

About ScottishPower

As part of the Iberdrola Group since April 2007, ScottishPower is one of the UK's largest energy companies employing more than 8,000 people across our generation, transmission, distribution, and retail sectors.

We are committed to the environment. In addition to being the UK's largest developer and generator of onshore wind power we own and operate a number of hydro-electric schemes. Our UK generation portfolio currently includes around 2,000MW of flexible natural gas generating plants.

Overview

The last two operational ash lagoons at Levenhall are no longer required, following the closure of Cockenzie Power Station in 2013. Both lagoons form part of the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area, and the lagoon closest to the mouth of the River Esk has been designated as both a Ramsar site, and a Site of Special Scientific Interest for its value to wading birds.

Our Proposal

The proposal is for the restoration of the final two lagoons at Levenhall, to preserve and improve their biodiversity potential and to protect their environmental designations.

Overview of the application process

ScottishPower intend to submit a planning application for the restoration of the Lagoons. As part of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal process, ScottishPower are required to carry out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) to consider whether the restoration proposals will have a significant impact on the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area.

Benefits

The restoration plan for the remaining two lagoons has been designed to complement the existing facilities, and to sensitively manage the mixed use demands of the site.

We anticipate that the completed project will offer the following benefits;

- *Provide a major attraction for birdwatchers visiting Scotland.*
- *Enhance the experience of people using John Muir Way.*
- *Offer educational opportunities for local schools and visitors.*
- *Allow dog walkers and cyclists to continue to make use of the site, whilst protecting sensitive areas from disturbance.*
- *Protect areas that are known to be attractive to rare species.*
- *Provide a rich mosaic of scarce habitats that are valuable to biodiversity.*
- *The restoration plan proposals are entirely compatible with aspirations for Local Nature Reserve designation.*

Key Issues

- *Transport: To minimise disruption, material that is already on site will be used wherever possible.*
- *Noise & Vibration: There is a potential for noise to be generated in the short term, but working hours will be limited and most works will take place away from sensitive receptors.*
- *Air quality: Dust suppression techniques will be employed as necessary.*
- *Landscape & Visual Impact: Sympathetically designed to ensure disturbance to the birds is avoided, whilst providing valuable amenity land to the public.*
- *Ecology: SSSI/RAMSAR/SPA – the overall aim is to enhance biodiversity and protect current designations.*
- *Groundwater: ScottishPower will continue to carry out groundwater monitoring until after the restoration works are completed.*

Consultation Stage

Since the closure of the power station, ScottishPower have discussed restoration options with East Lothian Council, SEPA, and Scottish Natural Heritage. As the proposals developed, further input was sought from the RSPB.

The proposals were initially shared with the public at the RSPB's Big Nature Festival, which took place at the lagoons in the 21st & 22nd of May.

In addition to meeting with local Community Councils and local Area Partnerships a public consultation event will be held at the Brunton Hall on the 25th of August, and will be advertised in advance in the local press.

Have your Say

This consultation phase with the local community, stakeholders and other interested parties will be used to inform the Restoration Plan as it progresses. Having reviewed comments received we may undertake further development studies before submitting a formal planning application to East Lothian Council.

We look forward to hearing your views on our proposals.

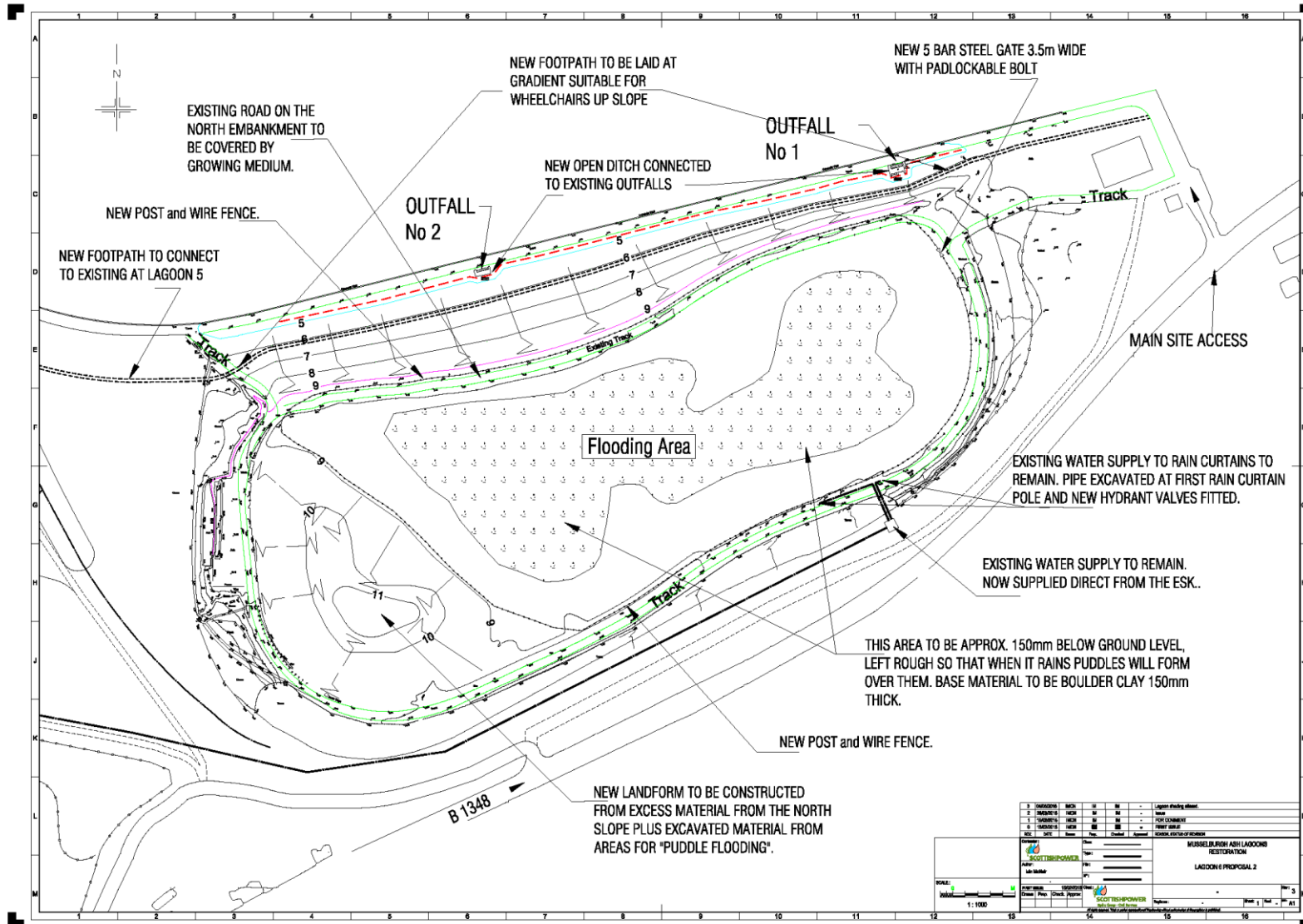
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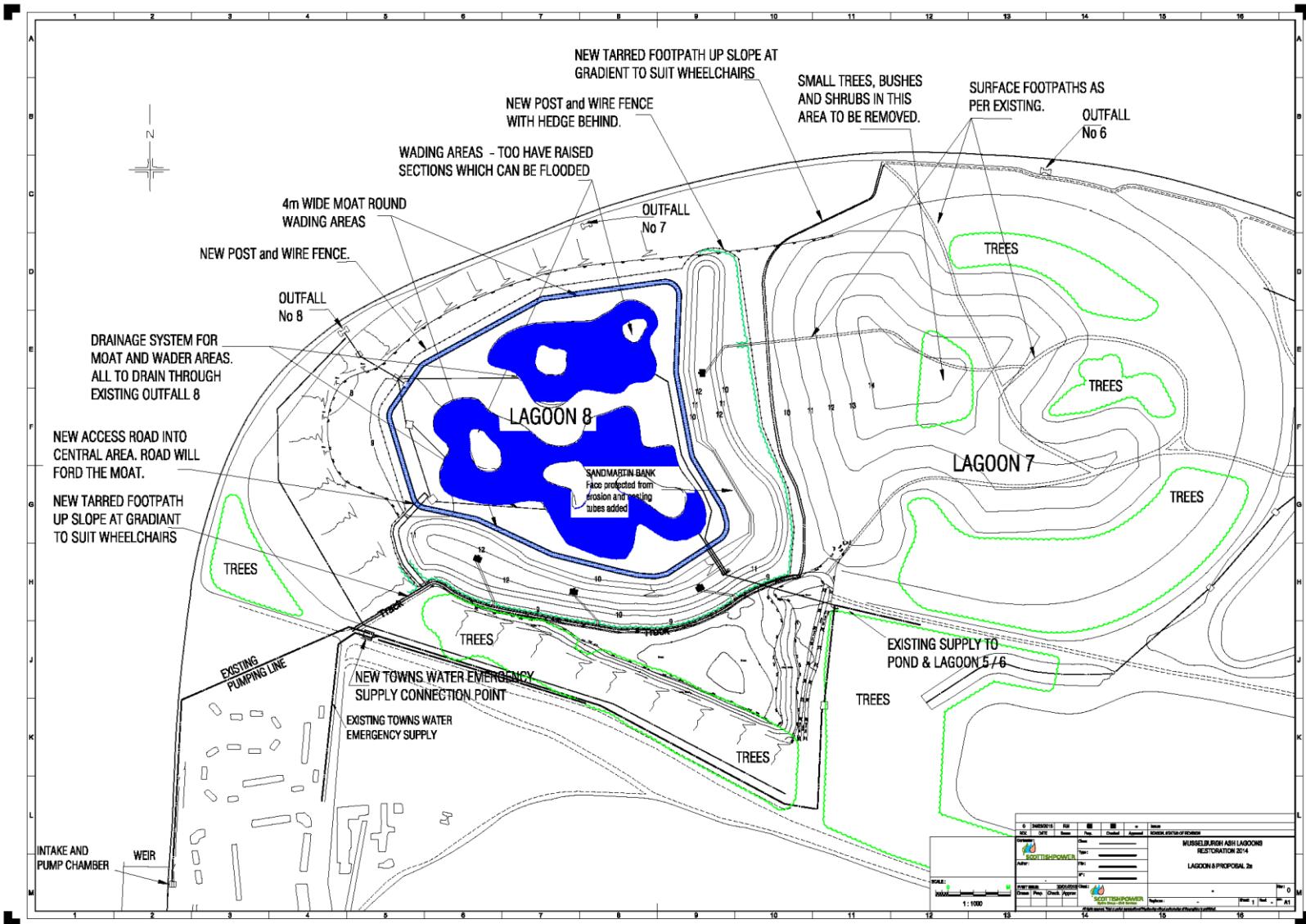
Overview of Lagoon 6 looking east



Restoration proposal for Lagoon 6



Overview of Lagoon 8 looking west



Restoration proposal for Lagoon 8