

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

Kintore to Tealing OHL Proposal TRL-120-1

CHS Statement : Arniefoul Residents Group

All References are to SSEN's Report on Consultation – Alignment Section January 2025

This is a Community Hearing Statement written by the Arniefoul Residents group. Arniefoul is a small settlement lying immediately west of Hayston Hill.

This submission focusses on the choice between two alternative alignments at Location 1 : Hayston Hill.

Despite the majority of respondents expressing a preference for alignment 1b, as SSEN acknowledge at P59, they choose 1a, in defiance of that majority.

We believe that alignment 1a seriously impacts the historic integrity of Arniefoul which is a 17th Century 'C' listed hamlet in an unspoilt glen in the Sidlaw Hills.

Length of Line, Number of Pylons, Construction

The chosen alignment 1a is 350m longer and requires 33% more pylons than the alternative, resulting in 6 extra pylons being located on Prime Agricultural Land.

There would be a huge impact on the character of Arniefoul with construction traffic making use of the approach roads, particularly the 'no through road' for alignment 1a and south towards Lumley Den. All approach roads are narrow, largely stone-dyke-lined, with hedges and many right-angle bends.

Visual Impact, Distance, Height & Health

At P60 SSEN conclude that “*proximity to property ... and the potential for adverse visual amenity at locations such as Arniefoul and Hayston is considered to be similar for both alternatives*”. We challenge this assertion as the whole height of all the pylons in alignment 1a would dominate Arniefoul and its local roads. In particular, pylons S178 to S18, with bases up to 30m higher than the properties, will negatively impact the RVAA and health of the Arniefoul occupants.

Alignment 1a brings the pylons an average of 350m closer than 1b, the closest being 300m to the hamlet, contradicting SSEN's key factor, stated on P129 : “**proximity to**

properties has been a key consideration throughout the design development process". Alignment 1b would have a far lesser visual impact as Arniefoul would only see the top portion of most of the pylons.

Crossing the Sidlaw Hills, the line attains heights of 340m at S192 Lumley Den and 280m at S184 at the southern flank of Hayston Hill. Alignments 1a and 1b will cross Hayston Hill at 200m and 230m respectively.

Why, for the sake of a 30m height difference, choose :

- 350m increased length,
- increased construction costs
- 6 extra pylons on prime arable land
- significantly increased impact on inhabited listed dwellings?

Scheduled Monuments

At P135 HES raised concerns about the Arniefoul Cairn SM389 and its visibility. This cairn is a small indistinguishable mound entirely covered in gorse and is extremely rarely visited. SSEN makes no attempt to explain its importance over dwellings and their associated wildlife habitats, such as bats. Alignment 1b already allows for proximity to the cairn.

HES also mention the Nether Arniefoul unenclosed settlement and the Kirkton homestead moat. SSEN singles out the cairn and gives it priority over an isolated inhabited settlement and its approach roads.

SSEN's Key Decisions - These are summarised in chapter 4, P 94 et seq.

At P94 SSEN claim, in a roundabout way, that alignment 1a is the less constrained on "*environmental, technical and cost perspectives*" seemingly ignoring : P61 "*the two have similar technical challenges*" and P94 "*there is no material difference in predicted costs*". This is casuistry. We submit the only remaining factor, 'environmental', is not enough to justify this decision given the competing factors which we have identified.

Conclusion

Strathmore Estates and the Glamis & Area Community Council support alignment 1b, as do residents at Jericho and Arniefoul. SSEN acknowledge that their choice was made in the face of significant local opposition. The 'Summary of Key Feedback' at P60

in our view is correct in stating “Alignment 1b would better protect the unique character of the environment and would have less impact on eco systems and people. It would help maintain the scenic qualities of the area and thus have less of an impact on local tourism and businesses.”

We would like the Reporters to visit Arniefoul to see for themselves.

Should the whole OHL be approved, we respectfully urge the Reporter to reverse SSEN’s decision at Location 1 and select alignment 1b and, better still, underground on the east of the Sidlaws avoiding all the high points.

Juliet Vivers for Arniefoul Residents

12 May 2026