

## CONTENTS

<b>10.</b>	<b>SCHEDULE OF MITIGATION</b>	<b>10-3</b>
10.1	Introduction	10-3
10.2	Summary of Measures	10-3

Rev						
	Prepared By		Checked By		Approved By	Date of Issue
0.1.0						
0.2.0	CB		TW			05.10.2022

## 10. SCHEDULE OF MITIGATION

### 10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 The purpose of this Chapter is to provide a summary of mitigation measures proposed throughout this Environmental Appraisal (EA), to minimise or offset the potential effects of the Proposed Development on the receiving environment.

### 10.2 Summary of Measures

10.2.1 **Table 10-1** provides a summary of those mitigation measures identified throughout the EA related to the OHL elements of the Proposed Development. Mitigation measures specific to the UGC elements are outlined within **Appendix 1.1**, where relevant.

**Table 10-1: Schedule of Mitigation Measures**

Topic	Issue	Mitigation Reference	Mitigation / Monitoring Measure	Responsibility
<b>General</b>	Working Hours	G1	Construction activities would in general be undertaken during daytime periods only. For weekdays, this would involve work between approximately 07:00 to 19:00 in the summer and 07:30 to 17:00 (or as daylight allows) in the winter. On Saturdays, the working hours would be approximately 07:00 to 13:00 in the summer and 07:30 to 13:00 (or as daylight allows) in the winter. Any variation in these working hours would be agreed in advance with The Highland Council (THC).	Contractor
	Environmental Management	G2	The development and implementation of a site specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). This document will detail how the Principal Contractor would manage the site in accordance with all commitments and mitigation detailed in the EA Report, statutory consents and authorisations, industry best practise and guidance. The CEMP will also reference General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) and Species Protection Plans (SPPs), which have been developed by SSEN Transmission and are included in <b>Appendix 3.1</b> and <b>Appendix 3.2</b> of this EA Report. The implementation of the CEMP will be managed on site by a suitably qualified and experienced Environmental Clerk of Works (ECOW), with support from other environmental professionals as required.	Contractor / SSEN Transmission
	Pollution Control	G3	Best practice control measures, with reference to SEPA and Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) guidelines, will be included in the CEMP. Particular reference will be made to managing handling, storage and use of hazardous chemicals and fuels used in the construction process. A detailed spill response plan will be developed and fully-briefed to all site operatives and forms part of the CEMP.	Contractor
		G4	Suitable pollution control measures will be implemented to ensure the deployment of silt traps to prevent flow of silt across vegetation.	Contractor

	Traffic Management	G5	The development and implementation of a site specific Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). To address potential impacts from construction traffic and describe all mitigation and signage measures that are proposed on public road accesses, a CTMP will be prepared pre-construction in consultation with THC and Transport Scotland.	Contractor
	Traffic Management	G6	Access along key routes including the U1663 Auchterawe Road would be maintained throughout the construction period. Construction works near the A887 will be managed to avoid disruption during the months of July and August.	Contractor
	Traffic Management	G7	Access along or crossing core paths, including CP IN16.16 would be managed via an Outdoor Access Plan which would form part of the CTMP.	Contractor
<b>Landscape and Visual</b>	Mitigation of Adverse Landscape and Visual Effects	LV1	No specific mitigation measures are proposed. General best practice measures during construction, and a high standard of reinstatement as will be set out in the CEMP will assist in minimising the degree of landscape and visual effects.	Contractor / SSEN Transmission
	Site Reinstatement	LV2	Following commissioning of the Proposed Development, all construction sites and disturbed ground will be reinstated and implemented through good practice and construction management, as set out in the site specific CEMP.	Contractor / SSEN Transmission
	Removal of Vegetation	LV3	Construction of the Proposed Development will involve tree felling. Felling of trees near receptor locations will be minimised as far as practicable.	Contractor
<b>Nature Conservation</b>	Environmental Clerk of Works	NC1	A site based ECoW will be appointed to oversee environmental management during the construction of the Proposed Development and implement commitments made in site specific CEMP, as well as relevant GEMPs and SPPs (see Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 3.2). Toolbox Talks (TBTs) will be provided by the ECoW to site personnel on relevant site sensitivities, legislation and guidance associated with the sensitivity and good practice guidance. TBTs will also cover appropriate information with reference to any mitigation measures in place for protected species or habitats. The ECoW will have the	Contractor / ECoW

			authority to 'stop the job / activity' if a breach or potential breach of mitigation or legislation occurs.	
	Excavation and Reinstatement	NC2	Where excavation is required (e.g., to create temporary access tracks), excavated materials will be stored according to best practice taking care to separate, as far as is reasonable, vegetation turves, topsoils, soil and boulders to ensure successful reinstatement.	Contractor
	Habitats	NC3	During construction activities, surface water flows will be captured through a series of cut off drains to prevent water entering excavations or eroding exposed surfaces. If dewatering is required, pumped discharges will be passed through silt / sediment control measures.	Contractor
		NC4	Micrositing of pole locations would seek to minimise the extent of construction work within wetland and peatland habitat including GWDTE habitats. Where this cannot be avoided, pole locations would be microsited, informed by peat probing surveys, in order to avoid the deeper areas of peat.	Contractor
		NC5	The location of new temporary access tracks would be microsited to avoid GWDTE habitats where possible and vehicular access would be restricted across unprotected ground beyond the footprint of each pole location. Proposed works would avoid other sensitive habitats where possible (e.g. blanket bog). This would not be possible in some locations (e.g. on blanket bog near Bhlaraidh Wind Farm extension substation and on wet modified bog in Inverwick forest). In these areas temporary Trackway and the use of specialised low ground bearing pressure vehicles would be employed to prevent damage to the surface vegetation, avoid compaction of the peat beneath and maintain hydrological pathways to prevent the temporary infrastructure from affecting these habitats and associated hydrology. Temporary Trackway would be microsited away from any features such as hags and bare peat to avoid any further risk of erosion.	Contractor
		NC6	In areas of native woodland the felling area will be minimised as far as possible. Individual mature and veteran trees at the edges of wayleaves and access corridors will be identified, marked and root	Contractor

			protection zones established to prevent additional loss of trees at the boundaries of the required felling area.	
Protected Species	NC7		Prior to construction commencing, a suitably qualified ecologist or ECoW will undertake pre-construction survey(s) to ascertain the presence and level of activity of all protected mammal species in the area.	Contractor
	NC8		The Contractor will be responsible for adherence to specific measures set out in SSEN Transmission's SPP which include mitigation to reduce the likelihood of disturbance, mortality and injury to foraging protected species utilising the area surrounding the Proposed Development. In the event of any significant signs of mammal activity being found additional to those identified during the course of surveys as described above, actions as set out in SSEN Transmission's SPP will be followed and advice sought from the appointed ECoW, and if necessary the local NatureScot office	Contractor
	NC9		Construction staff will be briefed (prior to commencing work) by the ECoW on the protected species present in the general area, the legislative context and potential signs of activity.	Contractor
	NC10		Prior to construction commencing a pre-construction badger survey will be undertaken, focussing on where badger have previously been identified. To minimise the risk of disturbance and injury to badger, appropriate markers will be used to define each sett entrance, in accordance with SSEN Transmission's SPP. All works personnel, machinery, vehicles and storage of materials would be restricted from entering protection zones. Where the existing or temporary access track passes near to the badger sett through Inverwick forest, speed will be restricted to 10 mph. The ECoW will continue to monitor badger presence within the construction areas to ensure any new colonies that may become established during construction are adequately protected.	Contractor
Birds	NC11		Construction works should be undertaken to avoid the breeding bird season (March to end of July inclusive) where possible. Where this is not possible, pre-construction checks should be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist / ornithologist in line with the Birds SPP	Contractor / Ecologist or Ornithologist / ECoW

			(see <b>Appendix 3.2</b> ), to identify, and mitigate for, the presence of protected bird species and nests. Should a nest of any bird be located during pre-construction surveys, the ECoW would: recommend suitable mitigation measures (including appropriate buffer zones depending on the species); implement any requirements of the SPP and provide toolbox talks to contractors to ensure accidental / reckless disturbance of the nesting bird is avoided. The ECoW / suitably qualified ornithologist would undertake regular monitoring of birds present within proximity to works to ensure any nests are promptly located, identified and suitably protected from damage or disturbance.	
		NC12	Prior to the commencement of construction, black grouse lek surveys would be carried out at the appropriate time of year by a suitably qualified ornithologist in accordance with standard survey methodologies <sup>1</sup> .	Contractor / Ecologist or Ornithologist / ECoW
		NC13	The construction programme should consider the timing of works within 500 m of the lek locations, to completely avoid the use of this section of track during the peak lekking period of late March to the end of May. If this section of access track requires upgrading as part of enabling works for the Proposed Development, this shall be undertaken outwith March to May. If it is not considered possible to completely avoid the use of this section of access track between March and May to facilitate access to construct the Proposed Development, access should be limited to avoid disturbance to lekking birds (i.e. no vehicle access will be permitted along the access track within 500 m of lek sites for two hours after sunrise).	Contractor / Ecologist or Ornithologist / ECoW
<b>Geology, Water and Soils</b>	Good Practice Guidance	H1	The Proposed Development will be constructed in accordance with relevant technical guidance and established best practice construction techniques and procedures agreed with statutory consultees, including SEPA and NatureScot, as set out within SSEN Transmission's GEMPs (see Appendix 3.1 of this EA Report).	Contractor

<sup>1</sup> Gilbert, G., Gibbons, D.W. and Evans, J. (2011) Bird Monitoring Methods. RSPB/BTO



	Good Practice	H2	The construction phase of the works will be undertaken in accordance with good practice guidance as set out in Section 7.6 of Chapter 7.	Contractor
	Soils and Geology	H3	The CEMP will also outline measures to ensure that the works minimise the risk to soils, peat, geology, groundwater, surface water and licensed water uses. It will include a project specific drainage plan and materials (soils and peat) management plan. The drainage plan would detail the passive measures that would be deployed to treat both the quality and quantity of water shed from the works area in accordance with Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) techniques. The materials management plan will show how soils and peat arisings will be safeguarded, will be managed and used in restoration on site.	Contractor
	Surface Water and Ground Water Quality	H4	In general, proposed construction site access would be taken via the existing public road network and would make use of existing forest and estate tracks as far as practicable. For temporary watercourse crossings less than 2 m wide CAR General Binding Rules will be adhered to. Bog mats, or similar, would be positioned across the watercourse to enable access, where necessary, side rails will be installed with silt mitigation at either end and across if required to ensure that silt impacts from vehicles crossing are controlled at all times. Crossings will be cleaned at the end of the day if required. All proposed crossing locations and methodologies would be reviewed and approved by the ECoW, prior to any works being undertaken.	Contractor
	Surface Water and Ground Water Quality	H5	<p>The CEMP, developed prior to commencement of any construction work, will outline measures to ensure that the works minimise the risk to both groundwater and surface water. The following will be included within the CEMP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a commitment to adopt best working practices and measures to protect the water environment, including those set out in GPP01;</li> <li>• in accordance with GPP02 any above ground on-Site fuel and chemical storage would be bunded;</li> <li>• an emergency spill response kit will be maintained during the construction works (GPP21);</li> </ul>	Contractor

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a vehicle management system / road markings will be put in place wherever possible to reduce the potential conflicts between vehicles and thereby reduce the risk of collision (GPP21);</li> <li>• suitable access routes would be chosen which minimise the potential requirement for either new temporary access tracks or for tracking across open land which could contribute to the generation of suspended solids;</li> <li>• a speed limit will be used to reduce the likelihood and significance of any collisions;</li> <li>• plant nappies will be placed under vehicles which could potentially leak fuel/oils;</li> <li>• any temporary construction / storage compounds required would be located remote from any sensitive surface water receptors and will be constructed to manage surface water run-off in accordance with best practice;</li> <li>• any water contaminated with silt or chemicals would not be discharged directly or indirectly to a watercourse without prior treatment;</li> <li>• water for temporary site welfare facilities would either be brought to site or a local surface water or groundwater abstraction would be identified. Any water abstraction would be made in accordance General Binding Rule or an authorisation would be obtained from SEPA in accordance with the Controlled Activity Regulations (CAR); and</li> <li>• foul water would either be collected in a tank and collected for offsite disposal at an appropriately licensed facility or discharge will be to a septic tank or soakaway in accordance with the Controlled Activity Regulations (CAR).</li> </ul> <p>The above measures will significantly reduce the likelihood of pollutants, including suspended solids, being discharged to nearby watercourses or groundwater and would safeguard water quality.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--

		H6	A Site Construction Licence would be required and obtained in accordance with the Controlled Activity Regulations (CAR) from SEPA prior to any construction works commencing on site. The Licence would specify the controls and measures that would be used at site to safeguard the water environment.	Contractor
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Construction Phase Impacts	CH1	Mitigation is recommended to protect the structure of the small bridge at Inverwick, Site 2, from accidental damage. It is recommended that the bridge not be used by construction traffic. Construction traffic should instead use the newer stone track bridge to the north. In addition to raising site workers awareness of the sensitivity of the asset through toolbox talks, signage noting its sensitivity and temporary fencing is also recommended.	Contractor / Archaeologist
	Unforeseen Archaeological Discoveries during construction works	CH2	Monitoring of groundworks would also be carried out at appropriate points along the alignment where there is greater potential for buried remains to survive.	Contractor / Archaeologist
<b>Forestry</b>	Construction Phase	F1	Compensatory planting (CP) is proposed to mitigate the impact of cumulative loss of woodland area. 55.98 ha is required to ensure the Proposed Development is in line with Scotland's Control of Woodland Removal policy, which requires all areas of woodland lost to development to be offset with CP.  This CP will be achieved in line with the Compensatory Planting Management Strategy set out in <b>Appendix 9.4</b> .	Contractor / SSEN Transmission
		F2	SSEN Transmission has committed to the development of woodland reports for each forest ownership (see Appendix 9.2 and 9.3). These aim to reduce the risk of future wind throw by identifying felling to stable forest edges (outside of the operational corridor). The woodland reports would also include, but are not limited to seeking to agree a forest landscape design following good practice as defined by Forestry Commission Guidance (2014) .	Contractor / SSEN Transmission