

Melgarve Cluster Project

EIA Report:
Volume 1 - Main Report

March 2024

VOLUME 1: MAIN REPORT

CONTENTS

Contents and Glossary

Chapter 1: Introduction and Background

Chapter 2: The Routeing Process and Alternatives

Chapter 3: The Proposed Development

Chapter 4: Scope and Consultation

Chapter 5: EIA Process and Methodology

Chapter 6: Planning and Energy Policy Context

Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual

Chapter 8: Ecology

Chapter 9: Ornithology

Chapter 10: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology

Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport

Chapter 12: Socio-Economic Recreation and Tourism

Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage

Chapter 14: Schedule of Mitigation

GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

132 kV	132 kilovolt (132,000 volt) operating voltage electrical circuit
The 1989 Act	The Electricity Act 1989
AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic
AIL	Abnormal Indivisible Load
AM	Amplitude Modulation (medium and long wave radio signals)
ATC	Automatic Traffic Counter
AWI	Ancient Woodland Inventory
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BGS	British Geological Survey
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
BoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
CAR	Controlled Activities Regulations
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CMLI	Chartered Members of the Landscape Institute
CNP	Cairngorms National Park
CNPA	Cairngorms National Park Authority
CP	Core Path
CSE	Cable Sealing End
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DfT	Department for Transport
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges
DTM	Digital Terrain Model
DWPA	Drinking Water Protection Area
EC	European Commission
ECoW	Environmental Clerk of Works
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMF	Electric and Magnetic Fields

EPZ	Equi-Potential Zones
ERLOB	European Red List of Bird Species
ESQCR	Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations
EU	European Union
FWPM	Fresh Water Pearl Mussel
GBRs	General Binding Rules
GEMPs	General Environmental Management Plans
GET	Golden Eagle Topographical Model
GI	Ground Investigation
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPP	Guidance for Pollution Prevention
GVLIA3	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition
GWP	Global Warming Potential
GWDTE	Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems
Ha	Hectare. An area measuring 10,000 square metres
HER	Historic Environment Record
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
HMP	Habitat Management Plan
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal
HwLDP	Highland-wide Local Development Plan
ICNIRP	International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection
IEFs	Important Ecological Features
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
IMFLDP	The Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan
IMFpLDP2	Inner Moray Firth proposed Local Development Plan 2
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
IOF	Important Ornithological Feature
IROPI	Imperative reasons of overriding public interest
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LB	Listed Building
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LCT	Landscape Character Type

LGV	Light Goods Vehicles
LI	Landscape Institute
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LoD	Limit of Deviation
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
MD – SEDD	Marine Directorate – Science Evidence Data and Digital
MDMG	Monadhliath Deer management Group
mph	miles per hour
NBN	National Biodiversity Network
NCR	National Cycle Route
NeSTS	New Suite of Transmission Structures
NGR	National Grid Reference
NHZ	National Heritage Zone
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NPF4	Fourth National Planning Framework
NRPB	National Radiological Protection Board
NRTF	National Road Traffic Forecast
NS	NatureScot
NVC	National Vegetation Classification
OC	Operational Corridor
OHL	Overhead Line. An electric line installed above ground, usually supported by lattice steel towers or wooden poles.
OHMP	Outline Habitat Management Plan
OPGW	Optical Ground Wire
OS	Ordnance Survey
PAN	Planning Advice Notice
PLHRA	Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessment
PMP	Peat Management Plan
PPG	Pollution Prevention Guidance Notes
Proposed Development	The Proposed Development is taken to be the description of: the OHL and UGC components, cable sealing ends, access arrangements and any associated construction activities and land-use requirements.
PWS	Private Water Supply
PRA	Preliminary Roost Assessments

RDMA	Red Deer Management Area
RFI	Radio Frequency Interference
RSA	Road Safety Audits
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area of Conservation – designated under Directive 92/42/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (known as – The Habitats Directive)
SBL	Scottish Biodiversity List
SDMP	Strategic Deer Management Plan
Section 37	An application for development consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SERAD	Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SLQ	Special Landscape Qualities
SM	Scheduled Monument
SNH	Scottish National Heritage
SPA	Special Protection Area – designated under Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the Birds Directive)
SPP	Scottish Planning Policy
SPP	Species Protection Plans
SSEN Transmission	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission, operating under licence as Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc – part of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, and the transmission licence holder for the transmission of electricity in the north of Scotland
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest – designated by SNH under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
T5 DTM	Terrain 5 Digital Terrain Model
TA	Transport Assessment
THC	The Highland Council
TS	Transport Scotland
UGC	Underground Cable. An electric line installed below ground.
UKBAP	United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan
VL	Visualisation Location
WANE	Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011
WCA	Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended)

West Plan	West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan
WEWS	Water Environment and Water Services
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WLA	Wind Land Areas
WQFMP	Water Quality and Fish Monitoring Plan
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility – the computer-generated theoretical visibility of an object in the landscape