CL/16/0051

Glentaggart East, Nr Douglas

Planning and Building Standards

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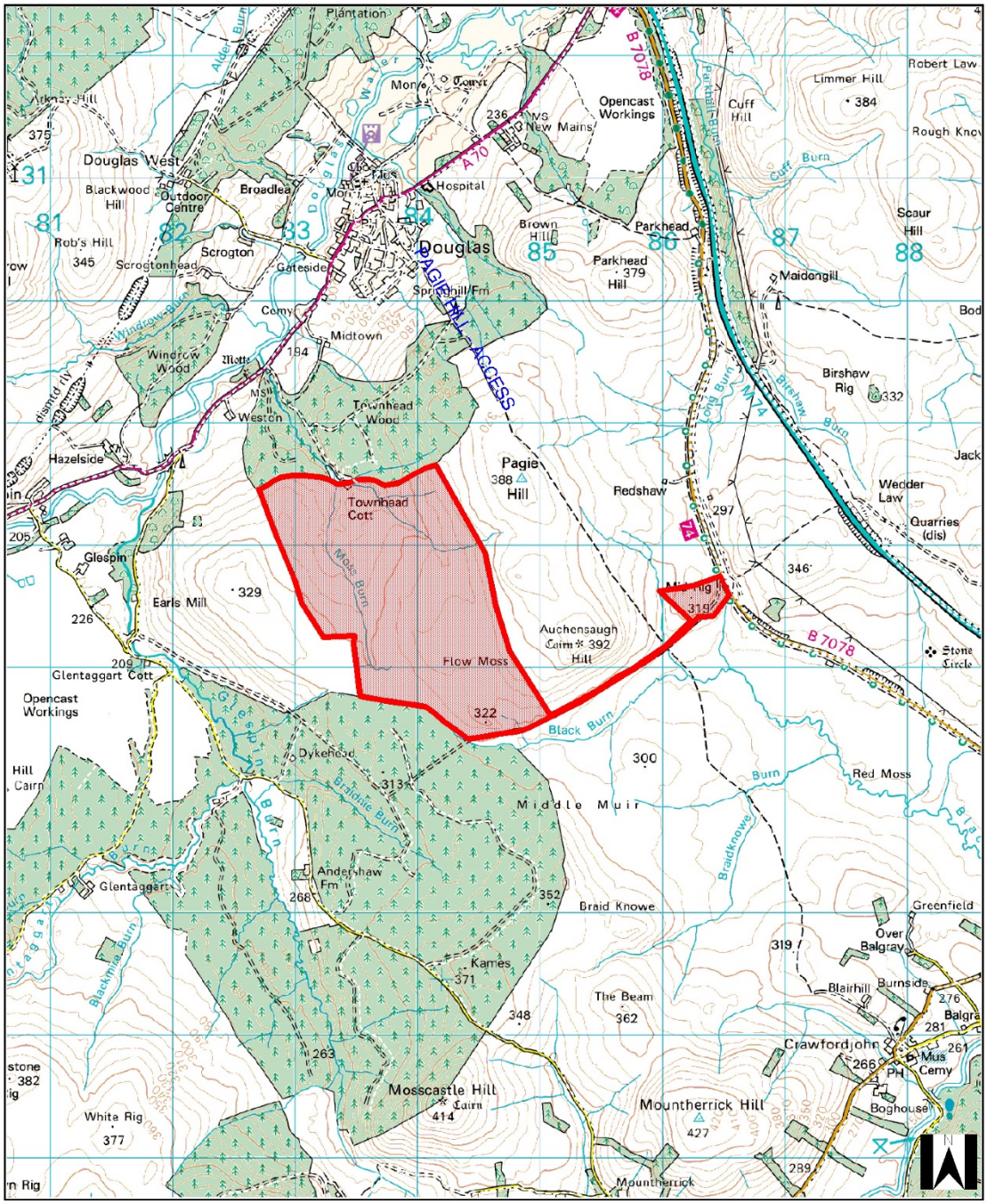

For information only

For information only

Figure 3.1: Site plan of Glentaggart East (Application number CL/16/0051, South Lanarkshire Council, 2019)

3.2.2 Bing reclamation

In addition to opencast sites, there are also former colliery spoil heaps, known as bings, within the area. Auchlochan No. 9 Spoil Heap, Coalburn, (NGR NS 2814 6360; Appendix Map 5) is currently proposed for reclamation and has been granted planning permission subject to a legal agreement. Restoration work also includes extraction of any appropriate material for construction and building so is classified as an existing extractive site.

3.3 Implications for routeing

The planned open cast site at Glentaggart East forms a major constraint to the routeing options. It is recommended that, based on the activity and nature of the site, the site itself and immediate surrounding (approximately 100 m buffer) should be avoided.

The restoration work at Mainshill also provides a constraint. However, the site lies on the eastern boundary of the study area and is not on a likely route for the OHL, and as a result is unlikely to cause major changes to the routeing strategy.

Auchlochan No. 9 Spoil Heap, cited for reclamation, is also a potential constraint for the route. In addition to the bing itself, consideration would be required in relation to the movement of plant and other machinery used to load and dismantle the bing as well as for any related restoration activities. It is proposed that the route should avoid this area and immediate proximity and wider land holding.

4 POTENTIAL FUTURE EXTRACTION AND FORMER EXTRACTION

4.1 Method

An assessment was made to identify areas that have potential for future mineral extraction within the study area. Former sites and previous planning consents were also considered, if relevant to potential future extractive activities. Information from the following sources was considered:

- British Geological Survey (BGS) online geological mapping, and borehole data where available;
- Details of past and extant planning applications including consents, agreements and other associated documents held by SLC;
- Data from the Coal Authority on completed and potential future mining operations, including brief recommendations for route implications;
- South Lanarkshire Minerals Local Development Plan (2012) and subsequent monitoring statements (2013 and 2017);
- Ramboll Environ report “Dalquhandy Wind Farm to Coalburn Substation 132 kV Overhead Line”;
- Additional information held by SLC on historical extraction sites and past workings not publicly documented elsewhere.

To inform the appraisal of potential routes in the study area, zones of potential opportunity for mineral extraction would usually be demarcated to indicate areas of mineral sterilisation. However, due to the fact significant areas in the Study area are former extraction sites, the potential areas of extraction are the adjacent resource areas which remain indicated in Appendix Map 6.

4.2 Baseline conditions

4.2.1 Former extraction areas

4.2.1.1 Coal

There are two former major coal mine sites identified by the MLDP that fall within the study area (Appendix Map 4). They are:

- Dalquhandy;
- Glentaggart.

Dalquhandy is now completely restored (since closure). Glentaggart was more recently restored and is now entering the final stages of aftercare. Based on the MLDP monitoring updates by South Lanarkshire, the Bellfield Spoil Heap, Coalburn, at NGR NS 2815 6351 has also apparently been restored.

4.2.1.2 *Aggregates and other mineral resources*

Historically there has been sporadic quarrying of aggregate across the study area (Appendix Map 4). The most significant site was a Poniel Quarry (NGR NS 844 346), adjacent to the M74, where there was a large volume of sand and gravel extracted up until the mid-200s.

4.2.2 Future extraction

4.2.2.1 *Coal*

The coal resource in the study area has been largely exploited. The major potential resource remaining is situated in the east or north east area adjacent to the M74 at Broken Cross, and around the former site of Glentaggart. The coal resource in the north-east is partly covered by Coalburn Moss Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and will therefore be restricted from being exploited.

In addition to this, Scottish National Policy confirms that further coal extraction must balance economic advantages with environmental impacts. Currently the projects surrounding coal principally involve remediation and restoration rather than extraction. This is also paralleled by SLC local mineral policy.

4.2.2.2 *Aggregate, sand and gravel*

The MLDP indicates that the Study area includes and significant area of construction aggregate potential (rock, sand and gravel; Appendix Map 5). The potential resource area covers the land adjacent to and surrounding the Poniel Water and Douglas Water. Sand and gravel were extracted at Poniel Quarry (NGR NS 844 346), which has now been restored, indicating the some of the resources have been extracted, however adjacent areas still contain potential economic reserves.

There are no current plans to extract aggregate or minerals in the area around the Douglas Water.

SLC has recorded an aggregate landbank in excess of 10 years, which is in line with the Council's mineral development policies. As a result, there are no major pressures for identification of additional aggregate extraction sites in the short and medium term.

4.2.2.3 *Peat and other*

Peat extraction is unlikely as Coalburn Moss and the north side of Hagshaw Hill and Henry's Hill are the only major areas considered to contain significant peat resources. Coalburn Moss has a SAC designation and will therefore not be used for peat extraction in the future. Dense woodland covers the latter area, which also lies adjacent to areas of the Dalquhandy site that also includes former shafts and adits. The area is also demarcated for possible wind turbines making the area very unlikely for extraction.

4.3 Implications for routeing

Although a constraint, the Mainshill site does not pose any major issues for the routeing, because the former mine is not situated in the direct path of any likely OHL route.

The former opencast site at Dalquhandy has been largely restored and does not pose a routing constraint for the OHL. However, it is recommended that the route should avoid old mine entries (shafts and adits) in case of subsidence issues (Appendix Map 2).

In contrast, the former site at Glentaggart poses a significant routeing constraint. The site has only recently been restored and is still undergoing the final stages of restoration. It is recommended that areas of recently infilled pit should be assessed once the routeing corridor is determined pending possible further investigation if there is still a risk of settlement. In addition, the area immediately south of Glespin has numerous shafts and adits remaining from the former underground section of the Glentaggart mine. These mine entries should also be avoided to eliminate the risk of collapse due to subsidence. (Appendix Maps 1 to 3).

A full Coal Authority Report for the entire study area was judged to be unnecessary, as much of the information is available from other sources. However, in order to gain a full understanding of certain parts of the area, it is likely that a Consultants' Report would be required for particular sections where local detail of former open pit mining and locations of shafts and adits would provide valuable input relating to routeing design. The key area of relevance is the area around the former Glentaggart mine.

5 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Following a review of the available information on existing, potential future and former mineral extraction areas a Mineral Constraints Map has been created (Appendix 1 Map 6). The map indicates the potential resources within the study area, the opencast sites to consider and mine entries to avoid.

Operational or permitted mineral extraction sites have been identified at Glentaggart East and Mainshill. One bing reclamation at Auchlochan No. 9 Spoil Heap, just north of Coalburn, has also been identified (Appendix Map 5).

Mainshill does not pose a major constraint for the routeing study, owing to its location at the edge of the study area. It is unlikely that the OHL route would pass within this area.

The new mine site planned at Glentaggart East provides a hard constraint to the route. This is unlikely to cause difficulties with routeing as it is located off the likely routeing corridors under consideration for the OHL (Appendix Map 5).

The former Glentaggart coal mine site provides a significant design constraint. This mine covers a large area immediately north east of the Kennoxhead connection point and the likely routeing corridors pass through this area. It is recommended that shafts and adits are identified and avoided for siting of wood poles. Furthermore, when determining the corridor of the OHL route any recently restored open pit areas should be identified and examined in detail to avoid the risks associated with settlement (Appendix Maps 3 and 4).

Similar recommendations apply to the former coal mine at Dalquhandy, although restoration for this site was completed a number of years ago and the risk from settlement is therefore less. Any shafts or adits should be avoided (Appendix Maps 1 and 2).

Although the area has been heavily worked for coal and associated minerals in the past (Appendix Map 4), the only major routeing constraint from future extraction is the new coal mine planned at Glentaggart East. In addition, the OHL route should avoid areas with old shafts and adits, to reduce risk from subsidence associated with these features.

6 REFERENCES

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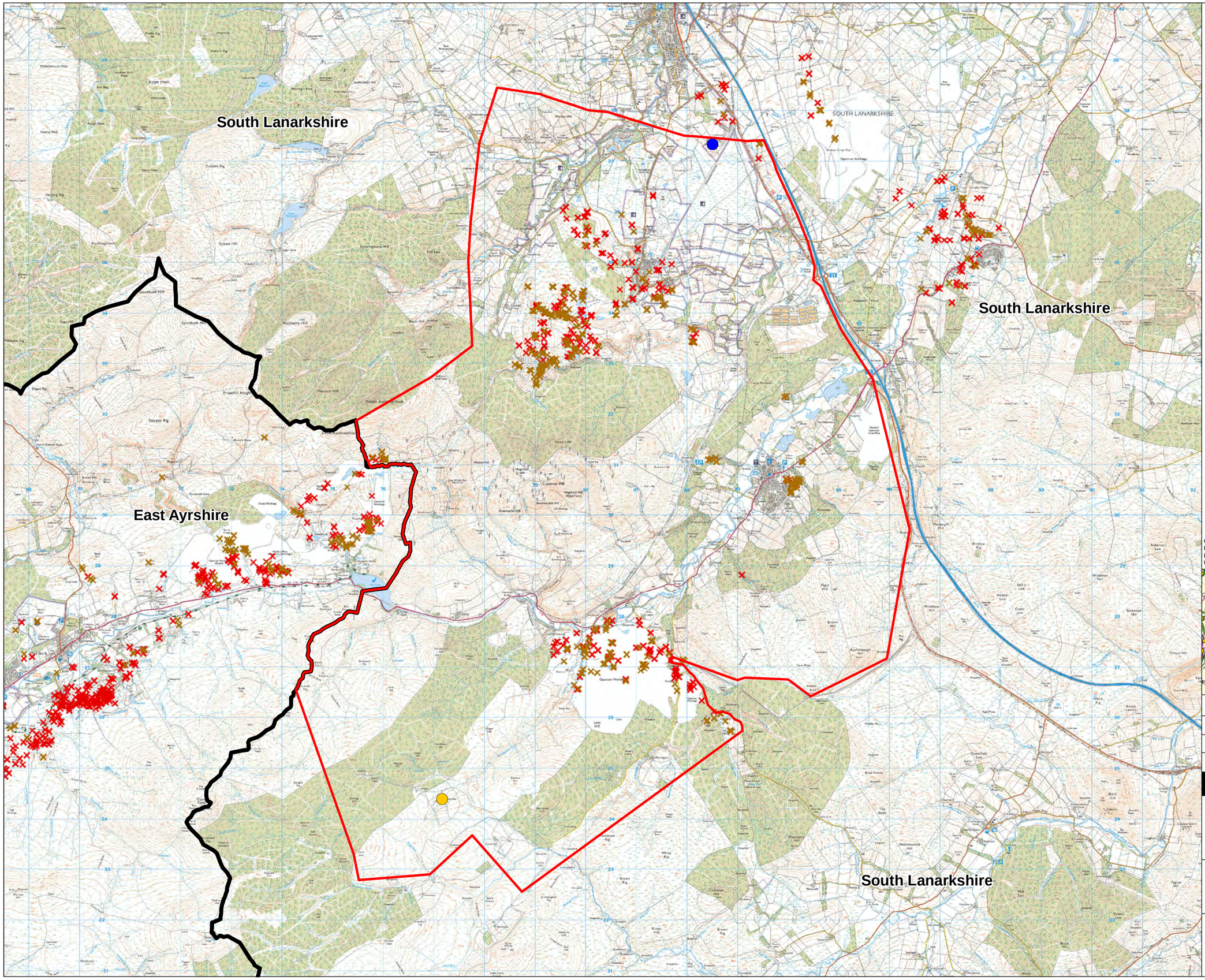
APPENDIX 1
MINERAL MAPS

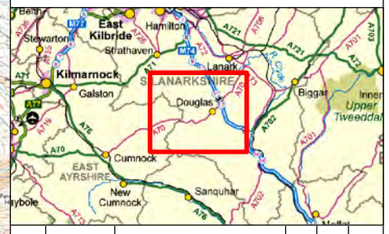
Appendix contents:



Legend:

- Proposed Study
- Kennoxhead Wind Farm Point of Connection
- Coalburn Collector Substation
- South Lanarkshire Council Boundary
- Adit
- Shaft

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
Units: Meter



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
00	27/02/2019	First Draft	FC	TK	TK

Kennoxhead Wind Farm Grid Connection

RSK

TITLE:

Mining Report
Map 1 - Mine Entires

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