

Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275kV Connection

Environmental Impact Assessment

Volume 4 | Appendix 8.5

Residual Effects on Landscape Designations and Classifications

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Appendix 8.5 – Residual Effects on Landscape Designations and Classifications

Table 8.5.1: Residual Effects on Landscape Designations and Classifications					
Landscape Designation	Distance and Direction from the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Predicted Visibility	Assessment and Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect
North Argyll Area of Panoramic Quality	The proposed development is located within this designated area	High	The ZTV presented in Figure 8.4b (EIAR Volume 3a) indicates that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development across the APQ would extend across the central portion of the designated area. Theoretical visibility would be extensive on either side of the OHL out to approximately 3 km, particularly channelled through the Glen Orchy/ Strath of Orchy and Glen Lochy to the north and north west of the OHL: - The northern extent of Loch Awe and the mouth of the River Awe; and - The moorland hills to the south of the proposed development. From these areas, theoretical visibility becomes more intermittent (although still notable), out to approximately 8 km of the Proposed Development before coverage tapers. This includes areas such as: - elevated areas such as Beinn na Sroine and Na Cruachan to the north and Ben Eunaich, Monadh Driseig and the summits associated with Ben Cruachan to the north west, - lower lying moorland landscapes above Loch Awe, such as the area between Ardenaiseig and Kilchrenan to the west of the Loch, and between Portsonachan to Kilchurn Castle to the north and east. The number of towers theoretically visible is highly varied across the study area. More distant views from the west of Loch Awe, and elevated views from mountains in the wider study area are most likely to view the greatest extent of the proposed development as it crosses the hillside. Much of the lower lying areas of landscape within the interior of the APQ, such as the glens, contain a high degree of woodland and forestry which would substantially reduce the actual visibility and therefore influence of the proposed development across the designated area.	The proposed development sits relatively low in the landscape, within an area of moorland which is currently used for forestry and farming practices. While the proposed development would alter the character of the landscape within the area immediately surrounding the proposed development, given the backclothed position of the proposed development within the landscape, this notable influence would subside quickly with distance. It is considered unlikely that these impacts would notably alter the special qualities for which the APQ designation exists. The proposed development would not influence the perception of the mountainous landforms which are present on the edges of the study area. The OHL would not form a prominent feature on the skyline, nor would it interrupt or obscure any key views or intervisibility across the landscape. From within the settled glens, the proposed development would relate to existing land uses (transport routes, existing transmission infrastructure, forestry and farming practices) and, given the separation from the loch shore, and the presence of woodland and forestry in the intervening landscape, it would not impinge upon the existing scenic landscape composition. The OHL would be largely screened by roadside vegetation or woodland in the immediate area in views from the shore of Loch Awe. Where views are present, the alignment would form a small element within a much larger view and would not be out of character with existing infrastructure or land uses within the immediate area. It would not intrude upon views to key landscape features, such as Kilchurn Castle or the landmark mountains which are present within the study area (Ben Cruachan, Ben Lui etc). The proposed development would be visually associated with existing communications and transportation corridors which pass through this area (i.e the A819, A85, an existing transmission line). It would not alter the perceived size or scale of the large mountains which surround Loch Awe, or impact upon the experience of these landscapes. Vegetation removal associated with the construction and operation of the OHL would be in-keeping with existing forestry practices. The magnitude of impact on the full North Argyll APQ would be Negligible. Outwith the area immediately surrounding the proposed development, the alteration would be barely discernible. There would be localised Slight impacts in locations in close proximity to the Proposed Development (i.e. across the low moorland hills which lie below higher peaks).	The residual effect would be Moderate/ Minor, with localised Moderate effects experienced in the area immediately surrounding the Proposed Development. Not significant
WLA 9. Loch Etive Mountains	4.2 km north west	Please see separate Wild Land Assessment Report in Appendix 8.7			
WLA 6. Ben Lui	2 km south east	Please see separate Wild Land Assessment Report in Appendix 8.7			
Ardenaisaig House	3 km east	High	The ZTV indicates extensive visibility of the proposed development from the majority of the GDL. The GDL contains a high degree of mature woodland through the centre of the designated area, surrounding the House, and along the shore of Loch Awe and the River Awe which provides extensive screening, thereby reducing actual visibility of the proposed development substantially. In areas where views are available, such as from the gardens to the east of the house, and locations along the shoreline, much of the alignment would be screened or filtered by areas of woodland forestry in the intervening landscape and, when combined with the distance from the proposed development (approximately 3km), the proposed development would form a minor element across the hillside.	The proposed development would form a minor element in the landscape in views from Ardenaisaig House GDL. It would be glimpsed in views from the GDL and would be viewed in the context of activity on Loch Awe, the A819 and the A85 as well as forestry activities across the moorland hills. Views from the GDL are focussed across the loch, and towards the high mountains which form the background to views from the designated area, such as Ben Cruachan and Ben Lui. The proposed development would not interrupt or obscure these views, nor would it alter the experience or perception of these landscape features. It is anticipated that the proposed development would be absorbed by the moorland hillside and would not form a notable or prominent element in the view. The magnitude of impact would be Negligible. The proposed development would have a very limited impact on the baseline view. The change is likely to be barely discernible.	Moderate/ Minor Not significant

Table 8.5.2: Residual Cumulative Effects on Landscape Designations and Classifications

Landscape Designation	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Predicted Cumulative Visibility	Magnitude of Cumulative Impact	Residual Cumulative Effect
North Argyll Area of Panoramic Quality	High	Cumulative visibility would be contained within the central portion of the APQ, associated with the hill ranges which contain Loch Awe. The most extensive areas of cumulative visibility would be experienced from site facing slopes and summits associated with the Ben Cruachan range and Na Cruachan to the north and north west of the proposed development. The proposed development would sit in the middle ground of the view from these areas, with the 'hub' of cumulative development present in longer distance views at distances of over 7 km. They would likely form minor features in the landscape. To the south of the proposed development, discrete areas of cumulative visibility would be experienced from summits, such as Beinn an t-sithein, Beinn Bhuidhe, Coire an Seamraig and Cruach Mhor. The proposed development would be present in views to the north, while the 'hub' of cumulative development would view viewed successively to the west. It is likely that actual visibility would be less than that shown on the ZTV due to screening afforded by forestry, woodland and local undulations in topography not picked up by the ZTV modelling. Where visible, the proposed development, and other cumulative developments would largely be viewed within a wide panoramic view which contains other existing infrastructure. It is anticipated that all cumulative developments (with the exception of Blarghour Wind Farm) would be backclothed in views.	The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The proposed development, in combination with the other cumulative development within the study area would extend the presence of large scale transmission/ linear infrastructure across the APQ however would be experienced within the context of existing transmission, road and rail infrastructure which forms part of the character in this area of the APQ.	Moderate (not significant)
Ardenaisaig House	High	The proposed development would be theoretically viewed in conjunction with the proposed Creagh Dhubh to Inveraray 275kV transmission line from within the Ardenaisaig House GDL. Much of these areas of visibility coincide with areas of mature estate woodland which would screen views. In areas where visibility is not across woodland, existing vegetation would screen most if not all views to the proposed developments.	The magnitude of impact is therefore Negligible.	Moderate/ Minor (not significant)