



HISTORIC SCOTLAND  
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cc: Rhona Reid, SG Planning Decisions South

Our ref: AMN/16/LB  
Our case ID: 201401780  
Your Ref: 14/00456/PPM

22 July 2014

Dear Mr Dingwall

**The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2011**

**Onshore transmission works associated with the Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm: planning permission in principle for the construction, operation and decommissioning of an onshore substation, electricity cables and associated infrastructure: Planning Application and Environmental Statement**

Thank you for your consultation of 19 June and the accompanying Environmental Statement for the above development proposal. We received these via the Scottish Government's planning decisions division and this response covers our comments on the Planning Application and its Environmental Statement (ES) for our role as consultees through the Scottish Ministers under the terms of the above Regulations.

We are an agency within the Scottish Government directly responsible to Scottish Ministers for the protection and promotion of the historic environment. As such, our comments here concentrate on our statutory remit for scheduled monuments and their setting, category A listed buildings and their setting, and gardens and designed landscapes and historic battlefields appearing in their respective Inventories.

**Historic Scotland's position**

Historic Scotland does not object to this proposed development. However, we have some comments to make on both the ES and the planning application which can be found in the attached annex.

I hope you have found this helpful. Should you wish to discuss this response, please contact me on 0131 668 8924.

Yours sincerely

Alasdair M<sup>c</sup>Kenzie  
Heritage Management Team Leader (SEA)



[www.historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk)

## Annex

### **Background**

Historic Scotland have been consulted by the applicant at various stages prior to submission. As part of this process, our scoping response dated 26 April 2012 highlighted that the proposed development had the potential to raise issues of national importance. The matters of greatest significance were the potential effects upon the Inventory Historic Battlefield of Prestonpans and its key landscape characteristics.

### **Environmental Statement**

Chapter 9 of the ES sets out the predicted impacts upon cultural heritage and archaeology. The proposed development sits within the Inventory Historic Battlefield of Prestonpans. There are also numerous historic environment assets in the vicinity of this proposal. We consider that the ES provides a comprehensive account of what these are and how they are likely to be affected. A number of photomontages have been provided to illustrate the impacts on the sites assessed. These reflect those previously discussed and agreed with the applicant during pre-application and scoping engagement. The method employed for the assessment of impact is satisfactory.

We consider that the ES provides sufficient information to allow us to form a view, with the visualisations supplied clearly illustrating the impacts from those areas requested. Overall, we agree with the findings outlined within the ES and have therefore not repeated these in detail here.

### **Historic Scotland's assessment**

The focus of our consideration in this case has been the potential impact of the proposed development upon the Inventory Historic Battlefield of Prestonpans<sup>1</sup> and the scheduled monument of Seton West Mains enclosures 500m SW of<sup>2</sup>.

### **The Prestonpans Battlefield**

The Battle of Prestonpans was the first significant conflict in the Jacobite Rising of 1745, resulting in the defeat of the Government army in Scotland. It paved the way for a major escalation in recruitment to the Jacobite cause and made possible the march into England by the Jacobite army in November of 1745.

#### *Current Landscape context*

- *Tranent Churchyard and open lands to the north, east and west along the A1.*  
As the location of the Jacobite initial deployment and the location of various Jacobite positions on the day before the battle, this location contributes towards an understanding and appreciation of the battlefield.
- *Land from the eastern edge of Prestonpans to Seton Mains, bounded by the A1 to the south and Port Seton to the north.*  
This area makes a contribution to the understanding and appreciation of the battlefield as the location of main area of initial fighting, the rear of the Jacobite deployment and the rout towards Bankton House.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://data.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pls/htmldb/f?p=2500:15:0::::BATTLEFIELD:prestonpans>

<sup>2</sup> [http://data.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pls/htmldb/f?p=2300:35:4464945524044769::::P35\\_SELECTED\\_MONUMENT:05687](http://data.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pls/htmldb/f?p=2300:35:4464945524044769::::P35_SELECTED_MONUMENT:05687)

- *Open land surrounding Bankton House and grounds from Rigley Hill to the pyramid viewpoint, bounded by the A1 and the railway line.*  
This area makes a contribution to the understanding and appreciation of the battlefield as the location of rout and slaughter of the Government troops.

There are memorials and specific features relating to the battlefield, including Bankton House and former garden, the Tranent Churchyard and the Coal Waggonway Memorial.

#### *Substation and associated infrastructure*

The area affected by the proposed development includes the transmission line corridor, with underground cables to be laid along the route of the existing pylons (broadly running north/south), bounded by the existing settlements and the former coal store. The substation itself will be located on or around the Cockenzie branch line and its associated made ground, as per the annotated red line plan (int0180\_16\_8\_R1<sup>3</sup>). This plan indicates that the area immediately east of the railway line will not be developed.

#### *Assessment of impact (landscape context)*

The ES has illustrated and documented the likely impact of the substation on views from both within and out with the battlefield. In the majority of vantage points, the substation will not be identifiable as a dominant feature (e.g. from the Waggonway), particularly in light of the current baseline conditions and the bunding/screening mitigation that has been incorporated into the design. It shall be visible in certain views, including from the Battle of Prestonpans viewpoint which looks north east over the fields immediately adjacent to the Waggonway. However, even in this view much of the development would be viewed against the backdrop of the existing industrial structures.

#### *Assessment of impact (archaeological remains)*

There is a high potential for archaeological remains of the battlefield to survive around the open land and grounds of Bankton House. In this general area, as well as in the area of the initial engagement mentioned above – where burials have been reported, there is the potential for mass graves.

As noted within the ES, the area affected relates to an area where fighting is known to have taken place, albeit, towards the periphery of this area. Although recent evidence has suggested that the fighting took place further to the east, and thus further away from the development location, there nevertheless remains potential for archaeological remains to be disturbed should the development proceed. We understand that a mitigation strategy to cover these aspects has been discussed with your archaeological advisors. Historic Scotland does not have any specific comments on those matters.

#### **Seton West Mains, enclosures 500m SW of (scheduled monument, index no 5687)**

The monument comprises the remains of at least two enclosed prehistoric settlements dating from the later prehistoric period between 1200 BC and AD 400. The remains of the settlements lie preserved beneath the plough soil and have been identified and recorded through the characteristic “cropmarks” they create in growing cereal crops. Both enclosures are likely to contain the remains of houses and other structures in their interiors. The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to knowledge and understanding of rural settlement in the later

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<sup>3</sup> [http://pa.eastlothian.gov.uk/online-applications/files/0ADFBF88AFFFB814D00A5CA42115244/pdf/14\\_00456\\_PPM-ELEMENTS\\_A3-2143073.pdf](http://pa.eastlothian.gov.uk/online-applications/files/0ADFBF88AFFFB814D00A5CA42115244/pdf/14_00456_PPM-ELEMENTS_A3-2143073.pdf)

Bronze Age and Iron Age. It is a rare example of a complex of sub-circular and sub-square settlement enclosures in the same location.

#### *Current setting*

The monument has been identified through aerial photography and is not visible when viewed from the ground. The remains sit on a gentle north-facing slope, just above a slight ridge, looking towards the Firth of Forth. The low-lying fertile land on the coastal fringes of East Lothian was settled extensively during the later prehistoric period and it is likely that intervisibility between the Seton West Mains site and other settlements in the vicinity, such as at Seton Mains, Riggonhead, St Germain's and Port Seton, would have been an important element of the settings of all sites. This landscape has been altered significantly through the industrialization of the Cockenzie area, with views to the coast now obscured by the power station and associated infrastructure, and the landscape to the south-east transformed by coal mining.

#### *Assessment of impact (setting)*

The development does not encroach upon the designated area and therefore direct impacts have been avoided.

Whilst the monument's importance is enhanced by its association with the wider landscape of enclosed settlements on this part of the coastal plain, current views to the north, east and west will remain largely unaltered when considered against the existing baseline conditions. The current setting, which primarily relates to the open field within which it sits, will not be significantly altered.

#### **Historic Scotland's conclusions**

While we consider there will be an impact upon the battlefield, we recognise and welcome the revisions to the scheme which have sought to minimise impacts within the limitations of the land available. This has principally been achieved by locating the footprint of the development within the area to the north and west of the railway line as shown on the annotated red line plan.

In light of this, and on the basis of the information provided and site visits, while negative impacts are likely, we have reached the conclusion for each asset this impact is not so adverse as to raise issues of national significance such that we would object. We do recommend that, in the event that permission in principle is granted, the detailed design and layout continues to have regard to both the special characteristics of the battlefield and the potential for archaeological discoveries as parts of the overall mitigation strategy.

**Historic Scotland  
22 July 2014**