



Technical Appendix 5.4: Cultural Heritage Grid Connection Appraisal

Dalfad Wind Farm

Brockwell Energy

Prepared by:

SLR Consulting Limited

The Tun, 4 Jackson's Entry, Edinburgh, EH8 8PJ

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Basis of Report

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
IGCC	Indicative Grid Connection Corridor
GSP	Grid Supply Point
HER	Historic Environment Record
SPEN	Scottish Power Energy Networks
WoSAS	West of Scotland Archaeology Service



1. Introduction

The Proposed Dalfad Wind Farm will require a grid connection from the onsite substation to an assumed Point of Connection (POC), which will require a separate consent (to the Section 36 consent being sought) under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

The grid connection application will be made by Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) who are responsible for the transmission and distribution of electricity for this area. The Section 37 application will duly assess the grid connection route at that time. This section provides an appraisal of the potential impacts which may result from an overhead line within an assumed grid connection routeing corridor.

This Technical Appendix provides an overview of the assumed grid connection routeing corridor (**Figure 5.4**) identified by the Applicant at the time of completing this appraisal and the likelihood of any significant environmental effects based on the information available to date. This appraisal focuses on assessing the connection type that is likely to form the worst-case scenario based on information available to the Applicant at the time of completing the appraisal. It is noted that the findings of this appraisal could be subject to change depending on the final route and grid connection type chosen by SPEN; and the final connection alignment will be subject to SPEN's own statutory environmental duties under the Electricity Act 1989.

2. Baseline

Within the assumed grid connection routeing corridor, there are no World Heritage Sites, Inventory Battlefields, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings or associated structures, or Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes.

There are 19 non-designated heritage assets within the grid connection corridor. These are listed below and shown on **Figure 5.4a-d**:

Reference Number	HER ID	Name	Type	Period
SLR79¹	WoSAS ID 68598 WoSAS ID 94148	Cairncadden Loch	Drove Road	Medieval
SLR81	WoSAS ID 9050	Avisyard Hill	Earthwork (possible)	Undated
SLR93	WoSAS ID 9041	Roughside	Road	Roman
SLR95	WoSAS ID 93783	Hall Burn	Shed (20th Century), Wind Pump (20th Century)	Modern
SLR96	WoSAS ID 69283	Watsonburn	Sheep Pen	Post-medieval
SLR103	WoSAS ID 69280	Upper Linn	Farmstead	Post-medieval
SLR106	WoSAS ID 51328	Garclaugh Pendicle	Farmstead	Post-medieval
SLR107	WoSAS ID 13056	Street	Building	Post-medieval
SLR109	WoSAS ID 15705	Glen	Farmstead	Post-medieval

¹ While the recorded HER point for this asset exists outside of the grid route corridor, it references a linear road which crosses within the grid route corridor and has been included.



Reference Number	HER ID	Name	Type	Period
SLR112	WoSAS ID 9056	Merkland	Beaker; Pottery	Prehistoric
SLR113	WoSAS ID 9055	Merkland / Hillend Knowe	Stone Implement; Pottery	Undated
SLR114	WoSAS ID 13059, WoSAS ID 47288	Hillend	Farmstead; Field-system; Trackways; Quarries	Post-medieval
SLR117	WoSAS ID 9058	Corsencon	Enclosures; Mound	Prehistoric
SLR121	WoSAS ID 69188	Nethertown	Farmstead	Post-medieval
SLR123	MDG26989	Knowehead	Farmhouse	Post-medieval
SLR124	MDG13755	Lideburn	Enclosure; Building	Post-medieval
SLR125	MDG28575	Hillhead	Farmstead	Post-medieval
SLR130	MDG13753	Crichton's Burn	Building	Post-medieval
SLR137	MDG21446	Blue Scar	Quarry, Rig and Furrow	Medieval

There are two heritage assets (**SLR117**, **SLR112**) within the route corridor which are prehistoric in date. Both are located within 500m of each other at the point of the grid connection corridor where it begins to follow the course of the River Nith. An additional prehistoric heritage asset (**SLR118**), a mound likely containing burials, is located 100m from **SLR117**, just outside the corridor. It is of similar type and form to **SLR117** and likely had the same purpose. A ceramic sherd, identified as Beaker pottery (**SLR112**), is within 200 m from this mound. The proximity of these assets to each other suggests a concentration of prehistoric activity in this area, likely domestic or settlement related. This is supported by the proximity of the assets to the River Nith and the feeder burns which would have provided a fresh water source for settlement. Although no other finds are known from the surrounding area beyond the grid route corridor, there remains potential for additional prehistoric archaeological assets related to this activity to be present within the corridor.

Evidence for Roman occupation is scant within the study area, however, there is evidence of Roman activity in the wider East Ayrshire area, including the documented remains of a Roman road (**NHRE ID: 73186**, **NHRE: 73247**) which indicate movement and communication throughout the region during this period. Within the grid route corridor, there is an additional road (**SLR93**), dated as Roman due to having Roman characteristics such as widely spaced ditches for drainage on either side. It survives as a subtle trackway bounded by faint ditches stretching 2.8km east to west north of New Cumnock. The road appears to parallel the River Nith, which corresponds to the known patterns of Roman road construction following natural routeways. An undated earthwork (**SLR81**), 3.4 km to the north of the Roman Road (**SLR93**) has been suggested as being a Roman camp, however, there is no evidence beyond early documentary accounts of its course and some undated remains of weapons. Its distance from the known Roman road network suggests it is likely unrelated.

There are two medieval heritage assets within the grid connection corridor – a drove road (**SLR79**), which crosses the corridor at Garleffan Voids and an area of rig and furrow



(**SLR137**). The road is marked and visible on the First Edition OS Map², though now survives in sections as upgraded roads and tracks or subtle linear banks where it hasn't been truncated by the modern quarrying. This drove road would have been a means of transporting people and livestock from the pastures in the uplands to nearby settlements and rural farmsteads. The rig and furrow is marked by a single point at the eastern-most extent of the grid route corridor but would have likely covered the entirety of the lower slope above the River Nith. It is also likely it is related to the medieval farmsteads (**SLR138**, **SLR136**), c. 400m to the northeast and southwest. There is a distinct medieval presence within the study area, indicated by additional areas of rig and furrow (**SLR80**), circular plantations (**SLR89**, **SLR84**). Collectively, these assets indicate a landscape that was subject to sustained agricultural management and land improvement during the medieval period, reflecting both arable and pastoral land-use practices. Similar to the prehistoric evidence, this is concentrated along the River Nith just above the floodplain. Since continuation of similar land use and practices continued up to the modern period, it is likely that other farmsteads and land management assets dated to post-medieval or modern originated during this period.

The 11 post-medieval heritage assets within the grid route corridor are characteristic of rural pastoral farming and rural settlement in the form of farmsteads³, sheepfolds, and other farm buildings (**SLR107**, **SLR96**, **SLR124**, **SLR130**) similar to the spread and function of the medieval heritage assets. This indicates that there was not a major change in terms of land use or population throughout the post-medieval period. These assets are located towards the southern portion of the grid connection corridor in the lower slopes northeast of New Cumnock, overlooking the River Nith. This pattern of activity on the fertile land of the lower slopes is similar to what was seen in both the medieval periods, suggesting the land was consistently attractive for settlement and easily accessed along the River Nith.

Beyond the grid route corridor, the known post-medieval assets are distributed along the length of the study area, though predictably show a concentration near the River Nith. This reflects the historic importance of the river corridor for settlement, agriculture and industry. Quarries, in particular limestone and sandstone, are located in the hills between Cumnock and New Cumnock demonstrating the exploitation of locally available resources and their contribution to the area's post-medieval economic development.

There is a single modern asset within the grid route corridor, a wind pump (**SLR95**), present on the 1957 OS mapping. There is no surviving evidence of the turbine, except as the lower metal shed, measuring 3.3 m by 3.3 m. It is presumed to have been reused as a shed. An additional modern asset – a 20th century colliery (**SLR134**) is located north of the grid route corridor at the eastern-most end. The associated disturbed ground seen on aerial imagery extends within the grid route corridor. No other modern assets are known within the study area, though many of the farmsteads and field boundaries identified as post-medieval or medieval remain in use.

SLR113 is an undated findspot of a stone implement and pottery. It is near both prehistoric and post-medieval asset concentrations and given the nature of the find, and the lack of detail available, it cannot be definitively attributed to either period.

A full list of heritage assets located within 500 m of the proposed overhead line corridor can be found in **Technical Appendix 5.1: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets** and **Figure 5.4a-d**.

² Ordnance Survey (1860). Ayrshire XXXVI, Surveyed: 1857. Online at: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74425823>

³SLR103, SLR 106, SLR109, SLR114, SLR121, SLR123



2.1 Appraisal of Likelihood of Construction/Installation Effects

As discussed above, there are 19 non-designated heritage assets within the grid route corridor. There is potential for development within the grid route corridor to physically impact on these heritage assets. Additional to the known heritage assets, there is potential for as yet unrecorded prehistoric and post-medieval remains to be present. If present, these are likely to be related to settlement and cultivation of the land and it is unlikely that these would be greater than medium significance. Therefore, any impacts on them would be unlikely to result in significant effects.

Careful micro siting and additional mitigation measures within the grid route corridor during design and construction phases would reduce the risk of physical impacts on known and as yet unknown non-designated heritage assets. This would minimise any adverse effects. However, a detailed assessment will need to be undertaken in order to better understand the archaeological resource within the corridor, inform design development and identify any further mitigation requirements.

2.2 Appraisal of Likelihood of Operational Effects

There is the potential for impacts on the setting of designated heritage assets as a result of the operation of the over-head line, primarily from the upstanding elements of the route such as the wooden poles. As only an indicative corridor has been provided, with no definitive locations of infrastructure, only a high-level appraisal of potential impacts can be assessed at this stage. As such, only assets assessed within the EIA chapter (**Chapter 5, Section 5.10**) have been considered at this stage, as they are most likely to be subject to in-combination effects from the proposed development and the grid route.

Within 2km of the proposed grid connection corridor and within the 10km Study Area, namely Kyle Castle (**SM3311**). The potential impact is assessed below.

2.2.1 Kyle Castle (SM3311)

Kyle Castle (**SM3311**) is a Scheduled Monument comprising the remains of a late medieval tower house situated approximately 200m east of Dalblair. First recorded in 1445, the castle served as the residence of the Farquhar family and later passed through several prominent landowning families before falling into ruin by the late eighteenth century. Although only fragmentary masonry survives, the monument retains considerable archaeological potential and is of high heritage value due to its national importance in contributing to an understanding of medieval defensive architecture, elite occupation, and the development of fortified residences in southwest Scotland. The castle occupies a highly defensible and visually prominent peninsular site at the confluence of the Glenmuir Water and Guelt Water, with steep slopes providing natural protection on three sides. Its setting contributes to its cultural significance, particularly through its commanding views over the surrounding valleys and routeways, which would have enabled the control and monitoring of movement through the landscape while reinforcing the status and authority of its occupants.

The contributing aspects of the asset's setting from which it derives its significance are outlined in full in **Chapter 5, Section 5.10** of the EIAR for Dalfad Wind Farm.

There is potential for the proposed grid connection route to be visible from Kyle Castle. The route would comprise a 132 kV overhead line supported by wooden poles, with a maximum height of approximately 20 m above ground level. In a worst-case scenario, the overhead line would pass approximately 1.7 km northwest of the castle at its closest point.

The impacts on views to the northwest which form an aspect of the castle's setting which contribute to its cultural significance would be minimal, owing to the limited visual presence of the overhead line, its scale, and its distance from the asset. Consequently, it would represent,



at most, a very minor modern intrusion within views in this direction. The overhead line would therefore not significantly detract from the ability to appreciate, understand or experience the asset and its setting.

Consequently, the introduction of the overhead line is unlikely to materially increase the minor significance of effect arising from Dalfad Wind Farm (Proposed Development) when viewed in combination with the Proposed Development. Any effects on the setting of Kyle Castle associated with the overhead line will be considered in detail as part of a future application.

In summary, there may be adverse impacts resulting from change within the setting of heritage assets with the introduction of the grid connection to Dalfad Wind Farm. Based on the available information, scale of the development, and known heritage assets it is unlikely that the introduction of an overhead line within the grid connection corridor would result in significant effects. This will need to be assessed in full and in line with relevant policy and guidance.

2.3 Appraisal of Differences from Conclusions of the EIA Report / In-Combination Effects

Chapter 5 of the EIAR for Dalfad Wind Farm (Proposed Development) has concluded that there will be no significant effects arising from the Proposed Development on cultural heritage. Therefore, the Proposed Development was found to be compliant with NPF4 Policy 7j⁴, HEPS⁵, and East Ayrshire Council Local Development Plan, Policy HE3⁶.

The in-combination effects of the construction/operation of an overhead line within the grid route corridor, with the effects reported in the EIAR, are unlikely to result in significant effects. However, a detailed assessment should be undertaken at detailed design stage to confirm that the proposed grid connection would not give rise to additional significant effects.

3. References

East Ayrshire Council (2024). East Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2). Available at: <https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/PlanningAndTheEnvironment/development-plans-and-policies/ldp2/ldp2.aspx>

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Scottish Government (2023). National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). Edinburgh: Scottish Government.

⁴ Scottish Government (2023) National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). Edinburgh: Local Government and Housing Directorate.

⁵ Historic Environment Scotland (2019) Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS). Edinburgh: Historic Environment Scotland

⁶ East Ayrshire Council (2024) Local Development Plan 2. Online at: <https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/PlanningAndTheEnvironment/development-plans-and-policies/ldp2/ldp2.aspx>





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