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**M74 West Renewable Energy Park Limited**

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# M74 West Renewable Energy Park – Grid Connection

## Environmental Impact Assessment



Bright ideas.  
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# M74 West Renewable Energy Park – Grid Connection

## Environmental Impact Assessment Report – Additional Information

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

M74 West Renewable Energy Park Limited (the “Applicant”) has submitted an application to the Scottish Ministers under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for the construction and operation of the M74 West Renewable Energy Park (the “Proposed Development”) under application reference ECU00005019.

The Proposed Development is located in South Lanarkshire and comprises wind turbines, associated access tracks, crane hardstandings, an onsite substation and ancillary infrastructure, together with associated works described within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (“EIAR”).

The Proposed Development requires a grid connection to export electricity to the transmission network. The anticipated connection comprises an underground 132 kV cable of approximately 2 km in length, connecting the M74 West onsite substation to the Redshaw substation, which lies immediately adjacent to and shares a boundary with the Proposed Development. The location of the proposed underground cable is illustrated in the enclosed figure 1.

The grid connection will be progressed under a separate consenting route by the relevant network operator.

## 1.2 Purpose of this Document

On 17 February 2026, the Court of Session issued its judgment in Raeshaw Farms Limited v Scottish Ministers and Energiekontor [2026] CSIH 10. The Court confirmed that decision-makers must evaluate, on a fact-specific basis, whether a wind farm and its grid connection form a single project for EIA purposes, having regard to factors including functional interdependence.

The Court did not require that all elements of a project be subject to a single consent application; rather, it confirmed that grid connection infrastructure may form part of the EIA project while being consented separately.

The purpose of this report is therefore to:

- describe the nature and location of the M74 West grid connection;
- identify the environmental sensitivities relevant to the likely cable route;
- demonstrate that the potential for likely significant environmental effects is understood; and
- confirm that any such effects have been adequately identified and addressed within the submitted EIAR.

This report has been prepared as a supplementary Environmental Appraisal (EA) report in response to the Scottish Ministers’ request under Regulation 19 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 for further information in relation to the assessment of the grid connection associated with the M74 West Renewable Energy Park.

The purpose of this report is to provide supplementary clarification, drawing on the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and supporting environmental information already submitted, to demonstrate that the environmental effects of the grid connection have been considered to a degree that is proportionate, transparent and sufficient to inform decision-making.

In particular, this report has been prepared to address the Scottish Ministers' request that the information explicitly covers the following:

- a proportionate assessment of the potential for likely significant environmental effects arising from the grid connection when considered by itself;
- an assessment of the combined effects of the Wind Farm and the grid connection, where both elements together give rise to effects on the same environmental receptor; and
- an assessment of cumulative effects where both the proposed Wind Farm and the grid connection infrastructure are likely to have an impact on the same receptor.

The grid connection comprises a short underground cable route connecting the onsite M74 West substation to the Redshaw substation, which lies immediately adjacent to and shares a boundary with the Proposed Development. Given the limited extent, underground nature and locational context of the grid connection, together with the availability of extensive baseline information for the relevant land, a screening-level and proportionate appraisal is considered appropriate and consistent with the requirements of the EIA Regulations. This report clarifies how the grid connection has been considered as part of the overall EIA project, using existing baseline data, assessment findings and mitigation measures presented in the EIAR for the Proposed Development.

The information provided is intended to assist the Scottish Ministers in their consideration of the application by confirming that the potential environmental effects of the grid connection are identifiable, that no new or materially different likely significant effects arise, and that the EIA documentation before the decision-maker is sufficient.

### 1.3 Structure of this Document

This document is structured as follows:

- Section 2 describes the grid connection and its components;
- Section 3 sets out the scope and methodology for the environmental appraisal;
- Section 4 provides a screening-level appraisal of relevant environmental topics; and
- Section 5 provides a summary and conclusion.

## 2. Grid Connection

### 2.1 Description of the Grid Connection

The grid connection is anticipated to comprise an underground 132 kV cable, extending from the M74 West onsite substation to a new connection bay within the Redshaw substation.

The cable route is expected to be less than 2 km in length and lies wholly within land whose environmental sensitivities are well understood through existing surveys undertaken in support of the Proposed Development and the Redshaw substation and reported in:

- the M74 West Renewable Energy Park EIAR; and
- the Redshaw substation EIAR.

The Redshaw substation lies immediately adjacent to the M74 West site, and the two developments share a boundary. The proximity of the point of connection means there is no requirement for overhead lines, cable sealing end compounds or additional substations.

### 2.2 Grid Connection Components

The grid connection infrastructure is anticipated to comprise:

- underground 132 kV electricity cables installed within a temporary trench, which will be fully reinstated following installation;
- joint bays and associated minor above-ground features, where required – such joint bays would be limited to an access cover on the ground surface and potentially some demarcation with an upstanding post or similar; and
- termination works at the M74 West substation and the Redshaw substation.

Construction effects would primarily be temporary and short-term, associated with trenching, cable installation and reinstatement. No permanent above-ground linear infrastructure is anticipated along the route. It is assumed that decommissioning works would be similar to the construction works, but involve removing the cable for material recovery.

## 3. Environmental Appraisal

### 3.1 Scope and Methodology

This EA adopts a proportionate, screening-level approach, consistent with:

- the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017;
- current EIA practice for grid connections; and
- the availability of extensive baseline information for the relevant land.

No new environmental surveys have been undertaken specifically for this EA. The appraisal draws on:

- the M74 West EIAR and supporting technical chapters;
- the Redshaw substation EIAR;
- environmental constraints mapping supplied with the clarification submitted to ECU (dated 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026); and
- professional judgement informed by experience of underground grid connections.

The appraisal focuses on identifying whether likely significant effects could arise from the grid connection for the Proposed Development having regard to the main characteristics of the grid connection during installation, operation and decommissioning, rather than undertaking detailed impact assessment.

### 3.2 Environmental Topics Considered

On the basis of the nature of the grid connection, the following topics are considered relevant:

- landscape and visual;
- ecology and ornithology;
- cultural heritage;
- geology, hydrology and soils;
- traffic and transport;
- noise;
- socio-economics;
- climate change;
- aviation and telecommunications;
- shadow flicker; and
- air quality.

## 4. Appraisal of Likely Effects

### 4.1 Landscape and Visual

The grid connection comprises underground cable installation and would not introduce permanent above-ground linear infrastructure.

Construction-phase effects would be localised, temporary and reversible, associated with short-term disturbance to the landscape fabric along the cable trench. Following reinstatement, no operational landscape or visual effects are anticipated.

No likely significant landscape or visual effects are expected.

### 4.2 Ecology and Ornithology

Ecological sensitivities within the M74 West site and Redshaw substation site are well understood through extensive surveys reported in the respective EIAs. No areas of ecological or ornithological sensitivity were identified along the route of the grid connection in surveys completed.

Potential effects would be limited to temporary construction disturbance, habitat disruption and risk of pollution, all of which can be effectively managed through standard mitigation, ecological supervision and good practice.

The combined constraints figure provided indicates that it would be possible to realise the underground cable connection whilst avoiding impacts within peatland habitats.

No operational ecological effects are anticipated.

No likely significant effects on ecology or ornithology are identified.

### 4.3 Cultural Heritage

Known heritage assets within the site have been identified and assessed within the EIAs for both developments. There would be no direct interaction between the proposed underground cable and known heritage assets

The underground nature of the cable allows avoidance of effects on the setting of known assets.

With standard mitigation, no likely significant effects on cultural heritage are anticipated.

### 4.4 Geology, Hydrology and Soils

The installation of underground cabling has the potential to cause temporary disturbance to soils and watercourses during construction.

These effects are well understood – the location of watercourses are identified in the supporting constraints map – the crossings would be constructed using standard practices to control pollution (e.g. using coffer dams and over pumping).

No operational effects are anticipated.

No likely significant effects are identified.

#### 4.5 Traffic, Transport

Construction traffic would be limited in scale, duration and extent, with movements largely confined to the immediate vicinity of the site.

No likely significant effects are anticipated.

#### 4.6 Noise

Construction noise would be temporary and localised. Operational noise effects are negligible.

No likely significant effects are anticipated

#### 4.7 Socio-economics

The consideration of the specific short section of underground cable which would comprise the grid connection will not have any material bearing on the net economic benefits associated with the Proposed Development as a whole which are document in the EIAR.

#### 4.8 Climate change

The direct and indirect effects associated with the Proposed Development in relation to climate change are assessed in the EIAR for the Proposed Development through the Scottish Government Carbon Calculator tool. The section of cable that forms the grid connection will not have any material bearing on the conclusions reached in the EIAR, namely that the Proposed Development would have a net beneficial effect through the reduction of climate emissions associated with the connection of renewable electricity generation.

#### 4.9 Aviation and telecommunications

There are no above ground works and therefore no potential to interfere with aviation or telecommunications.

#### 4.10 Shadow flicker

There is no aspect of the proposed underground cable that could contribute to shadow flicker effects.

#### 4.11 Air quality

The only potential sources of air emissions are construction plant and vehicles operating over a short period and confined area.

There are no operational emissions: once installed, underground cables do not generate air pollutants.

There are no nearby sensitive receptors (e.g. residential properties, schools, hospitals) likely to be affected by temporary construction emissions.

Standard construction mitigation measures (e.g. dust suppression, vehicle management) are routinely applied and have been addressed in the main EIAR. Any dust or emissions generated would be minor, temporary, and reversible, and would not result in significant effects.

#### 4.12 Combined Effects

Where the environmental effects of the Proposed Development, taken together as a in combination with the grid connection, are considered, the grid connection does not introduce new receptors, pathways or types of effect beyond those already identified for the electricity generation elements of the Proposed Development itself (excluding the grid connection). The grid connection works are closely associated with the Proposed Development, both spatially and functionally. The EIAR already include consideration of the network of underground cables required as part of the project as part of the characteristics of the Proposed Development and therefore any temporary construction-phase effects associated with the grid connection, if considered separately, would either coincide with, or be subsidiary to, those already assessed. As such, the combined effects of the renewable energy park and the grid connection do not materially change the nature or significance of effects reported in the EIAR.

#### 4.13 Cumulative Effects

The installation of the grid connection would not introduce new or different sources of environmental impact beyond those already considered Proposed Development in the EIAR. Any temporary construction-phase effects (such as noise, traffic, or localised disturbance) would be of limited duration and extent, and would not combine in a manner likely to give rise to additional significant cumulative effects.

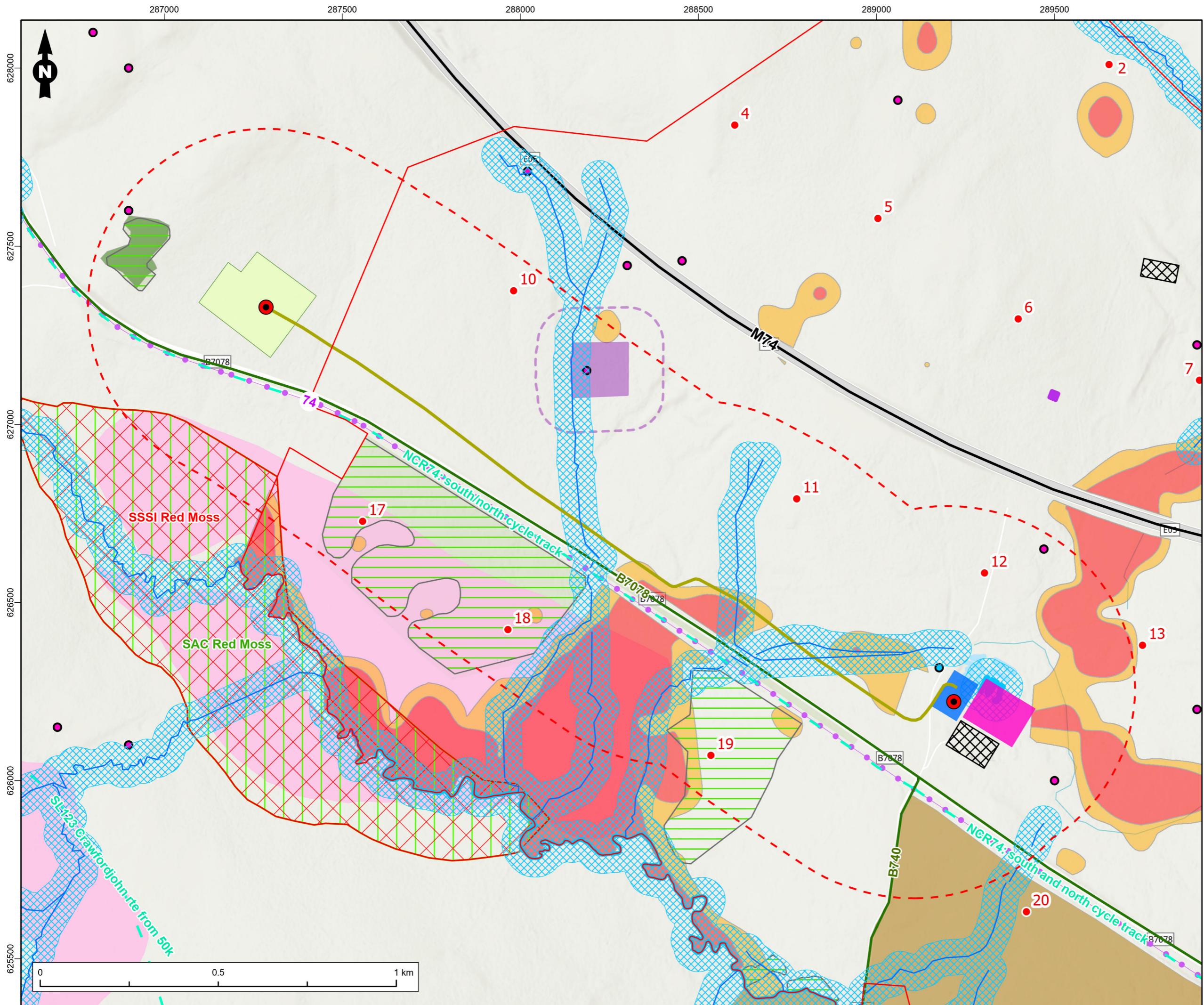
Given the nature, scale, and location of the grid connection works, and the comprehensive understanding of environmental receptors across the relevant land, it is concluded that all likely significant effects—including those associated with the grid connection—are identifiable at this stage and have been addressed within the submitted EIA documentation. No additional or in-combination significant cumulative effects are anticipated as a result of the grid connection.

## 5. Summary and Conclusion

This report confirms that the grid connection for the M74 West Renewable Energy Park:

- is short in length, defined in terms of location;
- the cable element is underground which substantially limits the potential for likely significant effects;
- the substation element to the grid connection is proposed a part of a strategic upgrade to the electricity transmission network (consented in September 2025) and will accommodate grid connections from multiple other generation sources. The cumulative effects of the Proposed Development along with the consented Redshaw substation already forms part of the EIAR and is not repeated here;
- would generate only temporary, construction-phase effects; and
- would not give rise to any new or additional likely significant environmental effects beyond those already identified within the submitted EIAR in any event, either alone, in combination or cumulatively with the Proposed Development already considered in the EIAR.

## Appendix 1 Environmental Constraints Figure



### Legend

- Cable Route
- 500 m Buffer Around Cable Route
- Turbine
- Substation
- Construction Compound
- Met Mast
- Battery Site
- M74 Substation
- Redshaw Substation
- B Road
- Motorway
- Watercourse
- Waterbody
- Watercourse / Waterbody 50m Buffer
- Residential Property
- Canmore Point
- Scheduled Monument
- Scheduled Monument 100 m Buffer
- Ancient Woodland
- National Forest Inventory
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Area of Conservation
- Core Path
- National Cycle Network
- Local Landscape Area

**Carbon and Peatland Importance**

- Class 1

**Peat Interpolation (m)**

- 0.50 - 1.00
- 1.01 - 4.37

Figure Title  
**Environmental Constraints**

Project Name  
**M74 West Renewable Energy Park**

Project Number 1620015684	Figure No.
Date April 2026	Prepared By RD
Scale 1:10,000 @A3	Issue 1

Client  
**M74 West Ltd**