

CHAPTER 18 – SCHEDULE OF MITIGATION

18 SCHEDULE OF MITIGATION.....	18-2
18.1 Introduction	18-2

Figures (Volume 3 of this EIA Report)

No figures are directly associated with this chapter.

Visualisations (Volume 4 of this EIA Report)

No visualisations are directly associated with this chapter.

Appendices (Volume 5 of this EIA Report)

No appendices are directly associated with this chapter.

18 SCHEDULE OF MITIGATION

18.1 Introduction

- 18.1.1 Embedded mitigation comprising 'Design Mitigation' and general 'Construction Good Practice' has been incorporated into the description of the Proposed Development; and as such has been assessed as being part of the development proposals and is presented in **Table 18.1: Schedule of Environmental Mitigation - Embedded**. Further details on embedded measures are provided through **Chapters 7–15**. The Applicant's General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) and Species Protection Plan (SPPs) have been included within the schedule of environmental mitigation for completeness.
- 18.1.2 **Chapters 7 to 15** discuss the potential for significant effects to occur as a result of the construction and operation of the Proposed Development and present additional mitigation measures for managing significant effects where applicable. This Chapter provides details of additional mitigation measures. These mitigation measures are listed in **Table 18.2: Schedule of Environmental Mitigation - Additional** and are a commitment of the Applicant.
- 18.1.3 The following mitigation codes are used in this section for **Table 18.1 and 18.2**:
- E – Embedded Mitigation;
 - LV – Landscape and Visual;
 - EC – Ecology;
 - OR – Ornithology;
 - WG – Water and Geological Environment;
 - CH – Cultural Heritage;
 - FO – Forestry; and
 - NV – Noise and Vibration.

Table 18.1: Schedule of Environmental Mitigation - Embedded

Ref	Chapter(s) referenced	Description
E1	Landscape and Visual Ecology Ornithology Water and Geological Environment Cultural Heritage Forestry	<u>Mitigation by Design</u> Design Parameters for the Proposed Development have been defined in Chapter 3: Proposed Development, all of which will be adhered to, encompassing the design mitigation identified through the iterative EIA process. Detailed constraints advice was provided during the iterative layout design process for the towers and associated infrastructure. At various stages, during the determination of the design, fieldwork was undertaken to provide feedback to inform the design team. This iterative design process has included seeking to use existing access tracks and to avoid locating infrastructure at hydrologically and / or geologically sensitive areas, wherever practicable. In addition to the mitigation embedded in the design and routeing of the Proposed Development, best practice construction measures have also been developed to reduce (or avoid) the potential for pollution incidents to occur and for the severity of any incidents that do occur to be reduced in scale and / or timeframe of effect.
E2	Landscape and Visual Ecology Ornithology Water and Geological Environment Cultural Heritage Forestry	<u>Good Practice Measures – General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs)</u> General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) have been developed by the Applicant. The GEMPs considered relevant for the Proposed Development are listed below and provided in Appendix 3.5: General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs): • Oil Storage and Refuelling; • Soil Management; • Working in or near Water; • Working in Sensitive Habitats; • Working with Concrete; • Watercourse Crossings; • Waste Management; • Contaminated Land; • Private Water Supplies; • Forestry; • Dust Management; • Biosecurity on Land; • Restoration; and • Bad weather.

Ref	Chapter(s) referenced	Description
E3	Ecology Ornithology	<u>Good Practice Measures – Species Protection Plans (SPPs)</u> Species Protection Plans (SPPs) have been developed by the Applicant and have been agreed with NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)). This full suite is listed below and provided in Appendix 3.6: Species Protection Plans (SPPs): • Badger; • Bat; • Beaver; • Bird; • Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FWPM); • Otter; • Red squirrel; • Pine marten; • Water Vole; • Wildcat; and • Wood Ant.
E4	Landscape and Visual Ecology Water and Geological Environment Ornithology Forestry Cultural Heritage	<u>Good Practice Measures – (CEMP)</u> A contractual management requirement of the Principal Contractor will be the development and implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). This document will detail how the Principal Contractor will manage the site in accordance with all commitments and mitigation detailed in the EIA Report, statutory consents and authorisations, and industry best practise and guidance. The CEMP will also reference the aforementioned GEMPs and SPPs. Site Specific Environmental Management Plans (SSEMP) will also be produced as part of the CEMP. The implementation of the CEMP will be managed on site by a suitably qualified Environmental Advisor with support from other environmental professionals as required. An Outline CEMP is included in Appendix 3.3: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).
E5	Landscape and Visual	<u>Commercial Forestry Fringe Planting</u> Consultation with the forestry team has also taken place to inform the feasibility of, and opportunities for, mitigation planting proposals within the Operational Corridor (OC) through forestry areas. Deciduous forest edge planting has been proposed within the OC at the following locations: • The Aird; • Ordiequish Hill; • Mill Buie; • the A9 at Drummossie; and

Ref	Chapter(s) referenced	Description
		- Altonside. Deciduous planting is intended to soften the appearance and artificial linear edge of particularly visually prominent sections of felling. These areas are within areas of commercial coniferous forestry where there is a 90 m OC. The planting will contribute to mitigation of adverse effects by: - having a naturalistic edge and avoiding artificial straight edges through the landscape that draw the eye; and - soften the appearance through staggering the height of planting to the forest edge i.e. smaller shrubs, medium sized shrubs, medium sized trees then larger trees up to the edge of the first row of conifers. The principles of this mitigation planting and an example layout has been provided in Appendix 7.6: Forestry Landscape Mitigation Principles.
E6	Landscape and Visual	<u>Reinstatement Measures for Tracks in Special Landscape Areas (SLAs)</u> Where permanent access tracks are required for maintenance purposes within SLAs, the following measures would be considered: - Narrow the track after completion of construction works, by the placement of excavated soils or turves along the verges to a width suitable for landrover or ATV vehicle. Where cut and fill tracks are proposed, any additional materials may be used to provide strategic mounding alongside the track, to help limit its wider visual appearance. - Where possible surface the tracks using locally sourced stone, with a colour and tone to match existing locally exposed bedrock or stone. These measures would help ensure that any permanent access tracks within the SLAs would not appear substantially more robust in character than existing similar tracks within these, or other nearby, parts of the landscape.
E7	Ecology	A specialist contractor will be appointed to treat the Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) (rhododendron, Indian balsam, Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed) and will safely remove the plant material at the Proposed Development prior to construction, in accordance with the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 (as amended).
E8	Ecology	No details of lighting are known at this stage; however, the lighting strategy will be designed such that it would not exceed the minimum requirements in terms of frequency of use during the construction phase. For example, security lighting will be sensor activated and access roads will not be lit under normal operation. This will reduce the effects of artificial lighting on nocturnal and crepuscular species (e.g. badgers, bats). Notwithstanding, the assessment identifies additional specifications to be reviewed at the detailed design stage to further reduce impacts to species. There are no operational lighting requirements.
E9	Ecology Ornithology	An outline Habitat Management Plan (HMP) has been prepared, as a part Appendix 8.3: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report, for the Proposed Development, to set out high-level management expectations for long term habitat retention and monitoring, to help ensure success of habitat creation (to be tracked against the predicted Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) values).
E10	Ecology Water and Geological Environment	<u>Good Practise Measures - Environmental Advisor</u> To ensure all reasonable precautions are taken to minimise adverse effects on the water environment, a suitably qualified Environmental Advisor with support from other environmental professionals, as required, will be appointed. This will occur prior to the

Ref	Chapter(s) referenced	Description
		commencement of construction, in order to advise the Applicant and the Principal Contractor on sensitive ecological and hydrological receptors and identify activities of particular concern. The Environmental Advisor will be required to be present on-site during the construction phase and will carry out monitoring of works and briefings to the relevant Principal Contractor and subcontractor staff. The Environmental Advisor will carry out regular visual inspections of watercourses to check for suspended solids in watercourses downstream of work areas and to ensure water flow paths and quality to water-dependent habitat are sustained during all phases of the Proposed Development. They will also have a responsibility to ensure cut-off drainage is installed ahead of excavation works or stockpiling activities. The Environmental Advisor will be empowered to halt construction activities if these were not following environmental protocols or in any circumstance where apparent that foreseeable harm to the water environment may occur. The Environmental Advisor will also be involved in any incident response and reporting procedures, to ensure lessons are learned to minimise chance of re-occurrence. This will include communication of background, outcomes, and remedial activities to statutory stakeholders, including SEPA. An independent Environmental Clerk of Works (EnvCoW) will be appointed by the Applicant to monitor, report and advise on the environmental compliance of the construction works. The EnvCoW will report to the Environmental Advisor and the Applicant. The EnvCoW will be competent, demonstrated by relevant experience and accreditations.
E11	Ecology	<u>Pre-Construction Protected Species Surveys</u> Surveys required prior to construction are detailed below, including surveys within the relevant protected species survey window required to re-confirm the ecological baseline and additional mitigation, as well as pre-construction surveys immediately prior to works to inform protected species licencing requirements and ensuring compliance with environmental legislation. Surveys will follow best practice guidance detailed in Chapter 8: Ecology, Table 8.2. Where 'additional baseline surveys' are mentioned, this refers to the pre-construction surveys required to confirm and update the surveys carried out for this EIA, and to inform the requirements of protected species licensing, prior to commencement of construction. The precise scope and location of such surveys can only be defined at detailed design stage, and it is expected that micrositeing of the various elements of the Proposed Development would be carried out in consultation with a suitably qualified ecologist (SQE) or Environmental Advisor to ensure that construction – and where relevant, operation – can proceed having taken every step to reduce and avoid the effects outlined within this EIA. The timings of surveying different areas may be scheduled to match the phasing of the Proposed Development over the construction period, to ensure data remains representative and valid. This may be fulfilled by the Project Ecologist / Environmental Advisor if they hold the relevant experience. The findings will be reported to the Principal Contractor's Environmental Manager. All survey methods set out in SPPs incorporate the standard survey methodologies set out in Chapter 8: Section 8.2: Scope of Assessment and Methodology and as listed in Chapter 8: Table 8.2. Where surveys in line with any SPP are described below, the standard methodologies and guidance set out in the SPPs will be followed.

Ref	Chapter(s) referenced	Description		
			Protected Species Bats Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW) of all suitable habitat within 30 m of the Proposed Development (extended to 100 m for piling works). Potential Root Feature (PRF) inspections within 30 m of the Proposed Development (extended to 100 m for piling works).	Confirmatory surveys Pre- and during works surveys
			Bats Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW) of all suitable habitat within 30 m of the Proposed Development (extended to 100 m for piling works). Potential Root Feature (PRF) inspections within 30 m of the Proposed Development (extended to 100 m for piling works).	Pre-construction surveys as detailed within Embedded Mitigation above, following the requirements of the SPP for bats.
			Badger Badger surveys of all suitable habitat within 100 m of the Proposed Development. Bait-marking surveys of setts with potential for direct impact from construction of the Proposed Development.	Pre-construction surveys as detailed within Embedded Mitigation above, following the requirements of the SPP for badger.
			Pine marten Pine marten surveys of all suitable habitat within 250 m of the Proposed Development.	Pre-construction surveys as detailed within Embedded Mitigation above, following the requirements of the SPP for pine marten.
			Red squirrel Red squirrel surveys of all suitable habitat within 50 m of the Proposed Development.	Pre-construction surveys as detailed within Embedded Mitigation above, following the requirements of the SPP for red squirrel.
			Otter Otter surveys of all suitable habitat within 200 m of the Proposed Development.	Pre-construction surveys as detailed within Embedded Mitigation above, following the requirements of the SPP for otter.
			Water vole Water vole surveys of all suitable habitat within 50 m of the Proposed Development.	Pre-construction surveys as detailed within Embedded Mitigation above, following the requirements of the SPP for water vole.

Ref	Chapter(s) referenced	Description						
		<table> <tr> <td>Wildcat</td><td>Wildcat surveys of all suitable habitat within 200 m of the Proposed Development.</td><td>Pre-construction surveys as detailed within Embedded Mitigation above, following the requirements of the SPP for wildcat.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Fish</td><td> Fish habitat suitability surveys for any in-channel works associated with access tracks (water course crossings) which fall out with the Fish Survey Area. A pre-construction monitoring survey (electro-fishing), where safe to access, for any in-channel works associated with access tracks (water course crossings). </td><td> Salmonid spawning takes place between November and January with eggs likely to remain until April and alevin emerging from the gravel as 'fry' in May. Where impacts to salmonids are anticipated, a works restriction period of 1 October to 31 May (inclusive) will be implemented. Any in-channel works would be isolated by means of a sealed wall of gravel filled 'dumpy bags' (or other suitable means). The isolated works area would cover the minimum area of channel possible, such that free passage of fish in an up- and downstream direction is maintained for the duration of in-channel works. Where deemed necessary, a fish rescue would be undertaken, whereby fish would be removed from within the works area using electro-fishing equipment and released back to the watercourses upstream. Further fish rescues would be required if the in-channel wall is overtopped (e.g., during a high-water event). Fish rescues undertaken by competent and experienced aquatic ecologists, with the relevant certifications and permits. A report on the implementation of construction mitigation / fish rescues prepared by the aquatic ecologist and submitted to the Principal Contractor's Environmental Manager. </td></tr> </table>	Wildcat	Wildcat surveys of all suitable habitat within 200 m of the Proposed Development.	Pre-construction surveys as detailed within Embedded Mitigation above, following the requirements of the SPP for wildcat.	Fish	Fish habitat suitability surveys for any in-channel works associated with access tracks (water course crossings) which fall out with the Fish Survey Area. A pre-construction monitoring survey (electro-fishing), where safe to access, for any in-channel works associated with access tracks (water course crossings).	Salmonid spawning takes place between November and January with eggs likely to remain until April and alevin emerging from the gravel as 'fry' in May. Where impacts to salmonids are anticipated, a works restriction period of 1 October to 31 May (inclusive) will be implemented. Any in-channel works would be isolated by means of a sealed wall of gravel filled 'dumpy bags' (or other suitable means). The isolated works area would cover the minimum area of channel possible, such that free passage of fish in an up- and downstream direction is maintained for the duration of in-channel works. Where deemed necessary, a fish rescue would be undertaken, whereby fish would be removed from within the works area using electro-fishing equipment and released back to the watercourses upstream. Further fish rescues would be required if the in-channel wall is overtopped (e.g., during a high-water event). Fish rescues undertaken by competent and experienced aquatic ecologists, with the relevant certifications and permits. A report on the implementation of construction mitigation / fish rescues prepared by the aquatic ecologist and submitted to the Principal Contractor's Environmental Manager.
Wildcat	Wildcat surveys of all suitable habitat within 200 m of the Proposed Development.	Pre-construction surveys as detailed within Embedded Mitigation above, following the requirements of the SPP for wildcat.						
Fish	Fish habitat suitability surveys for any in-channel works associated with access tracks (water course crossings) which fall out with the Fish Survey Area. A pre-construction monitoring survey (electro-fishing), where safe to access, for any in-channel works associated with access tracks (water course crossings).	Salmonid spawning takes place between November and January with eggs likely to remain until April and alevin emerging from the gravel as 'fry' in May. Where impacts to salmonids are anticipated, a works restriction period of 1 October to 31 May (inclusive) will be implemented. Any in-channel works would be isolated by means of a sealed wall of gravel filled 'dumpy bags' (or other suitable means). The isolated works area would cover the minimum area of channel possible, such that free passage of fish in an up- and downstream direction is maintained for the duration of in-channel works. Where deemed necessary, a fish rescue would be undertaken, whereby fish would be removed from within the works area using electro-fishing equipment and released back to the watercourses upstream. Further fish rescues would be required if the in-channel wall is overtopped (e.g., during a high-water event). Fish rescues undertaken by competent and experienced aquatic ecologists, with the relevant certifications and permits. A report on the implementation of construction mitigation / fish rescues prepared by the aquatic ecologist and submitted to the Principal Contractor's Environmental Manager.						

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					The Environmental Advisor will closely monitor the culvert construction. GEMPs will be followed, in particular Working in or Near Water and Watercourse Crossings.
		FWPM	A FWPM habitat suitability survey for any in-channel works associated with access tracks (culverts) which fall out with the FWPM Survey Area. Where suitable habitat exists, a FWPM survey will be undertaken (covering 100 m upstream and 500 m downstream).	The Applicant's approach to FWPM protection is based on the 'avoidance' of impacts, 'disturbance' is not a legal option due to the sedentary lifestyle of adults and juveniles as this could result in them being killed or injured. Following pre-construction surveys, the SQE will agree mitigation measures with the Principal Contractor and if there is any doubt about the mitigation resulting in complete avoidance of impacts, then the Applicant will be informed before NatureScot's Licensing Team is contacted for further advice. GEMPs will be followed, in particular, Soil Management, Working in or Near Water, Working with Concrete, Watercourse Crossings, Forestry and Bad Weather. The Environmental Advisor will closely monitor the culvert construction. Pre-construction surveys as detailed within Embedded Mitigation above, following the requirements of the SPP for FWPM.	
		Great Crested Newt (GCN)	A Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment of any ponds within 500 m of the Proposed Development that are new or	Pre-construction surveys of all ponds within 500 m of the Proposed Development. Initial HSI assessments undertaken for each pond and those	

Ref	Chapter(s) referenced	Description			
				not previously subject to survey (as they fall out with the GCN Survey Area). Any ponds that return a HSI score of below average or greater will be subject to eDNA surveys.	which achieve a below average or better score will be subject to eDNA surveys. Ponds returning positive eDNA results will be subject to GCN surveys within the survey season (April – June) 2025, ahead of enabling works currently anticipated to commence in mid-2026.
			Beaver	Beaver survey of suitable habitat within 100m of the Proposed Development.	Pre-construction surveys as detailed within Embedded Mitigation above, following the requirements of the SPP for beaver.
E12	Ecology	<u>Protected Species Licencing – Project Wide Licence</u> Project wide licenses to be sought for protected species where licencing is required. For further details see the Applicant's SPPs which set out the protocols for use of project-wide licences (Appendix 3.6: Species Protection Plans (SPPs)).			
E13	Water and Geological Environment	<u>Water Abstraction</u> Abstraction of water for construction activities is not anticipated. If, however, a source of water is required for construction, an application for a Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) Licence will be made to SEPA and managed through the regulation of the CAR Licence(s). Should a suitable source not be identified, a water bowser will be used. Good practice that would be followed in addition to the CAR Licence regulations includes: • water use would be planned so as to minimise abstraction volumes; • water would be re-used where possible; • abstraction volumes would be recorded; and • abstraction rates would be controlled to prevent significant water depletion to any source.			
E14	Water and Geological Environment	<u>Water Crossings</u> Where permanent new access tracks or watercourse crossings cannot be avoided, construction will be carried out in accordance with appropriate SEPA and CIRIA guidance, following the Applicant's watercourse crossing GEMP and methodologies to consider geomorphological, ecological and hydrological constraints. Suitable crossing methods would be developed and agreed with SEPA and detailed within a CEMP, with the watercourse crossing schedule to be developed and updated during detailed design and project progression. Appendix 10.9: Watercourse Crossing Schedule contains a preliminary crossing schedule which indicates there are approximately 281 watercourse crossings (including 267 for accessing proposed works and 14 for accessing existing towers for dismantling) as displayed in Figure 10.1: Hydrology and Watercourse Crossings . The crossings would be sized and designed so as to minimise effect upon flood			

Ref	Chapter(s) referenced	Description
		risk (e.g. sized to accommodate the 200 year flow in accordance with SEPA guidance ¹). The design and capacity of the watercourse crossings would be agreed by the Principal Contractor in consultation with SEPA as part of the detailed design. Other infrastructure will be sited outside of the SEPA watercourse buffers and flood risk areas, as far as practicable.
E15	Water and Geological Environment	<u>Watercourse Buffers</u> As part of the Proposed Development design, with the exception of the requirement for specific watercourse crossings for access purposes, a minimum buffer of 10 m around each loch, wetland or watercourse will be applied. Based on SEPA scoping responses (as shown in Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment, Table 10.1), a Geomorphic Risk has been identified for several watercourses along the Proposed Development, whereby they have requested the following bespoke buffers: • River Nairn – 40 m; • Riereach Burn – 20 m; • Muckle Burn – 35 m; • Red Burn – 10 m; and • River Findhorn – 45 m. As part of their consultation feedback SEPA also requested a standard 20 m buffer for the following watercourses: • Burn of Ludquharn; • Quhomery Burn; • Unnamed tributary of the Cock Burn south of Stuartfield; • Burn of Auchreddie; • Idoch Water; • Burn of Turriff; • Burn of Tollo; • Burn of Cobairdy; and • Burn of Cairnie. Each of the recommended buffers have been accommodated as part of the Proposed Development. The only exception to this has been where temporary access is required to cross the Riereach Burn, Red Burn and Quhomery Burn. The proposed works will be installed for temporary access in line with good practice (GEMPs and CEMP). At the detailed design stage these crossings would be

¹ SEPA (2024) Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) Flood Risk Standing Advice for Engineering, Discharge and Impoundment Activities. Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/94134/car-flood-risk-standing-advice-for-engineering-discharge-and-impoundment-activities.pdf>

Ref	Chapter(s) referenced	Description
		designed to minimise potential effects at each location and seek to reduce in-channel works, where practicable to do so, for instance employing arch culverts or bridges. For other watercourses a 10 m buffer has been applied using the SEPA buffer dataset. Where this buffer has not been achieved it is reported in Appendix 10.10: SEPA Watercourse Buffer Encroachment. Tower working areas will be micrositied during the detailed design stage to avoid these buffers where possible. Further details have been provided in Appendix 10.9: Watercourse Crossing Schedule and Appendix 10.10: SEPA Watercourse Buffer Encroachment.
E16	Water and Geological Environment	<u>Micrositing</u> During the detailed design and construction phases, towers and associated infrastructure could be micrositied within the LoD (as detailed in Chapter 3: Project Description, Section 3.6) to seek improved locations that avoid constraints, such as watercourses, peat or water supplies. Sections of track would be surveyed and micrositied to optimise the design based on latest engineering and environmental data, taking into account local topography and local characteristics. Tower foundations would be located and excavated wherever possible in the driest local locations with well consolidated superficial geology, with wetland areas to be generally avoided. Wherever possible tower locations will not be located within 20 m of waterbodies, and no tower construction will be located within 10 m of waterbodies. Wherever possible, towers would be located outwith floodplains to reduce potential effects on flooding. Public water supplies may also lead to micrositing (Spey Wellfield Abstraction Scheme, Glenlatterach, and Herricks and Birken Burn). Further information on Private Water Supply (PWS) and peat instability micrositing is presented in Appendix 10.6: Private Water Supply Risk Assessment and Appendix 10.3: Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessment, respectively. Sections of track would be surveyed and micrositied, to optimise the distances from the PWS, considering local topography and landscape characteristics.
E17	Water and Geological Environment	<u>Safeguarding of Carbon Rich Soils and Peat</u> The Applicant has recently presented four alternative reinstatement strategies to NatureScot for agreement, including peat translocation to areas of eroded peat in the vicinity of the areas of excavated peat, within areas of cut peat, in ditches as part of ditch blocking efforts, and as part of forest to bog restoration. The Applicant will seek further identification of the four peat restoration opportunities to achieve full peat reuse post-consent. The Peat Management Plan will be further updated using any additional survey data and detailed infrastructure design post consent. The detailed Peat Management Plan will be approved by the local authorities in consultation with SEPA as part of the CEMP pursuant to the imposition of a planning condition. Good construction practice and methodologies to ensure safe handling of peat during construction are identified in Appendix 10.2: Peat Management Plan. These include: Principal Contractor will produce a detailed Method Statement for peat excavation and reinstatement, using the Peat Management Plan as baseline;

Ref	Chapter(s) referenced	Description
		- when stripping turf before construction, excavated materials (bedrock, mineral soils and organic soils (including peat) need to be stored in separate horizons to avoid cross contamination, with vegetation side up where encountered; - it is advised to limit the period of time excavated peat is in (temporary) storage to reduce drying of turfs and reduce carbon loss. Where possible, transfer of turfs immediately to adjacent receptor area for restoration. Store excavated peat in stockpiles to minimise carbon losses and keep moist; - should excavated material remain in storage for longer periods, classify excavated materials based on their reuse potential; and - Principal Contractor will identify and agree design and location of suitable areas for stockpiling with relevant consultants, considering constraints and mitigation, including drainage, pollution prevention, and stability measures. A Design and Geotechnical Risk Register would be compiled by the Principal Contractor to include risks relating to peat instability. Notwithstanding any of the above good construction practice and methodologies, detailed design and construction practices would need to consider the particular ground conditions and the specific work planned at each location throughout the construction period. An experienced and qualified engineering geologist / geotechnical engineer would be appointed as a supervisor, to provide advice during the setting out, micro-siting and construction phases of the Proposed Development.
E18	Water and Geological Environment	<u>Torvean Landforms Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI)</u> The findings from Ground Investigation and further detailed design studies will be used to help inform the final micro-siting of infrastructure such as access tracks, tower working areas and tower foundations within the SSSI. A summary of the other proposed construction mitigation within Torvean Landforms SSSI is presented below and will be incorporated into a Site-Specific Environmental Management Plan, to be developed in advance of the works and updated as required by the Principal Contractor as part of the CEMP. <u>Access Tracks</u> - It is proposed that all construction access tracks within the SSSI will be floated rather than cut track, to minimise impact to ground conditions and designated features. <u>Tower Working Area Set Up</u> - Site-specific tower working areas have been designed for each of the four proposed tower locations within Torvean Landforms SSSI. Each tower working area will comprise the following key components: - a fenced-off working area, demarcated by temporary fencing to control access to the working area; - temporary stoned construction areas within the working area, comprising the piling pad, crane pad and telehandler pads. These areas will be floated to minimise ground disturbance within the SSSI; - creation of temporary laydown areas and welfare / storage / parking areas. These areas will not require to be stoned. Where ground is level, trackway matting may be utilised to spread the load across the ground. If the site is particularly sloped, laydown areas will be micro-sited as much as possible to reduce disturbance; and

Ref	Chapter(s) referenced	Description
		- installation of drainage control measures to control run-off from site working areas and protect adjacent landform features (e.g. kettle holes) from sediment contamination. Various techniques will be installed to ensure siltation run-off is controlled within the working area, managed by the SSEMP. The SSEMP shall be briefed to all working parties including reporting requirements in the event of an incident arising. Materials and techniques deployed will be site-specific and dependant on risk (e.g. existing slope, interception ditches or existing drainage). Silt fencing and Sedi-Mats will be the preferred solution in the SSSI to minimise ground-breaking. Silt fencing will be hand-dug, if necessary, on the low side of tower working areas. As access and working areas are to be floated, hydrological connectivity should not be disrupted. However, if a drainage ditch is intercepted by the access track, placement of a small culvert may be required at existing ground level. <u>Foundation Installation</u> - Foundation dimensions and types will vary dependant on a range of factors including tower types (suspension, angle, and terminal), ground conditions and environmental factors. The specific foundation type and size will be determined during the detailed design phase of the project to ensure the towers are sufficiently supported in line with the Applicant's design standards. <u>Piled Foundation:</u> For this location, a piled foundation solution is being proposed to minimise the excavation requirement within the SSSI. This will be confirmed following completion of the Ground Investigation works which will determine ground conditions and inform foundation detailed design; <u>Pad and Column Foundations:</u> The alternative foundation type that can be used is a pad and column foundation. At present it is not anticipated that this type of foundation will be utilised within the SSSI, however, Ground Investigation works may determine piled foundations are not suitable for some or all towers. <u>Reinstatement</u> - Following commissioning of the Proposed Development, all construction sites will be reinstated. Reinstatement will form part of the contract obligations for the Principal Contractor and will include the removal of all temporary access tracks, all work sites around the tower locations and the re-vegetation of all construction compounds etc. Reinstatement principles are detailed in the GEMPs.
E19	Water and Geological Environment	<u>Dalroy and Clava Landforms SSSI</u> Any temporary or permanent access track upgrades required within the SSSI will be designed in consultation with NatureScot to ensure that the key features of interest are protected during construction. The findings from further detailed design studies, including more detailed topographic surveys and swept path analysis, will be used to help inform the final road widening requirements and any requirements for upgrades to the existing crossing of the Cassie Burn.

Ref	Chapter(s) referenced	Description
		A site-specific method statement will be developed in agreement with NatureScot prior to commencement of construction within the SSSI, detailing: - the full extent of road widening and access track upgrades required within the SSSI, overlain on a plan showing the extent of the landform features to be protected; - working methods to ensure the structural integrity of the landform features is protected, such as demarcating all areas to be avoided with temporary fencing and appropriate signage, and specific briefings provided to all site operatives working in the area of concern; - any requirements for upgrades to the existing bridge crossing of the Cassie Burn, together with measures to ensure that these works will not impact on the burn, banks and deposits in the vicinity of this crossing; - proposed access track reinstatement measures following commissioning of the Proposed Development. - a system of checks by the Principal Contractor's Environmental Advisor will be outlined in the method statement, so that the above measures can be successfully implemented and monitored during the works. A record will also be kept of where any widening of the road has occurred within the SSSI which has resulted in the exposure of new deposits (e.g. where cutting is required into existing slopes). Locational details and photographs of newly exposed deposits will be provided to NatureScot following completion of the Proposed Development.
E20	Water and Geological Environment	<u>Water Quality Monitoring, for Watercourses, Designated Sites and DWPA</u> Water quality monitoring before, during and after the construction phase would be undertaken, to ensure that watercourses, designated sites, and DWPA downstream of the Proposed Development have no notable adverse change to water quality. Monitoring will consist of visual observations, <i>in situ</i> testing and sample collection for lab analysis. Various monitoring activities would be carried out at specified frequencies (depending upon the construction programme locally) on these catchments, as agreed with statutory consultees, including local councils, NatureScot, fisheries boards and SEPA, with procedures contained within the CEMP. The water quality monitoring outcomes during construction shall be reviewed in relation to performance of construction methods and associated pollution control measures upstream, based on a comparison of a baseline data set commencing prior to the construction period. Where concerns are identified, interventions and remedial actions to improve water quality shall be enacted in as short a timescale as practicable. Pre-construction advice and the presence of an Environmental Advisor for higher risk activities adjacent to sensitive water receptors should reduce potential for adverse effect.

Ref	Chapter(s) referenced	Description
E21	Water and Geological Environment	<u>Spey Wellfield Abstraction Scheme</u> In the instance of the Proposed Development causing potential adverse impacts near the Spey Wellfield Abstraction Scheme, embedded design measures would include one or more of the following methodologies; • use of less impactful (shell and auger type) or non-intrusive ground investigation (geo-physics) that avoids or reduces the need for rotary type intrusive investigation; • use of locally imported stone with similar lithology where possible as part of enabling works, track, and platform establishment; • bespoke foundation design that minimises the need for disturbance of the superficial aquifer, e.g. piling, for towers in proximity to the Spey Wellfield drinking water abstractions (Towers CB12-16A and CB14-1B), the design requires the pile cap to be situated above ground level to minimise impacts on the drinking water abstractions. As such, the tower footprint would be in the region of 5 m x 5 m at the base of each leg. The final dimensions will be confirmed upon completion of ground investigation and foundation design. The installation of pile caps would reduce the need for dewatering below the ground surface, which would minimise interactions with the superficial sand and gravel aquifer; • use of casing during drilling and piles to minimise the exposure of the vertical column of aquifer to disturbance; • avoidance of the use of drill fluids containing polymers or other potentially hazardous substances during ground investigation; • pre-agreement with Scottish Water of methods, chemicals and materials applied, prior to investigation; • keeping records of materials and chemicals used; and • timing of works associated with foundations to monopolise on lower river and groundwater levels in the surrounding catchment.
E22	Water and Geological Environment	<u>Pollution Prevention and Incident Plans - Spey Wellfield Abstraction Scheme, Glenlatterach and Birken and Herricks Burn DWPA</u> Individual Pollution Prevention and Incident Plans (PPIPs) will be prepared for the Spey Wellfield Abstraction Scheme, Glenlatterach and Herricks and Birken Burn DWPA in order to protect the water quality and water quantity supplying these receptors. The PPIPs will include the following details; • identify pollution hazards, pathways, and high-risk areas i.e. where attenuation distances are restricted; • management arrangements including defining roles and responsibilities as well as coordination and liaison; • work procedures and controls on drainage design as well as fuels / oils / chemicals, cement, and concrete within DWPA; • Pollution Prevention Plans including a matrix for specific control measures to be agreed with Scottish Water; • Pollution Incident Plan including incident response procedures, management, and resolution;

Ref	Chapter(s) referenced	Description
		- Monitoring Plan for surveillance inspections and site audits as well as water quality monitoring, trigger levels and intervention; and - pre-construction surveys of drainage ditches in the vicinity of towers and tracks to ensure that potential flow pathways in catchments are fully identified and managed by the contractor during works.
E23	Water and Geological Environment	<u>Principal Contractor Contingency Arrangements</u> The Private Water Supply Management Plan (PWSMP) will include a pollution response plan and contingency measures, detailing responsibilities, and lines of communication between the Principal Contractor, PWS users, and stakeholders. Contact details (land and mobile numbers / email addresses) for PWS users would be maintained by the Principal Contractor at all times. In the event of an unforeseen effect on an existing PWS arising from the construction of the Proposed Development, incident response and contingency measures will be implemented. These will include provisions to provide alternative water supplies on a temporary and / or permanent basis, including: - provision of bottled potable water in the event of a short or transient degradation of a water supply (crates of bottled water would be retained locally, ready for quick dispatch to any affected property); - provision of mobile potable water bowser or tanker water deliveries to an existing storage vessel, for short-medium term contingency, whilst engineering activities are occurring locally and increasing risk to supply (or if an event has occurred which has adversely affected the PWS); - provision of an alternative PWS source (e.g. spring, borehole, alternative surface water abstraction location) or public water supply connection in the event of a permanent degradation of a water supply; and - in the event of an alternative water source being implemented, SEPA and the relevant council (THC, MC, or AC) would be advised as soon as practicable.
E24	Water and Geological Environment	<u>Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE) and Wetlands</u> Drainage measures will maintain hydrological and hydrogeological connectivity and ensure the water quality of GWDTE and wetlands, with more sensitive locations screened-in as detailed in Appendix 10.7: Detailed Hydrological and Hydrogeological Baseline Report and displayed on Figure 10.7.6: Summary of GWDTE Screening Results and Figure 10.7.7: SEPA Scottish Wetlands. The final CEMP will detail protective measures developed by the Principal Contractor, including: - dewatering of excavations will be carefully monitored and groundwater flow disruption and drawdown will be minimised as much as possible. Open excavation timeframes will be kept to a minimum to minimise ingress of water and dewatering requirements; - maintenance of flow paths of water around proposed infrastructure (following contours); - temporary cut off drains will be installed to prevent surface water and shallow groundwater ingress into excavations;

Ref	Chapter(s) referenced	Description
		- intercepted water will preferably be encouraged to infiltrate into the ground, to mimic natural flow patterns in accordance with the principles of SuDS; - inclusion of cross track drainage in the detailed drainage design to maintain hydraulic continuity of water that supplies shallow groundwater areas; - in areas where there are groundwater seepages / flush zones / sub-surface flows are identified along the access tracks at the detailed design stage, the Principal Contractor will utilise appropriate methods to maintain flow conditions, this could include watercourse crossing structures, floating tracks and / or sub-surface drainage layers for temporary and permanent tracks; - prior to the onset of construction, micrositeing shall seek to avoid or reduce disturbance of areas where higher groundwater dependency (true) GWDTE are located; and - the Principal Contractor's Environmental Advisor will identify areas which require groundwater monitoring post consent following detailed design, and a proposed monitoring plan will be implemented based on SEPA guidance (2024), for instance where sections of the proposed track are identified as intersecting 'true GWDTE'. Baseline monitoring is expected to commence at least 12 months ahead of the development works starting on-site, to continue during the construction phase, and for a period of time post-construction. If any potential impacts are identified by the monitoring or through other means, the contingency plan will be implemented. Appropriate remedial measures are expected to be implemented within 6 months of the potential impacts being identified.
E25	Water and Geological Environment	<u>Fluvial Flood Risk</u> In relation to flood risk the Principal Contractor will implement the following mitigation measures during construction: - The Emergency Flood Plan (as part of the CEMP) will be implemented when working within the low-risk areas and greater. It will include details on how information gathered from MET office Weather Warnings and SEPA's Flood Alert will be provided and disseminated. - During periods of heavy rainfall or extended periods of wet weather (in the immediate locality or wider river catchment) river levels will be monitored using, for example, SEPA Water Level Data when available or visual inspection of water features. The Principal Contractor will assess any change from base flow condition and be familiar with the normal dry weather flow conditions for the water feature and be familiar with the likely hydrological response of the water feature to heavy rainfall (in terms of time to peak, likely flood extents) and windows of opportunity to respond should river levels rise. - Should flooding be predicted, works close or within the water features will be immediately withdrawn (if practicable) from high-risk areas (defined as: within the channel or within the bankfull channel zone – usually the 50% (2-year) AEP flood extent). Works will retreat to above the 10% AEP (10-year) flood extent) with monitoring and alerts for further mobilisation outside the functional floodplain should river levels continue to rise.

Ref	Chapter(s) referenced	Description
		- Plant and materials will be stored in areas outside the functional floodplain where practicable, with the aim for temporary construction works to be resistant or resilient to flooding impacts, to minimise / prevent movement or damage during potential flooding events. Where this is not possible, agreement will be required with the Environmental Advisor. - Temporary drainage systems will be implemented to alleviate localised surface water flood risk and prevent obstruction of existing surface runoff pathways. - Where practicable, haul routes will be located out of the functional floodplain. When in the floodplain stockpiling of material must be carefully controlled with limits to the extent of stockpiling within an area to prevent compartmentalisation of the floodplain and stockpiles will be away from water feature banks (not within 10m of the water feature banks). This is to limit floodplain encroachment, associated increased flood risk and sediment entering the water feature.
E26	Forestry	In the event that the Applicant engages a separate Forestry Contractor to undertake the forestry works, there will be a contractual management requirement for the Forestry Contractor to develop and fully implement a Forestry Environmental Management Plan (FEMP). This document will detail how the Forestry Contractor will manage all forestry works in accordance with all commitments and mitigation detailed in the EIA Report, the Applicant's General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) and Species Protection Plans (SPPs), statutory consents and authorisations, and industry good practice and guidance, including pollution prevention guidance
E27	Forestry	Good practice measures with respect to felling requirements will be incorporated into environmental management controls, including: - adherence to Forestry Commission (Scottish Forestry) Forest and Water Guidelines² e.g., to ensure protection and enhancement of the water environment; - management of forestry waste in accordance with Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) regulations³ to ensure all excess waste resulting from forestry operations is correctly disposed of; and - implementation of tree harvesting and extraction methods to ensure minimisation of soil disturbance and compaction
E28	Transport Recreation and Tourism	<u>Good Construction Practices and General Construction Traffic Management</u> Prior to the commencement of any onsite activities, a finalised Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be prepared and agreed with the Local Authorities. The CTMP will include a number of measures to reduce the effects of the construction of the Proposed Development on local receptors and communities. The outline CTMP, which is included within Appendix 3.4: Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP), is to be treated as a live document and details the mitigation measures, which will be updated as and when additional information becomes available, prior to the publication of the final CTMP. The indicative measures proposed will be developed as the project progresses up to the construction stage. The Outline CTMP will be further developed by the Principal Contractor, in conjunction with THC, MC and AC and Transport Scotland (TS) and other appropriate stakeholders.

² Confederation of Forest Industries (UK) Ltd. Guidance documents. Available at: <https://www.confor.org.uk/resources/forestry-water-scotland/guidance-documents/> - accessed 02/04/2025

³ SEPA (2017) *Management of Forestry Waste*. Available at: https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/28957/forestry_waste_guidance_note.pdf

Ref	Chapter(s) referenced	Description
E29	Transport Recreation and Tourism	<u>Outdoor Access Management Plan</u> Prior to the commencement of any onsite activities, a finalised Outdoor Access Management Plan (OAMP) will be prepared and agreed with the Local Authorities. The OAMP will include a number of measures to reduce the effects of the construction of the listed Public Right of Way (ProW) and core paths, crossing points and management of access locations. An outline OAMP is included in Appendix 14.2: Draft Outdoor Access Management Plan (OAMP).
E30	Transport	<u>Physical Measures</u> As detailed within the Transport Assessments (TAs) included within Appendix 13.1, 13.2, and 13.3 a number of physical measures including Public Road Improvements (PRIs) are proposed within the Study Area to mitigate against the potential impacts of construction traffic associated with the Proposed Development, with these including the following: • Site Access – formation of a new bellmouth junction at various locations throughout the Study Area and the upgrade of existing bellmouths, with visibility provided in accordance with standards; indicative layouts presented in Figure 3.7: Typical Bellmouth Layout; • Public Road Improvements – throughout the Study Area, as identified by the TAs, indicative alterations to the carriageways have been identified for construction traffic which are summarised in Appendix 3.2: Indicative Public Road Improvement (PRI) Works. For further details please refer to the TAs included within Appendix 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 and the Abnormal Load Route Assessment within Appendix 13.5: Abnormal Load Route Assessment. The final list of PRIs are to be determined by the Principal Contractor; • Route signage – temporary construction signage will be erected on the construction traffic access routes, in the vicinity of the proposed Site access, at Yard access locations, and at other locations as considered necessary, to warn drivers of construction activities and the potential to encounter construction vehicles. The exact nature and location of the signage will be agreed with Highland Council, Moray Council, and Aberdeenshire Council prior to the commencement of construction activities; • Plant and Vehicle Cleaning - Construction vehicles which are required to enter the public road will be required to only make use of the identified construction traffic access routes and tracks. This will help to reduce the potential for excess dirt / muck attaching to the wheels of the wagon / lorry. Any driver found to be driving off-track will be reported and removed from site by site management. In the event of bad weather or muck being displaced onto the trunk road, additional road sweeping measures may be employed as and when required; and • Parking and Rest Bays - In the event that the proposed traffic management (TM) plans associated with the Proposed Development impact any parking / rest bays, the Local Authority and Transport Scotland will be consulted well in advance of works commencing. To maintain the safety of the workforce and TM team, the parking / rest bay would be temporarily closed during the duration of the TM system.
E31	Noise and vibration	The proposed conductor type, Triple Araucaria, has been selected for use on the Proposed Development, which is a low noise producing conductor at 400 kV.
E32	Noise and vibration	Permanent towers and conductors are not proposed to be located within 45 m of NSRs, beyond this distance, the conductor produces relatively low noise. The purpose and key driver of the routeing is to avoid proximity to NSRs such as residential properties.

TRANSMISSION

Ref	Chapter(s) referenced	Description
E33	Noise and vibration	Aeolian noise is caused by wind blowing through the conductors and / or structures. This type of noise is usually infrequent and depends on wind velocity and direction. Wind must blow steadily and perpendicular to the lines to set up an aeolian vibration, which can produce resonance if the frequency of the vibration matches the natural frequency of the line. Design of the conductors will implement best practice. Dampers will be attached to the lines to minimise aeolian vibration and therefore aeolian noise. It will be ensured that no components are used that have a known history to produce high aeolian noise

Table 18.2: Schedule of Environmental Mitigation - Additional

Ref	Description	Timing
LV1	<u>Extension of the Fringe Planting</u> Opportunities should be sought to widen the fringe planting by a further 30 m (15 m either side of the Proposed OHL Alignment) at the following locations: - the eastern slopes of The Aird, where viewed from key tourist routes of the A82 and Caledonian Canal; and - Ordiequish Hill, viewed from within The Spey Valley SLA and Speyside Way. The widening of the fringe planting would create additional space in which to plant deciduous species on the forest edge. Whilst the embedded mitigation planting within the 90 m OC would soften the appearance of the artificially straight edge through forestry, at the landscape scale, and at distance, this would have a more gentle, smaller impact when compared to the greater variation in edge planning heights and species possible through an additional 30 m corridor. This additional area would require agreement with landowners as part of the management felling replanting.	Construction Operation
LV2	<u>Extension of Roadside Planting</u> Opportunities should be sought to extend roadside planting to mitigate sequential views to the Proposed Development from key tourist routes. Potential locations identified where this could be of benefit are as follows: - alongside the A862 at two locations – Long Wood and south of Achnagairn; - alongside the B862; - alongside National Cycle Route 7; - alongside the B9007; - alongside the A939; - alongside the C13E; - alongside the A941; - alongside the B9103; - alongside the A96; - alongside unnamed road to the west of Longmoor Wood; - alongside the A97; - alongside the A947; and - alongside the A981. Planting has been proposed only within the 90 m OC and is intended to slightly offset the impact of sequential views from key tourist routes and soften the appearance of the Proposed Development from the road. This would be achieved with planting appropriate to the location and is anticipated to be a mix of hedgerow, shrubs and scrub and scattered trees, dependant on roadside verge space available and appropriateness of existing connected vegetation.	Construction Operation

Ref	Description	Timing
	The principles and example layout has been provided within Appendix 7.6: Forestry Landscape Mitigation Principles .	
EC1	<u>Ordiequish, Whiteash, Ben Aigan Red Squirrel Stronghold</u> Additional woodland edge planting to be considered in the oHMP (Annex G of Appendix 8.3: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report).	Detailed Design
EC2	<u>Bats</u> Sensitive timings of works - Vegetation clearance / felling during the transitional roosting period for bats – April, September and October. - Avoid demolition / felling of maternity roosts (should they be identified) during the maternity period (May to August). - Avoid demolition / felling of hibernation roosts (should they be identified) during the hibernation period (mid-November to end-March). Sensitive lighting - Artificial lighting will not spill over to vegetation that is retained around the Proposed Development. - The specifications of artificial lighting will consider use of LED luminaires with peak wavelengths higher than 550 nm to avoid the component of light most disturbing to bats, and a warm white spectrum (ideally less than 2700 Kelvin) to reduce blue light component. Compensation - Artificial bat boxes will be fixed on trees retained or bat rockets (free-standing bat boxes) will be installed where no suitable trees exist within / on the periphery of the Proposed Development; - Where possible, reclaimed PRFs from trees to be felled will be translocated onto existing trees retained within / on the periphery of the Proposed Development. - Veteranisation of existing trees within / on the periphery of the Proposed Development, to artificially create PRFs. Monitoring - Monitoring surveys of compensatory PRFs that would be required for the loss of confirmed roosts would be conditioned through licensing. - A 10 year monitoring period is required for each of the artificially created PRFs.	Pre-Construction Construction Post-Construction
EC3	<u>Badger</u> Avoidance For retained setts that occur within 30 m of the Proposed Development, it is recommended that a 30 m exclusion zone is setup to exclude heavy plant (to prevent sett tunnel collapse). Only small plant and hand-held machinery will be operated within the 30 m	Pre-Construction Construction Post-Construction

Ref	Description	Timing
	zone, under supervision of the Environmental Advisor. Care will be taken to avoid direct impacts to any mammal burrow entrances in all areas. Sensitive timings of works - Construction works will avoid the use of noisy plant and machinery in the two hours before sunset within the vicinity of a sett (i.e. 30 m). Sensitive lighting - Artificial lighting will be directed away from surrounding setts as well as vegetation and riparian corridors surrounding the Proposed Development, to retain dark corridors for crepuscular and nocturnal species. - The use of background lighting overnight will be minimised as far as reasonably possible, whilst still fulfilling safety and security requirements. Compensation - Where breeding setts are destroyed, or no other suitable setts within a clan territory exists, an artificial sett must be provided. Monitoring - Monitoring surveys of compensatory artificial sett creation that would be required for the loss of main setts, would be conditioned through licensing.	
EC4	<u>Pine Marten</u> Compensation - Compensatory planting. - If the Proposed Development results in the unavoidable loss of a den then artificial denning boxes will be installed in their place. Monitoring - Monitoring surveys of compensatory breeding / denning boxes that would be required for the loss of breeding dens would be conditioned through licensing.	Construction Post-Construction
EC5	<u>Red Squirrel</u> Compensation Compensatory planting.	Construction
EC6	<u>Otter</u> Sensitive timings of works Construction works along watercourses would be restricted to hours of daylight; works would commence from two hours after sunrise and cease two hours before sunset. During Winter when daylight is limited, allowances may be agreed to work from one hour after sunrise / before sunset, at the discretion of the Environmental Manager / Environmental Advisor.	Pre-Construction Construction Post-Construction

Ref	Description	Timing
	Compensation - Should there be an unavoidable loss of any holts (identified during additional surveys or pre-construction surveys), installation of artificial holts to provide otter with opportunities for shelter where natural holts are lost / directly affected by the Proposed Development. Monitoring - Monitoring surveys of these compensatory artificial holts that would be required for the loss of natural holts would be conditioned through licensing.	
EC7	<u>Wildcat</u> Sensitive timings of works - Restrict work to daylight hours. Sensitive lighting and noise - Minimise external lighting and noise from generators at night. Compensation - Compensatory planting.	Construction
EC8	<u>Fish and FWPM</u> Avoidance - Removal of bankside vegetation for the construction of culverts would be minimised as far as reasonably possible; priority would be given to avoid tree felling in riparian areas. - Crown reduction along River Spey at Tower CB14-1B to be supervised by a SQE, done with hand-operated tools only and all arisings stored 10 m from water's edge. Access to trees for crown reduction must be on foot only - Avoid crossing through any watercourses close to a FWPM bed, or, where unavoidable, constructing temporary bridges. - Maintain natural water levels in areas occupied by FWPM. Sensitive timings of works - If salmonid populations and / or suitable spawning habitat is identified during the additional baseline surveys, the following would apply: - No in channel works between 30 September and 1 June to protect spawning migratory salmonids, their spawn, and migrating 'smolts'.	Pre-Construction Construction Post-Construction

Ref	Description	Timing
	- Construction works along suitable watercourses would be restricted to hours of daylight; works would commence from two hours after sunrise and cease two hours before sunset. During Winter when daylight is limited, allowances may be agreed to work from one hour after sunrise / before sunset, at the discretion of the Environmental Manager. Sensitive lighting - Artificial lighting will not spill over to watercourses including small watercourses and ditches around the periphery of the Proposed Development. These will remain unlit corridors at night. Monitoring - Should the additional baseline surveys and pre-construction monitoring identify suitable habitat for fish where there will be in channel works, an electro-fishing survey would be undertaken post-construction in these locations. The survey will be undertaken in the next seasonal window following construction (between 1 July and 30 September).	
EC9	<u>GCN</u> Pre- and during works - Alter vegetation types to displace GCN from areas affected (so long as there is suitable alternative habitat nearby). Alternatively, strimming could take place during the breeding season (March – June) when GCN are in their breeding ponds. Care must be taken to ensure connecting habitat between hibernacula and breeding ponds is not fragmented. - Where works are within proximity of GCN habitat, erect amphibian fencing to prevent them moving into areas where they will be at risk. Licensing - Any mitigation works will require a licence from NatureScot.	Pre-Construction Construction
EC10	<u>Reptiles</u> Avoidance - Time works to avoid the period when reptiles may be hibernating (October-March), if feasible, where suitable habitat exists. Or alternatively, if works are taking place during this time, ensure pre-construction surveys include identification of potential hibernacula for avoidance. Pre- and during works - Use fencing around working areas to prevent reptiles moving into areas where they could be killed or injured. - Alter habitat to displace reptiles from areas where they could be killed or injured. - Maintain these areas of strimmed vegetation throughout works so reptiles do not return.	Pre-Construction Construction

Ref	Description	Timing
	Compensation Should there be a loss of suitable basking habitat or hibernacula, these features will be carefully moved / or created under supervision of the Environmental Advisor in the surrounding habitat.	
OR1	<u>Capercaillie</u> Habitat Loss and Degradation The loss of woodland habitat to clear the wayleave for the OHL through Dulsie Wood and the associated woodlands is concluded to have a 'not significant' effect on the local capercaillie population. Nonetheless, habitat management measures described below in relation to mitigating the operational impacts of collision risk (OR3), are considered to further diminish impacts associated with the loss of suitable, albeit less preferred, woodland habitat with a heathland ground layer. Disturbance Whilst the Applicant's Bird SPP provides suitable overarching measures to identify the presence of and prevent disturbance to breeding birds including lekking and nesting capercaillie, a number of additional outline measures, are prescribed specifically in relation to capercaillie, to reinforce the protection measures for this critically endangered species. These measures, which have been developed from recommendations made by NatureScot and RSPB Scotland during a meeting held on 26 November 2024 (see Chapter 9: Ornithology, Table 9.1), are presented in Appendix 9.3: Outline Capercaillie Species Protection Plan and are summarised below. The outline measures should be built upon and finalised based on the findings of the dedicated pre-construction capercaillie surveys: - Pre-construction surveys in areas of suitable capercaillie habitat intersected by the Proposed Development carried out in the two years preceding the commencement of construction (2025 and 2026). The surveys will include both presence / absence surveys in late winter / early spring and dedicated capercaillie lek surveys conducted between mid-April and early May, following the methods of SNH (2013)⁴. - Avoidance of construction works in woodlands which are confirmed through the pre-construction surveys above to be inhabited by capercaillie during the capercaillie breeding season (March-August inclusive). Where surveys conclude that capercaillie are not present, works may proceed subject to procedures set out in the Outline Capercaillie SPP. - Appointment of an Environmental Advisor (or suitably qualified ornithologist (SQO)) to supervise and oversee construction works being undertaken within woodlands occupied by capercaillie and be responsible for monitoring compliance with the measures prescribed in the Applicant's Bird SPP and the Outline Capercaillie SPP.	Pre-Construction Construction

⁴ SNH (2013) Capercaillie Survey Methods. February 2013. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-01/Guidance-Licensing-Capercaillie-survey-methods.pdf>

Ref	Description	Timing
	- Delivery of a Toolbox Talk to all Site Operatives working in capercaillie woodlands, so that they are aware of the potential presence of capercaillie, how to identify them, their behaviour and protection status and the specific protection measures set out in both the Applicant's Bird SPP and the Outline Capercaillie SPP. - Completion of pre-felling / vegetation clearance and pre-construction checks in former / potentially suitable capercaillie woodlands, even where pre-construction surveys have not identified the presence of capercaillie. Checks will extend to at least 1 km either side of the works areas during the capercaillie lekking period (April to mid-May (SNH, 2013)) and 100 m either side of the works areas during the nesting and chick rearing period (May to August), as advised in consultation with NatureScot and RSPB Scotland (see Chapter 9: Ornithology, Table 9.1). Works will only be permitted to advance into new areas upon confirmation by the Environmental Advisor / SQO. - Ideally, no fences will be installed within known capercaillie woodlands. However, where fences are unavoidable these, and any existing fences located capercaillie woodlands traversed by the Proposed Development, will be fitted with markers to make them more visible and to reduce the risk of capercaillie collision mortalities. These will involve either orange plastic mesh, wooden pales or reflective metal plate markers, as described in Trout and Kortland (2012)⁵ (as advocated by the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project Capercaillie Emergency Plan) (NatureScot and Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2024⁶).	
OR2	<u>Osprey and Red Kite</u> Of the Important Ornithological Features scoped into the assessment, the introduction of the Proposed Development across the landscape is predicted to pose a risk of collision to osprey and red kite, although other species scoped out of the assessment may also potentially be at risk of collision, albeit very low risk based on the recorded frequency of flights. NatureScot (2025a)⁷ recommends the use of line markers (or diverters) as a practical and effective way of reducing bird collision risk with OHLs, with research showing that collision rates can be reduced by up to 94% (from Prinsen <i>et al.</i>, 2011⁸). However, it is noted that the efficacy of line marking varies considerably between species and regions and is very unlikely to eliminate mortality entirely (especially for crepuscular or nocturnal species). As discussed in the description of collision impacts (Paragraphs 9.4.81 to 9.4.93) it is the earth wire, located between the tops of the towers which poses the greater collision risk, as it is thinner and hence less detectable than the thicker, conductors.	Pre-Construction Construction

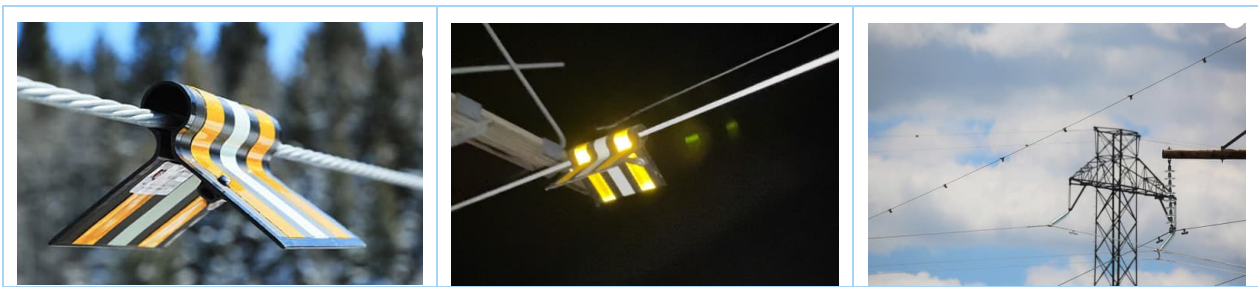
⁵ Trout, R. and Kortland, K. (2012). Fence marking to reduce grouse collisions. Forestry Commission Technical Note FCTN019. December 2012. Available at: <https://www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/publications/fence-marking-to-reduce-grouse-collisions/>

⁶ NatureScot and Cairngorms National Park Authority (2024). Capercaillie Emergency Plan 2025-2030. Available at: <https://cairngorms.co.uk/capercaillie-emergency-plan/>

⁷ NatureScot (2025a). Assessment and mitigation of impacts of power lines and guyed meteorological masts on birds. March 2025 (and previous versions (SNH, 2016) - changes in the guidance are not considered fundamental to the baseline data collected and used in this assessment). Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessment-and-mitigation-impacts-power-lines-and-guyed-meteorological-masts-birds>

⁸ Prinsen, H.A.M., Smallie, J.J., Boere, G.C. & Pires, N. (Eds.) (2011). *Guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the African-Eurasian region*. Bonn: AEWA Conservation Guidelines No. 14, CMS Technical Series No. 29, AEWA Technical Series No. 50, CMS Raptors MOU Technical Series No. 3. Available at: https://www.unep-aewa.org/sites/default/files/publication/ts50_electr_guidelines_03122014.pdf.

Ref	Description	Timing
	NatureScot (2025a) advises that the placement of diverters should be informed by survey evidence informing activity hotspots and regular flight corridors. The field surveys undertaken to inform this Ornithological Impact Assessment identified four flight activity hotspots for osprey and / or red kite: River Beaully Corridor, Drum Mossie Muir, the Saddle Hill area of Assich Forest / Strathdearn Foothill and the River Spey Corridor. Additionally, despite relatively few flights being recorded by other Important Ornithological Features, the various river corridors and large water bodies spanned, or passed in close proximity by the Proposed Development are also considered likely to represent focal areas for bird flight activity at different times of year. Therefore, bird diverters are proposed to be installed at the following locations, to reduce collision risk for osprey, red kite and potentially vulnerable bird species in general, as shown in Figure 9.2: Ornithological Mitigation Measures: • River Beaully crossings: Tower BC1-6A to Tower BC2-2A and Tower BC2-6A to Tower BC3-2A; • River Ness / Caledonian Canal crossing: Tower BC5-21 to Tower CB1-3; • Drum Mossie Muir: Tower CB1-12 to Tower CB2-9; • River Nairn crossing: Tower CB2-20A to Tower CB2-23; • Saddle Hill: Tower CB3-7 to Tower CB3-21; • Clunas Reservoir (adjacent to): Tower CB4-17 to Tower CB5-1; • Achagour Fishery: Tower CB5-20 to Tower CB5-23; • River Findhorn Crossing: Tower CB6-1 to Tower CB6-2; • Glenlatterach Reservoir (adjacent to): Tower CB9-20 to Tower CB9-21; • River Spey crossing: Tower CB12-16 to Tower CB14-2; • River Isla crossing: Tower CB15-12A to Tower CB15-14A; and • River Deveron crossing: Tower BN2-9A to Tower BN2-11A. The extent over which diverters are proposed to be placed at each location is based on the factors which may influence the area over which birds may be more likely to come into contact with the OHL. These may include the width of river crossings and the angle at which the Proposed Development intersects them, sections of OHL which are aligned adjacent to the nearest and / or most likely approach / departure routes for flights into or out of key habitat features (i.e. waterbodies), the extent of suitable habitat being traversed and adjacent topographical and habitat features which may concentrate or disperse bird flightpaths.	

Ref	Description	Timing
	Diverter will be installed at 5-10 m intervals between the towers specified above in line with NatureScot guidance (2025a) within the bounds of engineering constraints (RGI, 2024⁹). A number of bird diverter designs are available and these are discussed in RGI (2024) and EirGrid (2016)¹⁰. The design which is proposed for installation on the above listed sections has not been confirmed, but an indicative example is shown in Image 1. The final bird diverter design would be selected in consultation with NatureScot. Image 1: Example Bird Diverter 	
OR3	<u>Capercaillie</u> The impact assessment has also concluded that the Proposed Development poses a risk of collision to capercaillie where it traverses Dulsie Wood and associated woodlands. As this species typically flies at lower heights, it is considered more at risk from the lower strung conductors than the higher conductors and earth wire. While the greater thickness and triple bundled configuration of the lower conductors will make them more visible than the earth wire, capercaillie are still likely to be at risk of collision based on their physiology and flight characteristics. Birds may also be caught out when flying between adjacent woodlands on opposite sides of the Proposed OHL Alignment and suddenly encountering the OHL towers or conductors with little time or space to react and avoid colliding with them. In order to reduce the risk of capercaillie colliding with the OHL where it passes through Dulsie Wood and the associated woodlands, it is proposed to manage the ground layer habitat and vegetation in order to encourage the birds to walk across the wayleave rather than fly across it. Capercaillie's preferred ground layer vegetation typically comprised heather and blaeberry (e.g. Forrester at al, 2007¹¹) and it is proposed to investigate the feasibility of retaining and / or establishing this heathland habitat along the sections of wayleave which intersect the woodlands	Pre-Construction Construction Post-Construction

⁹ RGI (2024). Avian-power line collision. Overview of risk factors and effectiveness of line markers. Energy & Nature Methodology Report. September 2024. Available at: https://renewables-grid.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Nature/Wire_Marker_Methodology_Report_min.pdf

¹⁰ EirGrid (2016). EirGrid Evidence Based Environmental Studies Study 5: Birds. Literature review and evidence-based field study on the effects of high voltage transmission lines on birds. May 2016. Available at: <https://cms.eirgrid.ie/sites/default/files/publications/EirGrid-Evidence-Based-Environmental-Study-5-Birds.pdf>.

¹¹ Forrester, R.W., Andrews, I.J., and McInerny, C.J. eds. 2007. The Birds of Scotland. The Scottish Ornithologists' Club, Aberlady.

Ref	Description	Timing
	associated with Dulsie Wood. Such conditions already exist along some corresponding sections of the existing Beauly to Blackhillock 275 kV OHL's wayleave. The intersected woodlands along the Proposed OHL Alignment occur between the following OHL towers: • Tower CB5-10 to Tower CB5-17A (Clunas Wood and Newlands of Fleenas Wood); and • Tower CB5-21 to Tower CB6-6A (Dulsie Wood, Dalnaheiglish Wood to the B9007). From the habitat surveys undertaken to inform Chapter 8: Ecology, the OHL passes through a mixture of upland birch woodland, Scot's pine and other native pine woodlands and coniferous plantation woodland. Of these however, it was only the comparatively small areas of Scot's pine and other native pine woodlands which supported a ground layer comprising heather and blaeberry. The ground layer within the upland birch woodland areas typically comprised grasses and bracken, while the coniferous plantation woodlands have limited ground flora. In areas where the heather and blaeberry ground flora already exists the vegetation will be protected from damage as much as possible during the felling and construction phase to retain this heathland character throughout the operational phase. Areas in which the ground layer vegetation is too disturbed and damaged during construction may require reinstatement with seeding to encourage re-establishment of heathland vegetation. In areas along the wayleave where heather and blaeberry do not already exist, it is proposed to seed these areas with an appropriate heathland seed mix and / or using heathland brash-bales containing seed capsules either translocated from elsewhere within the Site or from another local source. Additionally, blaeberry plugs may be necessary to encourage the inclusion of this species in the ground flora community. The establishment of heathland vegetation in these areas may be dependent on factors such as soil and light conditions, with full consideration of these factors necessary to understand feasibility. Where heathland conditions cannot be achieved, a rough tussock grassland habitat is considered an appropriate alternative. In order to fully understand and develop the wayleave heathland habitat management through Dulsie Wood and the associated woodlands, a detailed habitat and soil condition assessment is recommended. Based on the results of this assessment a Capercaillie Heathland Habitat Management Plan will be prepared detailing the measures required to protect and retain existing heathland vegetation, establish heathland vegetation in areas where it is currently not present and monitoring and maintenance of the vegetation throughout the Proposed Development's operational lifespan.	
OR4	<u>Capercaillie Disturbance</u> <i>Managing Public Recreational Access</i> Although no significant adverse effects to capercaillie were predicted from the Proposed Development, the following measures are prescribed to prevent increased human access and associated disturbance to capercaillie, as a result of creating new access tracks into forested areas inhabited by the species.	Construction

Ref	Description	Timing														
	While the majority of access tracks into the section of the Proposed OHL Alignment which traverses Dulsie Wood and associated woodlands, where capercaillie are still known to exist in Nairn and Moray, will be via existing access tracks, a small number of new permanent access tracks will need to be created (see Figure 3.1: Site Layout). These potentially pose a risk of inadvertently increasing public recreational access into these woodlands, increasing the area over which human disturbance can extend and displace capercaillie. Some of these tracks are only accessible via private access roads or established forest tracks already accessible to the public and so are unlikely to significantly increase public access and disturbance. However, there is one access track off the minor C-class road running to the east of Dulsie Wood where a new permanent access track is to be formed through potentially suitable capercaillie woodland. To deter members of the public from entering the woods via this new access track, a locked gate would be installed where it meets the public road. This will include signage ordering ‘No parking - 24-hour access required’.															
OR5	<u>Kellas Alternative Alignment</u> The only difference to the additional mitigation measures outlined above for the Proposed Development which would be applicable to the Kellas Alternative Alignment would be the placement of diverters adjacent to Glenlatterach Reservoir. Should the Kellas Alternative Alignment be selected, diverters should be installed between Tower CB9C-27A to Tower CB9C-30A.	Detailed Design Pre-construction Construction														
WG1	<u>Private Water Supplies - Further Assessment</u> As noted in Appendix 10.6: Private Water Supply Risk Assessment there are a number of Private Water Supplies (PWS) which could be potentially impacted by the Proposed Development during the construction phase. For those abstractions a further detailed PWS risk assessment will be completed post-consent, as necessary. The final PWS Risk Assessment will be reviewed in line with the final design consent and will include additional mitigation and the outline for replacements of PWS, where deemed appropriate. Considering the implementation of embedded measures including good practice, potentially significant effects on specific PWS have been identified (prior to the provision of additional mitigation) for the construction phase. Based on Appendix 10.6: Private Water Supply Risk Assessment , additional mitigation measures have been recommended for PWS listed in the table below. <table><tr><th>ID</th><th>Property Name(s)</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>Balmore, Borlum Farmhouse, Borlum Cottage, Culliard Farmhouse, Culliard Cottage, Culliard Farm Cottage, 1 Forestry Cottage, 2 Forestry Cottage, The Bungalow, Balnafroig Farmhouse, Crow Wood, Crow Wood Cottage, Glenn Dail, Darroch House, Chlumas</td></tr><tr><td>36</td><td>Johnstripe</td></tr><tr><td>39</td><td>Glenlatterach</td></tr><tr><td>40</td><td>Glenlatterach Farm</td></tr><tr><td>44</td><td>Coleburn Distillery, 1 – 8 Coleburn Distillery Cottages, Linden Lea, Coleburn Cottage, Coleburn Farm, Coleburn Farm Bungalow</td></tr><tr><td>45</td><td>Coleburn Distillery, 1 – 8 Coleburn Distillery Cottages, Linden Lea, Coleburn Cottage, Coleburn Farm, Coleburn Farm Bungalow</td></tr></table>	ID	Property Name(s)	10	Balmore, Borlum Farmhouse, Borlum Cottage, Culliard Farmhouse, Culliard Cottage, Culliard Farm Cottage, 1 Forestry Cottage, 2 Forestry Cottage, The Bungalow, Balnafroig Farmhouse, Crow Wood, Crow Wood Cottage, Glenn Dail, Darroch House, Chlumas	36	Johnstripe	39	Glenlatterach	40	Glenlatterach Farm	44	Coleburn Distillery, 1 – 8 Coleburn Distillery Cottages, Linden Lea, Coleburn Cottage, Coleburn Farm, Coleburn Farm Bungalow	45	Coleburn Distillery, 1 – 8 Coleburn Distillery Cottages, Linden Lea, Coleburn Cottage, Coleburn Farm, Coleburn Farm Bungalow	Detailed Design Pre-Construction Construction Post-Construction
ID	Property Name(s)															
10	Balmore, Borlum Farmhouse, Borlum Cottage, Culliard Farmhouse, Culliard Cottage, Culliard Farm Cottage, 1 Forestry Cottage, 2 Forestry Cottage, The Bungalow, Balnafroig Farmhouse, Crow Wood, Crow Wood Cottage, Glenn Dail, Darroch House, Chlumas															
36	Johnstripe															
39	Glenlatterach															
40	Glenlatterach Farm															
44	Coleburn Distillery, 1 – 8 Coleburn Distillery Cottages, Linden Lea, Coleburn Cottage, Coleburn Farm, Coleburn Farm Bungalow															
45	Coleburn Distillery, 1 – 8 Coleburn Distillery Cottages, Linden Lea, Coleburn Cottage, Coleburn Farm, Coleburn Farm Bungalow															

Ref	Description	Timing
	46 Coleburn Distillery, 1 – 8 Coleburn Distillery Cottages, Linden Lea, Coleburn Cottage, Coleburn Farm, Coleburn Farm Bungalow	
	47 Coleburn Distillery, 1 – 8 Coleburn Distillery Cottages, Linden Lea, Coleburn Cottage, Coleburn Farm, Coleburn Farm Bungalow	
	48 Coleburn Distillery, 1 – 8 Coleburn Distillery Cottages, Linden Lea, Coleburn Cottage, Coleburn Farm, Coleburn Farm Bungalow	
	49A Coleburn Distillery, 1 – 8 Coleburn Distillery Cottages, Linden Lea, Coleburn Cottage, Coleburn Farm, Coleburn Farm Bungalow	
	50 Rowan Cottage	
	51 Logieburn Farm and Logieburn Farmhouse	
	54 Aultash	
	62 Kitchen Park	
	67 Mill of Newmill ad Chivas Distillery;	
	70 Glenkeith	
	111B Cormalet	
	176 Balquhindachy and Wilmoran Balquhindachy;	
	212 Fadlydyke	
WG2	<u>Private Water Supplies - Further Investigation and Demarcation</u> To protect PWS during the construction phase, the Principal Contractor and Applicant will undertake comprehensive investigations prior to commencing any earthwork activities. These investigations will prioritise non-intrusive methods, such as cable avoidance technology (CAT) scanners, ground-penetrating radar (GPR), and other geophysical surveys, to accurately locate and assess PWS infrastructure. Where necessary, systematic trial pit surveys will be conducted by hand to minimise disruption. This proactive approach will help identify any potential risks early, allowing for the implementation of effective mitigation measures to safeguard water quality and supply continuity. Following the completion of further investigation, it may be necessary to implement additional measures to safeguard PWS quality and quantity; these include: • demarcation or fencing to protect the PWS intake and / or storage tank, to avoid accidental damage; • demarcation of the supply distribution route on the ground using wooden pegs (or similar) to avoid accidental damage; and • ensuring site operatives are aware of PWS and the sensitivity of the catchment through toolbox talks and site inductions.	Pre-Construction Construction

Ref	Description	Timing
WG3	<u>Private Water Supplies - Suitable Engineering Solution</u> Following further investigation, it may be confirmed that there is the potential for the PWS infrastructure to be impacted through planned construction works. Should this be the case, an assigned contractor will prepare specific construction or working methods to ensure the continuity of the PWS. These methods include refining the engineering design and a general arrangement drawing for crossing pipework. Appropriate communication between PWS users, the Principal Contractor and the Applicant will be agreed and established to provide relevant information, such as proposed methods and latest construction programmes. Engineering solutions will be discussed with the relevant council (i.e. THC, MC, or AC) and SEPA post-consent.	Detailed Design Pre-Construction Construction
WG4	<u>Private Water Supplies - Alternative Water Supply</u> Prior to the commencement of construction, the owners of applicable PWS will be provided with a suitable alternative supply to cover the period of potential disruption, or on a permanent basis, by the Applicant. In the event that an alternative supply is provided to PWS users, then the need for monitoring arrangements (see below) may not be required for those properties.	Pre-Construction Construction
WG5	<u>Private Water Supplies - PWS Monitoring Plan</u> A PWS Monitoring Plan (PWSMP) will be prepared by the Principal Contractor prior to construction. This will detail all mitigation measures to be delivered to secure the quality, quantity and continuity of PWS which have been identified as potentially affected by the Proposed Development. The PWSMP will be provided to the PWS user, prior to construction and will contain contact information for the Construction Site Manager (or similar). PWS users will be informed of methods and programme of planned works that may affect their supply. A water monitoring programme will be undertaken 12 months prior to any construction and during construction. The PWSMP will include water quality sampling methods and shall specify abstraction points. Post-construction monitoring will also be completed to ensure there is no long-term impact on water quality or quantity, which could be associated with the Proposed Development. The PWS water monitoring programme will be aligned with the CEMP. For example, sampling frequency and analysis suite are matched with nearby surface water monitoring locations. The PWSMP will also outline any site-specific additional mitigation outlined in the PWS Risk Assessment (PWSRA). The monitoring arrangements will be discussed and agreed with THC, MC, AC and SEPA post-consent, prior to construction	Detailed Design Pre-Construction Construction Post-Construction
CH1	<u>Walkover of tower compounds and access tracks</u> An archaeological walkover targeted to all tower compounds and access tracks is required prior to construction. This will identify if there are any unrecorded upstanding remains that would have direct physical impacts to them from the construction phase of the Proposed Development. Should any upstanding remains be identified, they will be preserved by record through an earthwork survey and historic building recording (CH4), in the first instance, and archaeological investigations (CH3) where required.	Pre-Construction
CH2	<u>Demarcation and avoidance</u> There are designated and non-designated heritage assets within the LoD, which are outside the tower working areas and access tracks. Based on the design, these should not be directly physically impacted during the construction phase of the Proposed Development. Prior to construction activities, they will be demarcated by an archaeological contractor to make it clear that they are to be avoided. Demarcation will take the form of visible barriers or fencing placed 5 m from the edge of the scheduled areas or listed building for designated heritage assets,	Pre-Construction Construction

Ref	Description	Timing
	and 5 m from the edge of the known location for non-designated heritage assets. The locations of all of the heritage assets within the LoD will be provided for inclusion within any wayleave plans. The designated heritage assets which are to be demarcated and avoided are listed below. Non-designated heritage assets are highlighted in blue in Appendix 11.2: Cultural Heritage Background and Gazetteer, Annex A: Cultural Heritage Gazetteer. • Beaufort Castle (GDL00052; G1); • Caledonian Canal, Dochgarroch Lock – Muirtown Locks (SM6499; S12); • Moniack Bridge (LB7823; L56); • Easter Rattich, depopulated settlement (SM11876; S31); and • Mains of Daviot Farm ring cairn and stone circle (SM11876; S20). The methodology and details of demarcation required will be set out within the Archaeological Project Design¹² to be agreed with The Highland Council Historic Environment Team (HCHET) and the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS), who advise both Moray Council and Aberdeenshire Council on archaeological matters. Where heritage assets within tower working areas or access tracks are highlighted, and can be avoided at the detailed design stage, then these will be included within this mitigation strategy.	
CH3	<u>Archaeological Investigations</u> Archaeological investigations in the form of monitoring and recording at access tracks will be undertaken by an archaeological contractor during groundworks in order to preserve any identified archaeological remains by record. This includes heritage assets which are known within the baseline, and those which may be identified as part of the monitoring. The archaeological monitoring and recording methodology will be set out in an Archaeological Project Design to be agreed with HCHET and ACAS and will follow the standards and guidance from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). Should the archaeological remains prove to be more extensive and complex, this may require a programme of open area excavation, as determined by the archaeological advisors to the local planning authorities. Should this be required, groundworks related to construction will temporarily cease in this area to allow for open area excavation and recording following the methodology of the approved Archaeological Project Design. Archaeological investigations in the form of archaeological evaluation, excavation, or monitoring and recording will be undertaken at tower compounds, prior to construction and by an archaeological contractor, in all areas where there are groundworks. This will be undertaken to preserve by record¹³ any known heritage assets due to be impacted by the Proposed Development, or any other identified archaeological remains. The archaeological investigations required for each tower location will be set out within an Archaeological Project Design to be agreed with HCHET and ACAS following CIfA standards and guidance. Heritage assets within the baseline that require archaeological investigations are highlighted in orange within Appendix 11.2, Annex A: Cultural Heritage Gazetteer.	Pre-Construction Construction

¹² Archaeological Project Design is used as a universal term for the document that sets out how the archaeological work will be conducted. This document may be called something different depending on the jurisdiction of the work.

¹³ Archaeological recording of a heritage asset through non-intrusive and intrusive means to gather as much information from the surviving archaeological remains before it is destroyed.

Ref	Description	Timing
CH4	<u>Earthwork survey and historic building recording</u> A programme of survey and recording of earthwork features and structures within the tower compounds and access tracks should be undertaken prior to construction by an archaeological contractor. This would allow for recording of heritage assets which would be directly impacted by construction and allow for partial preservation of their cultural significance by record. For upstanding structures, a historic building recording (Level 1 or Level 2¹⁴ as appropriate) should be undertaken to record structures in their current state. The methodology of the works would be set out within an Archaeological Project Design, to be agreed with HCHET and ACAS following standards and guidance set out by ClfA. Heritage assets which should be subject to an earthwork survey and historic building recording are highlighted in green within Appendix 11.2, Annex A: Cultural Heritage Gazetteer. Should upstanding remains not be visible as part of the earthwork survey or historic building recording, they should be preserved by record through archaeological investigations (CH3) if there are sub-surface remains present.	Pre-Construction Construction
CH5	<u>Removal of existing 275 kV OHL</u> Potential mitigation to reduce the impacts to the Mains of Daviot Farm, ring cairn and stone circle 600 m NNE of (SM3085; S20) would involve undergrounding of a section of the existing 275 kV OHL located to the north of the ring cairn and stone circle. See Appendix 11.4: Potential Mitigation: Undergrounding of Existing 275 kV OHL at Daviot for further details. This mitigation is described as potential mitigation, as the Applicant will be required to seek consent under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for the Cable Sealing End compounds and, where required, any temporary or permanent access tracks, once exact locations of the proposed infrastructure are confirmed by the Principal Contractor. Refinement of the design is progressing as part of the detailed design phase normally undertaken by the Principal Contractor at this stage in the development process. The Applicant commits to developing the proposals, applying for consent and working with statutory consultees to facilitate consent being granted.	Detailed Design Pre-Construction Construction Post-Construction
FO1	Appendix 12.2: Native Woodland Management Plan identifies mitigation measures to reduce impacts on native and ancient woodland and veteran trees.	Pre-Construction Construction
FO2	The Woodland Reports (Appendices 12.1.1 to 12.1.127) identify mitigation measures to: • address the likely significant effects predicted for forest land-use management during construction and operation. • reduce the risk of future windblow by outlining felling strategies to create stable forest edges outside the Proposed Development.	Pre-Construction Construction Operation
FO3	Appendix 12.3: Compensatory Planting Strategy has been created to ensure forest and woodland lost through felling is replaced. This will be delivered off-site within the relevant local authority area.	Pre-Construction Construction Operation

¹⁴ Historic England (2016). Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice. Available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/understanding-historic-buildings/heag099-understanding-historic-buildings/>

Ref	Description	Timing
NV1	<u>Construction Noise Management Plan (CNMP)</u> Prior to construction, the Principal Contractor will set out proactive strategies to manage and minimise the noise and vibration impacts generated by construction. Mitigation measures such as the control of the noise source levels, controlling the noise transmission path via noise barriers, time management and managing operational times of equipment when not in use will be implemented where necessary. This will also include community engagement and stakeholder management plans to ensure legal compliance with COPA. The CNMP is expected to be embedded within the CEMP, and is to form the primary mitigation for construction activities. Procedures could include where necessary and practicable: • minimising the noise as much as is reasonably practicable at source; • attenuation of noise propagation by the addition of acoustic absorptive screens or barriers within the site; • carrying out identified high noise level activities at a time when they are least likely to cause a nuisance to residents; and providing advance notice of unavoidable periods of high noise levels to residents. In order to maintain low impact on the noise environment, consideration will be given to attenuation of construction noise at source by means of the following: • giving due consideration to the effect of noise, in selection of construction methods; • avoidance of vehicles waiting or queuing, particularly on public highways or in residential areas with their engines running; • scheduling of deliveries to arrive during daytime hours only. Care should be taken to minimise noise while unloading delivery vehicles. Delivery vehicles should follow routes that minimise use of residential roads; • ensure plant and equipment are regularly and properly maintained. All plant should be situated to sufficiently minimise noise impact at nearby properties; • fit and maintain silencers to plant, machinery, and vehicles where appropriate and necessary; • operate plant and equipment in modes of operation that minimise noise, and power down plant when not in use; • use electrically powered plant rather than diesel or petrol driven, where this is practicable; and • working typically not to take place outside of hours defined in the construction schedule. Consideration will be given to the attenuation of construction noise in the transmission path by means of the following: • locate plant and equipment liable to create noise as far from NSRs as is reasonably practicable or use natural land topography to reduce line of sight noise transmission; • noise screens, hoardings and barriers should be erected where appropriate and necessary to shield high-noise level activities; and • provide lined acoustic enclosures for equipment such as portable generators. Consideration will be given to the parameters affecting vibratory compaction if towers are between 45 m and 60 m from a NSR. Reduction of drums and vibration amplitude will reduce impacts to Low and effects to Not Significant.	Pre-Construction Construction

Ref	Description	Timing
	The CEMP should also include best practice mitigation for vibratory impact with the implementation of a construction vibration management plan (CVMP), as defined in BS 5228-2.	
NV2	<u>Limit of Deviation (LoD) Restriction</u> Construction noise is predicted to exceed 65 dB where towers may move the maximum distance from the Proposed OHL Alignment within the LoD during all construction phases except stringing (towers could move up to 100 m closer to NSRs within the LoD and more around the NP2-10A and NP2-11A towers). Prior to any further changes being made to the Proposed Development within the LoD, a change control process would be undertaken to ensure that there is no unacceptable increase in adverse impacts as a result of the change. This process is managed via the Applicant's internal process 'Change Request Procedure for Project Design Parameters Controlled by Consent Limitations (PR-NET-ENV-503)' as detailed in Chapter 3: Project Description.	Detailed Design
NV3	<u>Community Engagement</u> Prior to and during construction, communities would be informed of the programme of construction activities and a Community Liaison contact would be appointed to deal with any community queries or feedback. These would be detailed in the CNMP to be agreed with the relevant Local Authority.	Pre-Construction Construction
NV4	<u>Equipment Curtailment</u> During felling, access / enabling, foundation, and tower erection, the active time of the noisiest equipment will be reduced to maintain worst-case levels at or below 65 dB at receptors. If noise levels exceed acceptable thresholds, the Principal Contractor will be provided with site-specific mitigation requirements for inclusion in the CNMP. This may involve detailed scheduling of high-noise equipment such as saws, breakers, crushers and wheeled loaders, particularly at locations identified in Appendix 15.4: Construction Noise Impact Assessment. The simultaneous operation of the following equipment in conjunction with other noise-generating machinery and the utilisation over the working day should be managed to minimise noise impacts from each phase in the Daytime and Saturdays threshold period: • Felling: chainsaws, and wood chipper • Access: excavator, crusher, wheeled loader, and SI rig • Foundations: saw, or piling rigs • Tower Erection: wheeled loaders • Stringing: joint press, and telehandler Following the curtailment of this equipment during felling, foundations, tower erection, and stringing, 94% of receptors will not experience significant impacts for each phase. Access impacts are slightly higher but are expected to be extremely short-term. The elimination of concurrent use of the noisiest equipment in each phase will effectively eliminate the significant impacts of all but 6% of NSRs. This will be managed through the CNMP.	Construction
NV5	<u>Duration of Works</u> The construction noise in general will be very short-term, maintaining this duration will ensure construction noise impacts are minimised.	Construction