voltalia

Technical Appendix 7.4: Scheduled Monument

Department: ERM
Project: Springfield Solar Farm and BESS
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1 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

1.1.1.1 This Heritage Management Plan has been prepared by Environmental Resources Management Ltd ('ERM') on behalf of Voltalia UK Ltd (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant'). The Applicant issubmitting an application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989[1] to construct and operate a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) development with a generating *capacity of up to approximately 165 MW (AC). The Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will be comprised of up to 40 BESS units with a capacity of up to 80 MW*, associated infrastructure, access, and landscaping (hereafter referred to as 'the Proposed Development').

1.1.1.2 The Proposed Development is located to the north of the village of Oldhamstocks at the closest point to the Proposed Development boundary ('the Site'). The distance from Oldhamstocks to the nearest infrastructure of the Proposed Development is 0.42 km. The Site will occupy an area of approximately 184 hectares (ha) and is within the East Lothian Council administrative area.

1.1.1.3 This report has been written both as a supporting document for the submission of the application and to act as a working document to facilitate works if consent is granted. Consultation with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) during the scoping phase of the Environmental Impact Assessment process identified the need to undertake two measures to ensure the protection of the scheduled ancient monument "Oldhamstocks Mains, enclosure" (SM5891). This comprised the establishment of a 100 m buffer around the scheduled area and the production of a protection plan for the construction and decommissioning phases. The Applicant has addressed the first proposed measure by including a buffer zone of more than 100 m. The current report has been written to address the second proposed measure.

1.1.1.4 This plan should be seen as a working document, to be reviewed and amended if any of the conditions change. The first draft of this management plan is an overview version aimed at setting out the risks and management tasks to mitigate those risks. Upon determination of the planning application (if consented) and as soon as the construction programme and involved parties are known, the following additional details should be added to this report:

- a detailed timetable for the management activities;
- a list of named responsible persons and their contact details including HES officers, heritage advisors to East Lothian Council (ELC), Applicant representatives, landowners and tenants, principal contractors and construction and landscaping site managers, and other relevant parties; and
- a monitoring and review tracker to be filled in and circulated each time the condition of the monument is reviewed, or an action is undertaken.

[1] UK Government, (1989), Electricity Act 1989. [Online] Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/29/contents (Accessed 28 February 2025)

2 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

2.1.1.1 Scheduled Monuments are legally protected through the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979[2], the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997[3]; and the Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014[4]. Other key policy and guidance that has informed this management plan are as follows:

- Planning Advice Note (PAN) PAN 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology[5];
- Our Past Our Future: The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment (2013)[6]; and
- HES. Managing Change in the Historic Environment Series, specifically 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting (2016)[7]'.

[2] UK Government (1979) The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act [Online] Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46 (Accessed 08/07/2024)
[3] Scottish Government (1997) *The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act* [Online] Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents (Accessed 08/07/2024)
[4] Scottish Government (2014) The Historic Environment Scotland Act [Online] Available at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/19/pdfs/asp_20140019_en.pdf (Accessed 08/07/2024)
[5] The Scottish Government (2011) *Planning Advice Note 2/2011* [Online] Available at https://www.gov.scot/publications/pan-2-2011-planning-archaeology/ (Accessed 08/07/2024)
[6] Scottish Government (2023) *Our Plast Our Future: The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment*[Online] Available at: Our Past, Our Future | Historic Environment Scotland | History (Accessed 08/07/2024)
[7] HES (2016, updated February 2020) *Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting* [Online] Available at: https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549 (Accessed 08/07/2024)

3 SITE DESCRIPTION

3.1.1.1 The Scheduled Monument “Oldhamstocks Mains, enclosure” (SM5891) consists of an enclosed settlement of prehistoric date represented by cropmarks with no above ground earthworks. The scheduled area encompasses the visible features and an area around them in which traces of associated activity may be expected to survive. The enclosure is formed by a single ditch some 6m wide which encloses a sub-circular area some 70 m in diameter.

3.1.1.2 The enclosure has a south-east entrance from which a further ditch runs north-west to southeast for some 10-15 m before turning sharply to the west and following a curving course to the southwest edge of the field. This ditch appears to represent part of a stock control or field boundary system contemporary at least in part with the occupation of the enclosure. The monument lies on sloping ground at around 125 m AOD, above the south bank of Bilsdean Burn within an area of low rolling hills used for both pasture and agriculture.

4 SIGNIFICANCE

4.1.1.1 The monument is of national importance because of archaeological interest, namely its potential to add to our understanding of prehistoric domestic organisation and economy in southeast Scotland. The relationship of the enclosure to the associated ditch is likely to be of significance in assessing prehistoric farming practices, while material from the ditches themselves might contribute to our knowledge of the contemporary environment and site economy. It also draws significance from its setting, and in particular views towards other prehistoric enclosures.

5 CURRENT LAND USE AND CONDITION

5.1.1.1 The bulk of the scheduled monument sits within agricultural land. The northern part of the enclosure, comprising approximately one fifth of its original area, lies under a tree plantation. This portion of the monument is also outside of the scheduled area and the boundaries of the Site and is not part of the management plan set out in this document. Ploughing within the scheduled area have removed all above ground traces of the monument.

6 THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

6.1.1.1 The Proposed Development comprises the installation of solar panels and supporting infrastructure to the east, south-east and south of the scheduled monument, and biodiversity enhancement. The nearest infrastructural components of the Proposed Development are located 225 m away. A new stretch of native hedgerow is proposed close to the southwestern corner of the scheduled area as shown on Error! Reference source not found..

7 RISKS TO THE MONUMENT

7.1.1.1 The likely risks posed during the construction phase of the project consist of potential accidental damage. This may consist of construction vehicles and machinery entering the scheduled area and accidentally causing damage to the ground, resulting in a physical impact upon the buried archaeological deposits and features described above.

7.1.1.2 The ongoing risks posed following the completion of the construction works during the operation phase are as follows:

- If vegetation is allowed to grow on the monument, deep rooting trees and shrubs can damage buried archaeological deposits and features;
- Larger trees falling over in strong winds can cause significance damage to below ground archaeology;
- Vegetation management activities, such as tree felling, can also pose a risk because of the use of vehicles and damage to ground surfaces during removal; and
- Maintenance vehicle access close to the monument could cause rutting in wet ground conditions.

7.1.1.3 The likely risks posed during the decommissioning phase of the project consist of potential accidental damage. This may consist of vehicles and machinery entering the scheduled area and accidentally causing damage to the ground, resulting in a direct physical impact upon the buried archaeological deposits and features described above.

8 MANAGEMENT

8.1 Pre-Construction Management Works

8.1.1.1 The following preventative actions are proposed to be undertaken prior to any pre-construction works commencing as part of the Proposed Development:

- The erection of a post and wire fence to a height of no more than 1 m high around the permitter of the scheduled area including a 10 m buffer. A gate is to be included within the perimeter fencing to allow access to the monument if required;
- The fenced area is to be established prior to the hedgerow planting proposed to the southwest of the scheduled area and the hedgerow is to be kept outside of the protected area;
- The existing fencing on the northern and northwestern sides of the scheduled area is to be assessed and replaced if required; and
- The installation of signage explaining the fencing is to protect a scheduled monument and specifying that the area is protected by legislation and that any damage is a criminal offence.

8.2 Construction Phase Management

8.2.1.1 The management of the monument during construction phase involves ensuring the protective measures established during during the pre-construction phase are still in place and effective for reducing the risk of physical impact through accidental damage.

8.2.1.2 Protection measures relating to the scheduled monument are to be included in site inductions and daily briefings to any contractors working on site within the vicinity of the monument.

8.2.1.3 Regular monitoring and review of the protective measures are to be undertaken on a weekly basis and actions taken if the fencing and signage needs repair or additional protective measures are required.

8.3 Operation Phase Management

8.3.1.1 The following preventative actions are proposed to be undertaken during the operation phase:

- Due to the presence of maintenance vehicles that pose a potential risk of ground disturbance during wet ground conditions, the fencing will remain in place for the operation phase of the project;
- Tree, vegetation and hedgerow management is to be undertaken in a sensitive manner to ensure that no new trees are allowed to grow on the monument;
- Management of existing vegetation is to be undertaken so the area does not become overgrown and that root action from larger plant species does not damage the monument; and

- Should existing trees bordering the scheduled area require felling to avoid accidental damage to the monument then discussions will be held with the appropriate land owner and an agreement will be reached on a felling strategy that protects the monument.

8.4 Decommissioning Phase Management

8.4.1.1 The management of the monument during decommissioning involves ensuring the protective measures established during the construction and operation phases are still in place and effective for reducing the risk of physical impact through accidental damage. Regular monitoring and review of the protective measures on a weekly basis during the decommissioning phase will be required and actions taken if the fencing and signage needs repair or additional protective measures are deemed necessary.

9 FIGURE

FIGURE 1 THE EXTENT OF SM 5891 IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT LAYOUT