



Cambois Connection – Onshore Scheme

Environmental Statement Volume 3

Technical Appendix 14.2: Construction Dust Assessment Methodology



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SLR Project No.: 404.000041.00001

23 October 2023

Revision: A01

Revision Record

Revision	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Authorised By
R01	14 August 2023	Jamie Munro	Jack Hughes	Susie Playford
R02	10 October 2023	Jamie Munro	Susie Playford	Susie Playford
A01	23 October 2023	Jack Hughes	Susie Playford	Susie Playford

Basis of Report

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Overview

Berwick Bank Wind Farm Limited (BBWFL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of SSE Renewables (SSER) (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant'). The Applicant is proposing the development of Offshore Export Cables, Onshore Export Cables, an Onshore Converter Station and associated grid connection at Blyth in Northumberland, known as the 'Cambois Connection' ('the 'Project'). The onshore components of the Project, landward of Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) comprise the Onshore Scheme.

The purpose of this infrastructure is to facilitate the export of green energy from the generation assets associated with the Berwick Bank Wind Farm (BBWF), located in the outer Firth of Forth. A separate application for developing a grid connection to Branxton, East Lothian, has been included as part of the Applicant's application for consent for BBWF, currently being determined separately¹. The Project will enable the BBWF to reach full generating capacity by 2030.

The Project comprises two distinct proposals, or 'Schemes', which will require three separate consents. For the Onshore Scheme (all activities and infrastructure landward of MLWS) consent will be sought via an outline planning application to Northumberland County Council (NCC) as the local planning authority (LPA) under Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The offshore components of the Project seaward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) ('the Marine Scheme') are located within both Scottish and English waters. In Scotland, the Marine Scheme is entirely within offshore waters (i.e., between the 12 nautical miles (nm) limit and the Scottish Exclusive Economic Zone). In England, the Marine Scheme is within offshore waters and inshore waters.

The Onshore Scheme is located at Cambois, Blyth, south of the River Wansbeck and north of the River Blyth and encompasses around 188 ha of land.

The red line boundary for this area (hereafter referred to as 'the Site') is shown on Figure 1.2 and the Indicative Zones of Infrastructure are shown on Figure 5.1 (volume 4).

1.2 Purpose of this Report

This technical appendix supports volume 2, chapter 14: Air Quality of the Onshore Scheme ES and should be read in conjunction with this chapter.

2.0 STEP 1: Screening the Need for a Detailed Assessment

A detailed construction dust assessment is required where a:

- Human receptor (any location where a person or property may experience the adverse effects of airborne dust or dust soiling) is located within 350 m of the Site, and/or within 50 m of routes used by construction vehicles, up to 500 m from the site entrance(s); and/or

¹ BBWF is subject to a separate consenting process. An application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) was submitted to MD-LOT and accepted in December 2022. The Branxton onshore infrastructure is subject to a separate planning application submitted to East Lothian Council and accepted in March 2023.



- Ecological receptor (any sensitive habitat affected by dust soiling) is located within 50 m of the Site, and/or within 50 m of routes used by construction vehicles, up to 500 m from the site entrance(s) to dust. Some non-statutory sites may also be considered if appropriate.

Where the need for a more detailed assessment is screened out, effects are not believed to be significant, and no further assessment is required.

3.0 STEP 2: Assess the Risk of Dust Impacts

3.1 Step 2a: Define the Potential Dust Emission Magnitude

The dust emission magnitude is defined for the following construction activities, based on anticipated works:

- demolition;
- earthworks;
- construction; and
- trackout.

This is determined using criteria provided within Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) guidance (Table 3-1), in combination with professional judgment by a technically competent assessor.

Table 3-1: Criteria Used for the Determination of the Dust Emission Magnitude for Each Activity

Activity	Dust Emission Magnitude		
	Small	Medium	Large
Demolition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total building volume <20,000 m³ • Construction material with low potential for dust release (e.g., metal cladding or timber) • Demolition activities <10m above ground or demolition during wetter months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total building volume 20,000 – 50,000 m³ • Potentially dusty construction material • Demolition activities 10-20 m above ground level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total building volume >50,000 m³ • Potentially dusty construction material (e.g., concrete) • On-site crushing and screening demolition activities >20 m above ground level
Earthworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total site area <2,500 m² • <5 heavy earth moving vehicles active at any one time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total site area 2,500 to 10,000 m² • 5-10 heavy earth moving vehicles active at any one time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total site area >10,000 m² • >10 heavy earth moving vehicles active at any one time
Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total building volume <25,000 m³ • Construction material with low potential for dust release (e.g., metal cladding or timber) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total building volume 25,000 to 100,000 m³ • Potentially dusty construction material (e.g., concrete) • On site concrete batching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total building volume >100,000 m³ • On site concrete batching; sandblasting
Trackout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <10 outward heavy-duty vehicles (HDV) trips in any one day • Unpaved road length <50 m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-50 outward HDV trips in any one day • Unpaved road length 50-100 m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >50 outward HDV trips in any one day • Unpaved road length >100 m



3.2 Step 2b: Define the Sensitivity of the Area

The sensitivity of the area is defined in relation to each assessed impact. This is informed by several parameters such as the proximity and number of receptors in relation to construction activities, as well as their individual sensitivity.

Receptors can demonstrate different sensitivities to changes in their environment, dependant on location, use and perceived value. The sensitivities for individual receptors are determined using the approach outlined in **Error! Reference source not found..** Sensitivities are provided for each assessed impact.

Once the sensitivity of each individual receptor has been established, this is used to determine the sensitivity of the surrounding area.

Table 3-2 to Table 3-5 illustrate how the sensitivity of the area may be determined for dust soiling, human health and ecosystem impacts, respectively. The highest level of sensitivity from each table should be recorded.

The quoted distances relate to the nearest dust emission source(s). In the context of construction, demolition and earthworks these activities will occur on-site. Where these activities are not known, receptor distances are determined from the site boundary.

Given that trackout relates to the resuspension of dust from HDV on the public road network, these distances relate to proximity to likely routes constructions traffic will use. The extent of those links affected by trackout relates is determined by the calculated trackout dust emission magnitude as per section 3.0. Without site-specific mitigation, trackout may occur along the public highway up to 500 m from large sites, 200 m from medium sites and 50 m from small sites, as measured from the site exit(s).



Table 3-2: Criteria for Defining Sensitivity of Receptors

Sensitivity of Area	Human Receptors		Ecological Receptors ^(A)
	Dust Soiling Effects	Health Effects of Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users can reasonably expect an enjoyment of a high level of amenity; The appearance, aesthetics or value of their property would be diminished by soiling; The people or property would reasonably be expected to be present continuously, or at least regularly for extended periods, as part of the normal pattern of use of the land; and Indicative examples include dwellings, museums and other culturally important collections-, medium- and long-term car parks and car showrooms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locations where members of the public are exposed over a time period relevant to the air quality objective for PM₁₀ (in the case of the 24-hour objectives, a relevant location would be one where individuals may be exposed for eight hours or more in a day); and Indicative examples include residential properties. Hospitals, schools and residential care homes should also be considered as having equal sensitivity to residential areas for the purposes of this assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locations with an international or national designation and the designated features may be affected by dust soiling; Locations where there is a community of a particularly dust sensitive species such as vascular species included in the Red Data List For Great Britain; and Indicative examples include a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designated for acid heathlands or a local site designated for lichens adjacent to the demolition of a large site containing concrete (alkali) buildings.
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users would expect to enjoy a reasonable level of amenity, but would not reasonably expect to enjoy the same level of amenity as in their home; The appearance, aesthetics or value of their property could be diminished by soiling; The people or property wouldn't reasonably be expected to be present here continuously or regularly for extended periods as part of the normal pattern of use of the land; or Indicative examples include parks and places of work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locations where the people exposed are workers, and exposure is over a time period relevant to the air quality objective for PM₁₀ (in the case of the 24-hour objectives, a relevant location would be one where individuals may be exposed for eight hours or more in a day); and Indicative examples include office and shop workers but will generally not include workers occupationally exposed to PM₁₀, as protection is covered by Health and Safety at Work legislation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locations where there is a particularly important plant species, where its dust sensitivity is uncertain or unknown; Locations with a national designation where the features may be affected by dust deposition; or Indicative example is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) with dust sensitive features.



Sensitivity of Area	Human Receptors		Ecological Receptors ^(A)
	Dust Soiling Effects	Health Effects of Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The enjoyment of amenity would not reasonably be expected; Property would not reasonably be expected to be diminished in appearance, aesthetics or value by soiling; There is transient exposure, where the people or property would reasonably be expected to be present only for limited periods of time as part of the normal pattern of use of the land; or Indicative examples include playing fields, farmland (unless commercially sensitive horticultural), footpaths, short term car parks and roads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locations where human exposure is transient; and Indicative examples include public footpaths, playing fields, parks and shopping streets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locations with a local designation where the features may be affected by dust deposition; and Indicative example is a local Nature Reserve with dust sensitive features.
<p>Notes:</p> <p>^(A) Only applicable if ecological habitats are present which may be sensitive to dust effects.</p>			



Table 3-3: Sensitivity of Area to Dust Soiling Effects on People and Property

Receptor Sensitivity	Number of Receptors	Distance from Source (m)			
		<20	<50	<100	<350
High	>100	High	High	Medium	Low
	10 – 100	Medium	Medium	Low	Low
	1 – 10	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Medium	>1	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Low	<1	Low	Low	Low	Low

Table 3-4: Sensitivity of Area to Human Health Impacts

Receptor Sensitivity	Annual Mean PM ₁₀ Concentration	Number of Receptors	Distance from Source (m)			
			<20	<50	<100	<350
High	>32 µg/m ³	>100	High	High	High	Medium
		10 – 100	High	High	Medium	Low
		1 – 10	High	Medium	Low	Low
	28 – 32 µg/m ³	>100	High	High	Medium	Low
		10 – 100	High	Medium	Low	Low
		1 – 10	High	Medium	Low	Low
	24 – 28 µg/m ³	>100	High	Medium	Low	Low
		10 – 100	High	Medium	Low	Low
		1 – 10	Medium	Low	Low	Low
	<24 µg/m ³	>100	Medium	Low	Low	Low
		10 – 100	Low	Low	Low	Low
		1 – 10	Low	Low	Low	Low
Medium	>32 µg/m ³	>10	High	Medium	Low	Low
		1 – 10	Medium	Low	Low	Low
	28 – 32 µg/m ³	>10	Medium	Low	Low	Low
		1 – 10	Low	Low	Low	Low
	24 – 28 µg/m ³	>10	Low	Low	Low	Low
		1 – 10	Low	Low	Low	Low
<24 µg/m ³	>10	Low	Low	Low	Low	
	1 – 10	Low	Low	Low	Low	
Low	-	≥1	Low	Low	Low	Low



Table 3-5: Sensitivity of Area to Ecological Impacts

Receptor Sensitivity	Distance from the Source (m)	
	<20	<50
High	High	Medium
Medium	Medium	Low
Low	Low	Low

3.3 Define the Risk of Impacts

The risk of dust effects arising is based upon the relationship between the dust emission magnitude and the sensitivity of the area.

Error! Reference source not found. to Table 3-9 illustrates how the dust emission magnitude should be combined with the sensitivity of the area to determine the risk of impacts with no mitigation measures applied.

Table 3-6: Risk of Dust Impacts: Demolition

Sensitivity of Area	Dust Emission Magnitude		
	Large	Medium	Small
High	High Risk	Medium Risk	Medium Risk
Medium	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Low	Medium Risk	Low Risk	Negligible

Table 3-7: Risk of Dust Impacts: Earthworks

Sensitivity of Area	Dust Emission Magnitude		
	Large	Medium	Small
High	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Medium	Medium Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Low	Low Risk	Low Risk	Negligible

Table 3-8: Risk of Dust Impacts: Construction

Sensitivity of Area	Dust Emission Magnitude		
	Large	Medium	Small
High	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Medium	Medium Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Low	Low Risk	Low Risk	Negligible

Table 3-9: Risk of Dust Impacts: Trackout

Sensitivity of Area	Dust Emission Magnitude		
	Large	Medium	Small
High	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Medium	Medium Risk	Low Risk	Negligible



Sensitivity of Area	Dust Emission Magnitude		
	Large	Medium	Small
Low	Low Risk	Low Risk	Negligible

4.0 Step 3: Mitigation

Mitigation, as provided within the IAQM guidance is then recommended based upon the calculated risks i.e., low, medium or high-risk. The general mitigation measures applied across the whole site are determined by the highest level of risk assessed. Specific measures (i.e. for earthwork, construction or trackout) are proportional to their own assessed risk.

5.0 Step 4: Determine Significant Effects

Following the effective application of the recommended mitigation measures, residual effects from construction dust are considered to be not significant, in accordance with the IAQM guidance.

As per IAQM guidance, significance is only assigned to the effect after considering the construction activity with mitigation. This is because for almost all construction activities, the aim is to prevent significant effects on receptors through the use of effective mitigation. The IAQM guidance therefore recommends that the significance of the unmitigated effect is not defined, as is not considered appropriate nor relevant in this context.



