

Electricity Act 1989
Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
DPEA Code of Practice

Kintore to Tealing OHL Proposal TRL-120-1

CHS Statement: Environment and Wildlife by Carole Ledingham

My name is **Carole Ledingham**. I have lived at Todholes Farmhouse in Drumoak for 34 years. Our home is about a mile from Coupers Road as the crow flies. I love living here in the peace and quiet of the country. I also love nature.

I am particularly concerned about the environmental impact of the proposed monster pylons. We are privileged to live in such a fantastic place with all the wonderful flora and fauna. I worry about the destruction of habitat for our wildlife and the damage to our hedgerows and trees. There will be disturbance of habitat, habitat loss and destruction of nesting and roosting sites.

We have bats in our trees. They are protected. When I spoke to an SSEN representative about this the lady said that I wasn't to worry, they'll move the bats. Firstly, the bats are an essential part of our ecosystem and we love seeing them and secondly bats are territorial so any plan to move them would be futile as they fight to maintain their territory. We have lizards, newts, (protected by law) lots of different bird species, (some of which are protected by law) and wildcats have occasionally been seen.

We have insects, bees, beetles, beautiful flowers and trees which support nature. We as a society are actively encouraged to re-wild areas of our garden to support wildlife and we have been doing this for 34 years at Todholes. We are proud of our support and have all sorts of visitors to our pond including darters, dragonflies and damsel flies along with a myriad of birds which come for a drink. There are newts in the pond and lizards in the garden, along with water voles. Badgers visit occasionally. Numerous moths, butterflies and bees along with other creatures visit our wildflower area.

I understand that the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 states that it is an offence to kill, injure or disturb any animal or wild bird, or their habitat. Key protected species are bats, water voles, dormice, red squirrels and all wild birds.

Special protected birds are red kites. You just have to look up any day of the year and see beautiful red kites soaring in the skies above. These birds mate for life and frequently reuse a successful nest adding fresh twigs and materials to it each year. In my opinion, the proposed vandalism to areas where these marvellous birds call home is absolutely unacceptable and cannot be allowed to take place. The 1981 Act states that any planning application must

consider protected species, requiring avoidance of disturbing habitats such as bat roosts and newt ponds. Surely SSEN and the drive for Net Zero cannot flout the law just because it suits them? We are only one home in the area affected by the pylon application. I am 100% sure that every other home in the line of the pylons will have their own knowledge of the flora and fauna in their garden and fields. Hares have made a welcome return over the last few years. They are a joy to see, along with red squirrels visiting gardens.

A further concern I have is the **impact the work and noise** will have on those of us living in the area and those accessing it for leisure purposes. The roads are a magnet for cyclists who use the roads for exercise. Not just club cyclists who use the area for training but there are groups of older people getting back on their bikes for exercise, fresh air and the company of others. There are horses stabled near Couper's Road. How will their owners be able to exercise their horses by hacking out? How will I be able to walk my dogs near to my home? My dogs are used to peace and quiet and will potentially bark all day due to noise they are upset by.

Finally, if the monster pylons are erected, we can kiss tourism to the area goodbye amongst an environmental disaster area.

Carole Ledingham
13 May 2026