



Aultmore Wind Farm Redesign

Technical Appendix 2.3: Outline Access Management Plan

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Basis of Report

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1.0 Introduction

This outline Outdoor Access Management Plan (OAMP) is submitted by the Applicant. The principal objective of this document is to provide information on how outdoor access will be managed within the site during the construction and decommissioning of the proposed development. There will be no restrictions to outdoor access during the operational phase of the proposed development.

1.1 Proposed Development

The proposed development includes the installation of up to 16 wind turbines (with a maximum tip height of 200m) and associated infrastructure, including wind turbine external transformers, underground cabling, site entrance, access tracks, turning heads, crane hardstands, substation compound and battery energy storage system (BESS) compound. During construction and commissioning there would be a number of temporary works including construction compounds with car parking, temporary parts of crane hardstands, welfare facilities and borrow pits.

1.2 Condition of Consent

Consent and deemed planning permission for the construction and operation of the proposed development is yet to be received. Upon receiving conditions, the applicant will provide an updated Access Management Plan (AMP), to illustrate how applicable conditions will be discharged, aligning current construction methods with relevant legislation and environmental protection practices.

1.3 Community Liaison

Throughout the construction period of the proposed development, the applicant will maintain an open dialogue with local residents and all other interested parties. The applicant will ensure the local community is provided with regular updates on construction progress and upcoming activities through appropriate channels.

A member of staff will be appointed for responsibility of key contact between the applicant and the community. This person will be the nominated point of contact for local residents in connection with any issues that may be raised during construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development.

Any change to the appointed person shall be communicated to the planning authority and the local community representatives as required.

2.0 Methodology

This outline OAMP has been drafted in line with the requirements set out in the SHN (now NatureScot) 'Guidance for the Preparation of Outdoor Access Plans' (SHN, 2010). The guidance stipulates that there should be five steps set out within an OAMP, notably:

1. Identify the purpose, aims & objectives of the OAMP.
2. Establish the outdoor access baseline affected by the proposed development.
3. Identify impacts of the proposed development and potential enhancements on the outdoor access baseline.
4. Mitigate the impacts of the proposed development and design potential enhancements.



5. Manage and monitor the implementation of the OAMP.

This outline OAMP has been structured to broadly follow the steps detailed above.

2.1 Outdoor Access Baseline

Through a request for a Scoping Opinion from the Scottish Ministers, the applicant has received responses from the following organisations with respect to outdoor access:

- Moray Council (MC); and
- Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays).

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gives the public rights to non-motorised access to most land in Scotland. This provides the right to walk, cycle, ride a horse and camp within the site of the proposed development, provided it is done responsibly.

2.1.1 Moray Council

Moray Council responded to scoping stating:

“Public outdoor access rights apply to all of the land affected by the proposed development under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Access rights will be impacted on by the development both during and after construction. Such impact will be limited due to the remoteness of the site with a relatively low level of usage by access takers. Nevertheless the scoping report should address outdoor access as an issue with mitigation being considered through a Public Access Plan.”

“I suggest that the ‘Public Access Plan’ should specifically address the following:

- 1. Construction site – General access rights can be suspended from the construction site. The construction site needs to be clearly demarked on the ground with signage advising the public of reasons, duration and alternative options in relation to the access rights suspension. Objective here is to minimise disruption as much as possible to outdoor access. Promoted routes that will be affected include the Fishwives path and the Clashmadin Cycle Trail.*
- 2. Maximise outdoor access opportunities during wind farm operation. Promotion should include signage and map boards at all principle access points and path junctions featuring the network of paths and tracks available at the site.*
- 3. Linkages to the wider access network. Linking paths include the Fishwives path and the Clashmadin trail and opportunities should be explored to improve these routes as part of the development.*
- 4. Accessible access Controls. All gates etc. to allow for access by all users i.e. horse riders, cyclists, pedestrians and the less able.”*

Maps of Core Paths and other rights of way were available on MC’s website.

2.1.2 ScotWays

2.1.2.1 Core Paths

Within the LAI, there is a Core Path, the KT01, that intersects the Site, as well as large clusters of footpaths in the north, south and west of the LAI, around Buckie, Keith and Fochabers respectively, as shown in Appendix 1.

The Core Path routes are considered to be of local to medium importance and of low to medium sensitivity depending on the level of access provided to the wider network. None of



those considered in the LAI are connected to a wider path network, so all are considered to be of local importance and low sensitivity.

2.1.2.2 Rights of Way

Through consultation with Scotways, one Rights of Way (RoW) has been identified within the Site boundary, GM/GM11/1, as well as forestry access tracks which could be used recreationally. GM/GM11/1 intersects the Site in a north-south direction and follows the same route as the Buckie Fishwives Heritage Path. Throughout the wider LAI, several further RoWs were identified, including:

- GB1-8;
- GM9-11;
- GM27;
- GM70;
- GM73-82;
- GM97-99;
- GM131; and
- GM136.

These are considered to be of local importance and low sensitivity. It is noted that no Scottish Hill Tracks have been recorded that cross or are close to the Site.

2.1.2.3 Heritage Paths

There is one route which passes through the Site and is promoted by the Heritage Paths Project (Scotways, 2023) for its historic interest, Buckie Fishwives Path, a 13.4 km former Trade Route shown in Appendix 1. The Buckie Fishwives Path follows the same route as the KT01 Core Path and GM/GM11/1 RoW and is considered to be of regional importance and medium sensitivity.

2.1.2.4 Access Land

The lack of any designated or recorded paths in parts of the LAI does not preclude the public from using other land within the LAI for recreational purposes in accordance with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, including walking, cycling and horse riding. From Strava heatmap data (Strava, 2023), it is evident that the Site itself is used for recreational purposes, namely cycling and running.

2.1.2.5 Cycling

Sustrans (2023) have mapped an on-road route, National Cycle Route 1 (NCR 1), which runs adjacent to the northern edge of the LAI. This cycle route is part of a wider national network; therefore, it is believed to be of national importance and high sensitivity due to it being the only National Cycle Network route in Moray.

No local cycling routes have been identified, however, it is noted that the aforementioned walking routes are also available for cycling.



2.1.2.6 Horse Riding

There are no public facilities, stables or bridleways, for horse riding within the LAI. However, it is noted that the Site is widely used for horse-riding.

The paths noted above have been presented in Appendix 1. In addition to the paths identified by both MC and ScotWays there are a number of existing tracks across the site that might reasonably be used for outdoor access by walkers, cyclists and horse-riders.

2.2 Potential Access Impacts and Mitigation

2.2.1 Construction Phase Impacts and Mitigation

As outlined in Section 2.12, a number of paths cross the site, including a Core Path and a number of Rights of Way and Heritage Paths. It is noted that a number of these paths share the same route.

Therefore, the primary impact on outdoor access through the proposed development will be during the construction phase.

2.2.2 Mitigation

2.2.2.1 Warning Signs - During Construction Phase

The applicant is committed to keeping any impacts to an absolute minimum. Where temporary restrictions are required, these will be kept to the minimum required time and appropriate signage will be erected.

Information will be provided at the access points these paths, on the Aultmore Wind Farm website, and communicated to the local community through a Community Liaison Group. Where alternative routes are available, they will be recommended. The duration will be kept to a minimum and access will be made available at evenings, weekend and public holidays during restricted periods.

Appendix 2 shows the typical warning sign (Standard generic construction activity warning sign (Paths for All, 2010)) that will be used to warn of public access restrictions and the health and safety risks associated with the construction activities. These signs will include information including:

- the start date of the restriction
- the duration of the restriction
- details (including a map) of any restriction or diversion that is in place; and
- the telephone number of the construction manager who can provide further information.

It is proposed that warning signs are located in these approximate locations, either within the public road or within site:

- At approximate OS grid reference E341210, N859115 where the existing forestry track meets the U72L Oxhill Road.
- At approximate OS grid reference E344925, N858920 on the Core Path Route near to where the Core Path Route crosses the existing forestry tracks.
- At approximate OS grid reference E352900, N653820 near the gate to the existing track adjacent to Whalplaw Burn.



- At approximate OS grid reference E347690, N856737 at the existing forestry site entrance with the U23aH.
- At approximate OS grid reference E347325, N861254 at the existing forestry site entrance near Rosehill.

Other signage locations may also be identified during the development of the full AMP.

Upon completion of the construction phase, outdoor access will be restored without disturbance.

2.2.2.2 Pass Gates

Pass gates will be installed to accommodate outdoor access along the tracks where there are currently gates or where new gates are proposed. An example of pass gates to be installed is included in Appendix 3. The exact specification is to be agreed with Moray Council, in consultation also with the British Horse Society Scotland, prior to construction. The pass gates will have an internal width of 1.5m on a surfaced pass to accommodate walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

2.2.3 Operational Phase Impacts & Mitigation

During the operation of the proposed development, there will be no outdoor access restrictions on any of the paths and outdoor access rights shall be as they were prior to the construction phase of the proposed development.

2.2.4 Decommissioning Phase Impacts & Mitigation

The operational life of the proposed development and associated infrastructure will be 35 years. Following this, an application could be submitted to retain or replace the wind turbines, or they could be decommissioned. If decommissioned, some of the new access tracks could be left onsite to ensure the continued benefit of improved access for the landowner and the public, or they could be reinstated.

Should the proposed development be decommissioned outdoor access restrictions as per the construction phase shall be reinstated.

2.3 Enhancement

Information boards providing details of the walks available across the Site will be provided at appropriate locations across the Site. Further enhancements will be discussed with the community during the post consent period via the Community Liaison Group and agreed with FLS as required.

2.4 Management and Monitoring

As the outline OAMP is being prepared as part of the planning application, the applicant is yet to appoint a contractor to undertake the civil engineering works. It is proposed that the contractor appointed to construct the proposed development will refine this outline OAMP in consultation with the local authority prior to construction to ensure it is fit for purpose.

2.5 Conclusion

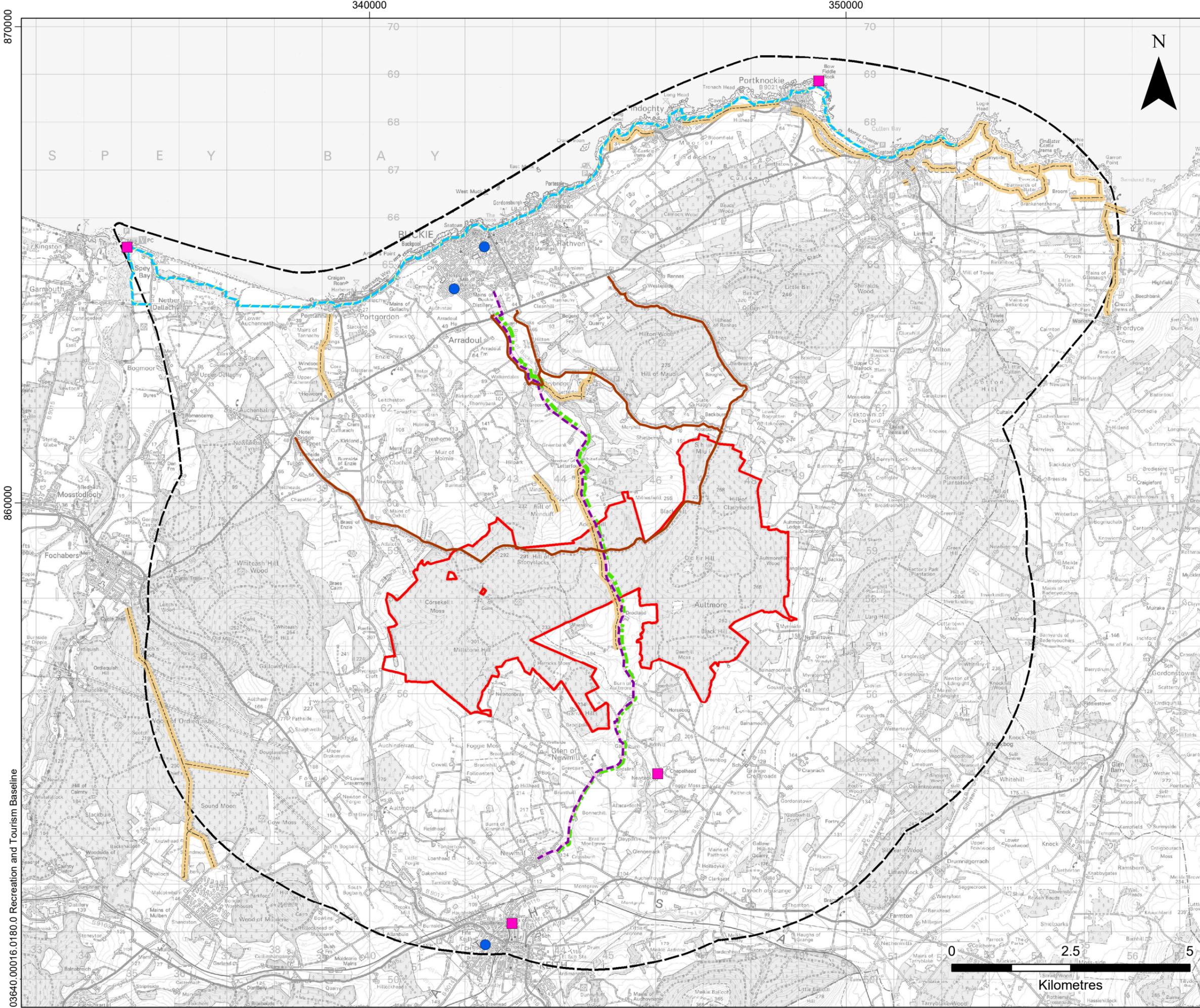
The applicant aims to provide for safe outdoor access routes during construction and decommissioning phases of the proposed development and to welcome long term outdoor access during the operation of the proposed development.





Appendix 1 Existing Paths





- LEGEND**
- Site Boundary
 - Local Area of Influence
 - Recreation Receptor
 - Tourism Receptor
 - Core Path
 - Moray Coast Trail
 - Promoted Path
 - Heritage Path
 - Right Of Way



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AULTMORE WIND FARM REDESIGN

TA 2.3 OUTLINE AMP

EXISTING PATHS

APPENDIX 1

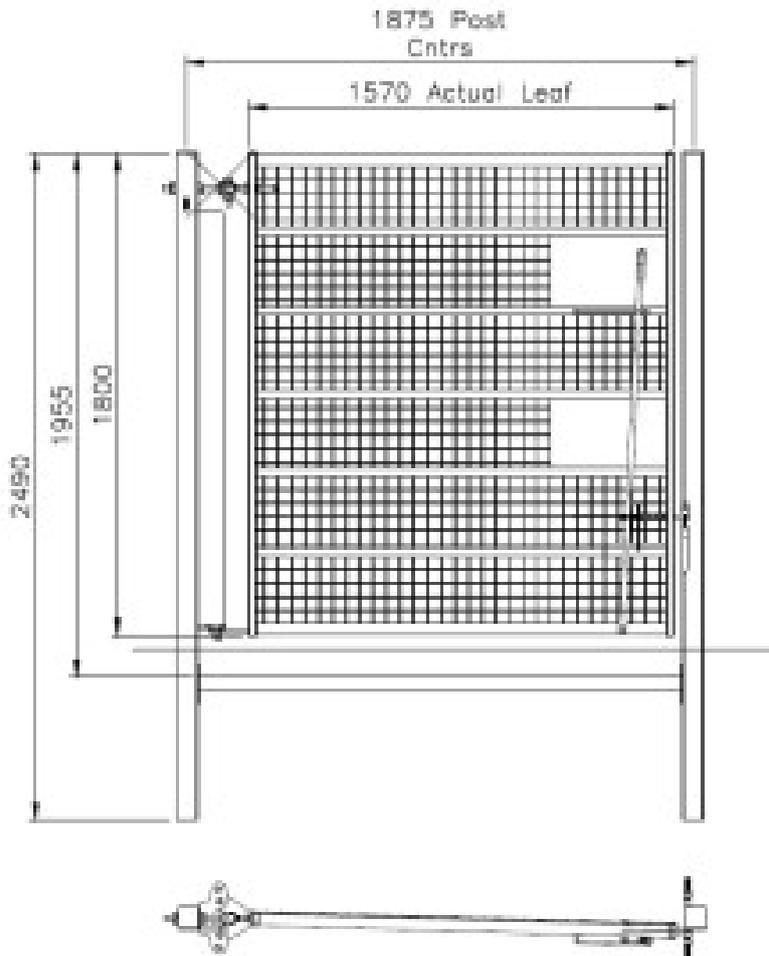
Scale 1:75,000 @ A3 Date NOVEMBER 2023



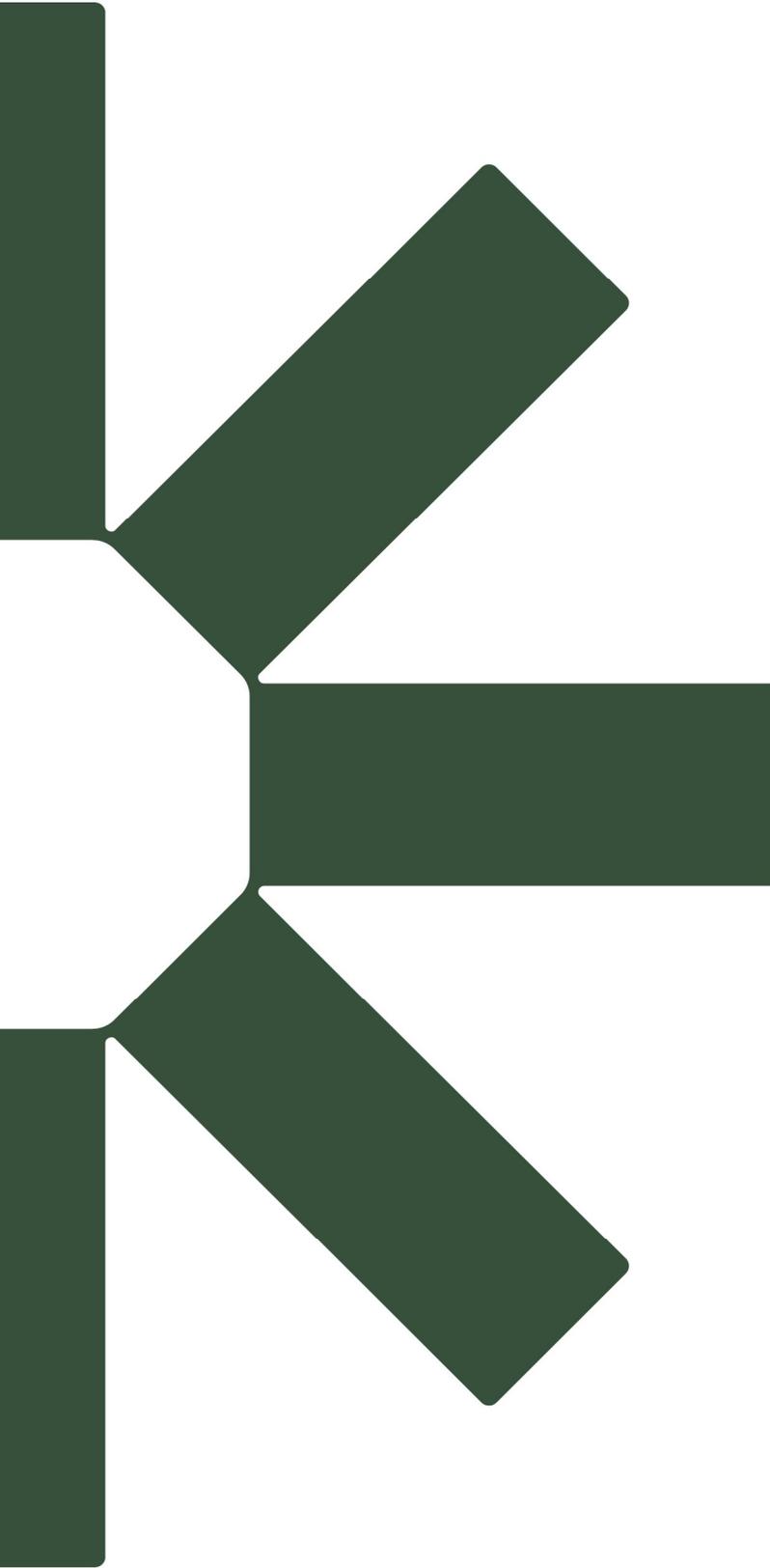
Appendix 2 Warning Sign Example



Appendix 3 Pass Gate Example







Making Sustainability Happen