

<b>Project Title</b>	Seagreen Wind Energy Ltd
<b>Document Reference Number</b>	LF000009-CST-ON-LIC-REP-0007

# Balhungie Farm Cable Diversion Environmental Impact Assessment Report Non-Technical Summary

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Rev	Date	Reason for Issue	Originator	Checker	Approver
01	14/10/20	For Information	Arcus		

### Document Change Summary

Rev	Date	Detail of Change	Changed by

# PREFACE

The EIA Report and supporting documentation is available on the Seagreen Offshore Wind Farm project website<sup>1</sup> and Angus Council Planning Portal<sup>2</sup>.

Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 removes the requirement, under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, for the developer to make copies of the EIA Report available for public inspection at a physical location during the emergency period. Given the current circumstances, and the emergency period defined as until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 by the Town and Country Planning (Emergency Period and Extended Period) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020, no hard copies of the EIA Report will be made available.

CD copies of the application may be obtained at a reasonable charge reflecting the cost of making the relevant information available. CD requests should be made to [pauline.allison@sse.com](mailto:pauline.allison@sse.com).

Any representations to the application should be made by completing the online representation form on the Angus Council Planning Portal.



<sup>1</sup> Seagreen Wind Energy Ltd [Online] Available at: <https://www.seagreenwindenergy.com/> (Accessed 14/10/2020)

<sup>2</sup> Angus Council Planning Portal [Online] Available at: <https://planning.angus.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application> (Accessed 13/10/2020)

# NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

## Introduction

This Non-technical Summary (NTS) summarises the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) which accompanies the application by Seagreen Wind Energy Ltd (SWEL) (the Applicant) which seeks planning permission for the formation of underground electricity works (the Development) to service the Seagreen Phase 1 Offshore Wind Farms on land between Barry Road (A930) and Balhungie Farm, Monifieth (the Site). The Applicant has applied for planning permission for the Development under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)<sup>1</sup>.

This NTS is intended to be read alongside the planning application and associated figures, maps and plans for the Development.

The onshore grid connection works to service the Seagreen Phase 1 Offshore Wind Farms are consented already. The Development comprises a small change to the consented cable route, with a length of about 1.5 km of the route proposed to be relocated approximately 100 m to the south, through the same agricultural fields, to minimise disruption to the farm operations and to achieve an improved angle to cross the high pressure gas pipeline which is located under the proposed cable route.

## The Applicant

The Applicant, SWEL, is owned by SSE Renewables Developments (UK) Ltd (SSER) (49%) and joint venture partner, Total (51%). SSER is the renewable energy development division of SSE plc.

SSER develops and constructs onshore and offshore wind farms in the UK, Ireland and Europe. SSER own nearly 2 gigawatts (GW) of operational onshore wind capacity with over 1 GW under development. Additionally, SSER's 1,459 megawatts (MW) hydro portfolio includes 300 MW of pumped storage and 750 MW of flexible hydro.

SSER's operational offshore wind portfolio consists of 487 MW across two offshore joint venture sites, Beatrice and Greater Gabbard, both of which SSER operate on behalf of asset partners. SSER has the largest offshore wind development pipeline in the UK and Ireland at over 6,000 MW.

SSER aim to treble their renewable energy output from 2019 levels by 2030, making a significant contribution to decarbonising the power sector and achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

## EIA Process

EIA is the process undertaken to identify and evaluate the likely significant effects of a proposed development on the environment and to identify measures to mitigate or manage any significant adverse effects. The purpose of identifying significant effects is to ensure decision makers are able to make an informed judgement on the proposed development. Where one or more significant effects are identified, it does not automatically follow that a proposal should be refused.

As the planning application for the Development is submitted under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended), the relevant regulations for the Development are the



<sup>1</sup> Scottish Government (1997) Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) [Online] Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/8/contents> (Accessed 18/08/2020)

Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017<sup>2</sup> (the EIA Regulations).

The EIA Report accompanies the planning application for the Development. The potential environmental impacts of the Development, and the methodologies for their assessment, are well understood from the Environmental Statement (ES) that accompanied the application for planning permission in principle (application reference: 16/00520/EIAN (the PPP Consent)) (2016 ES) for the onshore export cable route approved under planning permissions 16/00520/EIAN and 20/00190/MS (Consented Cable Route).

The Applicant did not seek a formal scoping opinion from the Angus Council (the Council); however, Chapter 2: EIA Process of the EIA Report defines, and provides reasoning, for the scope of assessment included in this EIA based upon existing relevant assessments presented in the 2016 ES.

Environmental assessments have been undertaken the construction phase for:

- Landscape and Visual;
- Cultural Heritage;
- Ecology and Nature Conservation;
- Hydrology and Hydrogeology;
- Noise and Vibration;
- Air Quality; and
- In-combination Effects.

All other topics were scoped out of assessment, on the basis that they were not expected to have significant effects. In addition, all operation and decommissioning effects have been scoped out. The rationale behind the scoping out, or in, of technical disciplines are detailed within **Chapter 2: EIA Process** of the EIA Report. The summarised findings of each assessment scoped in are detailed in this NTS.

Measures to eliminate or reduce environmental effects have been developed for the consented cable route, and these will be applied to the Development as “embedded mitigation”. The assessments are made on the assumption that this mitigation will be implemented. If, following the impact assessment for a given topic, further mitigation is required, this is proposed in the relevant chapter of this EIA Report.



<sup>2</sup> Scottish Government (2017) The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 [Online] Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/102/contents/made> (Accessed 18/08/2020)

## Project Description

The Development Site is located approximately 1.5 kilometres (km) west of Monifieth and approximately 4 km east of Carnoustie and comprises approximately 14 hectares (ha) of land, as illustrated in **NTS Figure 1: Site Location** and **NTS Figure 2: Development Route**.

The Development would transfer electricity generated from Seagreen Phase 1 Offshore Wind Farms to the National Grid and consists of the following:

- The installation of 1.5 km underground cables (three circuits) with a voltage up to 220 kilovolts (kV) required to divert from the Consented Cable Route;
- Three cable trenches of approximately 1.6 metres (m) width and 1.7 m depth;
- Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) launch and reception pits;
- Three joint bays;
- Three pulling pits;
- Construction of one temporary access road; and
- Construction of one temporary haul road.

At every stage, the Applicant has designed the Development to ensure that, as far as is practicable, the export cables would:

- Avoid environmentally sensitive/designated sites;
- Avoid areas of tree cover, standing water or undesignated areas likely to have nature conservation interest;
- Minimise the crossing of linear natural features and infrastructure, e.g. watercourses, rail lines, roads and utilities;
- Where possible, limit the amount of private land take by following the road network;
- Where possible, minimise take of the best Agricultural Land;
- Follow field boundaries when on agricultural/private land;
- Minimise impacts on important recreation areas;
- Avoid underground or subsea rock/solid substrates; and
- Avoid steep gradients/banked verges.

The Applicant has considered a number of alternative locations for the Development; the planning history for the Development forms the basis of these alternative locations, with the most suitable location being about 100 m south of the consented cable route.

The duration of the works is expected to be c. 8 weeks for the trench digging and cable duct installation. Following this, the trenches would be back-filled, leaving only the “pulling pits” and “joint bays” visible. In a second phase, the cables would be pulled through the ducting, prior to use for carrying electricity.

Above-ground elements are minimal, following completion of construction, so the potential for environmental effects is essentially limited to the main 8-week construction phase, during which digging operations in the agricultural fields will be visible.

## Planning and Policy Context

The Development Plan for the Site comprises of the following:

- TAYplan (Strategic Development Plan 2016-2036)<sup>3</sup> approved in October 2017;
- Angus Local Development Plan (LDP)<sup>4</sup> adopted in September 2016; and
- Angus Council Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Supplementary Guidance<sup>5</sup> (SG) adopted in June 2017.

Consideration has been given to the relevant policies contained within the Development Plan during the design of the Development. The policies most relevant to the Development relate to energy infrastructure, renewable energy developments, and environmental protection, and provide guidance on the main issues the Council will consider when determining the application.

In addition to the Development Plan, there are a number of documents that will be material considerations when the application is determined, including:

- The National Planning Framework for Scotland (NPF3)<sup>6</sup>;
- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)<sup>7</sup>; and
- Targets for the reduction of carbon emissions, commonly referred to as Net Zero 2045.

## Landscape and Visual

The EIA Report predicts significant and non-significant effects for landscape effects on Local Landscape Character Types (LLCT) and Landscape Elements during construction. Assessment of landscape effects as a result of construction on the Coast with Sand LLCT and the Dipslope Farmland LLCT resulted in a 'minor, adverse temporary' and 'negligible indirect, adverse temporary' effects, respectively. Following implementation of the Consented Cable Route Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and the Cable Route Landscape Statement (CRLS), the effects are reduced and the residual effects are not significant.

Landscape effects as a result of construction on the Site area are assessed as 'moderate, adverse temporary' effects, following implementation of Consented Cable Route CEMP and CRLS. Following completion of reinstatement works, the landscape would regain a more settled appearance once construction activity ceases. The land will be returned to agricultural use and any restored field margins, hedgerow field boundaries and hedgerow tree planting will mature over time.



<sup>3</sup> TAYplan (2017) TAYplan Strategic Development Plan 2016 – 2036 [Online] Available at: [https://www.tayplan-sdpa.gov.uk/strategic\\_development\\_plan](https://www.tayplan-sdpa.gov.uk/strategic_development_plan) (Accessed 01/10/2020)

<sup>4</sup> Angus Council (2016) Angus Local Development Plan 2016 [Online] Available at: [https://www.angus.gov.uk/directories/document\\_category/development\\_plan](https://www.angus.gov.uk/directories/document_category/development_plan) (Accessed 01/10/2020)

<sup>5</sup> Angus Council (2017) Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Supplementary Guidance [Online] Available at: <https://www.angus.gov.uk/sites/angus-cms/files/2017-10/ALDP%20Renewable%20and%20Low%20Carbon%20Energy%20Development%20Supplementary%20Guidance.pdf> (Accessed 01/10/2020)

<sup>6</sup> Scottish Government (2014) National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) [Online] Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-3/> (Accessed 01/10/2020)

<sup>7</sup> Scottish Government (2014) Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) [Online] Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-planning-policy/> (Accessed 01/10/2020)

Visual effects on residential and recreational receptors within 500 m of the Site during construction are assessed as ‘major, temporary’ (significant) effects, following the application of mitigation, in the form of the Consented Cable Route CEMP and CRLS.

Visual effects on transport route receptors within 500 m of the Site during construction are assessed as ‘minor to moderate, temporary’ effects, following the application of mitigation, in the form of the Consented Cable Route CEMP and CRLS. This represents a ‘minor’ and non-significant effects for users of ‘A roads’; and a ‘moderate’ and significant visual effect for users of ‘B roads’ and the local road network.

Visual effects on Barry Downs Holiday Park and Rowanlea Riding Stables during construction are assessed as ‘moderate to major, temporary’ (significant) effects, because of visibility of the construction works when entering and leaving these facilities.

Visual effects on Monifieth Golf Club during construction are assessed as a ‘moderate to major, temporary’ (significant) effect along the northern edge of the golf course, reducing to ‘minor to moderate’ (not significant) where there is localised screening within the golf course.

The assessment concluded that any sequential cumulative effects, both landscape and visual, associated with the remainder of the Consented Cable Route would not exceed those already identified within the 2016 ES. Therefore, there are no new, or materially different, cumulative landscape or visual effects identified as a result of the Development.

Given the works leading to the localised significant effects are short-term construction works, no practicable mitigation measures beyond those already “embedded” in the Development have been identified.

## Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

Embedded mitigation includes implementation of a programme of archaeological works, preservation by record and implementation in line with the Consented Cable Route Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

Potential direct effects on known archaeology and cultural heritage due to the construction phase of the Development are effectively mitigated by the WSI, reducing effects to ‘negligible’ (not significant).

Potential effects on unknown archaeology and cultural heritage due the Development are also possible, and the WSI would mitigate these to ‘negligible’ (not significant).

There were no potential significant cumulative effects identified from the Development in combination with the rest of the Consented Cable Route.

## Ecology and Nature Conservation

The Habitats Regulations set out a process for assessment of potential effects on protected areas designated under European legislation (such as Special Areas of Conservation). A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) was carried out for the Consented Cable Route in 2016 for potential effects on nearby designated areas, concluding that there will be no negative effect. As the Development represents only a very minor change to the Consented Cable Route, and lies at a greater distance from the designated areas, the HRA is applicable to the Development as well, and as such, no adverse effects on European designated areas were predicted.

Ecology surveys identified evidence of only one protected species – badger. One badger annexe sett was recorded within 250 m of the Site; however, there were no signs of badger recorded. The



Development construction works would be a 'negative, short-term' effect on badger habitat. Following mitigation, in the form of the Consented Cable Route CEMP (pre-construction surveys and pre-works Ecological Clerk of Works checks), the effect on habitat loss is assessed as not significant. Effects of disturbance and displacement and direct mortality and injury of badger are assessed as not significant, due to limited presence of the species and mitigation.

There were no potential significant cumulative effects identified from the Development in combination with the rest of the Consented Cable Route.

## Hydrology and Hydrogeology

The Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) for the Consented Cable Route would be adopted for the Development, forming embedded mitigation. This includes control measures to limit the risk of effects on water bodies occurring, and to limit the consequence of such events should they occur.

Effects associated with the construction phase of the Development are predicted to be not significant on watercourses, groundwater and near-surface water, and environmental designations, because of the limited extent of the works in combination with mitigation measures.

There were no potential significant cumulative effects identified from the Development in combination with the rest of the Consented Cable Route.

## Noise and Vibration

Noise and vibration from Development construction activities were considered, including:

- Export cable installation;
- Horizontal Directional Drilling; and
- Road Crossing.

These construction activities are the primary noise sources associated with the Development. There are 28 noise receptors within 100 m of the Development Boundary. Potentially significant effects as a result of the road crossing construction effects are predicted for a total of 17 of the receptors within the noise study area; however, construction effects for other activities at all locations were found to be minor or negligible and therefore not significant.

In order to reduce the significance of effect on noise receptors, mitigation is proposed. The primary source of mitigation is that construction activities will be located outwith the significant effect buffer distances noted for each construction activity; where this is not possible, additional mitigation measures (e.g. temporary noise barriers and general best practice measures) are to be adopted in line with the Consented Cable Route CEMP to further reduce impact on receptors.

With mitigation, the effect of construction activities at all receptors is predicted to be of minor or lesser impact, and therefore not significant.

There were no potential significant cumulative effects identified from the Development in combination with the rest of the Consented Cable Route, because other parts of the cable route wouldn't affect the same receptors as the Development.

## Air Quality

The construction of the Development has the potential to create dust that could affect nearby receptors such as residential properties.

The most likely sources of dust from the Development are the excavation of trenches and associated earthworks for the installation of cables and the construction of Joint Bays. A dust impact assessment was undertaken following Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) guidance.

Dust effects during the construction phase were predicted to be negligible and low risk to human health and a low to moderate risk to dust soiling at human and property receptors.

The IAQM guidance states that the significance of any construction phase dust effects should only be assessed after the implementation of effective mitigation such as a Dust Management Plan.

The Dust and Air Quality Management Plan approved for the Consented Cable Route will be adopted for the Development. Given the nature of construction is similar for both developments, these measures are appropriate. With the implementation of the approved mitigation, the potential air quality impacts are assessed as not significant.

There were no potential significant cumulative effects identified from the Development in combination with the rest of the Consented Cable Route, because other parts of the cable route wouldn't affect the same receptors as the Development.

## In-combination Effects

The topics above consider changes associated with a single type of receptor (e.g., ecological) or a single type of effect (e.g., noise). There is potential for in-combination effects from the above topics (and those scoped out of the EIA) on a single receptor to be significant, even where individual assessments conclude effects are not significant. An example might be noise and air quality effects on people living at residential properties.

Types of receptors identified as having the potential to experience significant in-combination effects include:

- Residential Properties;
- Commercial Properties; and
- Recreational Centres.

The potential types of effect on each receptor was considered in combination, using professional judgement to assess the likelihood of the overall use of those receptors as experiencing a significant effect.

The effects for all receptors are considered 'minor and short-term' and not significant.

There were no potential significant cumulative effects identified from the Development in combination with the rest of the Consented Cable Route, because other parts of the cable route wouldn't affect the same receptors as the Development.

## Comparison with 2016 ES

The residual effects (i.e., following the application of mitigation measures) of the Development, as assessed in this EIA Report, were compared to those of the Consented Cable Route, as assessed in the 2016 ES. The Consented Cable Route is much longer than the Development, and hence has effects on a much wider range of receptors, but where comparisons are possible there were no

differences in the assessment of significant effects between the two schemes. This is a result of the fact that differences between the two schemes are small and highly localised.

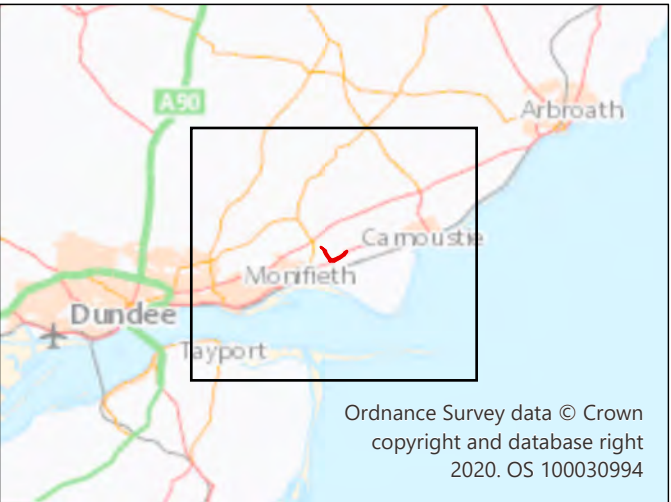
## Conclusion

The EIA Report and associated Appendices provide a full and detailed description of the Development. The Development has been designed in such a way to ensure that environmental effects have been minimised through the use of technology and enhanced, best practice management measures.

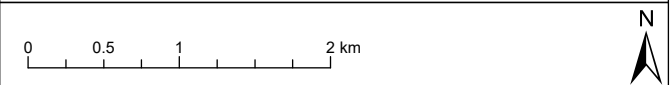
Where a potential risk to the surrounding environment has been identified, appropriate mitigation has been proposed where practicable.

## NTS Figures





**Legend**  
Site Boundary



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Project Name  
**SEAGREEN OFFSHORE WIND FARM**

Drawing Title  
**BALHUNGIE DIVERSION  
Site Location**

Rev	Date	Details	Status	Drwn	Rqst	Chkd	Appd
R1	27/08/20	3950-REP-023	-	FC	-	SC	-
R2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Drawing Number  
**NTS Figure 1**

Scale  
1:50,000

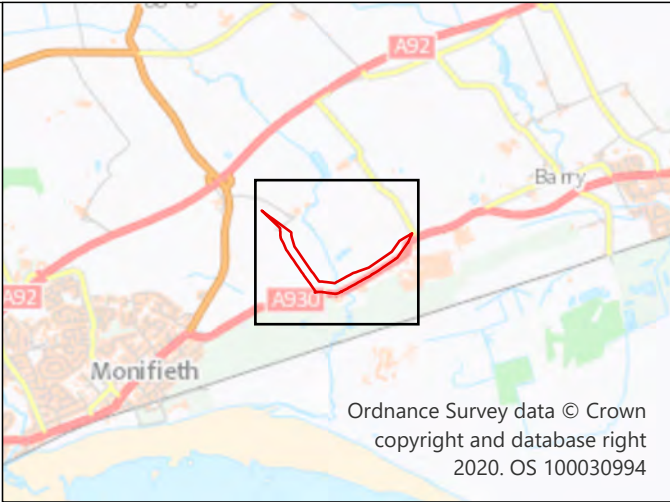
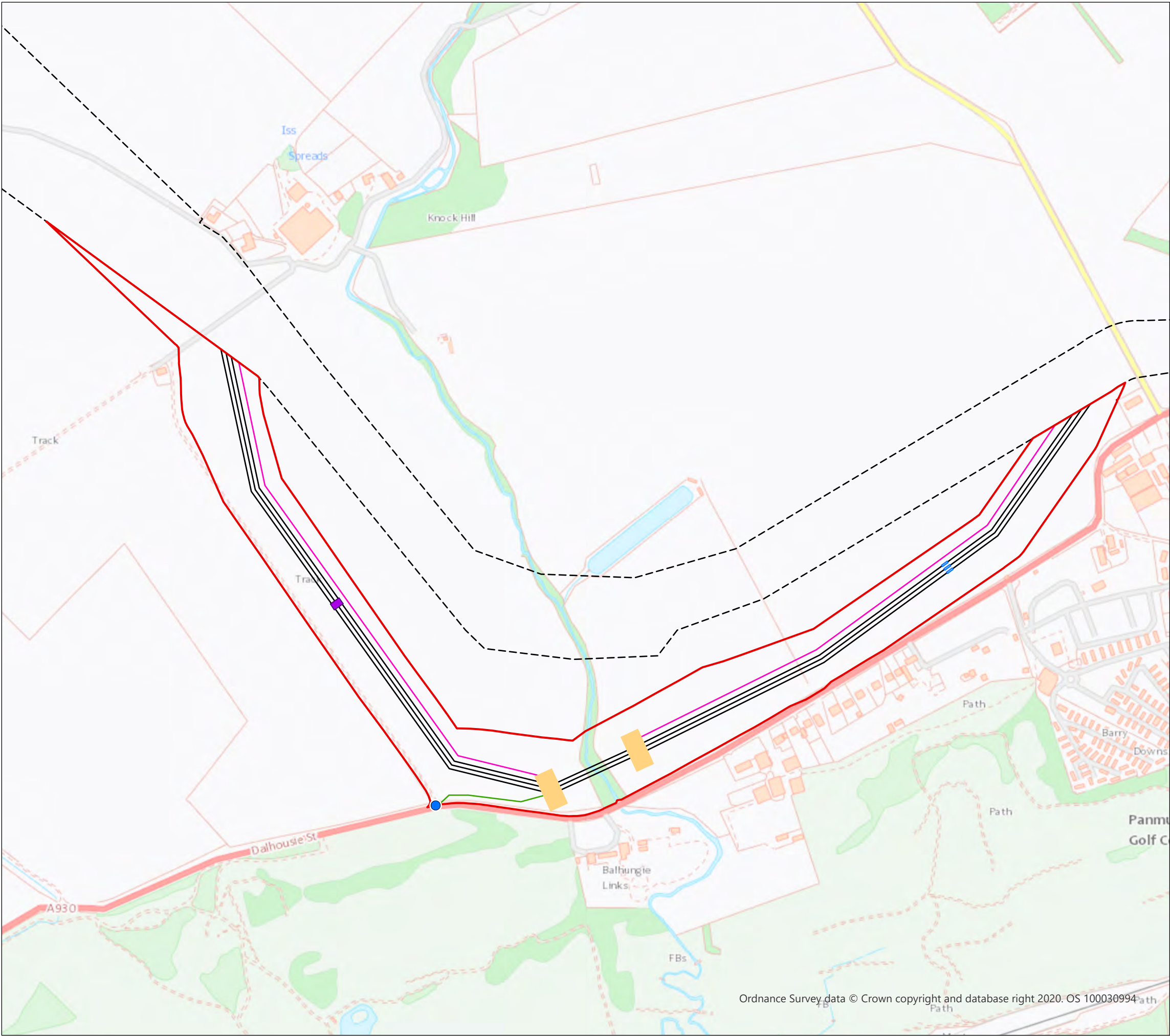
Plot Size  
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Datum  
OSGB36

Projection  
BNG

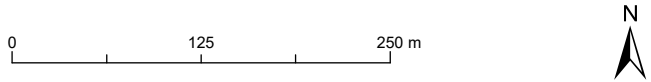






**Legend**

- Site Boundary
- Consented Cable Route Site Boundary
- HDD Launch Reception Pit
- Joint Bay (Indicative)
- Pulling Pit (Indicative)
- Access Point
- Cable Duct
- New Temporary Access Road
- New Temporary Haul Road



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Project Name

**SEAGREEN OFFSHORE WIND FARM**

Drawing Title  
**BALHUNGIE DIVERSION  
Development Route**

Rev	Date	Details	Status	Drwn	Rqst	Chkd	Appd
R1	27/08/20	3950-REP-024	-	FC	-	SC	-
R2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Drawing Number  
**NTS Figure 2**

Scale	Plot Size	Datum	Projection
1:5,000	A3	OSGB36	BNG



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