

## APPENDIX 4.5: SCOPING MATRIX

## Appendix 4.5: Scoping Matrix

### Abbreviations

BT	British Telecom
CNP	Cairngorms National Park Authority
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HIAL	Highlands and Islands Airports Limited
JRC	Joint Radio Company
LCC	Laggan Community Council
MD-SEDD	Marine Directorate – Science Evidence Data and Digital
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NATS	National Air Traffic Society
NS	NatureScot
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SF	Scottish Forestry
SW	Scottish Water
THC	The Highland Council

**Table 1 – Scoping Matrix**

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
001	Scoping Consultations	Scottish Ministers expect the EIA Report which will accompany the application for the Proposed Development to consider in full all consultation responses.	ECU - 01	6	Volume 1 – All Chapters	All consultation responses received are summarised within this Scoping Matrix and addressed throughout the EIA Report, where relevant.
002	Scoping Consultations	Scottish Ministers are broadly content with the EIA set out in the Scoping Report. In addition to the consultation responses, Ministers wish to provide comments with regards to the scope of the EIA report. The Applicant should note and address each matter	ECU - 02	6	Volume 1 – All Chapters	This has been noted, and all consultation responses received are summarised within this Scoping Matrix and addressed throughout the EIA Report, where relevant.
003	Scoping Consultations	Scottish Ministers note the detailed comments provided by NatureScot and agree with all their comments and requests.	ECU - 03	6	Volume 1 – All Chapters	NatureScot consultation responses received are summarised within this Scoping Matrix and addressed throughout the EIA Report, where relevant.
004	Scottish Water Assets	Scottish Ministers outline that Scottish Water provided information in relation to the presence of any drinking water protected areas or Scottish Water assets on which the Proposed Development could have any significant effect. Scottish Ministers request that the Applicant contact Scottish Water to enquire whether there are any Scottish Water assets which may be affected by the development and include details in the EIA Report of any relevant mitigation measures to be provided.	ECU - 04	6	Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Further consultation with Scottish Water was not required as Scottish Water's scoping response provided all the required information. This along with published data sets was sufficient for the assessment. Assessments of potential impacts on the water environment, including Scottish Water assets and Drinking Water Protected Areas, is included in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology Hydrology and Hydrogeology.</b>

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005	Private Water Supplies	Scottish Ministers request that the Applicant investigates the presence of any private water supplies which may be impacted by the Proposed Development. They outlined that the EIA Report should include details of any supplies identified by this investigation, and if any supplies are identified, an assessment of the potential impacts, risks, and any mitigation which would be provided should be undertaken.	ECU - 05	6	Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Assessment of potential impacts to private water supplies is included in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology Hydrology and Hydrogeology</b> .
006	MD-SEDD EIA Guidance	Scottish Ministers reference Marine Directorate – Science Evidence Data and Digital (MD-SEDD), who provide generic scoping guidelines and standing advice for OHL development which outline how fish populations can be impacted during construction, operation and decommissioning. The guidelines inform developers as to what should be considered during the EIA Process. The standing advice outlines what information, relating to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, is expected in the EIA report. A checklist is provided to accompany submission.	ECU - 06	7	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology  Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	MD-SEDD standing advice and guidance has been noted and fisheries interests discussed where appropriate in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 8 - Ecology</b> and <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 8.1- Shadow Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA)</b> , with watercourses also discussed in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology</b> .  <b>MD-SEDD checklist completed and included with application.</b>
007	Impacts on Fish Populations	Scottish Ministers outline that in addition to identifying the main watercourses and	ECU - 07	7	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology	MD-SEDD standing advice and guidance has been noted and fisheries interests discussed where appropriate in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 8 - Ecology</b> and

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		waterbodies within and downstream of the Proposed Development area, developers should identify and consider, at this early stage, any areas of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) where fish are a qualifying feature and proposed felling operations particularly in acid sensitive areas.			Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	<b>Volume 4 - Appendix 8.1- Shadow Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA)</b> , with watercourses also discussed in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology</b> . Watercourses related to the Proposed Development are detailed in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology</b> . With standard construction mitigation in place, as detailed in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 8 - Ecology</b> , significant effects on watercourses due to felling operations have been scoped out of the assessment.
008	Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment (PLHRA)	Scottish Ministers outline that where there is a demonstrable requirement for peat landslide hazard risk assessment (PLHRA), the assessment should be undertaken as part of the EIA process.	ECU - 08	7	Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	A PLHRA has been carried out as part of the EIA Report and is included in <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 10.1: Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessment (PLHRA)</b> to the noted chapter.
009	Landscape and Visual Impact – Visualisations	Scottish Ministers outline that the Scoping Report identified visualisations that will be prepared to inform and support the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment ('LVIA').	ECU - 09	7	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 - Landscape and Visual	The noted chapter identifies and describes the visualisations that will be prepared to inform and support the LVIA.  The visualisations are included as <b>Volume 3a – Visualisations (to NatureScot standards)</b> and <b>Volume 3b - Visualisation (to THC standards)</b> .
010	Landscape and Visual Impact - Viewpoints	Scottish Ministers outline that The Highland Council have identified that no viewpoints have been included within the supporting information provided and that the LVIA should provide Zone of Theoretical Visibility	ECU - 10	7	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 - Landscape and Visual	The Scoping Report identified viewpoint locations for the preparation of visualisations.  The visual assessment is receptor-based and considers all potential receptors within the study area rather than a small number of viewpoints, which

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		analysis and identify key viewpoints to represent the most sensitive surrounding visual receptors.				<p>provides a more detailed and robust assessment. The visualisations are illustrative of the types of view that would be obtained and are considered fully representative of visual receptors using the study area.</p> <p>Zone of Theoretical Visibility analysis is provided in the noted chapter.</p>
011	Landscape and Visual Impact - Viewpoints	Scottish Ministers note NatureScot's detailed comments and requests in regard to the assessment of Landscape and Visual Impacts including viewpoint locations and the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) on the Cairngorms National Park (CNP).	ECU - 11	7	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 - Landscape and Visual	NatureScot consultation responses in relation to the assessment of Landscape and Visual Impacts including viewpoint locations and SLQs are summarised within this <b>Scoping Matrix</b> and addressed in the noted chapter.
012	Ecology – Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	Scottish Ministers note NatureScot's detailed comments and requests in regard to River Spey Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the potential for impacts, including cumulative impacts, to birds such as golden eagles and the potential impacts to priority peatland habitats and provide the appropriate mitigation measures.	ECU - 12	7	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology  Volume 1 - Chapter 9 – Ornithology  Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology Hydrology and Hydrogeology	NatureScot consultation responses in relation to the assessment of River Spey Special Area of Conservation (SAC) are summarised within this Scoping Matrix and addressed in the noted chapters as well as <b>Volume 4 – Appendix 8.1: Shadow Habitat Regulations Appraisal.</b>

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013	Alternatives	Scottish Ministers expect the Applicant to carry out adequate pre-application consultation and demonstrate the alternatives considered for the Proposed Development prior to arriving at the final design. The EIA Report should include a description of the main alternatives and a discussion of the main reasons for selection of the chosen option, including comparison of environmental effects.	ECU - 13	7 - 8	Volume 1 - Chapter 2 - The Routeing Process and Alternatives	The noted chapter sets out the alternative options considered and discusses the reasons for identifying a proposed alignment and design solution. Details of pre-application consultation are included in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 4 - Scope and Consultation</b> , and also <b>Volume 4 – Appendix 4.1 – Public Consultation Report</b> .
014	Further Consultation	Scottish Ministers are aware that further engagement is required between parties regarding the refinement of the design of the Proposed Development regarding, among other things, surveys, management plans, peat, finalisation of viewpoints, cultural heritage, cumulative assessments, and request that they are kept informed of relevant discussions.	ECU - 14	8	Volume 1 - Chapter 4 - Scope and Consultation	This has been noted. The Energy Consents Unit have been kept informed of any further discussions with consultees.
015	Mitigation	Scottish Ministers outlined that the mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impact identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. The Applicant is also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all	ECU - 15	8	Volume 1 – Technical Chapters (7 – 13)	Mitigation measures are proposed at the end of each technical chapter (Chapter 7 – 13). <b>Chapter 3 - The Proposed Development</b> also includes some general mitigation measures which apply across the Proposed Development. A consolidated Schedule of Mitigation is also presented as <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 14 - Schedule of Mitigation</b> of the EIA Report in tabular form.

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		mitigation measures presented in the EIA Report in tabular form.				
016	Further Consultation	It is acknowledged by Scottish Ministers that the EIA process is iterative and further engagement between relevant parties may be required to refine the design of the Proposed Development. Scottish Ministers request they are kept informed of on-going discussions in relation to this.	ECU - 16	8	Volume 1 - Chapter 4 - Scope and Consultation	This has been noted. The Energy Consents Unit have been kept informed of any further discussions with consultees.
017	ECU Consultation	The Applicant is encouraged to engage with the ECU at the pre-application stage and before proposals reach design freeze.	ECU - 17	8	Volume 1 - Chapter 4: Scope and Consultation	<p>The Applicant has engaged with the ECU during the pre-application stages, as set out within the noted chapter.</p> <p>A Gatecheck 1 Report would normally be issued to the ECU and key stakeholders, prior to submission of the section 37 application. The purpose of the Gatecheck 1 Report is to outline consultations with statutory and non-statutory consultees, engagement with the local community and how matters raised during the scoping process have been dealt with in the EIA Report. Due to a delay in receiving the scoping opinion however, there has not been time for the Proposed Development to go through the gate check process. A Gatecheck 1 Report was therefore not issued to the ECU and key stakeholders prior to submission. All matters raised timeously during the</p>



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						<p>scoping process have been addressed within this EIA Report, as far as possible.</p> <p>A Gatecheck 2 call was held on 15 February 2024 between the ECU and representatives of the Applicant. Administrative requirements and timing of the submission were discussed as well as matters relating to the (then awaited) Scoping response.</p>
018	Scoping Matrix	When finalising the EIA Report, the Applicant is asked to provide a summary in tabular form of where within the EIA Report each of the specific matters raised in the Scoping Opinion have been addressed.	ECU – 18	9	Volume 4 - Appendix 4.5: Scoping Matrix	This <b>Scoping Matrix</b> addresses the noted request.
019	Upload to ECU Portal	To facilitate uploading to the ECU Portal, the Applicant is reminded that the EIA report and its associated documentation should be divided into appropriately named separate files of sizes no more than 10 megabytes (MB).	ECU - 19	9	Full EIA Report	All parts of this EIA Report have been divided into appropriately named separate files of sizes no more than 10 MBs for upload to ECU Portal.
020	EMC and microwave radio links	BT studied the Proposed Development, with respect to EMC and related problems to BT point-to-point microwave radio links. Their conclusion was that the Proposed Development should not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network.	BT-01	13	Volume 1 - Chapter 4 - Scope and Consultation	<p>This has been noted.</p> <p>Operational effects of additional electromagnetic interference to medium and long wave (AM) radio signals and TV signals were scoped out of the EIA Report.</p>

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021	Landscape and Visual - SLQs of the Cairngorms National Park	CNP noted that the Proposed Development is outwith the Park boundary. Policy A4 of the current Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 – 27 (Partnership Plan) is therefore relevant in relation to the potential for effects on the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) of the National Park from wind farm development outwith the National Park.	CNP – 01	16	Volume 1 - Chapter 6: Planning and Energy Policy Context  Planning Statement	Policy A4 of the current Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 – 27 is discussed in the noted chapter and the planning statement. The LVIA includes assessment of effects on the SLQs of the CNP in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 7 - Landscape and Visual</b> .
022	Landscape and Visual - SLQs of the Cairngorms National Park	In accordance with CNP casework agreement with NatureScot, NatureScot lead on providing advice on the potential effects of development outside the National Park on the SLQs of the National Park.	CNP – 02	16	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 - Landscape and Visual	This has been noted. The scoping response of NatureScot was considered in relation to the SLQs of the CNP.
023	Landscape and Visual - SLQs of the Cairngorms National Park	CNP would expect the applicant to include consideration of potential effects on the SLQs as part of the EIA process, and where effects are predicted, to seek advice on how to assess them following the draft joint National Park/NatureScot guidance (Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape Qualities – AESLQ).	CNP – 03	16	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 - Landscape and Visual	This has been noted. The scoping response of NatureScot was considered in relation to the SLQs of the CNP, and the LVIA includes assessment of effects on the SLQs of the CNP.
024	Cultural Heritage Assets	HES considered that the Proposed Development was unlikely to have significant adverse impacts on heritage assets within HES remit, and were	HES - 01	18	Volume 1 - Chapter 13 –	Consideration of effects on designated cultural heritage assets has been included within the noted

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		therefore content for historic environment interests to be scoped out of the EIA.			Cultural Heritage	chapter following a request to do so from The Highland Council.
025	Aviation	Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL) outlined that the Proposed Development would not infringe the safeguarding criteria and operation of Inverness Airport and therefore had no objections.	HIAL-01	19	Volume 1 - Chapter 4 - Scope and Consultation	This has been noted and no assessment on aviation has been included in the EIA Report as noted in the specified chapter.
026	Landscape and Visual - SLQs of the Cairngorms National Park	Laggan Community Council (LCC) stated that they remained opposed to the Proposed Development due to its permanent actual and cumulative visual impacts on the area.	LCC - 01	20	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 - Landscape and Visual	This has been noted. A LVIA which assesses all relevant visual impacts on the area is included in the noted chapter.
027	Consultation to date	LCC highlighted that the residents of Laggan's objection to the Proposed Development was unchanged since the public consultation event in February 2023. LCC highlighted they therefore believe that their opposition to the Proposed Development has been ignored.	LCC - 02	20	Volume 1 - Chapter 4 - Scope and Consultation	The noted chapter describes the consultation process across all stages of the Proposed Development and <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 4.1: Public Consultation Report</b> notes the Applicant's previous responses to LCC's consultation responses. <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 2 - The Routeing Process and Alternatives</b> sets out the alternative options considered and discusses the reasons for identifying a proposed alignment and design solution.
028	Proposed alignment and design solution	LCC note that the Proposed Development is proposed to transition to OHL and suggest this is due to cost considerations, and that the visual impact should be given	LCC - 03	20	Volume 1 - Chapter 2 - The Routeing Process and Alternatives	The noted chapter sets out the alternative options considered and discusses the reasons for identifying a proposed alignment and design solution. Details of pre-application consultation are included in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 4 - Scope and Consultation</b> .

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		<p>greater weight in the choice of technological solution than cost.</p> <p>LCC outlined that they feel that the following should have been considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- undergrounding the connection across its full length; and</li> <li>- alternative routing west through Glen Doe.</li> </ul>				
<b>029</b>	Natural Heritage / Landscape and Visual – Designations	LCC outlined that they do not feel that sufficient consideration has been given to the close proximity of Wild Land Area (WLA) 19, the Cairngorms National Park, the Upper Spey river catchment area and the popular mountains of Geal Charn and Carn Liath.	LCC - 04	20	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 - Landscape and Visual	<p>A LVIA which assesses all relevant visual impacts on the area, including the CNP is included in the noted chapter.</p> <p>A WLA Assessment has been scoped out of the LVIA, but wildness as a characteristic of the landscape has been considered within the assessment of Landscape Character Types, and Wildness as a Special Landscape Quality has been considered in assessment of the Cairngorms National Park, as recommended by NatureScot.</p> <p>The Spey river catchment is discussed in Volume 1 - <b>Chapter 10 - Geology Hydrology and Hydrogeology, Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology and Volume 4 - Appendix 8.1 - Shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal.</b></p>
<b>030</b>	Proposed and existing surrounding infrastructure	LCC suggest that the Applicant should fully consider that previous planning decisions relating to the Stronelairg Wind Farm and Glenshero Wind Farm.	LCC - 05	20	Volume 1 - Chapter 2 - The Routeing	Previous planning decisions in the area were considered throughout route and alignment selection stages for the Proposed Development as described in the noted chapter.

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					Process and Alternatives.	
031	Tourism	LCC expressed concerns at the potential cumulative effect of additional towers and the existing Beauly-Denny OHL, suggesting this will reduce the attractiveness of the glen to tourists and local residents.	LCC - 06	21	Volume 1 – Chapter 12: Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism	An assessment on the potential Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism impacts as a result of the Proposed Development is included in this EIA Report in the noted chapter. A LVIA which assesses all relevant visual impacts on the area is included in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 7 - Landscape and Visual</b> .
032	Landscape and Visual Impact – Visualisations	LCC made requests for additional visualisations from high points along the road from Sherrabeg to Melgarve, points on the ascent to Geal Charn, and Carn Dubh summit.	LCC - 07	21	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 - Landscape and Visual	Visualisations are included from two points on the road from Sherrabeg (Visualisation Location (VL) 1 and VL 3. This has been considered suitably representative of views from this route as the Proposed Development would be less visible from others points on the route. As a result of LCC's scoping comments, an additional photomontage has been included from Carn Dubh (VL4) and additional wireline view from the path to Geal Charn (VL5), has been included in <b>Volume 3a – Visualisations (to NatureScot standards)</b> and <b>Volume 3b - Visualisation (to THC standards)</b> .
033	Defence Infrastructure	The Ministry of Defence safeguarding noted that the Proposed Development relates to a site outside of their areas, and therefore confirm that they have no safeguarding concerns.	MOD - 01	30	N / A	This has been noted.

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034	Defence Infrastructure	The Ministry of Defence safeguarding outlined that they would need to assess any structures, including the use of cranes, piling rigs or other tall plant or equipment to implement development, with a maximum height of, or exceeding, a height of 50 m.	MOD - 02	31	Volume 1 - Chapter 3 - The Proposed Development	An indicative tower schedule is included in <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 3.1 - Indicative Tower Schedule</b> detailing the location and height of structures. All construction methodology is noted in the specified chapter.
035	Aviation	National Air Traffic Society (NATS) anticipates no impact from the proposal and has no comments to make on the Scoping Opinion.	NATS - 01	32	Volume 1 - Chapter 4 - Scope and Consultation	This has been noted and no assessment on aviation has been included in the EIA Report as noted in the specified chapter.
036	EIA Scope and mitigation	NatureScot (NS) advise on key issues relevant to NS interests that the Proposed Development raises. They recommend that results of survey and assessment are used to inform the Proposed Development, seeking to avoid impacts to the sensitivities they outline and if avoidance of impacts is not possible, they advise any impacts are minimised through appropriate mitigation, details of which should be provided in the EIA Report.  General pre-application and scoping advice has also been supplied by NS.	NS - 01	33 - 34	Volume 1 – All Chapters	This <b>Scoping Matrix</b> addresses the key issues NS note. Mitigation measures are proposed at the end of each technical chapter. A consolidated Schedule of Mitigation is also presented as <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 14 - Schedule of Mitigation</b> of the EIA Report.
037	Planning Policy	NS outlined that the Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) sets out a new	NS – 02	34	Volume 1 – Chapter 6 -	NPF4 policy documents are referenced within the noted Chapter and the Planning Statement which

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		requirement for developments to deliver positive effects for biodiversity, primarily under Policy 3.			Planning and Energy Policy Context	accompanies the EIA Report as well as wherever relevant across the EIA chapters.
<b>038</b>	Landscape and Visual	In relation to landscape and visual impacts of the Proposed Development, NS outlined that the area is close to the CNP and WLA 19. In accordance with an agreement on roles in advisory casework between NatureScot and Scottish National Park Authorities, NS lead on the provision of advice concerning the effects of the Proposed Development on the CNP SLQs.	NS – 03	35	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 - Landscape and Visual	This has been noted. The scoping response of NS was considered in relation to the SLQs of the CNP.
<b>039</b>	Landscape and Visual - SLQs of the Cairngorms National Park	NS consider there is potential for the Proposed Development to introduce significant effects on the SLQs and recommend that the LVIA includes an assessment of the likely effects of the Proposed Development on the SLQs of the CNP. This should focus on the SLQs that are most likely to be affected and inform any opportunities for mitigation of effects.	NS – 04	35	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 - Landscape and Visual	The LVIA includes assessment of effects on the SLQs of the CNP in the noted chapter.
<b>040</b>	Landscape and Visual - SLQs of the Cairngorms National Park	Given the proximity to WLA 19, NS would suggest that Wildness is likely to be one of the SLQs requiring consideration. NS outlined that they would be happy to comment on the list of SLQs the applicants	NS – 05	35	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 - Landscape and Visual	The proximity to WLA 19 was considered in the SLQ assessment in the noted chapter. Due to timing, further consultation on the list of SLQs was not undertaken, but the inclusion of SLQs and visualisation locations opted to err on the side of

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		propose to scope in for assessment, and suggest that the requirement for any additional viewpoint locations is considered once the relevant SLQs have been identified.				caution. Two visualisations have been included from points within the CNP representative of low lying and elevated views.
	Landscape and Visual - SLQs of the Cairngorms National Park	NS advise that the cumulative impact assessment should consider not just landscape and visual effects but any cumulative impacts on the SLQs of the National Park	NS – 06	35	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 - Landscape and Visual	Cumulative effects to CNP SLQs are considered in the noted chapter.
041	Natural Heritage Designations	NS noted that the Proposed Development is partly within the River Spey Special Area of Conservation (SAC) catchment and crosses a number of watercourses which drain into the Spey. NS would recommend a Shadow HRA and standard pollution mitigation.	NS – 07	36	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 - Ecology	Assessment of impacts on the qualifying features of the River Spey SAC has been undertaken in a Shadow HRA for the Proposed Development and is included as <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 8.1 – Shadow Habitat Regulations Appraisal</b> . Standard pollution prevention and silt control measures are included in embedded mitigation in the noted chapter. Baseline data on likely presence of salmonids is also included in the noted chapter.
042	Protected Species	NS also note that the scoping report suggested that otter surveys have followed NS guidance, and they advise that these details are included in the EIA.	NS – 08	36	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 - Ecology	An otter survey was undertaken in line with relevant methodologies and guidance. Results are summarised in the noted chapter with full details of surveys and results presented in <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 8.3 - Melgarve Cluster Protected Species Report</b> and <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 8.3 -</b>



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						<p><b>Confidential Annex E Melgarve Protected Species Report.</b><sup>1</sup></p> <p>A site-specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) would be developed and implements and would detail how the Principal Contractor would manage the site in accordance with all commitments and mitigation detailed in the EIA Report, statutory consents and authorisations, industry best practise and guidance. The CEMP would also reference General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) and Species Protection Plans (SPPs), which have been developed by SSEN Transmission and are included in Appendix 3.4 and 3.5 of this EIA. The implementation of the CEMP would be managed on site by a suitably qualified and experienced Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW), with support from other environmental professionals as required.</p>
043	Natural Heritage Designations / Ornithology	In relation to Creag Meagaigh Special Protection Area (SPA), NS note that the scoping report states no dotterel were recorded during survey work. Although this SPA appears unlikely to be affected NS would look to the EIA to confirm that there will be no direct or indirect impacts.	NS – 09	36	Volume 1 - Chapter 9 – Ornithology	<p>Creag Meagaigh SPA and dotterel are discussed in the noted chapter.</p> <p>A shadow HRA has also been undertaken as <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 8.1 – Shadow Habitat Regulations Appraisal</b> and concluded no Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on qualifying interests of Creag Meagaigh SPA.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Will not be published with the EIA Report due to the potential risk to protected species. However, will be issued to the Scottish Ministers and NatureScot.

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044	Natural Heritage Designations / Ornithology	In relation to Loch Knockie and nearby Lochs SPA, NS note that no Slavonian grebes were recorded during survey work, but that they would expect the EIA to confirm there will be no direct or indirect impacts.	NS – 10	36	Volume 1 - Chapter 9 – Ornithology	Loch Knockie and nearby Lochs SPA and Slavonian grebes are discussed in the noted chapter. A shadow HRA has also been undertaken as <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 8.1 – Shadow Habitat Regulations Appraisal</b> and concluded no Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on qualifying interests of Loch Knockie and nearby lochans SPA.
045	Natural Heritage Designations / Ornithology	In relation to Glendoe Lochans Sites of Special Scientific Interest SSSI, NS recommend the EIA considers the potential for disturbance to common scoters connected to the SSSI during access for construction work, and includes details of any mitigation requirements.	NS – 11	36	Volume 1 - Chapter 9 – Ornithology	Effects on Common Scoter connected to the SSSI were considered and subsequently scoped out of further assessment as per the noted chapter.
046	Natural Heritage Designations / Ornithology	In relation to Creag Meagaigh SSSI and Monadhliath SSSI, NS note that these sites are protected in part for their breeding bird interests.	NS – 12	36 - 37	Volume 1 - Chapter 9 – Ornithology	Potential impacts on these SSSIs were considered and scoped out for further assessment as per the noted chapter.
047	Ecology – Deer Displacement	NS recommend that potential for deer displacement to indirectly affect protected areas (and peatland habitats) is considered in line with NatureScot guidance.	NS – 13	37	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 - Ecology	Impacts of deer on neighbouring habitats is considered in the noted chapter.
048	Ornithology	NS welcomed pre-application discussion with the Applicant's consultants on the scope of ornithology survey and outlined that their assessment and advice remains	NS – 14	37	Volume 1 - Chapter 9 – Ornithology	The full suite of ornithology surveys undertaken (detailed in <b>Volume 4 – Appendix 9.1 - Ornithology Technical Report</b> ) follows NatureScot guidance.

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		<p>valid. NS outlined that they have not yet seen full details of the survey methods, results and assessment, so cannot comment on the likely impacts of the proposal at this stage. Prior to submission of any future application NS advise that the Applicant ensure survey methods have followed NS guidance and mitigation also follows NS recommendations.</p> <p>NS recommend survey and assessment also considers the access routes that would be used during construction and relevant buffers around these. This is to allow the potential for disturbance and displacement to be assessed, and any mitigation requirements to be identified (e.g. for Schedule 1 birds).</p>				<p>The approach to assessment and mitigation also follows NatureScot guidance.</p> <p>The assessment within the noted chapter considers access tracks and other ancillary works.</p>
049	Ornithology	<p>NS recommend that collision risk to golden eagles and other relevant species is scoped in for assessment, and that the EIA also considers potential impacts through habitat loss/change, disturbance and/or displacement, for SPA and wider countryside bird populations, both for the Proposed Development on its own and in combination with other projects. NS recommend that assessments for wider countryside birds follow NS guidance. They suggested that GET (Golden Eagle Topographical) modelling may also help</p>	NS – 15	37	Volume 1 - Chapter 9 – Ornithology	<p>Based on the survey findings and the alignment of the Proposed Development, no significant collision risk was predicted and therefore were not taken forward for further assessment, see noted Chapter.</p> <p>Displacement and disturbance for Golden Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine, Golden Plover and Dunlin were taken forward for further assessment.</p>

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		with the assessment of impacts to golden eagles.				
050	Habitats – NVC	NS advise that NVC surveys should cover the whole development site. Target notes should be used to identify the presence of any notable plants including any nationally rare/scarce species. NS recommend that survey results are used to inform the design and layout process, so that the development avoids, where possible, sensitive habitats such as blanket bog and montane heath. Where this is not possible, impacts should be minimised and suitable mitigation, restoration and/or compensation measures be proposed. Assessment should consider the extent of habitat loss and damage, both direct and indirect, temporary and permanent, and suitable mitigation and/or restoration measures be presented in an Outline Habitat Management Plan and Peat Management Plan.	NS – 16	37 - 38	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 - Ecology	<p>Detailed results from NVC surveys and associated target notes (including for notable species) are summarised in the noted chapter and included in <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 8.2 - Melgarve Cluster NVC Report</b> and <b>Volume 2 - Figure 8.3 - National Vegetation Classification (NVC) Survey Area and Results</b>. Results from the surveys were used to inform the iterative design process and avoid or minimise impacts on sensitive habitats where practicable. While impacts on blanket bog are unavoidable in this landscape and site setting, impacts on lichen/bryophyte heath and montane heath/dwarf herb communities have been completely avoided.</p> <p>Compensation and enhancement for loss of peatland habitat will be presented in a HMP (outline provided as <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 8.4 - Melgarve Outline Habitat Management Plan</b>).</p> <p>A Peat Management Plan (PMP) is provided as <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 10.2 – Peat Management Plan</b>, appended to <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 10 – Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology</b>.</p>

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
051	Habitats – Peatland	<p>Assessment of the peatland condition in line with the new guidance, is recommended to be included, in addition to the NVC data. Acknowledged that the survey work for this proposal was completed in advance of this guidance being published.</p> <p>Development proposals on peat should be supported by site-specific and detailed peat survey and a Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment (PLHRA).</p>	NS – 17	38	<p>Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology</p> <p>Volume 1 - Chapter 10 – Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology.</p>	<p>Peatland condition is considered in the noted chapters. In line with guidance the mitigation hierarchy has been followed for peatlands as far as practicable for the Proposed Development in the prevailing setting.</p> <p>Potential impact on peat and proposed safeguards are summarised in this chapter and presented in full in Appendix 10.1: PLHRA and Appendix 10.2: PMP.</p>
052	Habitats – Montane bog	<p>NS not that figures in the Scoping Report indicate that parts of the Proposed Development would be located above 600m. The possibility that these areas include montane bog should therefore be considered. NS guidance recommends that impacts to this habitat type are avoided, as it is particularly sensitive to damage and difficult to restore.</p>	NS – 18	38	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology	<p>Habitat surveys recorded the presence of NVC community M19c above 600m in altitude which generally and broadly correlates to montane bog. Detailed survey results are included in <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 8.2 - Melgarve Cluster NVC Report</b>.</p> <p>The routing and alignment selection process for the Proposed Development has taken into consideration the potential for significant effects on ecological features such as montane bog, and for such effects to be avoided or minimised where possible. This has continued through the EIA process, with survey data informing the siting of infrastructure and access routes to further minimise effects on habitats and species where practicable. This process is detailed in <b>Chapter 2 – Routeing Process and Alternatives</b>.</p>

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
						Potential loss of habitat by NVC community is detailed in the noted chapter, as is the impact assessment on blanket bog habitat, including M19c.
053	Habitats – Peatland	NS advise that site-specific assessments and surveys inform the Proposed Development should ensure compliance with the mitigation hierarchy, avoiding impacts to priority peatland habitats as far as possible. Where impacts cannot be avoided, NS recommend that restoration to achieve offsetting (i.e. compensation rather than biodiversity enhancement) should be in the order of 1:10 (lost:restored), i.e. 1ha loss of peatland should result in measures to restore 10ha of peatland.	NS – 19	38	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology	Noted. The compensation and enhancement proposals for the Proposed Development are set out within the OHMP which is referenced in the noted chapter and in <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 8.4 - Outline Habitat Management Plan.</b>
054	Protected Species	In relation to protected species, NS recommend that all survey, assessment and mitigation follows NS standing advice. Recent guidance on mountain hares may be relevant.	NS – 20	38	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology	Protected species including mountain hare have been surveyed for and considered in line with relevant methodologies and guidance. Results are summarised in the noted chapter with full details of surveys and results presented in <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 8.3 - Protected Species Report</b> and <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 8.3 - Confidential Annex E Protected Species Report</b> . <sup>1</sup>
055	Forestry	Scottish Forestry note that the Proposed Development does not affect forests or	SF - 01	39	Volume 1 - Chapter 4 -	This has been noted and no assessment on forestry has been included in the EIA Report as noted in the specified chapter.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		woodland, as such they have no comments.			Scope and Consultation	
<b>056</b>	Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	SW has no objection to the Proposed Development.	SW – 02	40	N / A	This has been noted.
<b>057</b>	Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology - Scottish Water assets and Drinking Water Protected Areas	<p>SW highlight that some elements of the Proposed Development fall within or partly within SW assets / Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPAs), as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some of the OHL towers fall partly within the Loch Ness drinking water catchment which supplies Invermoriston Water Treatment Works (WTW).</li> <li>- The Cloiche underground cable (UGC) alignment falls wholly within the Loch Ness catchment which supplies Invermoriston WTW.</li> <li>- Other buffers also fall within the Loch Ness catchment which supplies Invermoriston WTW.</li> <li>- The access tracks fall partly within the Loch Ness drinking water catchment which supplies Invermoriston WTW and also fall within the Laggan Bridge Borehole catchment which supplies Laggan Bridge WTW. As this is a small catchment, SW note that great care will need to be taken and the</li> </ul>	SW – 03	41 - 42	Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Assessments of potential impacts on the water environment, including Scottish Water assets and Drinking Water Protected Areas, are included in the noted chapter and include assessment of water quality and quantity.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		appropriate mitigations must be in place to protect water quality and the borehole. In particular attention must be paid to any site run off during wet weather events and the risks of hydrocarbon leaks and spills as if these contaminants were to reach our borehole we would not easily be able to remove them and this would be catastrophic for both parties.				
058	Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology - Scottish Water assets and Drinking Water Protected Areas	SW believe that although it is likely the project will be of low risk to the Loch Ness catchment due to it's size and the areas in the catchment where these activities are taking place, care must be taken and water quality in the site area must be protected. Any work in the Laggan Bridge Borehole catchment is of greater risk as it is a ground water zone of influence and the catchment size is small so any risk from a pollution event is much greater.	SW – 04	41 - 42	Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Assessments of potential impacts on the water environment, including the Laggan Bridge Borehole , are included in the noted chapter.
059	Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology - Scottish Water assets and Drinking Water	SW note that the fact that the activity falls within drinking water catchments should be noted in all documentation. Also anyone working on site should be made aware of this during site inductions.	SW – 05	42	Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	This has been noted. Assessments of potential impacts on drinking water catchments, are included in the noted chapter and mitigations moving forwards are within <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 14 - Schedule of Mitigation of the EIA Report.</b>



No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
	Protected Areas					
060	Peatland	SEPA outlined that they would welcome further pre-application engagement once further peat probing was completed and the layout developed further in relation to the location of towers and supporting infrastructure.	SEPA - 01	44	Chapter 2 - Routing Process and Alternatives	Additional data was provided to SEPA once further peat probing had been completed as described in the noted chapter and referred to in "SEPA – 10" below.
061	Groundwater Dependant Terrestrial Ecosystems	In relation to Groundwater Dependant Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE), SEPA outlined that the final submission should provide an assessment of whether the habitats are actually considered groundwater dependant and mitigation measures applied.	SEPA – 02	45	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology	GWDTE identification is discussed in the noted chapter and GWDTEs are assessed also in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology.</b>
062	Peatland	According to SEPA, demonstrating that the proposal meets the requirements of Policy 5 of NPF4 will be of most significance. Further peat probing information should be provided so that it is ensured that there is depth information available for all locations where infrastructure – including all temporary construction infrastructure – is proposed. It should be clearly demonstrated that the cable corridor (which we note will be 30 m wide), location of	SEPA – 03	45 / 48	Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Potential impacts on peat and proposed mitigation measures are summarised in the noted chapter and discussed in full in <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 10.1 - PLHRA</b> and <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 10.2 - PMP</b> . The results of the site-specific peat depth probing are also presented there.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		individual tower hardstanding's and supporting infrastructure such as tracks avoids the areas of deepest peat and near natural condition habitat, if there are any on the site.				
063	EIA Report Figures	SEPA require that all drawings are submitted at a scale that allows the relationship between baseline information - such as buffers to watercourses, habitat type and peat depth - and infrastructure to be clearly understood. An overarching plan followed by a series of more detailed drawings works well. SEPA also outline other figures that would be required, such as one demonstrating all GWDTE.	SEPA – 04	45 / 51	Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	The figures associated with the noted chapter have been produced at a scale that allows the relationship between baseline information and infrastructure to be clearly understood. <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology</b> also has associated relevant figures, such as <b>Volume 4 - Figure 8.4: Potential Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTEs) Survey Area and Results.</b>
064	Groundwater Dependant Terrestrial Ecosystems	SEPA note that the development will have an impact on habitats that are potentially groundwater dependant. The final submission should provide an assessment of whether the habitats are actually considered groundwater dependant and mitigation measures to maintain local hydrology where necessary.	SEPA - 05	45	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology	Details of the NVC survey are presented in the noted chapter, whilst an assessment of potential GWDTE areas are included in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology.</b>
065	Access	SEPA request that it is ensured that clear information is provided on the type of	SEPA - 06	45 - 46	Volume 1 - Chapter 3 -	This has been noted. Details on the types of access required for the Proposed Development are within the

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		access proposed to be used in each area, and if there is any doubt the impact should be assessed based on the poorest environmentally option. Proposals to use existing tracks, or previously disturbed routes is welcome and should be marked on the plans.			The Proposed Development	noted chapter. <b>Volume 2 – Figure 3.1a – b – The Proposed Development</b> , shows this also.
066	Peatland condition	The Peatland Condition Assessment photographic guide should be used to identify peatland in near natural condition, and can help identify areas for peatland restoration.	SEPA – 07	49	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology	Peatland condition is summarised in the noted chapter and further detailed information is in <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 8.2 - Melgarve Cluster NVC Report</b> .  Peatland condition is also referenced in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology</b> , <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 10.1 – Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment</b> , and <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 10.2 – Peat Management Plan</b> .
067	Outline HMP	The outline HMP should include proposals for reuse of disturbed peat in habitat restoration, if relevant; details of restoration to compensate for the area of peatland habitat directly and indirectly impacted by the development; outline proposals for peatland enhancement in other areas of the site; and monitoring proposals.	SEPA - 08	50	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology	Compensation and enhancement for loss of peatland habitat is summarised in the noted chapter and presented in an Outline HMP (provided as <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 8.4 - Melgarve Outline Habitat Management Plan</b> ).  Re-use of disturbed peat is also considered in <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 10.2 – Peat Management Plan</b> , appended to <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 10 – Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology</b> .
068	Mitigation	SEPA outlined that a schedule of mitigation must be submitted, and it must include	SEPA - 09	52	Volume 1 - Chapter 14 -	A consolidated Schedule of Mitigation is also presented as the noted chapter and it references best

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		reference to best practice pollution prevention and construction techniques.			Schedule of Mitigation	practice pollution prevention and construction techniques.
069	Peatland	<p>In Further pre-application correspondence of 26th December 2023, SEPA outlined that making use of existing infrastructure, or existing disturbed areas is welcomed, and the Proposed Development show how impacts on deeper peat (and good quality habitat) have been minimised.</p> <p>SEPA also included their generic scoping advice for windfarm developments, nearly all of which is also relevant to a project such as this.</p>	SEPA - 10	N / A	Volume 1 - Chapter 2 - Routeing Process and Alternatives	<p>SEPA comments were taken on board, and adjustments were subsequently made to the layout of the Proposed Development to microsite infrastructure onto shallower peat or further from watercourses, where these changes could be accommodated as described in the noted chapter.</p> <p>All generic SEPA advice will be observed wherever relevant and feasible in line with best practice measures outlined in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology, Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology, Volume 4 - Appendix 10.1 – Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment, and Volume 4 - Appendix 10.2 – Peat Management Plan.</b></p>
070	EIA Report	<p>THC outlined that the EIA Report must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the physical characteristics of the development and the land use requirements for construction, operation and decommission phases;</li> <li>a description of the main characteristics of the construction</li> </ol>	THC - 01	54 / 55	Volume 1 - Chapter 3 – The Proposed Development	<p>The noted chapter details the specific elements of the Proposed Development. The assessment of the Proposed Development is undertaken throughout the EIA Report. The following confirms where each point listed in THC’s response has been addressed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See noted chapter;</li> <li>See noted chapter;</li> <li>The potential for accidents and disasters is discussed in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 4: Scope and</b></li> </ol>

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		<p>process, for instance nature and quantity of materials used;</p> <p>c. the risk of accidents, particularly in regard to substances or technologies used;</p> <p>d. an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light / flicker, heat, radiation, etc.) resulting from the operation of the development;</p> <p>e. the estimated cumulative impact of the project with other consented or operation development; and</p> <p>f. a detailed schedule of mitigation.</p>				<p><b>Consultation</b>, confirming that crisis management and continuity plans are in place across the SSE Group to respond to such events.</p> <p>d. This is discussed in relevant chapters of the EIA Report (e.g. <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 4 - Scope and Consultation</b> and <b>Chapter 10 - Geology Hydrology and Hydrogeology</b>).</p> <p>e. The potential for cumulative impacts are considered within each technical chapter of the EIA Report, where relevant.</p> <p>f. Mitigation measures are proposed at the end of each technical chapter. A consolidated Schedule of Mitigation is also presented as <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 14 - Schedule of Mitigation</b> of the EIA Report.</p>
071	Consideration of Alternatives	<p>THC require a statement outlining the alternatives studied by the Applicant. This should highlight the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>range of technologies considered;</li> <li>location criteria and economic parameters;</li> <li>access options including laydown areas and accommodation compounds;</li> </ul>	THC – 02	56	Volume 1 - Chapter 2 - The Routeing Process and Alternatives	<p>A description of the route and alignment selection stage of the project, together with other alternatives considered during the EIA process, can be found in the noted chapter of the EIA Report. The route, alignment and EIA stages of the project have sought to minimise environmental effects as far as practicable.</p>

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>design and locational options for all elements of the development including access tracks, borrow pits and grid connections; and</li> <li>environmental effects of the different options considered.</li> </ul> <p>Such assessment should also highlight sustainable development attributes including for example assessment of carbon emissions.</p>				
<b>072</b>	Assessment	The EIA Report must provide a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected.	THC - 03	56	Volume 1 – All chapters	The assessment of the Proposed Development is undertaken throughout Volume 1 of the EIA Report.
<b>073</b>	Land Use and Policy	THC require that the EIA Report should recognise the existing land uses affected by the development having particular regard for THC's Development Plan inclusive of all statutorily adopted Supplementary Guidance (SG). This is in addition to the expectation of receiving a Planning Statement in support of the application itself which, should comply with the Development Plan, should look at Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Notes.	THC - 04	56	Volume 1 - Chapter 6: Planning and Energy Policy Context  Planning Statement	These policy documents are referenced within the noted chapter and the Planning Statement which accompanies the EIA Report.

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074	Land Use and Policy	<p>THC Development Plans Team note that a range of THC's Development Plan policies will apply to the Proposed Development, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) adopted in 2023;</li> <li>Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP) adopted in 2012;</li> <li>West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan (WestPlan) adopted in 2019;</li> <li>Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan (IMFLDP) adopted 2015;</li> <li>Proposed Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan (IMFLDP2); and</li> <li>Associated Supplementary Guidance.</li> </ul>	THC - 05	56	<p>Volume 1 - Chapter 6: Planning and Energy Policy Context</p> <p>Planning Statement</p>	These policy documents are referenced within the noted chapter and the Planning Statement which accompanies the EIA Report.
075	Land Use and Policy	<p>THC Development Plans Team require that the EIA should address all the relevant issues covered in NPF4 and HwLDP. Including certain aspects local area and settlement strategies contained within WestPlan, IMFLDP and IMFLDP2, that</p>	THC - 06	57	<p>Volume 1 - Chapter 6: Planning and Energy Policy Context</p>	These policy documents are referenced within the noted chapter and the Planning Statement which accompanies the EIA Report.

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		inform plans for community engagement and/or community benefit.			Planning Statement	
076	Land Use and Policy	THC Development Plans Team require the Applicant to use the SLA citations webpage, which summarises key characteristics, qualities, sensitivities, and measurements for enhancements, to assess potential impacts of the proposed development. This is in part due to WestPlan and IMFLDP establishing the boundaries of the SLA's across the plan.	THC - 07	57	Volume 1 - Chapter 6: Planning and Energy Policy Context	SLA citations webpage is referenced within the noted chapter and used in the other chapters where relevant.
077	Land Use and Policy	THC Development Plans Team advise the Applicant to monitor the DPEA Webpage as this provides the most up to date position on the adopted Inner Moray Firth proposed Local Development Plan 2 (IMFPLDP2) 2022, that was submitted to the Scottish Ministers for examination.	THC - 08	57	Volume 1 - Chapter 6: Planning and Energy Policy Context	IMFPLDP2 is discussed in the noted chapter. It is noted that the IMFLDP2 is likely to be the settled view of THC during the course of the determination of the Section 37 application.
078	Land Use and Policy	THC Development Plans Team advise the applicant to monitor the annual Development Plans Newsletter as this provides a timetable of work on the Highland development plan. Once the HLDP is adopted, it will replace all current LDPs and progress can be found within the Newsletter.	THC - 09	57	Volume 1 - Chapter 6: Planning and Energy Policy Context  Planning Statement	HLDP is discussed in the noted chapter and the planning statement. It is noted that the new HLDP is unlikely to be at a stage to have any material weight in the determination of the Proposed Development.



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079	Land Use and Policy	THC Development Plans Team suggests that the commitment of the Council to address Scotland's Climate and Ecological Emergency and its own Climate and Ecological Emergency declaration, must be taken in balance along with all other considerations.	THC - 10	58	Volume 1 - Chapter 6: Planning and Energy Policy Context  Planning Statement	Planning policy is discussed in the noted chapter and the planning statement.
080	Land Use and Policy	THC Development Plans Team outline that they require the consideration of the Developer Contribution, Community Benefit & Community Wealth Building, as the scheme develops.	THC - 11	58	Volume 1 - Chapter 6: Planning and Energy Policy Context  Volume 1 - Chapter 12 - Socio-Economic Recreation and Tourism  Planning Statement	Developer Contribution is primarily discussed in the planning statement, while Community Benefit and Community Wealth Building are described in the noted chapters.
081	Land Use and Policy	THC Development Plans Team note a range of additional observations in respect to the EIA report:  a. The identification of NPF4 as a key planning policy. In particular, Policy 3,	THC - 12	58-59	Volume 1 - Chapter 6: Planning and Energy Policy Context	The noted chapter and planning statement make reference to the relevant policies and guidance in relation to the Proposed Development. The following confirms where each point listed in THC's response has been addressed:

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		<p>with the Biodiversity Planning Guidance (BPG) used by planning authorities to ensure the consistent and proportionate implementation and interpretation of NPF4 Policy 3.</p> <p>b. The identification of the HwLDP must be part of the consideration.</p> <p>c. Establishing SLA boundaries including reference to the WestPlan and the small section of proposed OHL at the northern end of the site within the Inner Moray Firth LDP area.</p> <p>d. THC suggest the use of SSEN's developed Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) toolkit, based on the Nature England Biodiversity Metric.</p> <p>e. THC suggest that regard should still be given to Wild Land considerations even though the Proposed Development sits outwith a Wild Land Area, as WLA19 and WLA20 are in proximity.</p> <p>f. THC advises the applicant to ensure the final route selection should avoid areas of Carbon Rich Soils, Deep Peat and Priority Peatland Habitat (CPP). THC also suggest the developer</p>			Planning Statement	<p>a. Discussed in the noted chapter, planning statement and also <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 8 - Ecology</b>;</p> <p>b. Discussed in the noted chapter and planning statement;</p> <p>c. Discussed in the noted chapter, planning statement and <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual</b>;</p> <p>d. Discussed in the noted chapter, planning statement and <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 8 - Ecology</b> and <b>Volume 4 – Appendix 8.4 Outline Habitat Management Plan</b>;</p> <p>e. Discussed in the noted chapter, planning statement and <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual</b>. A WLA Assessment has been scoped out of the LVIA, but wildness as a characteristic of the landscape has been considered within the assessment of Landscape Character Types, and Wildness as a Special Landscape Quality has been considered in assessment of the Cairngorms National Park, as recommended by NatureScot;</p> <p>f. Discussed in the noted chapter, planning statement and <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 10 – Geology Hydrology and Hydrogeology</b> and <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology</b> for detail on</p>

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		<p>undertake a specific peat assessment to substantially overcome significant effects on CPP.</p> <p>g. THC suggest that the developer should review the Loch Ness Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal which can be found as part of the Council's adopted Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (2016).</p>				<p>Carbon Rich Soils, Deep Peat and Priority Peatland Habitat. Described in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 2 - The Routeing Process and Alternatives</b> and <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 4 - Scope and Consultation</b> is how avoidance of these were a consideration as the design of the Proposed Development progressed; and</p> <p>g. Discussed in the planning statement. The Loch Ness Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal has been reviewed and given consideration in the assessment in terms of landscape sensitivity in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual</b>.</p>
082	Sustainability	THC outline that a Sustainable Design Statement is required which includes details on design, building materials and minimising environmental impacts of development.	THC - 13	60	Planning Statement	A Sustainable Design Statement is included in the Planning Statement.
083	Landscape and Visual	THC outline the need for the distinction between landscape and visual contexts, and so therefore require separate assessments, without the use of panoramic imagery for the visual impact assessment.	THC -14	60	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual	The LVIA in the noted chapter considers and assesses the subjects of landscape and visual amenity separately.
084	Landscape and Visual	THC outline the use of visual imagery to provide existing and proposed photomontages to assist with the	THC - 15	60	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 –	Photomontages to assist with the assessment and determination of the EIA are included in accordance with NS guidance in Volume 3a and in accordance

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		<p>assessment and determination of the EIA. THC outlined that the LVIA should provide a Zone of Theoretical Visibility analysis.</p> <p>THC suggest that assessments should be prepared to Highland Council Standards and cover impacts of all elements of the Proposed Development, including grid connection, security fencing any tree felling and any lighting, and be provided in an A3 hard copy.</p> <p>THC recommended some additional viewpoint methodology guidance and outlined requirements for viewpoints.</p>			<p>Landscape and Visual</p> <p>Volume 3a - Visualisations to Naturescot Guidelines</p> <p>Volume 3b - Visualisations to The Highland Council Guidelines</p>	<p>with THC guidance are included in Volume 3b of the EIA. They cover all relevant impacts of all elements of the Proposed Development and will be provided in an A3 hard copy.</p> <p>As described in the noted chapter, the visual assessment is receptor-based and considers all potential receptors within the study area rather than a small number of viewpoints, which provides a more detailed and robust assessment. The visualisations are illustrative of the types of view that would be obtained and are considered fully representative of visual receptors using the study area.</p>
085	Landscape and Visual	THC require that all core paths, the national cycle network, long distance trail, all used by a range of receptors, are assessed when considering the impacts on recreational routes.	THC – 16	61	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual	The noted chapter considered impacts on recreational routes. <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 12 - Socio-Economic Recreation and Tourism</b> and its associated appendix ( <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 12.1 - Draft Outdoor Access Management Plan</b> ) also considers impacts on recreational routes.
086	Landscape and Visual	THC require a landscaping, management and maintenance scheme for the site, using locally sourced materials to landscape the new site and restore the old.	THC – 17	61	Volume 4 - Appendix 3 3 - Outline Site Restoration Plan	No planting is proposed as part of the Proposed Development and therefore there is no requirement for maintenance and management of planting. Reinstatement of vegetation and habitats is discussed in the noted appendix.
087	Landscape and Visual	THC suggests carefully considering the comments made by the Council's Landscape Officer at the PREAPP stage, in	THC – 18	61	Volume 1 - Chapter 7 –	The LVIA in the noted chapter considers THC comments. <b>Volume 1 – Chapter 4 - Scope and</b>

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		the project design, and incorporating the LVIA section of the EIA.			Landscape and Visual	<b>Consultation</b> summarised how comments before scoping stage were addressed.
088	Ecology and Ornithology	THC requires a chapter in the EIA on ecology, habitats and ornithology, providing a baseline survey of birds and animals of interest, categorically establish species present on the site. It should also identify rare and threatened habitats, alongside habitat enhancement and mitigation measures.	THC – 20	61	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology  Volume 1 - Chapter 9 – Ornithology	The EIA has an ecology chapter which covers ecology and habitats and an ornithology chapter. The relevant ecological and ornithological survey results and associated assessments can be found in the respective noted chapters.  Mitigation measures are proposed at the end of each technical chapter. A consolidated Schedule of Mitigation is also presented as <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 14 - Schedule of Mitigation</b> of the EIA Report.
089	Ornithology	THC require the inclusion of protected species such as Schedule 1 Birds or European Protected Species, and be included as part of the application process, not as an issue that can be considered at a later stage.	THC – 21	61	Volume 1 - Chapter 9 – Ornithology	These have been considered as part of the assessment in the noted chapter.
090	Ecology	THC require the EIA to address the likely impacts on the nature conservation interests close to the Proposed Development, providing proposal for any appropriate mitigation measures.	THC - 22	61	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology	This has been considered as part of the assessment in the noted chapter. Mitigation measures are proposed at the end of each technical chapter. A consolidated Schedule of Mitigation is also presented as <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 14 - Schedule of Mitigation</b> of the EIA Report.

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091	Ecology	THC require the EIA to address the aquatic interests within the local watercourses that may be affected by development.	THC – 23	62	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology	This has been considered as part of the assessment in the noted chapter. Local watercourses and also considered in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology.</b>
092	Ecology and Ornithology	THC encourages the applicant to provide a Shadow Habitat Regulation Appraisal (HRA) and appropriate assessment with the application.	THC – 24	62	Volume 4 – Appendix 8.1 - Shadow HRA	A detailed assessment of the impacts on the qualifying features of the River Spey SAC has been undertaken in a Shadow HRA for the Proposed Development. This makes up the noted appendix.
093	Natural Heritage Designations	<p>THC outlined the following natural heritage designations which should be considered in the EIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) River Spey SAC - protected for salmon, freshwater pearl mussel, sea lamprey and otter;</li> <li>b) Loch Knockie and nearby Lochs SPA - protected for breeding Slavonian grebe;</li> <li>c) Creag Meagaidh SPA - protected for breeding dotterel;</li> <li>d) Monadhliath SAC and Creag Meagaidh SAC - protected for upland habitats;</li> <li>e) Glendoe Lochans SSSI - protected for breeding common scoter and Slavonian grebe; and</li> <li>f) Monadhliath SSSI and Creag Meagaidh SSSI - a range of upland features.</li> </ul>	THC - 25	62 - 63	<p>Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology</p> <p>Volume 1 - Chapter 9 – Ornithology</p> <p>Volume 4 – Appendix 8.1 – Shadow HRA</p>	<p>The relevant ecological and ornithological noted chapters and the noted appendix consider these natural heritage designations. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Assessment of impacts on the qualifying features of the River Spey SAC has been undertaken in the noted Shadow HRA for the Proposed Development.</li> <li>b) The noted shadow HRA has been undertaken and considered the qualifying interests of Loch Knockie and nearby lochans SPA.</li> <li>c) The noted shadow HRA has been undertaken and considered the qualifying interests of Creag Meagaidh SPA.</li> <li>d) These designated sites are considered to have no connectivity with the Proposed Development as discussed in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology.</b></li> <li>e) Protected species have been surveyed for and considered in line with relevant methodologies</li> </ul>

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						and guidance. Results are summarised <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 9 – Ornithology.</b> f) These designated sites are considered to have no connectivity with the Proposed Development as discussed in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology.</b>
<b>094</b>	Protected Species	The presence of protected species such as European Protected Species must be included and considered as part of the application process.  Surveys for other protected species will be required, including badger and pine marten. Should any mature trees require work to facilitate this proposal, red squirrel and bats should be considered.	THC - 26	63	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology	Protected species have been surveyed for and considered in line with relevant methodologies and guidance. Results are summarised in the noted chapter, with full details of surveys and results presented in <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 8.3 - Protected Species Report.</b>
<b>095</b>	Ornithology	Potential impacts to wider countryside birds should be assessed against the relevant Natural Heritage Zone (NHZ) population (NHZ10 Central Highlands for this proposal).	THC - 27	63	Volume 1 - Chapter 9 – Ornithology	Assessment on species taken forward for further assessment have been assessed against NHZ10 populations in the noted chapter.
<b>096</b>	Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology	THC require the EIA to fully describe the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the local geology including aspects such as earthworks, site restoration and the soil generally including direct effects and any indirect. The	THC – 28	63	Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology Hydrology and Hydrogeology	The noted chapter addresses potential likely significant effects on soils, geology and the water environment.  A site specific Peat Management Plan (PMP) ( <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 10.2 – Peat Management</b>

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		Proposed Development should demonstrate construction practices that help to minimise the use of raw materials and maximise the use of secondary aggregates and recycled or renewable materials. The EIA should include a table detailing the volumes of soil and sand being excavated and where and how this will be reused within the site. The soils balance calculation should demonstrate whether additional material will be required or will be generated.				<b>Plan</b> ) has been prepared which shows how soils and peat will be safeguarded.
<b>097</b>	Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology	THC require the demonstration that any significant effects (on sensitive peatland) can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation with the routing informed by habitat survey, hydrological assessment and peat probing results, so that it avoids direct and indirect impacts to priority peatland habitats. Where impacts cannot be avoided, they should be minimised. Full details of mapped information on peatland habitats to NVC level together with a detailed description of current condition will be required. Habitat loss and damage, both direct and indirect, should be determined with suitable mitigation and/or restoration measures	THC - 29	63	Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology Hydrology and Hydrogeology	<p>Potential impacts on peat and proposed mitigation measures are summarised in the noted chapter and discussed in full in <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 10.1 – Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment (PLHRA)</b> and <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 10.2: PMP</b>.</p> <p>Further information on NVC survey and habitat restoration is considered in in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 8: Ecology</b>.</p>



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		presented in peat and habitat management plans. Peatland surveys will be required. A Peat Slide Risk Assessment may also be required.				
098	Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology	THC suggest that the application should be supported by a detailed peat survey report and calculations showing how much peat will be disturbed by the different elements of the development (broken down into acrotelmic and catotelmic layer) and how and where disturbed peat will be reused on site or elsewhere. The finalised layout plans should be demonstrated to (1) avoid the areas of deepest peat and best quality habitat (2) keep the footprint of each aspect of the development as small as possible and (3) use construction methods, such as floating or piling to reduce impact on peat as much as possible. Specific care will need to be taken to determine the location of construction works which if poorly located and designed could disturb more peat than the final development.	THC – 30	64	Volume 4 - Appendix 10.2: PMP	The noted appendix presents a detailed plan of peat depths, confirms the peat excavation quantities and characteristics of the peat.
099	Habitats	THC acknowledge that there are Annex 1 habitat types within the corridor area and suggest that where possible, development should avoid sensitive habitats, and where	THC – 31	64	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology	Annex 1 habitat types and <b>restoration and/or compensation measures</b> where avoidance of Annex 1 habitat types is not possible are discussed in

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		not possible, should propose suitable restoration and/or compensation measures.				the noted chapter and <b>Volume 4 – Appendix 8.4 Outline Habitat Management Plan</b> . A consolidated Schedule of Mitigation is also presented as <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 14 - Schedule of Mitigation</b> of the EIA Report.
100	Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology, – GWDTE habitats	THC suggest that the development should avoid direct impacts on any rare groundwater dependant habitats and protect their water supply, and if relevant, outline mitigation measures to protect the GWDTE habitats, within the NVC survey conducted within 250m of any proposed infrastructure.	THC – 32	64	Volume 1 - Chapter 8 – Ecology	Details of the NVC survey are presented in the noted chapter, whilst an assessment on potential GWDTE areas are included in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology Hydrology and Hydrogeology</b> .
101	Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology	THC require the EIA to address the nature of the hydrology and hydrogeology of the site, and the potential impacts on water course, water supplies including private supplies, water quality, water quantity and on aquatic flora and fauna. THC also require the EIA to assess sensitive receptors and measures of prevention.	THC - 33	64	Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Potential effects on the water environment, including sensitive receptors and measures of prevention are considered in the noted chapter.
102	Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology	A map and assessment of all engineering activities in or impacting on the water environment including proposed buffers, details of any flood risk assessment, and	THC – 34	64	Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology Hydrology and Hydrogeology	The noted chapter summarises these points. <b>Volume 2 - Figure 10.1 - Local Hydrology</b> shows water features, including SEPA CAR authorised sites and the Proposed Development.

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		<p>details of any related CAR applications will be required to be included with the EIA.</p> <p>The EIA will be expected to identify all water crossings and include a systematic table of watercourse crossings or channelising, with detailed justification for any such elements and design to minimise impact. The table should be accompanied by photography of each watercourse affected and include dimensions of the watercourse.</p>				<p>A schedule of watercourse crossings is included in <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 10.3 - Schedule of Watercourse Crossings.</b></p>
103	Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology	<p>THC outline the need for, and information on, abstractions of water supplies for concrete works or other operations should also be identified. The EIA should identify whether a public or private source is to be utilised. If a private source is to be utilised, full details on the source and details of abstraction need to be provided.</p> <p>An investigation will be required to identify any private water supplies, including pipework, which may be adversely affected by the development and to submit details of the measures proposed to prevent contamination or physical disruption. This information should be in the form of a map and assessment of impacts upon</p>	THC - 35	65	Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology Hydrology and Hydrogeology	<p>Potential impacts to private water supplies are considered in the noted chapter, as is recommended mitigation measures for works involving concrete.</p>

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		groundwater abstractions and buffers. An on-site survey will be required.				
104	Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology – Flood Risk and Surface Water Drainage	<p>The Council's Flood Risk Management Team had no comment to make. However, it was noted that a minimum of a buffer of all watercourses/bodies from buildings, accesses, paths should be noted and shown on a suitably scaled drawing. Various flood risk and surface water Drainage</p> <p>Principles, design standards and best practice measures for the management and control of drainage were highlighted by THC, and they confirm that water crossings in the form of culverts or bridges, or upgrades to existing crossings must be designed to accommodate to 1 in 200 year flood event, plus climate change; and the EIA should be informed by the Council's Flood Risk and Drainage Impact Assessment SG.</p> <p>THC outline that the Proposed Development must meet the treatment requirements of the Ciria SuDS Manual C753 and THC outline that they would require a drainage strategy for the site.</p>	THC - 36	65	Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology Hydrology and Hydrogeology	<p>Buffers from watercourses are noted in the highlighted chapter and shown on its associated figures.</p> <p>Relevant mitigations are also described in the noted chapter. It is confirmed that watercourse crossings would be sized to pass the 0.5% AEP plus an allowance for climate change.</p> <p>Principles, design standards and best practice measures for the management and control of drainage that would be adopted by the Principal Contractor and are detailed and broken down within the noted chapter. These would be developed further as part of the CEMP.</p>
105	Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology	THC requires a schedule of mitigation at the application stage including best practice pollution prevention and construction techniques and regulatory requirements. The schedule of mitigation should bring	THC – 37	66	Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology Hydrology and Hydrogeology	<p>Required mitigation measures and best practice that would be adopted is presented in the noted Chapter. A consolidated Schedule of Mitigation is also presented as <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 14 - Schedule of Mitigation</b> of the EIA Report.</p>

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		together all the mitigation measures outlined in the EIA Report with reference to the Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPPs).				
106	Noise	THC note that the Environmental Health Team are satisfied that construction noise can be scoped out of any further assessment but is expected that the developer/contractor will implement best practicable means to reduce the impact of noise from construction activities. THC note that operational noise can be scoped out of further assessment.	THC – 38	66	Volume 1 - Chapter 4 - Scope and Consultation	This is noted and has been scoped out of further assessment.
107	Private Water Supplies	THC note that the applicant will be required to carry out an investigation to identify any private water supplies, including pipework, which may be adversely affected by the development.	THC – 39	67	Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Assessment of potential impacts to private water supplies is included in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 10 - Geology Hydrology and Hydrogeology.</b>
108	Contaminated Land	THC note that further information is not required to support the application as there does not appear to be a potential source of contamination onsite.	THC - 40	67	Volume 1 - Chapter 4 - Scope and Consultation	This is noted. No detailed assessment of contaminated land was deemed necessary.
109	Cultural Heritage	THC note that The Council's Historic Environment team has not provided further feedback. However, it is still set out that an assessment will be required to consider the potential indirect impacts including a study	THC - 41	67	Volume 1 - Chapter 13 – Cultural Heritage	Assessment of the indirect effects on designated cultural heritage assets are included within the noted chapter.

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		of cumulative impacts on Scheduled Monument (SM) 6129 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Melgarve to Allt Ruadh. THC also note several features of interest are recorded within or close to the Proposed Development.				
110	Traffic and Transport	THC note that the Council's Transport Planning Team has not provided further comments. However, THC make a request for funding works associated with the South Loch Ness Road Improvement Strategy to offset impacts on the B851 and B862.	THC - 42	67	Volume 1 - Chapter 11 - Traffic and Transport	The request for funding works associated with the South Loch Ness Road Improvement Strategy to offset impacts on the B851 and B862 has not been considered for reasons described in the noted chapter.
111	Traffic and Transport	A Transport Statement (TS) would be required and should include cumulative development flows, access junction drawings, swept path drawings, High National Road Traffic Forecast (NRTF), seasonal adjustments and be in compliance with Transport Scotland guidance. Cumulative impact should also be considered within TS.	THC - 43	67	Volume 1 - Chapter 11 - Traffic and Transport	Appended to the noted chapter is a Transport Assessment ( <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 11.1 – Transport Assessment</b> ). Low NRTF has been used to ensure that the development impact cannot be hidden by higher growth factors. This is a more robust approach.  All proposed access junctions are existing and have been previously approved by THC for similar construction works. As such, no drawings are required.
112	Traffic and Transport	THC recommend the inclusion of a framework Travel Plan (TP) to encourage more sustainable travel modes, and, as far	THC - 44	68	Volume 1 - Chapter 11 - Traffic and Transport	A Travel Plan is included as proposed mitigation in the noted chapter and in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 14 - Schedule of Mitigation</b> .

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		as possible, discourage single occupancy car journeys to and from the development.				
113	External Lighting	THC noted that any external lighting provided shall be to the satisfaction of the Council.	THC - 45	68	N / A	No external lighting is proposed as part of the Proposed Development, so this has not been considered in the EIA.
114	Traffic and Transport	THC suggest a Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) to be included within the TS.	THC - 46	68	Volume 1 - Chapter 11 - Traffic and Transport	Details relating to a CTMP are summarised in the noted chapter and in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 14 - Schedule of Mitigation</b> . A Framework CTMP is also provided in Section 8 of <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 11.1 - Transport Assessment</b> .
115	Traffic and Transport	THC noted that any requirements for Abnormal Load Routing (AIL) will need to be identified.	THC - 47	68	N / A	There are no AIL proposed in relation to the Proposed Development, so this has not been considered in this EIA Report.
116	Traffic and Transport	THC note that a suitable agreement relating to Section 96 of the Roads (Scotland) Act and appropriate planning legislation may be required.	THC - 48	69	Volume 1 - Chapter 11 - Traffic and Transport	Details on a Wear & Tear agreement is included in the noted chapter and in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 14 - Schedule of Mitigation</b> .
117	Traffic and Transport – Site Compound	THC noted that site compound connection routes should be identified.	THC - 49	69	Volume 1 - Chapter 3 – The Proposed Development	As outlined in the noted chapter, only temporary construction compounds would be required to facilitate construction of the Proposed Development. The final location and design of temporary site compounds would be confirmed by the Principal Contractor and separate planning permissions would be sought as required.

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118	Waste Management	THC noted that details of waste management in new developments should be provided in accordance with THC's planning guidance.	THC - 50	69	N / A	This applies to residential development, not grid connection infrastructure, so it has not been considered in this EIA Report.
119	Socio-Economic, Tourism and Recreation	<p>THC outline that a Socio-Economic, Tourism and Recreation EIA chapter is required. It is stated that the EIA should estimate who may be affected by the development, in all or in part, which may require individual households to be identified, local communities or a wider socio economic groupings such as tourists and tourist related businesses, recreational groups, economically active, etc. The application should include relevant economic information connected with the project, including the potential number of jobs, and economic activity associated with the procurement, construction and operation of the development.</p> <p>It is outlined that the EIA must also assess the potential impact on, and mitigation for, public access incorporating core paths, public rights of way, long distance routes, other paths and wider access rights across the site.</p>	THC -51	69	Volume 1 - Chapter 12 - Socio-Economic Recreation and Tourism	<p>An overview of the socio-economic, recreation and tourism baseline position is presented and the stated impact in terms of economic (jobs, turnover and Gross Value Added (GVA) and social impacts, and the wider community impacts are provided in the noted chapter of the EIA Report.</p> <p>An Outdoor Access Management Plan will be prepared for the Proposed Development prior to construction, a draft of which is provided in <b>Volume 4 - Appendix 12.1 – Draft Outdoor Access Management Plan.</b></p> <p><b>Volume 1 - Chapter 7 - Landscape and Visual</b> also assesses potential visibility of the Proposed Development from recreational interests.</p>



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120	Health and Safety	THC suggest that despite general health and safety at work is not expected within an EIA, it may be beneficial to undertake a risk(s) assessment to help the development meet the requirements of relevant health and safety legislation.	THC - 52	70		The development would be constructed and operated in accordance with relevant health and safety legislation.
121	Forestry	THC note that a full forestry chapter within the EIA is not to be required but the Applicant will be required to provide an assessment of impact on recently planted woodland (required as a condition of the planning permission amendments to the substation (17/03830/FUL)). Details of compensatory planting proposals as a part of this assessment would be required.	THC - 53	70	Volume 1 - Chapter 4 - Scope and Consultation	It is outlined in the noted chapter that forestry is scoped out of the EIA. However, as stated in <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 3 - The Proposed Development</b> the Applicant will seek to minimise the impact on previously planted areas within the substation boundary where possible during detailed design. It is proposed that a future application to THC will be submitted to vary the landscaping condition of consent for Melgarve substation, and propose appropriate compensatory planting requirements for any loss.
122	Significant Effects on the Environment	THC require the EIA to describe the likely effects of the development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects of any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development.	THC - 54	71	Throughout the EIA Report	The assessment of likely significant environmental effects is undertaken within each of the technical chapters of Volume 1.
123	Mitigation	A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce, and where possible offset	THC - 55	71	Volume 1 – All Chapters	Mitigation measures are proposed at the end of each technical chapter. A consolidated Schedule of

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		any significant adverse effects on the environment must be set out within the EIA Report. A clear summary table of all mitigation measures associated with the Proposed Development should be provided and entitled draft 'Schedule of Mitigation' and clarify where other groups are involved in its implementation.				Mitigation is also presented as <b>Volume 1 - Chapter 14 - Schedule of Mitigation</b> of the EIA Report.
124	Mitigation	THC suggests that it should be made clear within the EIA or supporting information, exactly which groups are involved in local liaisons, the remit of the group and the management and resourcing of the required effort.	THC - 56	72	Volume 1 - Chapter 3 – The Proposed Development	<p>This has been noted. SSEN Transmission considers it important to act as a responsible developer with regards to the communities which host the construction works. The delivery of a major programme of capital investment provides the opportunity to maximise support of local communities. Employment of construction staff would be the responsibility of the Contractor; however, the Applicant would encourage the Contractor to make use of suitable labour and resources from areas local to the Proposed Development where possible.</p> <p>This will be discussed further with THC and local community groups prior to the commencement of construction.</p>
125	Cultural Heritage	THC Historic Environment Team provided further comment on 7th March 2024 outlining that they confirm that there is justification in carrying out a Cultural Heritage Assessment to illustrate the	THC – 57	N / A	Volume 1 - Chapter 13 – Cultural Heritage	Assessment of the indirect effects on the designated cultural heritage asset of Corrieyairack Pass are included within the noted chapter.

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		impacts on the scheduled pass and perhaps more importantly, the approach to the pass from the east (which will form part of its setting).				
126	EMC and microwave radio links	Joint Radio Company (JRC) requested the tower heights and positions to check against their own asset database. They did not supply a follow up response.	JRC-01	N / A	Volume 1 - Chapter 4 - Scope and Consultation	<p>SSEN Transmission supplied Indicative Tower Schedule to ECU as requested following Joint Radio Companies response ( in November 2023. An Indicative Tower Schedule is also included in the EIA Report with grid references and tower heights for each <b>tower Volume 4 - Appendix 3.1 – Indicative Tower Schedule.</b></p> <p>Operational effects of additional electromagnetic interference to medium and long wave (AM) radio signals and TV signals were scoped out of the EIA Report as noted in the specified chapter.</p>