional judgement will always be required in their use and interpretation.

The scale and extent of certain developments means that they may be visible to a greater or lesser extent over large distances and that will often include some degree of visibility to and from a substantial numbers of historic/archaeological sites.

However, we believe that distant views alone are not necessarily sufficient to raise concerns about adverse impact on setting. In some cases where vistas/ prospects/ panorama/ sightlines both to and from sites may be particularly important, securing those distant site-lines and interrelationships free from intervening development may be important factors in the preservation of setting.

In other cases the setting of a site may be more small scale and intimate, where the proximity, scale and topographical relationship of the development to the site over relatively short distances and such factors as visually intrusion or dominance may be more significant. Again much will depend upon the individual circumstances of the site in question, its context and relationship with its surroundings and the characteristics of the development proposed.

Mitigation

The successful mitigation of impacts from developments which are fundamentally inappropriately sited is at best difficult, at worst, impossible. For developments which raise significant setting issues the only potential mitigation is likely to be good design and responsive site layout which avoids or minimises impacts to an acceptable degree. Such measures might involve the removal or resiting of particular turbines and must be considered from the earliest stages in the iterative EIA process in tandem with the development of the detailed design.[viii] The EIA Directive places stress on "the need to take effects on the environment into account at the earliest possible stage".

Historic Scotland
January 2007

Footnotes

[i] ***Report of Public Local Inquiry. Proposed Wind farm at Abercairny, Crieff***, published with Scottish Ministers decision in September 2006 to refuse the application under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 – see www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1086/0038824.pdf

[ii] www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/policyandguidance/memorandumofguidance.htm

[iii] For some sites an indelible link to other landscape or topographical features will continue to bear witness to their presence. A clear example of this is the importance of its topographical setting to the meaningful preservation of the Antonine Wall, a monument which is not itself visually prominent over much of its length.

[iv] The ***Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas, 1998***, chapter 10, page 202 highlights, for example, that the following should be regarded as affecting setting:

- development within a rural area which will be seen in any principle view either of or from the listed building , or affect in any way the main approaches to it, noting that it is not sufficient that the listed building and the new development will not be intervisible;
- development which will block distant views of important architectural landmarks;
- development which involves the construction of projecting features which will be seen in oblique views of the listed building.

[v] In this context figure 8 of PAN 45, ***Renewable Energy Technologies*** provides general advice on the effect which distance has on the perception of such developments in an open landscape. It indicates that they are likely to be a prominent feature for distances up to 2 km; relatively prominent from 2-5 km; only prominent in clear visibility – seen as part of the wider landscape between 5-15 kms; and only seen in very clear visibility – a minor element in the landscape between 15-30 kms.

[vi] For example the ***Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas, 1998***, chapter 10, page 201 confirms that in the case of listed buildings: "At all times the listed building should remain the focus of its setting. Attention must never be distracted by the presence of any new development whether it be within or without the curtilage". This broad principle will also apply more generally to the setting of other historic environment assets.

[vii] Numbers of visitors to sites or visitor perceptions should not in themselves be interpreted as indicators of the relative importance of the asset, its public value or the significance of the impact.

For example, the ***Third Report of Session 2005-06 of the House of Commons select committee on the Department of Culture, Media and Sport***, published in July 2006, although mainly concerned about the financial support given to English Heritage, makes clear in passing that "…the number of visits to designated sites is a partial and rather unsatisfactory measure of the public value of heritage." (Report summary, penultimate paragraph)
www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmumeds/912/912-i.pdf

For a discussion of the potential values of the historic environment see ***Passed to the Future. Historic Scotland's Policy for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment***.
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/publications/policypublications/operationalpolicies.htm

[viii] See for example advice in PAN 58***, Environmental impact Assessment*** paras 32-34)

Scottish Wildlife Trust Scoping Opinion

Protecting **Scotland's wildlife** for the future

Headquarters Cramond House Kirk Cramond Cramond Glebe Road Edinburgh EH4 6NS
tel: 0131 312 7765 fax: 0131 312 8705 email: enquiries@swt.org.uk web: www.swt.org.uk

SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST

Clyde Area *Please reply to :* 6, Ninian's Rise, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow, G66 3HU
Tel. 0141-776-5506

Scottish Government,
Enterprise, Energy and Tourism Directorate,
Energy and Telecommunications Division,
Meridian Court,
5, Cadogan Street,
Glasgow,
G2 6AT

21st August, 2008

Dear Sir,

f.a.o. Andrew William Lanigan, Energy Consents Officer
Your ref. : Andershaw to Coalburn

Scoping Opinion for Proposed Installation of 132kV Overhead line from Proposed Andershaw Windfarm to Coalburn Substation, South Lanarkshire

Thank you for forwarding Consultation and Scoping Documents to our head office at Cramond, who passed them on to me, since this particular scheme falls within the remit of the Scottish Wildlife Trust Clyde Area Members Centre.

In general, to the best of our knowledge, we consider that the various proposals, including the preferred route, are unlikely to have any serious deleterious effect on wildlife or a habitat.
However we would like to make some observations :

a) For some of the options, where the route runs near Coalburn Moss, mention is made of undergrounding the cable. The value of raised peat bogs like Coalburn Moss depends on maintaining its water table and any excavation activities adjacent to the bog could affect drainage rates and have a long-term deleterious effect. We would therefore want to be satisfied that any excavations are well clear of the edge of the moss and/or suitable precautions taken to ensure that they do not cause increased water flow from the moss.

b) Regarding the methodology used, although there is a mention of Sites of Council area level in Appendix C, Table C2, there is no specific reference to checking for locally-designated sites of importance for nature conservation, *e.g.* SINCs and/or Wildlife Sites - now known as LNCSs, Local Nature Conservation Sites. These are referred to in policy ENV26 of the South Lanarkshire Plan and paragraph 60 of NPPG14. Some locally-designated sites can actually have as great wildlife/habitat value as SSSIs in the area and in some cases greater value so it is important to take them into consideration.

We would recommend as a matter of course in scoping documents and Environmental Impact Assessments that a search is made for locally-designated sites in the vicinity of the project.
In the case of the Andershaw to Coalburn project the only site in the vicinity (besides the SSSIs) of which the SWT has a record is also a SNH Peatland Inventory site known as 'Hollandbush' at NS 805 362/805 365, west of Glaikhead, which is at the western edge of Coalburn Moss. It is unlikely that this site would be affected by the preferred route.

Please note that Jennifer Lewis, to whom you addressed your letter is no longer involved with Scottish Wildlife Trust planning matters and similar developments.
If you would like to correspond further regarding the current project, please contact me directly at the Kirkintilloch address above.
For any future consultations, for projects anywhere in Scotland, could you please address them to the Scottish Wildlife Trust at Cramond House, Kirk Cramond, Cramond Glebe Road, Edinburgh, EH4 6NS, for the attention of the Planning Co-ordinator.

Thank you for consulting us.

Yours sincerely
David Shenton

David C Shenton

Vice-chairman Scottish Wildlife Trust Clyde Area

Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scoping Opinion

17th September 2008

Dear Mr Lanigan

OVERHEAD LINE BETWEEN THE PROPOSED ANDERSHAW AND LIMMER HILL WINDFARMS AND COALBURN SUBSTATION

Thank you for consulting RSPB Scotland on the above proposal. We have already responded to Scottish Power directly, making the following points.

1. The consultation document makes no mention of the potential impact on bird species from collision with the proposed overhead line. This can be a risk in areas where there are high densities of birds or birds of conservation importance.

2. The Environmental Impact Assessment should examine the collision risk along the proposed route and where necessary include provisions for wire marking, for example with aerial marker spheres or bird flight diverters. Survey results from the windfarm Environmental Statements may help to inform this.

I hope these comments are useful. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely

Toby Wilson
Conservation Officer (Central Scotland)

Appendix D: Phase 1 Habitat Survey Target Notes

Target Note	Easting	Northing	Description
1	281300	636300	Bare ground, areas of Tussilago farfara (colt's foot), Reseda luteola (weld), Urtica dioica (nettle), Echium vulgare (vipers bugloss) and fine grasses. Fly tipping. Birch and willow seedings and saplings. Dactylorhiza fuchsii (common spotted orchid) common.
2	280630	635600	Post opencast area restored some time ago using peat, now a mixture of Molinia caerulea (purple moor grass) dominated areas and Eriophorum vaginatum (hare's tail cotton grass) dominated areas. Generally dry underfoot and species poor. Mapped as modified bog, although this is a reflection of the vegetation type and not origin.
3	280430	634170	Restored grassland, now dominated by Deschampsia cespitosa (tufted hair grass), with about 20% bare gound and a limited array of herbs. Birds good here, skylark, meadow pipit, curlew, goldfinch, linnet and common sandpiper around water.
4	280680	635290	Area on slope with restored grassland comprising stands of Juncus effusus (Soft rush), but dry and inorganic soil with bare patches. Calluna seedling regrowth, sward of Festuca rubra (red fescue), Anthoxanthum odoratum (sweet vernal grass) and Agrostis capillaris (common bent). Drumming snipe.
5	280210	635000	Plantation has large open areas within with Deschampsia cespitosa (tufted hair grass) and/or Juncus effusus (Soft rush).
6	280200	634790	Pond. Shallow margins with Carex rostrata (bottle sedge) and Glyceria sp. with Juncus effusus (Soft rush) on the steeper margins. Potamogeton sp. (pond weed species) only aquatic observed. The surrounding area comprises tall Calluna vulgaris (heather) on area restored with peat and there are areas of scattered willow scrub. Feeding birds include stonechat, linnet, meadow pipit, house martin. Really nice feature.
7	280900	634280	Dalquhandy lagoons. Three open water bodies, ex settling ponds. Well vegetated margins, Typha latifolia (reedmace), Sparganium erectum (btanched bur reed) and also submerged aquatics.
8	280700	635460	restored grassland, with a scruffy mix of Juncus effusus (Soft rush), Juncus conglomeratus (compact rush), Equisetum arvense (field horsetail), Trifolium pratense (red clover), Carex flacca (glaucous sedge), Carex nigra (common sedge), Holcus lanatus (Yorkshire fog). Deep bryophyte carpet of Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus and Pleurozium schreberi.
9	280940	633400	Nice semi natural valley with steep slopes and supporting dry heath communities. Ungrazed and self set tree seedlings/saplings beginning to take hold.
10	281310	633010	pond with marginal vegetation around about 30-40% of the perimeter. Typha latifolia (reedmace), Carex rostrata (bottle sedge), Juncus acutiflorus (sharp flowered rush), Potamogeton sp. (pond weed species), Galium palustre (marsh bedstraw).
11	281370	633010	Large pond. Typha latifolia (reedmace), Carex rostrata (bottle sedge) and Juncus effusus (Soft rush) around margins. Grass hopper warbler singing near hear.
12	281690	632810	Pond. Deep. Potamogeton sp with about 10% cover of open water. Juncus effusus (Soft rush) margins, with Glyceria sp. and Carex rostrata (bottle sedge).
13	281600	632070	Wet modified bog comprising Eriophorum vaginatum (hare's tail cotton grass) and Molinia caerulea (purple moor grass). Occasional small areas of Sphagnum with some Drosera rotundifolia (round leaved sundew), but generally very modofied.
14	281570	632020	Small burn, lined with Juncus acutiflorus (sharp flowered rush). Steep peaty sides. Slower areas pooling, with aquatic Sphagnum species within.
15	282350	631670	Nice area of intact blanket bog. Grassy structure dominated by Eriophorum vaginatum (hare's tail cotton grass), but not growing as tussocks. There is also frequent Deschampsia flexuosa (wavy hair grass), Anthoxanthum odoratum (sweet vernal grass), Molinia caerulea (purple moor grass) and Trichopherum cespitosum (deer sedge). Sub shrubs are patchy and low, with frequent Calluna vulgaris (heather) and Erica tetralix (cross leaved heath), and sprigs of Vaccinium myrtillus (bilberry). Potentilla erecta (tormentil) is frequent and there is a patchy carpet of Sphagnum papillosum and S. capilli-folium. Drosera rotundifolia (round leaved sundew) is notably frequent, and there is also a little Vaccinium oxycoccus (cranberry).
16	281810	631170	Small bryophyte spring, base rich and species rich. Runs parallel to the road and includes suite of small calcicole sedges such as C. panicea (carnation sedge) and C nigra (common sedge), with Briza media (quaking grass), Triglochin palustre (marsh arrowgrass), Juncus articulatus (jointed rush), Trifolium repens (white clover). Bryophytes include Calliergon cuspidatum and Climacium dendroides.
17	282100	631110	Bing face, bare substrate and areas of base rich grssland accounting for 50% cover.
18	281820	630450	Base rich spring. Species rich. Small area of Cratoneuron commutatum, with a rich assemblage of species including Pinguicula vulgaris (butterwort) (butterwort), Eriophorum latifolium (broad leaved cotton grass), Pedicularis palustris (marsh lousewort), Briza media (quaking grass), Carex dioica (dioicious sedge), Carex viridula ssp. brachyrrhyncha , Parnassia palustris (grass of Parnassus), Carex panicea (carnation sedge), Eleocharis quinqueflora. Carex rostrata (bottle sedge) coming in in wettest areas. A low altitude version of M10 Pinguiculo-Caricetum dioicae mire.
19	281720	630450	Square pond. Steep sides, fenced. Dryopteris affinis (scaley male fern), Dryopteris dilatata (broad buckler fern), Dryopteris felix mas (male fern) along edges. Equisetum fluviatile (water horsetail) covering about 70% of ponds surface.
20	281620	630390	Both sides of this steep sided burn have fragmented unimproved base rich grassland, punctuated by stands of bracken. Thymus polytrichus (wild thyme), Succisa pratensis (Devil's bit scabious), Lathyrus linifolius (bitter vetchling), Linum catharticum fairy flax), Galium saxatile (heath bedstraw), Anthoxanthum odoratum (sweet vernal grass), Lotus corniculatus (bird's foot trefoil), Deschampsia flexuosa (wavy hair grass).

Target Note	Easting	Northing	Description
21	281650	630000	Railway embankment at Scrogton head. The eastern slope is unimproved calcareous grassland (CG10) at the base, flushed in places. The upper slope is unimproved acid grassland (U4a). The western slope is also base rich, although it is drier with a couple of well defined flushes at the base.
22	281510	629810	Small fragment of blanket bog sitting between the bracken stand and the disused railway. Narthecium ossifragum (bog asphodel) is abundant, there is also some Drosera rotundifolia (round leaved sundew). The Sphagnum layer, however is quite impoverished and there are some old moor grips cutting through bog. Erica tetralix (cross leaved heath) and S. capillifolium are frequent, but the grassy look of the bog is provided by Eriophorum vaginatum (hare's tail cotton grass) and Deschampsia flexuosa (wavy hair grass).
23	281490	629650	Patch of dry heath to east of burn on rock outcrop, on skeletal soil. Calluna vulgaris (heather), Erica cinerea (Bell heather), Potentilla erecta (tormentil), Festuca ovina (sheep's fescue).
24	281530	629570	Unimproved base rich grassland on steep slope between burn and woodland. Species rich. Common blue butterflies.
25	281890	628310	Embankment by road, grazed wood pasture with cover of about 40% of birch, rowan. Pteridium aquilinum (bracken) dominates in the north and a grassland typer flora is present between the trees to the south.
26	281660	627150	Roadside bank, botanically rich. Heathy with ungrazed Calluna vulgaris (heather), but rich with Potentilla erecta (tormentil), Galium saxatile (heath bedstraw), Arrhenatherum elatius (False oat grass), Deschampsia flexuosa (wavy hair grass) and Succisa pratensis (Devil's bit scabious). Meum athamanticum (Spignel).
27	282660	627000	Earls Mill. Small base rich flush with Carex panicea (carnation sedge), Pinguicula vulgaris (butterwort) (butterwort), Carex viridula ssp. oedocarpa, C. nigra (common sedge), C. echinata (star sedge), Cratoneuron commutatum, Drosera rotundifolia (round leaved sundew), Philonotis fontinalis. Influences the marshy grassland below, which is enriched. This area generally shows base enrichment, with base rich grassland coming through the stands of bracken.

Appendix E: Breeding Bird Survey Methods & Results

Survey Methods

Overview

Following consultation and scoping the proposed overhead line route was assessed remotely in early spring 2007 in order to determine the most appropriate field methods. The following surveys were undertaken during a three week period between the end of April and mid-June 2007 to assess the breeding bird populations along proposed overhead line corridor:

- Upland breeding bird survey using the Brown and Shepherd (1993) methodology designed for surveying upland waders. The survey was extended to record all bird species found;
- Breeding Bird Survey (Bibby *et al.,* 2000) was carried out along lowland stretches of the proposed route; and
- A black grouse survey was undertaken following methods in Etheridge and Baines (1995) on open ground near woodland.

Upland Breeding Bird Survey

Upland breeding birds were surveyed, following the methodology of Brown & Shepherd (1993). This method standardises survey effort per unit area and was developed for survey of wader species breeding in upland habitats. The survey was extended to include the recording of non-wader species along the route corridor, and thus contained elements of Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) methodology.

This survey methodology was employed along the route which was originally identified (i.e. Limmer Hill to Andershaw to Coalburn). The areas of search were corridors, nominally 1km wide, centred on the proposed route. 500m lengths of the corridor were identified and surveyed. Where the overhead line approached the edge of conifer plantation, the edge of the plantation formed the boundary of the area of search.

Visits took place on 24th and 25th April 2007, 15th and 16th May 2007 and 18th and 20th June 2007. Surveys were undertaken between 0900h and 1600h. The location and behaviour of birds was recorded.

Waders were assumed to be breeding if at least one of these characteristic behaviours was noted:

- Courtship, displaying or singing;
- Presence of a nest, eggs or young (including newly fledged);
- Agitated behaviour, including alarm calls or distraction display;
- Adults carrying food; and
- Territorial dispute.

Flight routes of birds were recorded as a factor in deciding whether records on different days referred to particular territories. Within visits, records of birds separated by less than an arbitrarily determined distance of 500m were considered to relate to birds of the same pair, while those separated by greater than this threshold distance were considered to be from different pairs. However, in reality, there is no consistent distance between the centre point of territories, since territory size and density can vary for many wader species, depending on a range of factors such as ground wetness, extent of cover and availability of food. In places, pairs of curlew, differentiated by simultaneity of territorial behaviour, were considerably closer together, and these were marked as distinguishable pairs on the site map.

Note at the time of undertaking breeding bird surveys the proposed overhead line also comprised a spur linking it to the withdrawn windfarm proposal at Limmer Hill. The results of the breeding bird surveys also consider the breeding bird interests along the connecting spur. These areas vary being between 100m and 6km away from the Andershaw to Coalburn overhead line. Results for these areas are set out to provide a greater level of information.

Between visits, breeding records or territories were arbitrarily considered to be separate from each other if they were more than 1000m apart for most waders (500m for snipe), although the proviso noted above continued to be relevant. The number of territories along the overhead line corridor was assessed by comparing the maps produced on each site visit. The central location of each territory/breeding location, within and between visits, was plotted on a final map, as far as could be ascertained by survey of those territories that only partially extended into the corridor.

The Brown and Shepherd survey may under-estimate the number of breeding snipe. Drumming display of snipe usually occurs at dawn and dusk, which is incompatible with the Brown and Shepherd methodology. However, records were also acquired during the early morning black grouse surveys, so that this factor was of lower importance in the present survey. Snipe may also drum at other times of day and in weather generally regarded as unsuitable for wader survey.

Non-wader species recorded during the moorland breeding bird survey were also mapped. However, the number of territories of some passerine species (primarily meadow pipit and sky lark) may be under-represented because of the time constraints imposed by the Brown and Shepherd survey technique and the difficulty involved with recording these species as they often occur at high densities.

Additionally, a single 1-hour vantage point watch was carried out in a bid to confirm the likely nest location of a pair of hen harriers, the male of which was seen on several occasions within the survey corridor and the flight paths of harriers recorded.

Survey for raptor species including, hen harriers, buzzards, peregrine, merlins, sparrowhawks, kestrels and short eared owls was undertaken as part of the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) methodology. Due to access restrictions two sections of the proposed overhead line south route south of Coalburn substation were surveyed from the road. The habitat in these two sections is predominantly enclosed grazing fields, and although breeding birds will be present, the target species associated with the SPA are unlikely to breed here or use this area extensively during the breeding or wintering period.

Lowland Breeding Bird Survey

Lowland birds were surveyed along the proposed overhead line based on the methodology adopted by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) in its Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). The proposed overhead line route was adopted as the transect route, and all birds heard or seen during the transect were recorded. Birds were located as precisely as possible on the map, using standard BTO codes, and using standard BTO symbols to denote activity. For the purpose of analysis, birds recorded within 25m of the overhead line route were differentiated from birds detected at greater distances, since it is within this narrower band that disturbance effects of line construction and operation are most likely to have an impact on breeding birds.

Ideally, surveys should start between 6am and 7am, and no later than 9am. Surveys should not be undertaken in heavy rain, poor visibility of strong wind. Weather conditions during April meant that early morning surveys were not possible during the planned survey period, and the survey was undertaken after 6pm on 25th April. Early morning surveys were undertaken on 15th and 17th May 2007 and on 19th and 20th June 2007. In practice, results from the early morning and evening counts were broadly comparable, with some species more in evidence during the evening transect.

Breeding Black Grouse Survey

Black grouse surveys were undertaken following the methodology described by Etheridge and Baines (1995). The purpose of the survey was to ensure that pole sites or work practices did not interfere with existing lek sites. Surveyors therefore followed a route within 100m of the proposed line route, through potentially suitable habitat, stopping frequently to listen for lekking birds. It was estimated that this would allow the detection of calling black grouse along a corridor at least 400m wide. Surveyors also stopped for more protracted periods of time, to allow for any possible disturbance effects to be reduced, and moorland and woodland edge habitats were scanned during these periods.

Surveys were undertaken from about an hour before sunrise (first light) until an hour after sunrise on 25th and 26th April, and on 16th and 17th May 2007. Surveys were carried out in calm or light wind, dry conditions.

Survey Results

Upland Breeding Bird Survey

Five species of wader were recorded in the route corridor during the upland breeding bird survey visits. The estimated number of upland breeding wader territories is shown in Table E1. The approximate centre points of the territories are shown in Figure E1.

Table E1 Breeding Wader Territories within 500m of the proposed Overhead Line

Species	Andershaw to Coalburn	Limmer Hill to Andershaw (no longer required)
Oystercatcher	1	2
Lapwing	1	2
Snipe	3	2
Curlew	6	5
Redshank	-	1

It is notable that no breeding golden plovers were recorded during three survey periods. A flock of 14 golden plovers was seen over the overhead line corridor on 24th April 2007, around the time when pre-breeding groups may occupy the lowland fringes of breeding moors.

Other bird species recorded during the upland breeding bird survey are shown in Table E2. Most of these were breeding in the immediate vicinity of the proposed overhead line route but some, notably hen harrier, are likely to use the corridor as part of a wider foraging range. Hen harrier flight lines are illustrated in Figure E2.

Table E2 Non-wader Bird Species recorded along the Proposed Overhead Line (above 220m OD)

Species	Andershaw to Coalburn	Limmer Hill to Andershaw (no longer required)
Pheasant	1 bird	1 bird
Red Grouse		Minimum of 5 recorded
Hen Harrier	Foraging range of 1 pair	
Buzzard	Single birds over	Single birds over
Kestrel		Pair present (April)
Jackdaw	Occasional over	Occasional over
Carrion Crow	Occasional	Frequent
Robin	Present in woodland	Present in plantation
Blackbird	Present in woodland	
Song Thrush	Present in woodland	Present in plantation
Whinchat	1 bird	
Stonechat	Pair with young	Pair with young
Wheatear	Pair with young	
Wren	Present in woodland	Present in plantation
Coal Tit	Present in woodland	
Swallow	Occasional over, 1 nest site	Occasional over
Willow Warbler	Present in woodland	Present in plantation
Sky Lark	Frequent	Locally abundant
Pied Wagtail	1 territory	
Grey Wagtail	2 territories	1 territory
Tree Pipit		1 territory (in plantation)
Meadow Pipit	Abundant	Abundant
Chaffinch	Present in woodland	Present in plantation
Siskin		Present in plantation
Lesser Redpoll		1 pair
Reed Bunting	1 territory	

Birds recorded on lower ground (below around 220m OD), using Breeding Bird Survey methodology are shown in Table E3. The table records the maximum number of registrations of each species found, derived from three surveys carried out between April and June. The greater distance band extends from approximately 25m from the overhead line route to the limit of detection, typically about 200m.

Table E3 Bird Species recorded along the Proposed Overhead Line (below 220m OD)

Species	Less than 25m from overhead line	More than 25m from overhead line
Pheasant	1	
Mallard		3 males
Cuckoo		2
Wood pigeon	Frequent throughout	
Moorhen		1
Snipe		1t
Redshank	1 t	
Common sandpiper	1 t	1 t
Oystercatcher	1 t	2 t
Ringed plover		1 t
Lapwing		2 t
Magpie	Occasional throughout	Occasional throughout
Jackdaw	Occasional throughout	Occasional throughout
Rook	Occasional over	Occasional over
Carrion crow	Occasional throughout	Occasional throughout
Blackbird	1	1
Song thrush		2
Robin		5
Stonechat	1	1

Species	Less than 25m from line	More than 25m from line
Starling	Occasional over	Occasional over
Wren		4
Coal tit		1
Great tit		1
Blue tit	1	2
Sand martin	Colony Douglas Water ~10 pairs	Colony Douglas Water ~10 pairs
Swallow	Occasional over	Occasional over
Goldcrest		3
Grasshopper warbler		1
Sedge warbler		4
Willow warbler	3	9
Blackcap		1
Whitethroat		1
Sky Lark	3	4
Pied wagtail	1	1
Meadow pipit	2	
Dunnock		2
Chaffinch	3	10
Greenfinch	1	2
Goldfinch		2
Lesser redpoll	1	4
Bullfinch		1
Reed bunting	4	1

Note: Figures relate to registrations of adult birds unless otherwise stated. t=territory

Black Grouse Survey

No black grouse were recorded during dedicated surveys, and no field signs were noted at any time.

Legend

- Proposed Overhead Line Route
- Andershaw Substation
- Andershaw Boundary
- Coalburn Substation
- Redshank
- Curlew
- Common Sandpiper
- Oystercatcher
- Lapwing
- Snipe
- Ringed Plover

SP TRANSMISSION

Project	Andershaw - Coalburn Proposed 132kV Overhead Line			
Title	Figure E1: Breeding Bird Surveys Upland Wader Territories			
Scale	1: 50,000	Drawn by	CS	Rev.
Date	Nov '08	Checked by	IAB	-

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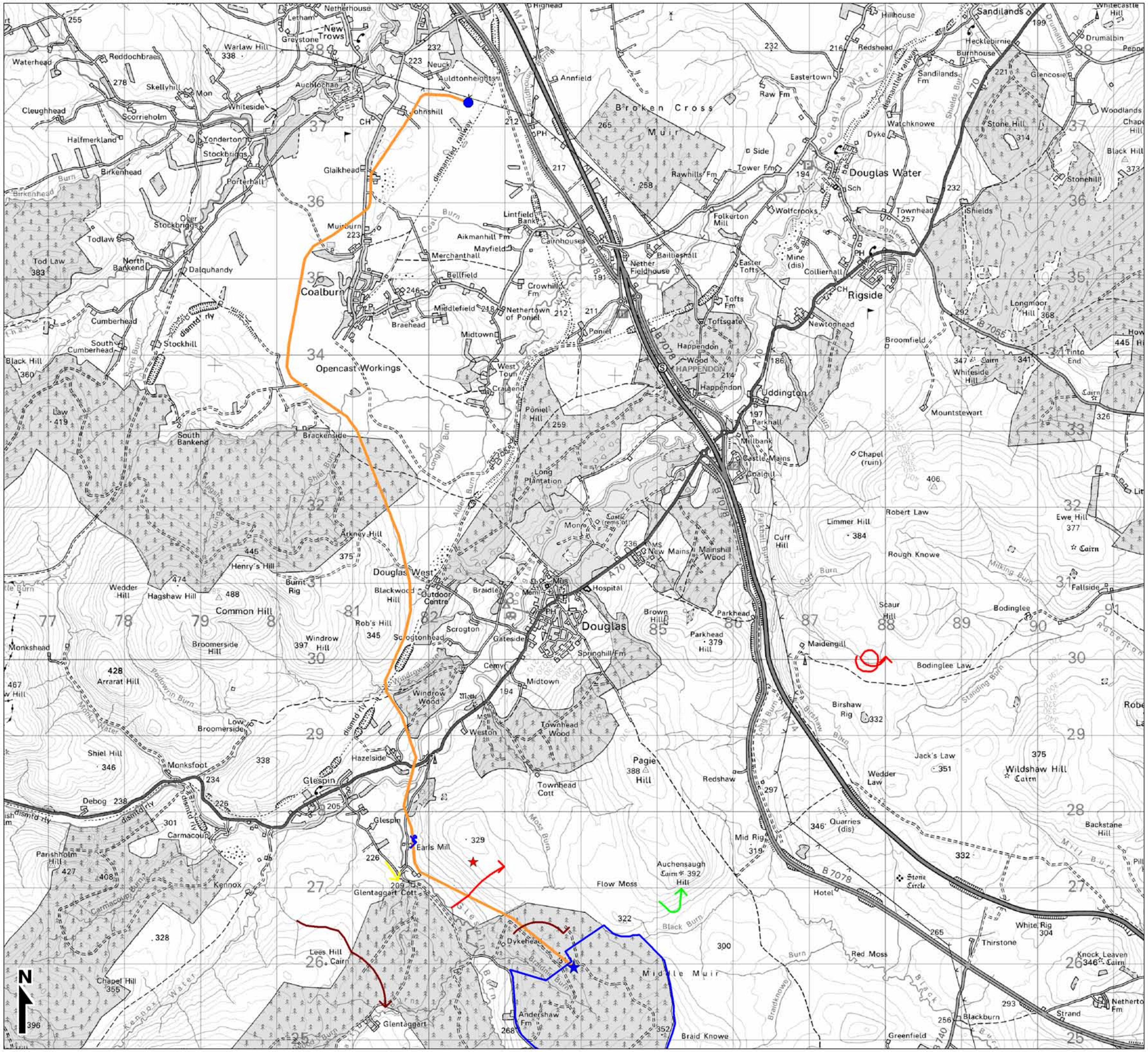

Legend

- Proposed Overhead Line Route
- Andershaw Substation
- Andershaw Boundary
- Coalburn Substation
- Vantage Point Location

Flight Direction & Date

- 24/04/2007
- 25/04/2007
- 16/05/2007
- 19/06/2007
- 20/06/2007

SP TRANSMISSION

Project	Andershaw - Coalburn Proposed 132kV Overhead Line			
Title	Figure E2: Breeding Vantage Point Surveys Hen Harrier			
Scale	1: 50,000	Drawn by	CS	Rev.
Date	Nov '08	Checked by	IAB	-

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