

# **Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400 kV Project Environmental Impact Assessment Report Volume 5 | Appendices**

## **Appendix 6.3 – Scoping Response Matrix**



# APPENDIX 6.3 – SCOPING RESPONSE MATRIX

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## List of Abbreviations

|               |                                                   |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| ASTI          | Accelerated Strategic Transmission Infrastructure |
| AWI           | Ancient Woodland Inventory                        |
| BNG           | Biodiversity Net Gain                             |
| CEMP          | Construction Environmental Management Plan        |
| DWPA          | Drinking Water Protected Area                     |
| ECU           | Energy Consents Unit                              |
| EIA           | Environmental Impact Assessment                   |
| EIA Report    | Environmental Impact Assessment Report            |
| GDL           | Gardens and Designed Landscapes                   |
| GEMP          | General Environmental Management Plan             |
| GWDE          | Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems      |
| HES           | Historic Environment Scotland                     |
| HRA           | Habitats Regulations Appraisal                    |
| LNCS          | Local Nature Conservation Site                    |
| LoD           | Limit of Deviation                                |
| LVIA          | Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment            |
| MCA           | Marine and Coastguard Agency                      |
| NRTF          | National Road Traffic Forecasts                   |
| OC            | Operational Corridor                              |
| OHL           | Overhead Line/s                                   |
| PLHRA         | Peat Landscape Hazard Risk Assessment             |
| PWS           | Private Water Supply                              |
| RSPB Scotland | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds         |
| SAC           | Special Area of Conservation                      |
| SEPA          | Scottish Environment Protection Agency            |
| SSEN          | Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks        |
| SSSI          | Site of Special Scientific Interest               |
| S37           | Section 37 Application                            |
| THC           | The Highland Council                              |
| ZTV           | Zone of Theoretical Visibility                    |

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The responses contained within the EIA Scoping Opinion and Post-Scoping Consultation have been considered in detail during the EIA process. **Table 1** presents a matrix detailing the key issues that were raised during these consultations and how and where they will be addressed in the EIA Report.

**Table 1: Summary of EIA Scoping Responses and Action Taken**

| Consultee            | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference                                                   | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| Energy Consents Unit | Scottish Water provided information on whether there are any drinking water protected areas or Scottish Water assets on which the Proposed Development could have a significant effect. Scottish Ministers request that SSEN Transmission contacts Scottish Water and makes further enquires to confirm whether there any Scottish Water assets which may be affected by the Proposed Development, and includes details in the EIA Report of any relevant mitigation measures to be provided.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 6                        | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment                           | The EIA Report includes an assessment of potential effects on drinking water supplies and their associated public water supply abstractions, including appropriate mitigation measures for the protection of these receptors. Discussions have been held with Scottish Water regarding their supplies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Energy Consents Unit | Scottish Ministers request that SSEN Transmission investigates the presence of any private water supplies which may be impacted by the Proposed Development. The EIA Report should include details of any private water supplies identified by this investigation, and if any are identified, SSEN Transmission should provide an assessment of the potential impacts, risks, and mitigation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 6                        | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment                           | A Private Water Supply assessment has been provided in the EIA Report which includes information on mitigation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Energy Consents Unit | Scottish Ministers request SSEN Transmission takes account of the advice provided by Marine Directorate – Science Evidence Data and Digital (MD-SEDD). MD-SEDD provided generic scoping guidelines for onshore wind farm and overhead line development, which outline how fish populations can be impacted during the construction, operation and decommissioning of a wind farm or overhead line development. They also inform developers as to what should be considered, in relation to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, during the EIA process.<br><br>The EIA Report should contain the required information from the checklist provided in Annex 1 of the standing advice; the absence of such information may necessitate requesting additional information which may delay the process. The completed checklist should be submitted in advance of the application submission.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 7                        | Chapter 8: Ecology<br><br>Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment | Noted. The completed MD-SEDD Annex 1 accompanies this report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Energy Consents Unit | In addition to identifying the main watercourses and waterbodies within and downstream of the Proposed Development, SSEN Transmission should identify and consider any areas of Special Areas of Conservation where fish are a qualifying feature and proposed felling operations particularly in acid sensitive areas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 7                        | Chapter 8: Ecology<br><br>Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment | Where Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) with fish cannot be avoided, mitigation to address pollution and noise / vibration issues in construction and maintenance, as well as issues such as removal of riparian vegetation that could reduce shade for fish such as salmonids, are all considered in the EIA Report and shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA). Local fisheries boards have been contacted for fisheries data to inform our assessments. We would not, based on current knowledge, anticipate any impacts arising from operation of the OHL for fish. The EIA Report also considers potential effects on water quantity and quality from activities such as felling and sets out embedded mitigation measures for pollution control such as Forestry good industry practices across the Proposed Development. |
| Energy Consents Unit | Scottish Ministers consider that where there is a demonstrable requirement for Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment (PLHRA), the assessment should be clear in understanding whether the risks are acceptable and capable of being controlled by mitigation measures. The Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments (Second Edition), should be followed in the preparation of the EIA Report, which should contain such assessment and details of mitigation measures.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 7                        | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment                           | A Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment (PLHRA) has been undertaken and presented in the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Energy Consents Unit | The Scoping Report set out how viewpoints will be agreed with the planning authorities within the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 7                        | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual                                        | Consultation with the planning authorities was undertaken in February and March 2024 to agree viewpoint locations, with additional discussion with The Highland Council on presentation of the visualisations. Recommendations / suggestions received in response to consultation have been actioned.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Energy Consents Unit | The Noise Impact Assessment should be carried out in line with relevant legislation and standards as detailed in the Scoping Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 7                        | Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration                                        | The noise assessment has been carried out in line with Planning Advice Note 1/2011: Planning and Noise and the British Standards as listed in the Scoping Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Energy Consents Unit | It is recommended by the Scottish Ministers that decisions on bird surveys such as species, methodology, vantage points, viewsheds and duration, both site specific and cumulative, should be made following discussion between SSEN Transmission and NatureScot.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 7                        | Chapter 9: Ornithology                                                 | The scope, methodologies and duration of the ornithological survey programme were developed and accepted in consultation with SSEN Transmission and NatureScot from the outset.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Energy Consents Unit | With regards to Socio-Economics, the Scottish Ministers recommend that a stand-alone Socio-Economic Report be submitted alongside the EIA Report, which assesses the Proposed Development appropriately and fully on both a national and local scale, with consideration of the relevant Planning Authority Development Plans. In addition, the Socio-Economic Report should estimate who may be affected by the Proposed Development, in all or in part, which may require individual households to be identified, local communities or a wider socio-economic grouping such as tourists and tourist related businesses, recreational groups, attractions and events. The Socio-Economic Report should also include relevant economic information connected with the project, including the potential number of jobs, and economic activity associated with the procurement, construction, operation and decommissioning of the Development. This should set out the impact on the regional and local economy, not just the national economy. Any mitigation proposed should also address impacts on the regional and local economy. | 8                        | N/A                                                                    | A stand-alone Socio-Economic Report has been submitted separately from the EIA Report that addresses the points noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

| Consultee                                                              | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference                                                                  | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| Energy Consents Unit                                                   | It is recommended by the Scottish Ministers that in order to assess the full environmental impact of the development, SSEN Transmission include within the cumulative impact assessment, OHL and substation infrastructure that is associated with SSEN Transmission ASTI projects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 8                        | Chapters 7 - 15 (topic assessment chapters)                                           | OHL and substation infrastructure associated with SSEN Transmission ASTI projects has been considered as part of the cumulative assessment in all topic chapters.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Energy Consents Unit                                                   | The assessment on archaeology and cultural heritage impacts should be carried out in line with relevant legislation and standards as detailed in Section 9 of the Scoping Report and should also include the recommendations by HES, The Highland Council, Moray Council and Aberdeenshire Council within their consultation responses.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 8                        | Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage                                                         | The assessment has been carried out in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance. Consultation with HES and the relevant council archaeological and conservation advisors has been undertaken and their recommendations have been included.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Energy Consents Unit                                                   | Where borrow pits are proposed as a source of on-site aggregate, they should be considered as part of the EIA process and included in the EIA Report, detailing information regarding their location, size and nature. Ultimately, it would be necessary to provide details of the proposed depth of the excavation compared to the actual topography and water table, proposed drainage and settlement traps, turf and overburden removal and storage for reinstatement, and details of the proposed restoration profile. The impact of such facilities (including dust, blasting and impact on water) should be appraised as part of the overall impact of the working. Information should cover the requirements set out in 'PAN 50: Controlling the Environmental Effects of Surface Mineral Workings'. | 8                        | Chapters 7-15 (topic assessment chapters)                                             | For the EIA Report it has been assumed that all stone for construction will be imported. It is the intention to use on-site borrow pits where suitable stone is available and agreements are met, however this will be confirmed by the Principal Contractor and separate planning permissions would be sought where required.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Energy Consents Unit                                                   | <p>Scottish Ministers request that SSEN Transmission assess the impact of the Proposed Development on existing and / or planned infrastructure. In particular, SSEN Transmission should carry out the necessary assessments to confirm if any part of the Proposed Development is within the consultation zone of any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a licenced explosives site;</li> <li>• gas (or any other) pipeline;</li> <li>• existing overhead electric lines;</li> <li>• underground cables;</li> <li>• water pipes; and</li> <li>• telecommunications links.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                            | 8                        | Chapters 7-15 (topic assessment chapters)                                             | <p><b>Chapter 6: Scope and Consultation</b> details the extensive consultation that has taken place at each stage of the routeing process, which has helped to identify existing infrastructure in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. As part of the assessment in each topic chapter, existing infrastructure is considered.</p> <p>In addition to this, each topic chapter also considers committed developments (planned infrastructure) of an EIA scale within 5 km of the Proposed Development (Wind Farms will be included to 10 km).</p> <p>The necessary hazard assessments have been undertaken as part of the design development during the routeing and alignment selection stages and any constraints of this nature identified have been avoided as far as possible within the design of the Proposed Development. If constraints of this nature have been identified and have not been possible to avoid, then appropriate engineering mitigation solutions have been developed to avoid effects. A detailed description of the Proposed Development including a list of temporary diversions and realignments of existing OHLs has been provided as part of the EIA Report.</p> |
| Energy Consents Unit                                                   | Scottish Ministers request SSEN Transmission assess if any flammable, toxic or explosive chemicals detailed in The Town and Country Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Regulations 2015 would be stored on site in quantities such that a Hazardous Substances Consent would be required under section 2 of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Act 1997.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 9                        | N/A                                                                                   | Noted. The assessment of impacts upon Major Accidents and Disasters has been scoped out of the assessment within the EIA Report with the agreement of the Scottish Ministers and therefore SSEN Transmission will provide a suitable hazards assessment outwith the EIA process, with Hazardous Substances Consent being sought where necessary. However, it is not anticipated that there will be any hazardous substances stored on site in such quantities that would trigger the requirement for a Hazardous Substances Consent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Energy Consents Unit                                                   | Scottish Ministers are aware that further engagement is required between parties regarding the refinement of the design of the Proposed Development regarding surveys, management plans, peat, radio links, finalisation of viewpoints, cultural heritage, cumulative assessments and request that they are kept informed of relevant discussions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 9                        | N/A                                                                                   | Noted. Extensive engagement has taken place to date with key stakeholders regarding design, survey and assessment methodology. ECU will be kept informed of the ongoing discussions around design refinement etc. as requested.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Energy Consents Unit                                                   | Scottish Ministers are required to make a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment as identified in the environmental impact assessment. The mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impacts identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. SSEN Transmission are also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures proposed in the environmental assessment, provided in tabular form, where that mitigation is relied upon in relation to reported conclusions of likelihood or significance of impacts.                                                                                                                                                                             | 9                        | Chapters 7 - 15 (topic assessment chapters)<br><br>Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation | Each topic assessment chapter presents the embedded mitigation and additional mitigation required to reduce the significance of environmental effects. A consolidated schedule of mitigation is presented in <b>Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Energy Consents Unit                                                   | When finalising the EIA Report, applicants are asked to provide a summary, in tabular form, of where within the EIA Report each of the specific matters raised in this scoping opinion has been addressed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 10                       | Appendix 6.3: Scoping Report Matrix                                                   | This Scoping Report Matrix satisfies this requirement and is included as an appendix to the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| BAA Aerodrome Safeguarding (Aberdeen) / Aberdeen International Airport | If any tower height exceeds 90 m between Turriff and Peterhead, it may impact Instrument Flight Procedure (IFP) and a detailed assessment covering the position in light of, inter alia, operational impact and cumulative effect will be required.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 12                       | N/A                                                                                   | Noted. Tower height does not exceed 90 m between Turriff and Peterhead.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Aberdeenshire Council                                                  | Aberdeenshire Council generally agrees with the proposed scope of the EIA in relation to the Aberdeenshire Council area. The EIA Methodology outlined within the Scoping Report appears to be typical for a development of this type and is considered acceptable.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 13-20                    | Chapter 5: EIA Process and Methodology                                                | <p>Detailed information on the EIA methodology has been provided in <b>Chapter 5: EIA Process and Methodology</b>.</p> <p>Within each topic chapter, issues scoped out of their assessments has been listed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |



| Consultee             | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference                                                                  | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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|                       | Clear rationale for scoping out other issues of the EIA should be included within the EIA and / or elsewhere within supporting information accompanying the application.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                          | Chapters 7-15 (topic assessment chapters)<br><br>Appendix 6.1: Scoping Report         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Aberdeenshire Council | <p>The presentation maps in the Scoping Report included representative viewpoints for assessment. Comments were raised that no information was provided on the reasons for selection of these viewpoints.</p> <p>It is confirmed that the proposed methodology for the LVIA and the 5 km / 10 km study areas respectively set for landscape and visual amenity effects is satisfactory. It is noted that no representative viewpoints for visualisations and assessment are defined in the Scoping Report but Aberdeenshire Council welcome the opportunity to be consulted on these at a later date.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 13-20                    | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual                                                       | Following on from Scoping, further consultation on viewpoint locations has taken place with Aberdeenshire Council and viewpoint locations have been agreed. The consultation included a rationale for viewpoint selection. The rationale is outlined in <b>Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Aberdeenshire Council | <p>Landscape mitigation and enhancement measures should form a key part of the proposals. These should include off-site woodland and hedgerow planting and management to assist with screening of views, enhanced and accelerated forest restructuring where the transmission line is routed within productive forestry to increase species and age diversity and improve design of margins as well as other landscape measures aimed at enhancing character and biodiversity in the wider countryside surrounding the proposal.</p> <p>It is noted in the Scoping Report that planting restoration plans will be scoped out of the LVIA but that landscape mitigation measures will be considered during detailed assessment. The request is reiterated that not just landscape mitigation of the effects of the Proposed Development should be considered but also wider landscape and biodiversity enhancement measures in accordance with the requirements of NPF4. Similarly, the LVIA should consider compensatory planting where removal of woodland is proposed and the rationalisation of existing transmission lines should also be thoroughly investigated to provide a clear picture of potential beneficial effects and potential mitigation of cumulative effects.</p>                                                                                                                                                        | 13-20                    | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual<br><br>Chapter 8: Ecology<br><br>Chapter 12: Forestry | <p>Landscape mitigation and enhancement measures are included where the Applicant has control over the land, i.e. within the operational corridor and includes rationalisation of the existing transmission network where necessary. Landscaped forestry proposals have been provided in sensitive areas including fringe planting and consideration of hedgerows. Compensatory planting requirements are included within <b>Chapter 12: Forestry</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant is committing to 10% Biodiversity Net Gain and as such biodiversity enhancements are proposed as part of the application. An Outline Habitat Management Plan also accompanies the application.</p> <p>Off-site mitigation measures, where the Applicant neither owns the 3rd party land nor holds long-term legal covenants cannot be relied on in terms of mitigating impacts for EIA purposes.</p> |
| Aberdeenshire Council | <p>In regard to National Planning Framework 4 (Section 5.2), Aberdeenshire Council agree with the considerations provided, however the full assessment should also include specific policies.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to the following policies: P4 Hazardous and potentially polluting developments and contaminated land; RD1 Providing suitable services and HE3 Enabling development to safeguard historic buildings at risk; PR3 Reuse, recycling and waste; C2 Renewable energy.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 13-20                    | N/A                                                                                   | The Planning Statement submitted in support of the application provides detail on the compatibility of the Proposed Development with policy outlined in Aberdeenshire Council's Development Plan and Supplementary Guidance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Aberdeenshire Council | The Scoping Report provides little detail of the type of development intended to be considered in the cumulative assessment. It is advised that these developments should principally comprise existing, consented and application-stage electricity substations lying on the route (including nearby substations proposed for off-shore wind farms) as well as existing, consented and application-stage wind energy developments lying within the 5 km and 10 km study areas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 13-20                    | Chapter 5: EIA Process and Methodology                                                | <b>Chapter 5: EIA Process and Methodology</b> provides the rationale behind the cumulative assessment of the EIA Report. We have consulted with The Highland Council, Moray Council and Aberdeenshire Council to agree the cumulative developments list.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Aberdeenshire Council | <p>It is identified that Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) should be included as part of considerations and included on the ecological constraints map. The River Deveron should be considered for assessment due to its value as a river habitat and for protected species.</p> <p>There are a couple of issues that require consideration within the EIA Report, or justification needs too be provided for these issues not being considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LNCS are mentioned in the Ecology chapter, where it is noted that they will not be affected by the proposal. However, the Bin Hill LNCS at Huntly appears to be within the corridor defined in the Scoping Report and any impact on this site should be considered within the EIA Report. There are another couple of LNCS close to the identified corridor and any linkages and potential impacts on these should be identified and considered. It would be useful to have the LNCS sites included in any map of ecological constraints in the ecology chapter of the EIA Report.</li> <li>The rivers Ness, Nairn, Findhorn and Spey have been mentioned within the Scoping Report however the Deveron is a notable omission. It may be that this is an oversight, if not then the reasons for its exclusion should be clarified as it is important in terms of river habitats as well as for protected species such as otter.</li> </ul> | 13-20                    | Chapter 8: Ecology                                                                    | The EIA Report will review and consider relevant LNCS and the River Deveron together with the other noted rivers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Aberdeenshire Council | In terms of Archaeology, it is generally agreed that proposed scope and assessment methodology is acceptable. However, should compensatory planting be proposed, these areas should be included in the Cultural Heritage assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 13-20                    | Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage                                                         | The areas for compensatory planting will be off-site and assessed as part of a separate application; and therefore have not been considered within the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

| Consultee                      | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference                                                                      | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| Aberdeenshire Council          | In relation to Built and Cultural Heritage, it is highlighted that the criteria for assessing the impact of the development on listed buildings should be universal and not the grade of their statutory designation. This suggested amendment stems from all the properties recorded on the statutory list having equal sensitivity on their setting irrespective of the specific grade of designation. SSEN Transmission should also be advised to have due regard to any subservient structures sited within the grounds of a listed building on account of them also being potentially deemed listed by virtue of curtilage.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 13-20                    | Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage                                                             | Impacts to all categories of listed building follow the same methodology as all other designated and non-designated heritage assets. The assessment has determined the key aspects of a listed buildings significance, which includes the setting of the listed buildings and its curtilage.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Aberdeenshire Council          | <p>A Drainage Impact Assessment, prepared in accordance with Council Guidelines would be required. This should cover all potential phases of the application.</p> <p>If surface water soakaways are to be used to disperse of surface water; testing and sizing calculations should be done. If infiltration testing proves that ground is impervious then suitable attenuation calculations should be provided to prove that on-site surface water drainage system has adequate storage capacity for a 30 year return period rainfall event. Soakaway or Attenuation System construction details to be provided (including discharge control if necessary).</p> <p>A statement on how future maintenance of the proposed drainage system will be performed and confirmation of who will be responsible.</p> <p>Confirmation that any existing site or field drainage will be located and suitably altered, if indeed disturbed.</p> <p>To fully consider flood risk to the site SSEN Transmission will need to submit a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) which must consider flood risk from all sources.</p> | 13-20                    | <p>Chapter 3: Project Description</p> <p>Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment</p> | <p>Due to the nature of the works a formal Drainage Impact Assessment (DIA) is not included, however surface water drainage proposals for access tracks are detailed in the EIA Report and the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP) (presented in <b>Appendix 3.3</b> of the EIA Report) provides detail on site water management during construction.</p> <p>A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is presented in <b>Appendix 10.8</b> of the EIA Report. The FRA and the mitigation section in <b>Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment</b> presents a range of good industry practices and embedded measures.</p> |
| Aberdeenshire Council          | The scope of the Forestry chapter is limited to consideration of the impact on commercial forestry and ensuring the resilience of wayleave corridors from wind-throw risk. In terms of being able to make a comprehensive assessment of the impact of the proposal on forestry it would be useful if the relevant sections of those chapters were clearly cross-referenced from the forestry chapter.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 13-20                    | Chapter 12: Forestry                                                                      | Additional information on the impact of the development on native woodland has been included within the forestry chapter. Each woodland impacted has a dedicated Woodland Report which covers all types of woodland impacted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Aberdeenshire Council          | <p>Overall, Aberdeenshire Council have no significant comments to make on Traffic and Transport, although we would highlight that further to the list of impacted roads, as the proposed corridor will be crossing the Trunk Roads A96 and A90, Transport Scotland should be consulted throughout this study where proposed works may impact these roads.</p> <p>Submit a detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan to Aberdeenshire Council, as well as to Transport Scotland (where proposed construction traffic routes are impacting the Trunk Road Network – i.e. the A90 and A96).</p> <p>At Scoping, Roads Development has no objections, although they welcome the opportunity to comment further as and when construction traffic routes are identified, as well as temporary and permanent work sites and their accesses.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 13-20                    | Chapter 13: Transport                                                                     | Consultation took place with Aberdeenshire Council and Transport Scotland Roads Officers. A Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been included as <b>Appendix 3.4</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Aberdeenshire Council          | It is acknowledged that there is no standard methodology for the Recreation and Tourism assessment however the suggested methodology appears to be acceptable in principle. The proposal to include an access management plan as an integral element of the Construction Environment Management Plan for the development is welcomed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 13-20                    | Chapter: 14: Recreation and Tourism                                                       | Noted. An outline access management plan has been appended to <b>Chapter 14</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Aberdeenshire Council          | The Environmental Health Service has considered the Scoping Report and would generally have no objection to the approach suggested. However, this service is in receipt of noise complaints from existing 400kV OHL and additionally internal noise criteria would be required. This should be agreed with Environmental Health alongside noise limits for the suggested approaches as stated in the Scoping Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 13-20                    | Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration                                                           | Noted. Existing OHL noise has been considered as cumulative noise. Internal noise has been assessed using BS 8233:2014 and Noise Rating Curves.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| The British Horse Society      | Equestrian use should be included when planning and designing the development. It is advised that steps are taken to manage safe access to off-road riding, ensure the safety and the welfare of the horses kept within the vicinity of the site. The owners of the horses need to have access to care for the horses both during construction and operation of the development.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 21-22                    | Chapter: 14: Recreation and Tourism                                                       | The potential physical and visual impacts on and mitigation for public access, including recreational routes used for horse riding, have been considered within the recreation and tourism assessment in Chapter 14: Recreation and Tourism, of the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| British Telecommunications plc | <p>BT accept all structures.</p> <p>WID13438T541 is 7.5 m away from the link path however there enough clearance not to affect the existing radio links as they stand.</p> <p>WID13438T70 and WID13438T71 fall short of 100 m however, as SSEN Transmission is stretching the tower separation to 380 m this supports BT's mitigation efforts to avoid affecting the radio</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 23                       | N/A                                                                                       | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |



| Consultee                          | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference                                                | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                    | links as they stand. The height of the towers are 57.57 and 60.57 m and the closest is 78.26 m away to BT's active link. The second Fresnel zone is 12.49 m away from the links path, adding the minimum required 25 m buffer is 37.49 m.<br><br>BT require 100 m from any active/planned link path and the acceptance of this proposal cannot be assumed for any further proposals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                          |                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Cairngorms National Park Authority | Given the distance of the Proposed Development from the National Park boundary, the Park Authority has no comments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 24                       | N/A                                                                 | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| The Highland Council               | The description of development for the EIA Report must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and the full land-use requirements during the operational, construction and decommissioning phases, including details of any redundant overhead line infrastructure to be removed. Irrespective of the application site boundary, or works to be consented under different regulatory regimes, or authorised under permitted development rights, these must include the totality of the development, including but not limited to, project critical infrastructure such as road improvement works, connections, woodland, habitat and water management, etc. A plan with eight figure OS Grid co-ordinates for all main elements of the proposal should be supplied;</li> <li>a description of the main characteristics of the production processes, for instance, nature and quantity of the materials used;</li> <li>the risk of accidents, having regard in particular to substances or technologies used;</li> <li>an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, etc.) resulting from the operation of the development;</li> <li>the estimated cumulative impact of the project with other consented or operation development; and</li> <li>a detailed Schedule of Mitigation.</li> </ul> | 25 – 28<br><br>108 - 126 | All Chapters                                                        | Noted. All elements listed by the Highland Council have been included within the EIA Report.<br><br>The description of physical characteristics has been provided in <b>Chapter 3: Project Description</b> . This has been supported by a suite of figures displaying the design of the Proposed Development. This chapter has also include a description of main characteristics of production processes.<br><br>The risk of accidents is not included as Major Accidents and Disasters were scoped out in the EIA Scoping Report.<br><br>A cumulative assessment with other consented developments has been provided in each topic chapter. Assessment of operational developments has been included in each topic chapter as part of the baseline.<br><br>A detailed Schedule of Mitigation is provided in a standalone chapter, <b>Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation</b> . |
| The Highland Council               | THC strongly encourage that the vertical Limit of Deviation (LoD) is designed to be no greater than 10% higher for any particular proposed OHL tower to ensure that the EIA Report undertaken remains accurate and the proposal can be adequately assessed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 25 – 28<br><br>108 - 126 | Chapter 3: Project Description                                      | Detail on LoD and operational corridor is presented in <b>Chapter 3: Project Description</b> . Environmental and technical constraints will impact the LoD.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| The Highland Council               | THC expect the EIA and application to specify each tower position, design type, and height, with a commitment being made that it would not be micro-sited beyond 50m on the horizontal axis. A specific micrositing mitigation table for each numbered tower is expected to be required, specifying where this suggested 50m limit needs to be refined downward to respect nearby environmental / receptor constraints. Similarly, whilst reporting the average height of each tower (57m) is a helpful indication, details of each specified tower height will be required, along with the connecting cable clearance heights for road / watercourse crossing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                          | Chapter 3: Project Description<br><br>Appendix 3.1: Tower Schedules | <b>Appendix 3.1: Tower Schedules</b> provides detail on the design type, dimensions, and location of each tower of the Proposed Development. Details on LoD and clearance heights are presented in <b>Chapter 3: Project Description</b> of the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| The Highland Council               | In refining the LoD, the wayleave corridor required should also be considered and specified within the project's description of development. Owing to the design height of the towers, scope should be included for planting proposals within this corridor to reduce the extent of potential landscape and visual impacts, but also to maximise habitat enhancement and compensatory planting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 25 – 28<br><br>108 - 126 | Chapter 3: Project Description                                      | Detail on LoD and operational corridor are presented in Chapter 3: Project Description. Planting has been considered within the Operational Corridor where appropriate and in line with SSEN Transmission operational safety requirements. Despite this, offsite compensatory planting will be required in order to comply with the criteria of the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| The Highland Council               | Alongside the development of the OHL itself, SSEN Transmission are strongly encouraged to incorporate all ancillary works within the S37 application, with this to include any works which would benefit from permitted development rights and other development which would otherwise require a subsequent permission under the Town and Country Planning Act, such as for new junctions and temporary remote compounds / laydown areas, and any borrow pits.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 25 – 28<br><br>108 - 126 | Chapter 3: Project Description                                      | Ancillary development has been considered as part of the Proposed Development and assessed in the EIA Report. Ancillary development included within the EIA Report is described in <b>Chapter 3: Project Description</b> .<br>The final location of temporary construction compounds and borrow pits will be confirmed by the Principal Contractor and separate planning permissions would be sought as required.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| The Highland Council               | A statement is required which outlines the main development alternatives studied by SSEN Transmission and an indication of the main reasons for the final project choice.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 25 – 28<br><br>108 - 126 | Chapter 4: The Routeing Process and Alternatives                    | <b>Chapter 4: The Routeing Process and Alternatives</b> describes the optioneering process undertaken to arrive at the Proposed Development and a high-level overview of the factors that influenced decision making at each of the optioneering stages. In addition, it provides an overview of the alternative technology choices considered, as well as a 'do nothing' scenario.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Highland Council               | The EIA Report should recognise the existing land uses affected by the development having particular regard for THC's Development Plan inclusive of all statutorily adopted Supplementary Guidance (SG). This is not instead of but in addition to the expectation of receiving a Planning Statement in support of the application itself. The purpose of this EIA chapter is to highlight relevant policies, not to assess the compatibility of the proposal with policy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 25 – 28<br><br>108 - 126 | Appendix 6.1: EIA Scoping Report<br><br>Chapter 12: Forestry        | Land Use was considered in the EIA Scoping Report which concluded that there is not the potential for significant effects except for Forestry. As such the EIA Report includes a chapter on Forestry alone with other land use elements scoped out.<br><br>Public access is considered within <b>Chapter 14</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

| Consultee            | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference               | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                          | Chapter 14: Recreation and Tourism | The Planning Statement addresses land use in relation to the existing Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan 2 and the current and emerging update to the Highland-wide Local Development Plan, in addition to relevant Supplementary Guidance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| The Highland Council | The Council has recently commenced the preparation of a new-style Highland Local Development Plan (HLDP), with the intention to undertake the evidence-gathering stage of the new LDP throughout 2023.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | N/A                                | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| The Highland Council | Developer Contributions, Community Benefit and Community Wealth Building will all need to be considered as the scheme develops.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | N/A                                | Noted. The Community Benefit Fund will bring positive benefits and a lasting legacy to local communities across the northeast of Scotland and will apply to the project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| The Highland Council | A Sustainable Design Statement is required.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 2: Project Need            | The Project Need chapter explains the requirements and drivers for the Proposed Development. It is not proposed to submit a separate Sustainable Design Statement given such documents are primarily targeted at housing developments. However, sustainable design principles have been discussed in the EIA Report and Planning Statement, where relevant.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| The Highland Council | The EIA needs to consider the impact of the installation, the electricity generating capacity the infrastructure is intended to serve, the planned generating source (including an estimate breakdown of onshore and offshore), and the prospective long-term use of the energy transmitted. The application should include a statement on how the development is likely to contribute to achieving net zero, but also Scottish Government Energy Efficient Scotland roadmap and provide the Highlands and UK with secure, and clean, electricity supplies. It should also be made clear if any part of the project would be capable of being delivered in isolation, or that it has been designed to be served by a suite of grid infrastructure upgrades; being prescriptive about which associated connections or other substation upgrades would be integral to the decision to progress with the development. | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | All chapters                       | <p>The overall impact of the installation from an environmental perspective has been covered in the EIA Report, where mitigation has been suggested to reduce any potential effects identified.</p> <p>The electricity generating capacity that the infrastructure is intending to serve has been discussed at high-level in <b>Chapter 2: Project Need</b>. This chapter discussed the need for the Proposed Development and its relationship to achieving Net Zero targets.</p> <p>The Proposed Development has been designed to serve a suite of grid infrastructure upgrades including the proposed Fanellan substation, Greens substation and Netherton Hub. Further detail on this is provided in chapters 1-5.</p> |
| The Highland Council | THC expects the EIA Report to consider the landscape and visual impact of the development.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual    | The LVIA forms <b>Chapter 7</b> of the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| The Highland Council | In instances where the development is largely screened, for example by tree cover, monochrome photomontages of the same focal length shall be submitted showing the proposed infrastructure in red (as per paragraph 4.1 of the above Guidance) to allow for a fuller analysis.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual    | THC have been consulted on visual presentation and monochrome photomontages will not be provided. However, photowires will be shown in red.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| The Highland Council | Where landscaping and planting is proposed, you should include visualisations years 1 and 10 from the completion of construction to show how the landscaping will embed the development into its receiving environment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual    | THC have been consulted on visual presentations and a year 1, 7 and 15 for visualisations where forestry replanting is a key element of the view has been agreed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| The Highland Council | The Scoping Report details that restoration planting plans are anticipated to be scoped out of the LVIA, with only the standard vegetation clearance offset to be captured. THC disagree with this approach as this may therefore not captures any additional consequential tree felling works required to create a windfirm edge, and would also fail to capture landscape mitigation (in the form of ground re-profiling, planting or long-term forestry retention / management commitments) which could be integral to mitigation and acceptability of the Proposed Development. The landscaping proposals associated with the proposal should therefore be scoped into the LVIA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual    | The LVIA considers tree management felling to a windfirm edge and showing forestry management felling/ replanting within the photomontages where they are a key element of the view. Planting plans within the Operational Corridor at key locations has been included for visual amenity purposes. Any management felling identified is outwith the remit of SSEN Transmission and under control of the landowner.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| The Highland Council | Assessments should cover impacts of all elements of the development, including any connecting substation buildings / infrastructure, any likely additional, removed or re-located overhead line infrastructure, any security fencing, any tree felling, any lighting and any associated road improvement works required both on site, and potentially off-site including bridge upgrades / replacements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual    | This has been covered under the LVIA cumulative assessment in <b>Chapter 7</b> . SSEN Transmission projects have also been shown on the visualisations, which are displayed in <b>Volume 4</b> of the EIA Report. Accommodation tracks / compounds have been taken into consideration where appropriate.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| The Highland Council | Separate volumes of visualisations should be prepared to both Highland Council Standards and NatureScot guidance. These should be provided in hard copy. It would be beneficial for THC's volume to be provided in a A3 leaver arch folder for ease of use. We are happy to provide advice on this matter going forward.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual    | THC have been consulted on this matter. Two sets of visualisations to the two separate standards are provided in <b>Volume 4: Visualisations</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| The Highland Council | The finalised list of Viewpoints (VP) and wireframes for the assessment of effects of a Proposed Development must be agreed in advance of preparation of any visuals with THC and NatureScot. THC's Landscape and Planning Officers are expected to have a further follow up pre-application advice meeting to help refine the scope of the LVIA and review the further design information being progressed by SSEN Transmission.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual    | THC have been consulted on this matter and viewpoints and updated requirements have been agreed. A meeting was also held to have a 3D model 'walkthrough' to review impacts of towers from some key areas of concern (e.g. adjacent to the Caledonian Canal) in relation to different alignment alternatives. The meeting concluded that THC were content with the choice of Proposed OHL Alignment to be taken forward to the EIA stage subject to the Applicant considering mitigation measures to minimise visual impacts from key tourist routes.                                                                                                                                                                     |

| Consultee            | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference                         | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| The Highland Council | We acknowledge that there will be some micro-siting of the viewpoints to avoid intervening screening of vegetation boundary treatments etc. We would recommend that the photographer has in their mind whether the VP is representative or specific and also who the receptors are when they are taking the photos it would be helpful. We have also found that if the photographer has a 3D model on a laptop when they go out on site it helps the orientation of the photography                                                                                                                                                                  | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual              | Noted. Each viewpoint has a 360-degree set of images taken to avoid any potential confusion with orientation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| The Highland Council | Care should also be taken when undertaking the baseline photography in appropriate weather conditions, and during months of the year when visibility is not excessively obscured by intervening vegetation / deciduous trees being full leaf to ensure that the worst case scenario is accurately captured in the LVIA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual              | Winter photography has been undertaken and in suitable weather conditions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| The Highland Council | The detailed location of viewpoints will be informed by site survey, mapping and predicted ZTVs and should be selected in order to show the proposal from as an open viewpoint as possible. Community Council's may request additional viewpoints and it would be recommended that any pre-application discussions with the local community, and associated reporting on consultation undertaken, take this into account.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual              | Noted. Viewpoint selection rationale has been outlined in the chapter, but includes viewpoints from a variety of distances, directions and receptor groups. Viewpoint photograph locations were micro-sited during the photography site visits to ensure open views towards the Site. Locations were agreed and /or amended following consultation with the planning authorities and NatureScot. |
| The Highland Council | The purpose of the selected and agreed viewpoints shall be clearly identified and stated in the supporting information. For example, it should be clear that the VP has been chosen for landscape assessment, or visual impact assessment, or cumulative assessment, or sequential assessment, or to show a representative view, or for assessment of impact on designated sites, communities, or individual properties. However, it is important for assessors to remember that Visual Effects are defined by GLVIA3 not just as effects on views, but as 'Effects on specific views and on the general amenity experienced by people'.             | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual              | Noted. The LVIA considers effects on visual receptors, not just on viewpoints.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| The Highland Council | The LVIA Chapter of the EIA Report should also clearly set out the methodology.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual              | A detailed methodology has been included as a separate appendix and also summarised within the LVIA Chapter.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| The Highland Council | A clear matrix approach supported by descriptive text setting out how you have reached your conclusion of effect on landscape character, designated landscapes, visual receptors, and residential amenity. The LVIA should contain an assessment of singular and cumulative effects for each of the representative viewpoints (as opposed to grouped receptors) following this methodology.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual              | Effects on landscape and visual receptors, as well as on each individual viewpoint, have been included as separate appendices to provide more detailed narrative on sensitivity, impacts and effects for each. Viewpoints have been included within the cumulative assessment appendix. Sequential views will be considered in the text narrative only, where appropriate (no photomontages).    |
| The Highland Council | When assessing the impact on recreational routes please ensure that all core paths, rights of way, national cycle network, and long-distance trails are assessed. An assessment of the impacts of the proposal on landscape should assess the impacts on any landscapes designated at a national and local scale.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual              | Key recreational routes mentioned have been considered, along with designated landscapes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| The Highland Council | Separate to the production of the EIA Report and LVIA, owing to the development being of national scale, a 3D flythrough of the project covering key routes and receptors is also required for presentation to committee, with the scope and content of this to be developed with Council officers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | N/A                                          | A 3D flythrough for the entire route will be publicly available on the SSE website.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| The Highland Council | Provide a baseline survey of the bird and animals (mammals, reptiles, amphibians, etc.) interest on site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 8: Ecology<br>Chapter 9: Ornithology | The baseline has been provided in detail within Technical Appendices to the EIA Report. The scope of surveys has been agreed with NatureScot.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| The Highland Council | The EIA Report should provide an account of the habitats present on the Proposed Development site. It should identify rare and threatened habitats, and those protected by European or UK legislation, or identified in national or local Biodiversity Action Plans. Habitat enhancement and mitigation measures should be detailed. Details of any habitat enhancement programmes (such as native-tree planting, stock exclusion, etc.) for the proposed site should be provided. It is expected that the EIA Report will address whether or not the development could assist or impede delivery of elements of relevant Biodiversity Action Plans. | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 8: Ecology                           | UKHab surveys, complemented by habitat mapping produced through multicriteria analysis (as described in the Scoping Report), will inform the EIA Report and the EIA Report also discusses relevant enhancement, mitigation and BAP features / delivery targets.                                                                                                                                  |
| The Highland Council | An ecological impact assessment for the site and should be considered alongside the development EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 8: Ecology                           | An ecological impact assessment will be included as part of Chapter 8: Ecology.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| The Highland Council | It is expected that the proposal shall demonstrate compliance with NPF4 Policy 3b and that using the DEFRA metric, a minimum of 10% of biodiversity enhancement overall, can be brought about.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 8: Ecology                           | The Applicant is committed to a minimum 10% biodiversity Net Gain. The SSEN Transmission biodiversity toolkit is being used rather than the DEFRA metric, which is considered to be more acceptable for use in the Scottish context.                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Highland Council | NatureScot will lead on ecology / ornithology designations, priority peatland and protected species. The EIA Report should address the likely impacts on the nature conservation interests of all the designated sites in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. It should provide proposals for any mitigation that is required to avoid these impacts or to reduce them to a level where they are not significant. We note NatureScot are content with the topics scoped into the EIA and have offered comments on the approaches to surveys and methodologies for assessing the wide                                                           | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 8: Ecology                           | The Applicant has worked closely with NatureScot throughout the process to date and continues to do so regarding the noted points.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |



| Consultee            | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference                                                   | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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|                      | range of natural heritage interests along the OHL route. We expect SSEN Transmission to engage further with NatureScot head of the application's submission, particularly in relation to direct impact on the Torvean Landforms Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), in the production of their shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal, and priority peatland impacts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                          |                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Highland Council | The EIA Report needs to address the aquatic interests within local watercourses, including downstream interests that may be affected by the development, for example increases in silt and sediment loads resulting from construction works; pollution risk / incidents during construction; obstruction to upstream and downstream migration both during and after construction; disturbance of spawning beds / timing of works; and other drainage issues. The EIA Report should evidence consultation input from the local fishery board(s) where relevant. The EIA Report should include a map and assessment of impacts upon Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE) and buffers, these habitats are easily damaged by insensitive drainage. | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 8: Ecology<br><br>Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment | <b>Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment</b> considers the potential for effects on watercourses across the route and includes a range of embedded mitigation measures to help protect the water environment. Fish are considered within Chapter 8: Ecology and local fisheries boards have been contacted for fisheries data to inform our assessments. GWDTEs have been considered within Chapter 10 including the provision of mapping            |
| The Highland Council | If wild deer are present or will use the site an assessment of the potential impact on deer will be required. This should address deer welfare, habitats, and other interests.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 8: Ecology                                                     | Given the nature of the Proposed Development (an OHL), deer are unlikely to be displaced by the operational OHL and as such will continue to travel across wayleaves and surrounding habitat much as they do currently. An outline CEMP will be produced which details any mitigation for surrounding habitats and transient species during construction. This will mitigate any interim effects to local deer                                              |
| The Highland Council | A draft or outline Habitat Management Plan (HMP) and Species Protection Plan (SPP) should be produced as part of the EIA, including any proposals for mitigation and enhancement in relation to important habitats and species. Any compensatory planting plans should be carefully considered and included in the HMP. It is noted that the application will be supported by a Biodiversity Net Gain Metric, this is supported.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 8: Ecology                                                     | The EIA Report includes the Applicant's agreed set of Species Protection Plans and an outline Habitat Management Plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| The Highland Council | SSEN Transmission should explore and identify opportunities for biodiversity enhancement as early as possible, including through discussion with key stakeholders. Within the EIA Report, information on predicted losses, proposed compensation and delivery of additional positive effects should be clearly summarised. The information must be sufficient to allow the consenting authority and relevant stakeholders to see clearly how effects will be addressed, and compensation and enhancement delivered.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 8: Ecology                                                     | This information has been provided in the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| The Highland Council | The EIA Report needs to address the nature of the hydrology and hydrogeology of the site, and of the potential impacts on water courses, water supplies including private supplies, water quality, water quantity and on aquatic flora and fauna.<br><br>Measures to prevent erosion, sedimentation or discolouration will be required, along with monitoring proposals and contingency plans.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment                           | <b>Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment</b> considers the potential for changes in water quality and quantity towards each of these receptors. Embedded mitigation measures to prevent erosion and sedimentation have been provided within the chapter.                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Highland Council | Assessment will need to recognise periods of high rainfall which will impact on any calculations of run-off, high flow in watercourses and hydrogeological matters.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment                           | <b>Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment</b> and Flood Risk Assessment appendix notes the potential flood risk from all sources and provides embedded mitigation measures for managing runoff during construction works.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Highland Council | If culverting should be proposed, then it should be noted that SEPA has a general presumption against modification, diversion or culverting of watercourses. Schemes should be designed to avoid crossing watercourses, and to bridge watercourses where this cannot be avoided. The EIA Report will be expected to identify all water crossings and include a systematic table of watercourse crossings or channelising, with detailed justification for any such elements and design to minimise impact.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment                           | Crossings have been minimised as far as practicable as set out in the Embedded Mitigation Section of <b>Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment</b> . A schedule of the proposed crossing types associated with the Proposed Development has been included as an appendix.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Highland Council | The need for, and information on, abstractions of water supplies for concrete works or other operations should also be identified. The EIA Report should identify whether a public or private source is to be utilised. If a private source is to be utilised, full details on the source and details of abstraction need to be provided.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment                           | <b>Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment</b> sets out that abstraction for construction activities is not anticipated (in the Embedded Mitigation Section) however it lists good practice that would be followed via Controlled Activities Regulations Licenses and good industry practices in the event that it was required.                                                                                                                       |
| The Highland Council | SSEN Transmission will be required to carry out an investigation to identify any private water supplies, including pipework, which may be adversely affected by the development and to submit details of the measures proposed to prevent contamination or physical disruption. An on-site survey will be required.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment                           | A Private Water Supply Risk Assessment has been provided which includes the use of site surveys and questionnaires to help identify PWSs, and appropriate measures for the protection of the PWSs and their associated infrastructure.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| The Highland Council | Undertake a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which will define specific methods for environmental survey, monitoring and management throughout construction. However, given the given the size and nature of the construction of this project, it is also essential that the community liaison arrangements are put in place throughout the duration of the project. The community liaison should keep residents informed of the progress of any sections of the OHL are in close proximity to noise sensitive properties and which may impact on them and allow for any complaints to be addressed fairly and expeditiously.                                                                                                                 | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Appendix 3.3: Outline CEMP                                             | An outline CEMP has been produced to accompany the EIA Report. A full CEMP will be produced by the Principal Contractor and continuously updated throughout the construction period where required.<br><br>The Applicant's Communities Team will act as the primary point of contact between the project and the community. A Community Liaison Officer will ensure open communication, address concerns and facilitate engagement regarding noise impacts. |

| Consultee            | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference                                    | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| The Highland Council | SSEN Transmission will also need to ensure that the EIA contains a construction noise / vibration assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration                         | A noise and vibration assessment has been carried out and examined in the dedicated chapter ( <b>Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration</b> ).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| The Highland Council | The noise assessment will also require to include an assessment of the impact of noise from construction traffic. If piling is required in locations close to residential properties, this can also result in significant disturbance. In addition to nuisance, one of the most common concerns about piling is the perceived risk of structural damage. This is out-with the remit of this Service but is something SSEN Transmission should be mindful of. It is also expected that the contractor will employ the best practicable means to reduce the impact of noise/vibration from construction activities at all times and details of these will be included in the CEMP.                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration                         | Construction noise and vibration has been assessed using British Standard 5228-1/2:2009 +A1:2014 (BS5228), Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites. Construction Traffic has been assessed using Calculation of Road Traffic Noise (CRTN) 1988.                                                                                                                                                |
| The Highland Council | In relation to operational noise, due to the close proximity of some of the sections of OHL to residential and noise sensitive properties, SSEN Transmission will be required to submit a detailed noise assessment undertaken by a competent person.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration                         | An assessment using TGN(E)322 – Operational Audible Noise Assessment Process for Overhead Lines has determined the impact.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Highland Council | THC Transport Planning note that the assessment of environmental impacts from predicted traffic levels associated with this development will follow the principles set out in the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement. However, this approach does not cover the requirement to assess the existing local public road networks condition and capability to physically and safely accommodate the predicted traffic impacts, whilst remaining safe for other road users. This will be for all construction traffic, not just any abnormal loads (ALLs). This reinforces our pre-application feedback highlighting that an additional Transport Assessment (TA) will be required to do that assessment and clarify what physical road improvements and traffic management measures will be required. | 25 – 28<br>108 – 126     | Chapter 13: Transport                                   | Consultation with THC Roads officers is ongoing. A Transport Assessment has been included within the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| The Highland Council | We specifically mention both physical changes to the road network and traffic management measures, as the submitted Scoping Report only makes reference to traffic management measures. Depending on which local public roads will be impacted and the nature and scale of such impacts, it is probable that physical improvements to some roads may be required.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 13: Transport                                   | Consultation with THC Roads officers is ongoing. A Transport Assessment has been included within the EIA Report, which includes details of physical improvements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| The Highland Council | When calculating the predicted quantum and profile of construction traffic likely to be generated by the Proposed Development, this should include the likely traffic generated by the felling and removal of any trees along the route. It should also include the likely traffic required to create the proposed compound areas and the movement of the workforce to and from the development. This challenges the statement in the submitted scoping document that such information will not form part of the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 13: Transport                                   | The Transport Assessment and EIA Chapter consider the total quantum of all construction activities, and the most intense period, to determine the overall impact.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| The Highland Council | We note the reference that “Materials required for the construction of any new stone access tracks are likely to be obtained from on-site borrow-pits, or imported from local quarries”. If suitable GI work has not been undertaken to identify sources of such gravel material along the route and the separate permissions required for such borrow pits have not been secured, we would expect the TA and EIA work to have reviewed the worst case scenario of all materials needing to be imported to site. Also, the predicted profile of traffic movements needs to reflect that the material from temporary access tracks, plus permanent tracks being reduced in scale after the main works are complete, will need to be exported from site.                                                                                                                                         | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 13: Transport                                   | The Transport Assessment and EIA Chapter consider the total quantum of all construction activities, and the most intense period, to determine the overall impact. This includes the worst-case scenario, to ensure that if there is any possibility of materials needing to be brought to site.                                                                                                                                        |
| The Highland Council | Whilst the submitted scoping document says that projects “of a similar type” will be considered in terms of cumulative impacts, from a traffic impacts perspective, all traffic generating new development should be recognised in such assessment work. Highland Council Planning Service will need to clarify what those potential developments could be, when the impacted routes for access to this development have been determined.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 13: Transport                                   | The list of cumulative developments being included within the EIA Report has been agreed with THC and, where transport data is available, has been included within the transport chapter as part of the cumulative assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| The Highland Council | As stated in our pre-application feedback, the additional TA required in support of any application will need to justify the adequacy of any temporary or permanent points of construction and ongoing operational access proposed from the local public road network. This will include justifying the adequacy of visibility splays, which may require traffic speed data for those sections of public road impacted. The layout and construction form of all accesses will also need to be clarified and their suitability justified. We would also expect any submission to justify why each individual new permanent accesses needs to be retained and if so, in what form.                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 25 – 28<br>108 – 126     | Chapter 3: Project Description<br>Chapter 13: Transport | Consultation with THC Roads officers is ongoing. A Transport Assessment has been included within the EIA Report, which includes details of physical improvements. A framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) includes details of layout of access points, permanent or otherwise. The design of access locations / bellmouths is indicative at this stage and further detail will be agreed at the detailed design stage. |
| The Highland Council | A development of this scale and duration may result in potential significant effects (positive and/or negative). We consider that Socio-Economic, Tourism and Recreational impacts should have its own chapter in the EIA Report to ensure that these matters are appropriately addressed and do not agree that part of this should be presented out with the EIA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 14: Recreation and Tourism                      | Tourism and Recreation has been assessed under <b>Chapter 14</b> of the EIA Report. However, as agreed with the ECU, a stand-alone Socio-Economic Report has been submitted separately from the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| The Highland Council | Scoping Report paragraph 13.5.2 proposed a 500m study area from the LoD and associated tracks for the assessment of recreation and tourist assets, with scope for this to be extended at specific locations if deemed appropriate. This study area is not agreed and instead, should focus                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 14: Recreation and Tourism                      | The study area for the recreation and tourism assessment has been extended to 5 km.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |



| Consultee            | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference                                                                                                      | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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|                      | on all tourist attractions and accommodation where the is scope for these to be significantly adversely affected. The LVIA suggests that for this scale of development significant visual impacts are likely at out to 5km, with its study area being out to 10km for certain areas. The scope of the recreation and tourist assets should therefore at least cover a study area of 5km.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                          |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| The Highland Council | The site is on land with access rights provided by the Land Reform Scotland Act. The potential impact on and mitigation for public access should be assessed incorporating core paths, public rights of way, long distance routes, other paths, and wider access rights across the site. While the Scoping Report and an eventual EIA may include impacts on elements of outdoor access assessed under other headings, THC's Access Officer considers that all the impacts on outdoor access should be brought together here in a comprehensive assessment of the proposals visual and physical impacts on outdoor access during the preparatory, construction, operational and post-operational phases. Guidance on assessing that impact as part of an EIA in Appendix 6 of this document: <a href="https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-05/Publication%202018%20-20Environmental%20Impact%20Assessment%20Handbook%20V5.pdf">https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-05/Publication%202018%20-20Environmental%20Impact%20Assessment%20Handbook%20V5.pdf</a> | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 14: Recreation and Tourism                                                                                        | The potential physical and visual impacts on and mitigation for public access has been considered in the recreation and tourism assessment. Public access includes core paths, public rights of way, long distance routes, other paths, and wider access rights across the site.<br><br>Appendix 6 of NatureScot's Handbook on EIA has been considered as part of the assessment.                                        |
| The Highland Council | Following the aforementioned guidance will ensure that a comprehensive baseline is assessed from which an accurate picture of impact can be gained and mitigation measures planned. That will inform the promised access management plan that may be submitted as part of a CEMP. Mention is made in the EIA Scoping Report of diversions. Please be aware that formal processes may be required for diversions of Long Distance Routes (the Great Glen Way and Great Glen Canoe Trail), core paths and recorded public rights of way. Policies 77 and 78 of the Highland wide Local Development Plan will apply as will the access related elements of NPF4.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 14: Recreation and Tourism                                                                                        | Noted. An outline Access Management Plan has been provided as part of the CEMP.<br><br>The formal processes for public access route diversions have been noted. Reference has been made to Policies 77 and 78 of the Highland wide Local Development Plan.                                                                                                                                                               |
| The Highland Council | The EIA Report needs to address all relevant climatic factors which can greatly influence the impact range of many of the preceding factors on account of seasonal changes affecting, rainfall, sunlight, prevailing wind direction etc. From this base data information on the expected impacts of any development can then be founded recognising likely impacts for each phase of development including construction, operation, and decommissioning. Issues such as dust, air borne pollution and / or vapours, noise, light, can then be highlighted. Consideration must also be given to the potential health and safety risks associated with lightning strikes given the proximity of recreational routes through the site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 3: Project Description<br><br>Appendix 6.1: EIA Scoping Report<br><br>Chapters 7 – 15 (topic assessment chapters) | Seasonal changes in the baseline has been considered within topic assessment chapters as appropriate and within relevant mitigation, as set out in the outline CEMP (Water Management Plan), dust GEMP and bad weather GEMP, which have been appended to <b>Chapter 3: Project Description</b> .<br><br>'Major Accidents and Disasters' were considered in the EIA Scoping Report and were scoped out of the EIA Report. |
| The Highland Council | Leading from the assessment of the environmental elements the EIA Report needs to describe the likely significant effects of the development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development, resulting from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the existence of the development;</li> <li>the use of natural resources; and</li> <li>the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances and the elimination of waste.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapters 7 – 15 (topic assessment chapters)<br><br>Chapter 16: Cumulative Assessment                                      | This has been discussed in the topic assessment chapters as appropriate. Additionally, cumulative impact arising from intra-project effects will be assessed in <b>Chapter 16: Cumulative Assessment</b> . The use of natural resources has been scoped out of the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                           |
| The Highland Council | The potential significant effects of development must have regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the extent of the impact (geographical area and size of the affected population);</li> <li>the trans-frontier nature of the impact;</li> <li>the magnitude and complexity of the impact;</li> <li>the probability of the impact; and</li> <li>the duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapters 7 – 15 (topic assessment chapters)<br><br>Chapter 16: Cumulative Assessment                                      | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| The Highland Council | The effects of development upon baseline data should be provided in clear summary points.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 25 – 28<br>108 – 126     | Chapter 17: Summary of Effects                                                                                            | Effects of the Proposed Development have been discussed and summarised in each topic chapter.<br><b>Chapter 17: Summary of Effects</b> details the significant effects of each topic chapter in a clear tabulated format.                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| The Highland Council | The Council requests that when measuring the positive and negative effects of the development a four point scale is used advising any effect to be either strong positive, positive, negative or strong negative.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapters 5: EIA Process and Methodology                                                                                   | The approach taken in the EIA Report in general uses a three point scale (Minor, Moderate, Major) for both adverse and beneficial effects, therefore six levels in total (in addition to negligible).                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| The Highland Council | SSEN Transmission should provide a description of the forecasting methods used to assess the effects on the environment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapters 7 – 15 (topic assessment chapters)                                                                               | Detailed assessment methodology has been provided within each topic assessment chapter.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| The Highland Council | A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reducing and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment must be set out within the EIA Report and be followed through within the application for development. The EIA Report should present a clear summary table of all mitigation measures associated with the development proposal. This table should be entitled draft Schedule of Mitigation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation                                                                                        | Mitigation by design and additional mitigation measures have been provided in each topic chapter, where required. All mitigation measures are summarised in <b>Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

| Consultee            | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference                                                   | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| The Highland Council | The implementation of mitigation can often involve a number of parties. In particular, local liaison groups involving the local community are often deployed to assist with phasing of construction works such as abnormal load deliveries, construction works to the road network, borrow pit blasting. It should be made clear within the EIA Report or supporting information accompanying a planning application exactly which groups are being involved in such liaison, the remit of the group and the management and resourcing of the required effort.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Appendix 3.3 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) | SSEN Transmission are committed to effectively establish channels of communication and engagement with local communities across the entire route, including local liaison groups.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| The Highland Council | NPF4 Policy 6 b) notes that Development proposals will not be supported where they will result in: i. Any loss of ancient woodlands, ancient and veteran trees, or adverse impact on their ecological condition; ii. Adverse impacts on native woodlands, hedgerows and individual trees of high biodiversity value; iii. Fragmenting or severing woodland habitats, unless appropriate mitigation measures are identified and implemented in line with the mitigation hierarchy.<br><br>NPF4 Policy 6 c) notes that Development proposals involving woodland removal will only be supported where they will achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits in accordance with relevant Scottish Government policy on woodland removal. Where woodland is removed, compensatory planting will most likely be expected to be delivered | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 12: Forestry                                                   | Noted. Woodland removal has been considered in the <b>Chapter 12: Forestry</b> with consideration of NPF4 Policy 6b) and NPF4 Policy 6c).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| The Highland Council | As previously noted, SSEN Transmission has provided a Scoping Report with a Forestry Chapter (11) which includes outline comment on baseline conditions, potential effects of Proposed Development and mitigation. There is also a section on proposed scope and methodology of assessment where it is suggested that the forestry assessment will focus on commercial forestry. This could be accepted as long as the native woodland assessment is contained elsewhere in the ES.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 12: Forestry                                                   | All woodland types have been assessed within <b>Chapter 12: Forestry</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| The Highland Council | The scoping proposals set out in the Forestry Chapter of the Scoping Report are broadly accepted, but for the avoidance of doubt, we would recommend the following:<br><br>SSEN Transmission will need to provide an ES which includes a baseline survey of all the woodlands, trees and plants (including fungi, lichens and bryophytes) present on the site to determine the presence of any rare or threatened species. This could be a specific Forestry Chapter by a professional forester which identifies the location, area, type and condition of all productive woodland on and around the route along with a Terrestrial Ecology chapter which identifies the location, area, type and condition of all native woodland.                                                                                                                       | 25 – 28<br>108 – 126     | Chapter 12: Forestry                                                   | All ancient woodlands have been assessed to identify any remnant characteristics and their condition status, in line with the requirements of an ancient woodland condition survey as identified by the Woodland Trust 'Ancient Woodland Restoration Survey and Assessment' <sup>1</sup> . As part of this process, a survey of the ground flora has been undertaken where feasible, as this provides critical insights into the ecological condition and character of the woodland. The presence and composition of ground flora are considered reliable indicators of ancient woodland remnants and are central to understanding its ecological status. Detailed, standalone surveys of bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) and fungi are not required because they are not explicitly prioritised in the Woodland Trust's condition assessment methodology. While bryophytes and fungi are important components of woodland biodiversity, their distribution is often highly localised and influenced by specific microhabitats or environmental factors. As a result, additional surveys of these groups are unlikely to provide substantial added value to the overall condition assessment or influence management recommendations. |
| The Highland Council | SSEN Transmission will also need to provide a breakdown of the impact of the proposals on woodland by type (productive, native or both), as well as making clear the likely impact on woodland listed in the AWI under the various categories and also provide confirmation of the impact on native woodland listed in the NWSS.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 12: Forestry                                                   | All woodlands have been surveyed and recorded within individual Woodland Reports. These reports identify all characteristics, condition and impact of the proposals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| The Highland Council | SSEN Transmission should design the layout to minimise the impact on woodland as much as possible, especially native broadleaf woodland and woodland listed on the AWI as ASNO. The ES should include Tree Constraints Plans and Tree Protection Plans to BS 5837:2012 to show how retained trees/ woodland would be safeguarded from construction activity as well as a tree/ woodland removal drawing which shows the extent of woodland that would need to be removed to accommodate new development.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 12: Forestry                                                   | Woodland was a key factor in the alignment identification stage to minimise impacts on forestry loss. The Woodland Reports identify the construction impact on each individual woodland and any mitigation operations. The Proposed Development includes a significant buffer and operational zone to ensure retained woodlands are out with any construction zones, negating the need for Tree Constraints Plans or Tree Protection Plans.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| The Highland Council | SSEN Transmission will also need to provide a Landscape Plan and Landscape Maintenance Plan which shows how trees to be removed are to be replaced with on-site planting and to show how the visual amenity of the local landscape is to be enriched.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual<br><br>Chapter 12: Forestry            | The LVIA will identify areas for additional planting within the operational corridor. <b>Chapter 12: Forestry</b> will outline approach to replanting of forestry outwith the operational corridor. This forestry replanting will be illustrated in the photomontages where forestry is a key aspect of the view. Any off-site compensatory planting will be out of the scope of the EIA Report.<br><br>The Woodland Reports accompanying the EIA Report identify areas within the Proposed Development site for potential on-site planting or opportunities for natural regeneration, ensuring alignment with ecological and landscape objectives. The plans further demonstrate how the visual amenity of the local landscape will be enriched, incorporating appropriate native species, design principles that respect the character of the surrounding environment, and long-term maintenance strategies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

<sup>1</sup> Woodland Trust (2018). Ancient Woodland Restoration: Survey and Assessment of Ancient Woodland Sites. Available at: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/4731/ancient-woodland-restoration-survey-and-assessment.p>

| Consultee                             | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference            | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| The Highland Council                  | Where woodland is proposed to be removed, compliance with the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal policy must be demonstrated. Where there are any proposals for woodland removal, compensatory planting of an area of new woodland, of a scale and type of woodland equivalent to that which is to be removed is a clear expectation. With this application, any compensatory planting is likely to be off-site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 25 – 28<br>108 – 126     | Chapter 12: Forestry            | All woodland areas to be removed have been assessed and similar woodlands will be planted off-site to ensure no loss of woodland.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| The Highland Council                  | The Scoping Report notes that it is not likely that significant direct impacts to non-designated assets can be avoided completely. In section 9.3.2 it states that significant effects on non-designated heritage assets are expected (and that cannot be avoided). These should be made clear within an impact assessment alongside a mitigation strategy for managing the impacts. This conflicts with the statement in 9.6.2 that embedded mitigation means the avoidance of all direct impacts and concludes that this can be Scoped Out. It is considered that direct impacts should be Scoped In.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage   | The impacts to non-designated heritage assets during construction have been clearly set out within the assessment, alongside proposed mitigation measures to remove or reduce these impacts through avoidance or archaeological recording.<br><br>The embedded mitigation relates to avoidance of physical impacts on designated heritage assets, and it is only this element that is scoped out.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| The Highland Council                  | It is accepted that micro-siting can be expected in order to avoid direct impacts to known sites. However, there must be evidence of the cultural heritage baseline and of how exactly how impacts are proposed to be avoided. It is therefore not accepted that this element can be Scoped Out.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage   | Physical impacts on designated heritage assets are now scoped into the assessment. A full baseline of heritage assets within the Proposed Development and limit of deviation has been presented, and mitigation measures such as avoidance are recommended where possible.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| The Highland Council                  | The baseline should be identified by walkover survey of the route so that both upstanding remains and the potential for buried features or deposits to be present can be recorded within the assessment. Any additional lidar data commissioned as part of this project should also be scrutinised to assess the potential for previously unrecorded heritage assets. Where impacts are unavoidable, HET expect methods to mitigate this impact to be discussed in detail.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage   | A walkover survey has been conducted throughout the alignment stage and the EIA stage to inform the assessment. Consultation with the The Highland Council Historic Environment Team discussed the scope of the surveys and a targeted approach was deemed appropriate at this stage with mitigation to include for further surveys during any required archaeological works.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| The Highland Council                  | Section 9.2.2 notes that the study area will be limited to 1km outwith the Proposed Route due to initial assessments and responses from consultees. However, these assessments and responses are not clear and the response from HES to the pre-planning application appears to conflict with this in regard to the potential impacts on designated sites that lie beyond the 1km limit. It would be useful to see evidence of this so that a judgement can be made on the impacts on sites that lie outwith the 1km limit; this would best be presented as part of an impact assessment. Contrary to the proposal presented in section 9.6.1, it is also recommended that indirect impacts on designated assets are Scoped In. Professional judgment must be used for this rather than applying a standard 1km survey area from the route corridor to allow the inclusion of all potential impacts to be assessed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 25 – 28<br>108 - 126     | Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage   | The study area was set at 1 km from the route corridor to provide a proportionate baseline of designated heritage assets for the assessment. Due to the width of the route corridor this allowed for a larger study area once the alignment was defined, and through the use of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility, development modelling, and consultation with HES, the study area has been set to ensure that heritage assets with the potential to receive significant effects from changes within their setting, are all included within the baseline for the assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Highlands and Islands Airport Limited | Highlands and Islands Airports Limited appreciates that development parameters will be refined and confirmed through the EIA process, currently there is currently insufficient information to carry out the assessment. Therefore, Highlands and Islands Airports Limited is holding objection.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 29                       | Chapter 3: Project Description. | Noted. Development parameters have been outlined in <b>Chapter 3: Project Description</b> and detailed tower are provided in <b>Appendix 3.1: Tower Schedules</b> . An Aviation Report has also been undertaken.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Historic Environment Scotland         | It is recommended that a ZTV analysis should be used in the first instance to identify assets whose setting could be affected by the Proposed Development. Where assessment of an asset's setting indicates that there could be significant impacts from the Proposed Development, wireframes should be produced to help assess those impacts. Where the impacts are identified as significant, photomontages should be produced to illustrate the impacts.<br><br>It is recommended that the EIA Handbook should be used to provide best guidance on how to assess impacts on the historic environment. Reference to the appropriate legislation, policy and guidance for the historic environment should be included in the EIA Report.<br><br>The proposed mitigation for avoiding direct impacts to designated historic environment assets should be explained in the EIA Report. Where any assets or categories of impact are scoped out of further assessment, written justification for this should be provided in the EIA Report.<br><br>The reinforcement of roads and creation of new access tracks (2.10), and any other ancillary infrastructure construction such as works compounds and laydown areas also have the potential to impact historic environment assets for our interests, and their impacts should therefore be assessed.<br><br>There are comments on 62 heritage assets which are to be included and the requirements for each - refer to the response for detail. | 30-50                    | Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage   | The assessment includes the use of ZTV analysis alongside modelling of the Proposed Development, and the production of photomontages for heritage assets highlighted by HES as having the potential for significant effects. Consultation with HES is ongoing on the potential impacts to ensure their concerns are taken into consideration within the assessment and any potential design changes to remove or reduce impacts have been considered at each stage of the development process.<br><br>The assessment follows all relevant legislation and guidance, and this is detailed within the assessment.<br><br>Any elements of the cultural heritage assessment, or individual assets to be scoped out of the assessment have been fully justified within the EIA Report. All access related works and ancillary works have been assessed as well.<br><br>Where heritage assets are impacted but not significantly, the results of the assessment are presented within an appendix to the main chapter. |
| Joint Radio Company Limited           | JRC Consultation has objected to several proposed OHL tower position locations on the basis that they have the potential to cause interference with the corresponding local Distribution Network Operator (DNO) link. JRC Consultation advise that SSEN Transmission seeks re-coordination before submitting a final planning application, in order to help mitigate the risk of objections arising from any new developments between the initial enquiry and finalisation of the project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 51-53                    | N/A                             | Noted. Active engagement has been undertaken with JRCL to resolve potential issues.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |



| Consultee                               | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference                         | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Council | The need case should be fully set out including addressing the end market location, the carrying capacity of the OHLs, and the wind farms to be served by the infrastructure (including their installed capacity and current consenting status).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 54                       | Chapter 2: Project Need                      | The need for the project has been outlined in detail in its own dedicated chapter of the EIA Report. Detail on windfarms to be served by the infrastructure is not included as part of the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Met Office                              | The Met Office has no objections as there would not be any adverse impact on the closest meteorological radar at the Hill of Dudwick.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 55                       | N/A                                          | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Defence Infrastructure Organisation     | <p>The site occupies the technical statutory safeguarding zone surrounding RAF Buchan and falls within part of the UK Military Low Flying System. Therefore, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has concerns and should be consulted at all future stages for this proposed development to complete a full detailed safeguarding assessment.</p> <p>The development falls within Low Flying Area 14 (LFA 14), an area within which fixed wing aircraft may operate to conduct low level flight training. The development has the potential to introduce a physical obstruction to low flying aircraft operating in the area. To address this impact, and given the location and scale of the development, the MOD will require that a condition is added to any consent issued requiring that sufficient data is submitted to ensure that structures can be accurately charted to allow deconfliction.</p> <p>The development route passes through safeguarding zones designated to preserve the operational and technical capability of RAF Buchan. Within these zones any development has the capacity to degrade or otherwise compromise the operation of the system. To enable a detailed assessment of the development to be completed specific details for each electricity transmission tower (to include a grid reference and elevation drawings/figured dimensions) as well as the likely cable height should be provided.</p> <p>In the event that any amendment that differs from the information presented in 'Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report', whether considered material or not by the determining authority, is submitted for approval, the MOD should be consulted and provided with adequate time to carry out assessments and provide a formal response.</p> | 56-58                    | Chapter 3: Project Description               | <p>Noted. The Ministry of Defence will continue to be consulted with as the project progresses.</p> <p>The EIA Report provides further detail on the proposed location, tower design and tower dimensions for every tower in the Proposed Development. This will provide the Ministry of Defence with the information needed to undertake any further safeguarding assessments, if required.</p> <p>An assessment of aviation requirements has also been undertaken, and the conclusions will inform safeguarding requirements.</p> |
| Moray Council                           | Moray Council is in broad agreement with the proposed approach for baseline collection, but the Regional Archaeologist has advised that if any compensatory planting is proposed these areas also need to be assessed for potential cultural heritage impacts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 59-73                    | Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage                | The areas for compensatory planting will be off-site and assessed as part of a separate application; and therefore, are not included within the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Moray Council                           | With regards to the planning policy section (5.3.7 - 5.3.9), we would ask that consideration is given to supplementary planning guidance/policy guidance associated with the Moray Local Development Plan 2020, as well as guidance notes prepared with regard to interpretation of National Planning Framework 4 policies (particularly in regard to Carbon Emissions and Community Wealth Building). These can all be found at <a href="http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_133431.html">http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_133431.html</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 59-73                    | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment | <p>Noted. This is considered as part of the <b>Planning Statement</b> accompanying the planning application.</p> <p>Carbon emissions from peatland have been included within <b>Chapter 10</b>.</p> <p>The Community Wealth Fund has been discussed in the Socio-Economic Report.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Moray Council                           | Section 2.8.5 of the Scoping Report highlights possible use of existing borrow pits for access tracks. It is not clear if blasting of such borrow pits is proposed and this is a significant possible effect to consider. Reference would be made to PAN 50 Annex D. Further clarification is therefore sought on this aspect.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 59-73                    | N/A                                          | For the EIA Report it has been assumed that all stone for construction will be imported. It is the intention to use on-site borrow pits where suitable stone is available and agreements are met, however this will be confirmed by the Principal Contractor and separate planning permissions will be sought where required.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Moray Council                           | In relation to air quality where dust can be covered within the proposed CEMP, and in respect of operational vibration, where there is no known operational vibration effects, then these issues can be scoped out.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 59-73                    | Appendix 3.3: Outline CEMP.                  | <p>Dust is covered in the outline CEMP.</p> <p>No operational vibration effects are anticipated, and this is scoped out of the EIA Report.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Moray Council                           | With regard to the need for a Socio-Economic Assessment and whilst noting the proposal is a national development, it should be appropriately and fully assessed on both a national and local scale, with consideration of the Moray Development Plan (consisting of NPF4 and Moray Local Development Plan 2020). We therefore suggest this topic be scoped in.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 59-73                    | N/A                                          | As agreed with the ECU, this topic has not been scoped in. However a stand-alone Socio-Economic Report will be submitted separately from the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Moray Council                           | The Regional Archaeologist has emphasised the need for a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment to be undertaken under Cultural Heritage (section 9).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 59-73                    | Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage                | A cultural heritage assessment is included within the EIA Report in <b>Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Moray Council                           | Section 6.6.1 scopes out night-time visual assessment. The proposed transmission line passes through the safeguarding areas aircraft operations for RAF Lossiemouth. We would expect that the Ministry of Defence are consulted on any section 37 application but should there be a need for permanent lighting atop any pylons or other structures, then we would expect a night-time visual assessment to be undertaken.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 59-73                    | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual              | <p>The Ministry of Defence has been consulted regarding the Proposed Development. Currently, permanent lighting is not required and therefore a night-time visual assessment has not been undertaken.</p> <p>An Aviation Report accompanies the s37 application.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Moray Council                           | Transportation Comments/appendix is the same as provided for Moray pre-application response; refer to that for details.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 59-73                    | Chapter 13: Transport                        | Consultation with Moray Council is ongoing. A Transport Assessment is included within the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Nairn District Salmon Fishery Board     | Full pre-project monitoring of migratory salmonids and Freshwater Pearl Mussels (FWPM) would be required to inform the least possible impact from the proposal, particularly with regard to the                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 74                       | Chapter 8: Ecology                           | FWPM surveys have been carried out for rivers crossed by the Proposed Development where safe and accessible, and the survey scope / requested data on this species has been                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



| Consultee                | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference                         | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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|                          | precise alignment across the River Nairn. Irrespective of whether the direct riparian zone of the river will be disrupted or not, the full impact of any run-off from workings or ongoing permanent impacts on feeder burns entering the River Nairn would have to be fully considered in the EIA. The Nairn DSFB would like to remain fully informed as the proposal progresses further, particularly with regard to the crossing of the line over the River Nairn catchment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                          | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment | discussed with NatureScot for rivers including the Nairn. All river crossings would be oversailed, with pollution managed in line with SSEN's GEMP 'Working in or Near Water' and other embedded mitigation measures to avoid changes in water quality and quantity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>NATS Safeguarding</b> | The Proposed Development does not conflict with the safeguarding criteria. Therefore, NATS (En Route) Public Limited Company ("NERL") has no safeguarding objection to the proposal. Should any changes to the information provided be proposed, further consultation will be required.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 75                       | N/A                                          | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>NatureScot</b>        | NatureScot agrees with the topics and issues proposed to be scoped in and out and are not aware of any further information that they hold which could assist with the production of the EIA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 76-77                    | Chapter 8: Ecology                           | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>NatureScot</b>        | NatureScot is advising SSEN on the best design and mitigation measures to try to avoid significant adverse effects on protected features. It is hoped best practice will avoid significant effects. However, Torvean Landforms SSSI will be directly affected. Therefore, NatureScot is working with SSEN to avoid key landform features which would otherwise cause irreversible damage to the geological interest. Furthermore, the potential effect on other protected areas is being considered and NatureScot is engaged with SSEN regarding the production of their shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 76-77                    | Chapter 8: Ecology<br>Shadow HRA             | SSEN Transmission are working closely with NatureScot on the design through the Torvean Landforms SSSI and shadow HRA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>NatureScot</b>        | The quality of Class 1 and 2 peatland habitats is not yet known, therefore NatureScot cannot advise on their likely value or whether or not priority peatlands of national interest would be affected. SSEN Transmissions ongoing work will inform this topic.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 76-77                    | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment | Further detail on the nature of peatlands is included in appendices to Chapter 10. Discussions are to continue with NatureScot regarding minimisation of impacts to peatland.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>NatureScot</b>        | <p>The approach developed by JHI and its intended used by SSE is a deviation to standard sampling protocol and it will need to be fully detailed in the EIA to ensure any degradation of the quality of evidence provided will not be detrimental to our ability to assess the impact of the proposal on natural features.</p> <p>We will expect the EIA process and report to cover the following points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Methodology for the creation of the peat score value map including detail on scale of assessment and method for smoothing / averaging score in areas with composite score value. Given the scale of the BBNP development we will welcome maps of raw and interpreted peat score value to be provided in a digital format.</li><li>• Detail on the approach to define and set up selection criteria for survey protocol across the whole site. This should include detail on any method for smoothing / averaging score in composite in proposed survey sites.</li><li>• Detail on any allowance (prior or during site survey) that will be set in place to counteract possible error in the map extent</li></ul> | 76-77                    | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment | <p>Appendices accompany chapter 10 which will set out the methodology employed by JHI and how the data has been used to scope the survey area for Phase 2 peat surveys.</p> <p>In respect to the request to share data, SSEN Transmission are willing to share any relevant raw and interpreted shapefiles with NatureScot.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Network Rail</b>      | A Traffic Assessment should be included to assess the effects of construction traffic on existing traffic flows and the public road network. Preferred construction traffic routes should be indicated. This will enable Network Rail to assess the possible impacts where/if the traffic crosses over/under our infrastructure and the suitability of these crossings.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 78 - 79                  | Chapter 13: Transport                        | A separate transport study for the network rail crossing points has been undertaken, which accompanies the transport chapter.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>RSPB Scotland</b>     | The methodology for the baseline surveys in the Scoping Report is somewhat unclear, and more detail is needed to clarify whether what is proposed is adequate to inform the EIA and the assessment of the likely significant effects of the development. Section 8.2.14 of the Scoping Report states that a second season of breeding bird surveys will be carried out in 2024 focussing on areas where Target Species were identified to be breeding/lekking or where they were readily observed to be present. However, the report notes that no Capercaillie signs or sightings were recorded in 2023 by the consultant surveyors, therefore it is not clear if further survey work was carried out in 2024 for Capercaillie. RSPB has recent data of signs and sightings in this area, therefore, if further surveys were not completed in 2024, we would recommend that further survey work is carried out in March/April 2025 and in Winter 2025, to establish both Capercaillie breeding and occupancy. These surveys should cover at least 1.5km from previously recorded lek sites at Lethen, Newlands, Dulsie, Ferness and Ordiequish.                        | 80 - 82                  | Chapter 9: Ornithology                       | <p>Given the scale of the Proposed Development and the extent and range of surveys involved in the ornithological survey programme it was considered appropriate to only present an overview of the baseline surveys in the Scoping Report. It was however stated that the scope of the survey programme had been agreed in consultation with NatureScot. Full details of the ornithological survey methods is presented as an appendix to the EIA Report.</p> <p>The targeted second year of breeding bird surveys undertaken in 2024, which went beyond the single year guidance requirements, focussed only on those areas where breeding or lekking activity had been recorded by Target Species in 2023. As no evidence of lekking by capercaillie was recorded in 2023 no follow up surveys were carried out. However, based on capercaillie data provided by RSPB for 2024, it has been agreed that advanced pre-construction surveys will be carried out in areas where there have been recent historical records of capercaillie, including in 2025, in order to inform potential constraints and mitigation during construction.</p> |
| <b>RSPB Scotland</b>     | Surveys for Common Crane should continue where the proposed route is expected to be located in peatland or lowland raised bog areas even when no birds were recorded in the first year of surveys. The route should seek to avoid peatland habitat to avoid any potential disturbance and displacement issues.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 80 - 82                  | Chapter 9: Ornithology                       | A second year of common crane surveys has been undertaken in 2024 covering the same locations surveyed in 2023 which focused on areas where there had been recent historical records of the species' presence, as received from RSPB.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

| Consultee         | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference                                                                          | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| RSPB Scotland     | RSPB can provide 2023 and 2024 data for Capercaillie. This information can be made available by submitting a data request.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 80 - 82                  | Chapter 9: Ornithology                                                                        | Capercaillie data from 2023 and 2024 has been provided by RSPB to inform the ornithological impact assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| RSPB Scotland     | The proposed route intersects woodland that lies 2.4km from Darnaway and Lethen SPA for Capercaillie and 17km from Anagach SPA for Capercaillie. The EIA Report must include sufficient information to allow the competent authority to carry out an appropriate assessment under the Habitat Regulations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 80 - 82                  | Chapter 9: Ornithology                                                                        | The ornithological impact assessment has considered potential impacts from the Proposed Development upon Darnaway and Lethen Forest SPA. A shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal accompanies the application to inform an appropriate assessment under the Habitats Regulations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| RSPB Scotland     | The proposal should offer ‘significant biodiversity enhancements’ that can be ‘secured within a reasonable timescale and with reasonable certainty’ as required by policy 3iv) of NPF4. Any plans need to clearly set out what elements are proposed as mitigation and what is considered enhancement. Biodiversity Enhancement does not need to be included in the EIA Report but that may be the most appropriate place for it, if not, it should be set out in a clearly defined separate document.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 80 - 82                  | Chapter 8: Ecology                                                                            | The ecology chapter details any necessary mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, in relation to the Important Ecological Features (IEF) identified. A separate BNG assessment details the biodiversity loss as a result of the Proposed Development as well as any enhancements necessary to achieve a net gain.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Scottish Canals   | Allowance should be made in the design of pylons and overhead wires to achieve clearance for the maximum mast height within the Caledonian Canal.<br><br>We request that waterborne canal traffic is considered within section 12 of the report, in order to maintain safe navigation along the full length of the Caledonian Canal.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 83 - 84                  | Chapter 3: Project Description<br>Chapter 13: Transport<br>Chapter 14: Recreation and Tourism | Clearances for overhead lines are discussed in <b>Chapter 3: Project Description</b> and clearance requirements for the Caledonian Canal will be achieved.<br>Access through the Caledonian Canal has been considered in the Transport chapter, and in terms of outdoor access and recreation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Scottish Forestry | Scottish Forestry agree that the Scoping Report describes impacts on all types of woodland from Plantation to Native Ancient Woodlands recorded on the Ancient Woodland Inventor.<br><br>Only in exceptional circumstances should the strong presumption against woodland removal be overridden. Where woodland removal is justified, the Compensatory Planting (CP) area must exceed the area of woodland removed to compensate for the loss of environmental value.<br><br>Design approaches that reduce the scale of felling required and/or converting the type of woodland to another type (such as from tall conifer plantation to low-height, slow growing woodland), must be considered from the earliest stages, rather than removing the woodland completely<br><br>Scottish Forestry are concerned about an extract from the Scoping Report as it indicates the Forestry assessment will only focus on Commercial forestry. Scottish Forestry strongly encourage the developer to ensure the forestry assessment and chapter describe the impacts on all woodland types. Woodlands that are described in Chapter 7 of the Scoping Report, Ecology and Nature Conservation, must be included in the Forestry Chapter to ensure the policies set out above have been applied to all types of woodland cover.<br><br>Detailed information on any compensatory planting proposals should also be provided.<br><br>Any additional felling which is not part of the planning application will require permission. | 85 - 87                  | Chapter 12: Forestry                                                                          | All woodland types have been assessed within the Woodland Reports within the forestry chapter.<br><br>Any designated woodland identified for removal have been assessed to clarify the condition of the woodland characteristics. If identified for removal mitigation methods including reduction of the operational corridor or crown reduction have been put forward. Opportunities will be taken to reduce the Operational Corridor felling where possible and seek to retain scrub / understorey layers in areas where existing tree cover does not breach safety clearances and construction activities.<br><br>All woodland areas to be removed will be assessed and similar woodlands will be planted off-site to ensure no loss of woodland. Any designated woodlands identified for removal will be replanted with additional biodiversity improvements to compensate for loss of environmental value. |
| Scottish Water    | Scottish Water’s records show that the proposed activity falls within several drinking water catchments where a Scottish Water abstraction is located: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forehill Water Treatment Works (WTW)</li><li>• Herricks Water Treatment Works (WTW)</li><li>• Glenlatterach Water Treatment Works (WTW)</li><li>• Spey Scheme (Badentinan) Water Treatment Works (WTW)</li><li>• Turriff Water Treatment Works (WTW)</li><li>• Invermoriston Water Treatment Works (WTW)</li><li>• Loch Ashie Water Treatment Works (WTW).</li></ul><br>There is obviously a risk to water quality from this work and mitigation measures will be required to ensure risks are minimised as much as possible and particular care is taken in our smaller and more sensitive catchments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Glenlatterach Reservoir</li><li>• River Deveron</li><li>• River Ugie</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 88-92                    | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment                                                  | Engagement has been carried out with Scottish Water in July – November 2024 and included a site visit to Glenlatterach reservoir with a Scottish Water delegate as well as discussions in relation to the Dipple wellfield which has informed the final alignment and appropriate mitigation.<br><br>Chapter 10 and appendices include detailed baseline information and an assessment of effects including the provision of appropriate mitigation measures to safeguard the quantity and quality of public water supplies within these Drinking Water Protection Areas. Embedded mitigation is included for the protection of Scottish Water assets during the construction works.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

| Consultee      | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference                                                                                       | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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|                | <p>According to Scottish Water's records, there are multiple Scottish Water assets in the areas highlighted. This should be confirmed however through obtaining plans from our Asset Plan Providers.</p> <p>Further involvement is requested at the detailed design stages to determine the most appropriate proposals and mitigation within the catchment to protect water quality and quantity.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                          |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Scottish Water | Scottish Water have produced a list of precautions for a range of activities. This details protection measures to be taken within a DWPA, the wider drinking water catchment and if there are assets in the area. Please note that site specific risks and mitigation measures will require to be assessed and implemented. These documents and other supporting information can be found on the activities within our catchments page of our website at <a href="http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/slm">www.scottishwater.co.uk/slm</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 88-92                    | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment                                                               | These precautions have been taken into account when prescribing embedded mitigation which has been used to inform the assessment of potential effects on Scottish Water public water supplies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Scottish Water | The fact that this area is located within a drinking water catchment should be noted in future documentation. Also anyone working on site should be made aware of this during site inductions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 88-92                    | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment                                                               | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Scottish Water | <p>All Scottish Water assets potentially affected by the activity should be identified, with particular consideration being given to access roads and pipe crossings. If necessary, local Scottish Water personnel may be able to visit the site to offer advice. All of Scottish Water's processes, standards and policies in relation to dealing with asset conflicts must be complied with.</p> <p>All detailed design proposals relating to the protection of Scottish Water's assets should be submitted to the HAUC for review and written acceptance. Works should not take place on site without prior written acceptance by Scottish Water.</p> <p>It should be noted that the proposals will be required to comply with Sewers for Scotland and Water for Scotland 4th Editions 2018, including provision of appropriate clearance distances from Scottish Water assets.</p> <p>All developments that propose a connection to the public water or waste water infrastructure are required to submit a Pre-Development Enquiry (PDE) Form via the Customer Portal prior to any formal technical application being submitted.</p> <p>For reasons of sustainability and to protect our customers from potential future sewer flooding, Scottish Water will not accept any surface water connections into our combined sewer system.</p> <p>There may be limited exceptional circumstances where we would allow such a connection for brownfield sites only, however this will require significant justification from the customer taking account of various factors including legal, physical, and technical challenges.</p> | 88-92                    | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment                                                               | This has been noted under the mitigation section of <b>Chapter 10</b> as a matter for detailed design. It is noted that further consultation with Scottish Water is required prior to construction to identify any Scottish Water assets which require protection. Should any such assets be identified, specific mitigation measures will be developed and will be agreed with Scottish Water.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| SEPA           | SEPA has confirmed that they agree with the environmental topics to be scoped out.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 93 - 101                 | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment                                                               | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| SEPA           | <p>We welcome the commitment to undertake National Vegetation Surveys (NVC) in relation to GWDTE in accordance with our LUPS-31 guidance.</p> <p>The layout and design of the development must avoid impacts on Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 93 - 101                 | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment                                                               | An alternative approach has been discussed and agreed with SEPA whereby a conservative GWDTE assessment is undertaken using UKHab data for the application which is then validated using NVC data. This is presented in full within the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| SEPA           | <p>In relation to section 10.5.6, we welcome the aim to provide a 50m buffer from water features. Whilst we welcome reference to the SEPA geomorphic risk layer mapping, we highlight the recommended width of these should be checked with the SEPA data base to ensure whether the stated 20m in the Scoping Report will be sufficient. We highlight the future flood extent of some watercourses maybe also wider than these buffers and should be assessed accordingly.</p> <p>Each of the drawings requested below must detail all proposed upgraded, temporary and permanent infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site layout should be designed to minimise the extent of new works on previously undisturbed ground.</li> <li>A comparison of the environmental effects of alternative locations of infrastructure elements may be required.</li> </ul> <p>The proposals should demonstrate how impacts on local hydrology have been minimised and the site layout designed to minimise watercourse crossings and avoid other direct impacts on water features. Measures should be put in place to protect any downstream sensitive receptors.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 93 - 101                 | <p>Chapter 4: The Routing Process and Alternatives</p> <p>Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment</p> | <p>Various buffers from watercourses have been allocated (depending on the size of the watercourse and presence of geomorphic risk layer) as defined by SEPA and used during the design stage. Where infrastructure encroaches on the buffers, further information has been provided in an appendix to <b>Chapter 10</b>. Mitigation measures are proposed within this chapter to protect the water environment.</p> <p>The Flood Risk Assessment which accompanies Chapter 10 has considered the future flood extent of watercourses.</p> <p><b>Chapter 4</b> describes how proposals have sought to minimise the extent of new works as much as possible.</p> |

| Consultee                  | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference                                                                                                                             | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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|                            | <p>The submission must include a set of drawings showing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All proposed temporary or permanent infrastructure overlain with all lochs and watercourses;</li> <li>A minimum buffer of 10m around each loch or watercourse. If this minimum buffer cannot be achieved each breach must be numbered on a plan with an associated photograph of the location, dimensions of the loch or watercourse and drawings of what is proposed in terms of engineering works.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                          |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| SEPA                       | <p>Crossings must be designed to accommodate the 0.5% annual exceedance probability flows (with an appropriate allowance for climate change), or information provided to justify smaller structures.</p> <p>If it is considered the development could result in an increased risk of flooding to a nearby receptor, then a flood risk assessment (FRA) must be submitted. Our Technical Flood Risk Guidance for Stakeholders outlines the information we require to be submitted in an FRA.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 93 - 101                 | <p>Chapter 3: Project Description</p> <p>Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment</p>                                                        | <p>Watercourse crossings will be discussed in <b>Chapter 3: Project Description</b> and accompanying figures. The design of the watercourse crossings will be agreed by the Principal Contractor as part of the detailed design, following best practice in consultation with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).</p> <p>A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) has been presented in <b>Appendix 10.8</b> of the EIA Report. The FRA and the mitigation section in <b>Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment</b> presents a range of good industry practices and embedded measures (including appropriate crossing sizing).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| SEPA                       | <p>Where proposals are on peatland or carbon rich soils (CRS), the following should be submitted to address SEPA's requirements in relation to NPF4 Policy 5 to protect CRS and the ecosystem services they provide (including water and carbon storage).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It should be clearly demonstrated that the assessment has informed careful project design and ensured, in accordance with relevant guidance and the mitigation hierarchy in NPF4, that adverse impacts are first avoided and then minimised through best practice.</li> <li>The submission should include a series of layout drawings at a usable scale showing all permanent and temporary infrastructure, with extent of excavation required</li> <li>The detailed series of layout drawings above should clearly demonstrate that development proposals avoid any near natural peatland and that all proposed excavation is on peat less than 1m deep.</li> <li>The layout drawings should also demonstrate that peat excavation has been avoided on sites where this is possible</li> <li>Submit an Outline Peat Management Plan (PMP)</li> </ul> | 93 - 101                 | <p>Chapter 3: Project Description</p> <p>Chapter 4: The Routing Process and Alternatives</p> <p>Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment</p> | <p>As reported in <b>Chapter 4</b>, peat was a factor in influencing the route corridor throughout the routeing process.</p> <p><b>Chapter 3</b> presents design drawings to show the horizontal extent of excavation required for both temporary and permanent infrastructure and typical excavation depths.</p> <p><b>Chapter 10</b> appendices provide detail of peat depths across the site and an outline Peat Management Plan.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| SEPA                       | <p>If forestry is present on the site, the site layout should be designed to avoid large scale felling, as this can result in large amounts of waste material and a peak in release of nutrients which can affect local water quality. The submission must include drawings with the boundaries of where felling will take place and a description of what is proposed for this timber.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 93 - 101                 | <p>Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment</p> <p>Chapter 12: Forestry</p>                                                                  | <p><b>Chapter 10</b> considers changes in water quality from erosion and sedimentation relating to activities including construction works and forest felling.</p> <p>All forestry operations associated with the Proposed Development will be conducted in full compliance with the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) Forest and Water Guidelines, ensuring best practices are adhered to for the protection of watercourses and riparian environments. Additionally, all activities will align with the SEPA guidance on the Management of Forestry Waste to prevent environmental harm and ensure waste is handled appropriately.</p> <p>Comprehensive Woodland Reports have been prepared for each woodland area affected by the Proposed Development. These reports provide detailed assessments of the felling requirements, taking into account environmental sensitivities and sustainable forestry practices. They also outline specific mitigation measures designed to minimise ecological impacts, protect biodiversity, and ensure the preservation of valuable habitats.</p> |
| SEPA                       | <p>The submission must include a schedule of mitigation, which includes reference to best practice pollution prevention and construction techniques.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 93 - 101                 | <p>Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment</p> <p>Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation</p>                                                    | <p>The Embedded Mitigation section sets out good industry practices including the Good Environmental Management Practices (GEMPs) and appropriate construction techniques for various activities.</p> <p>A Schedule of Mitigation is presented in <b>Chapter 18</b> which includes the above.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Scottish Gas Networks      | <p>SGN's high pressure, transmission gas pipeline will not be affected by the Proposed Scheme. However SGN should be contacted before works commence within fields/land containing SGN's High Pressure pipeline to ensure pipeline safety.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 102                      | N/A                                                                                                                                              | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Speyside Community Council | <p>Speyside Community Council do not agree that land use, accidents and disasters, electromagnetic fields, radio and TV interference and population and human health should be scoped out.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 103 - 106                | Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation                                                                                                               | <p>Noted.</p> <p>Mitigation measures are presented in <b>Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |



| Consultee                     | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference                                    | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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|                               | EIA Approach and Methodology - Mitigation. What mitigation proposals are there for people forced to live close to these pylons and overhead cables?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                          |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Speyside Community Council    | Landscape and visual amenity - This will add yet another industrial element into the landscape and it is difficult to see how any mitigation measures will make it more acceptable. Section 6.6.2 - we disagree that a separate RVAA should be scoped out.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 103 - 106                | Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual                         | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Speyside Community Council    | Noise and Vibration - How will the noise from corona discharge be mitigated?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 103 - 106                | Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration                         | A noise and vibration assessment will be carried out and examined in the dedicated chapter ( <b>Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration</b> ).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Speyside Community Council    | Planning Policy - Section 5.3.8 iii - how will this proposal address unacceptable significant adverse impacts on - Landscape and visual impacts, Electromagnetic disturbance, Traffic impacts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 103 - 106                | N/A                                                     | The EIA Report will assess potential effects and propose mitigation measures.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Speyside Community Council    | Traffic and Transport - The cumulative effects of construction traffic for this and other major proposals in Sections 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 need to be factored in.<br><br>Construction Traffic. Traffic generated by other major planning applications in Sections 14,15,16,17, 18 and 19 need to be considered.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 103 - 106                | Chapter 13: Transport                                   | Transport Assessments for the three local authority areas accompany the transport chapter. Cumulative impacts have been considered within the transport chapter; with the cumulative developments being agreed with the local authorities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Speyside Community Council    | Water and Geological Environment - Section 10.6.1 - we disagree with the proposal to scope out these elements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 103 - 106                | Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment            | <b>Chapter 10</b> considers potential effects from pollution incidents, erosion and sedimentation and changes in groundwater levels and flows towards a range of receptors including watercourses and groundwater and embedded mitigation in all cases, so these elements have been given due consideration as part of the assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Speyside Community Council    | Corridor, Route and Alignment Selection - It is acknowledged that consultations have been carried out with various stakeholders. However, little cognisance seems to have been paid to residential amenity. Please be explicit as to how public comments have influenced the selection of the 'Preferred Route'.<br><br>Description of Proposed Development - Why subsea cables from Peterhead to England? Why not over land pylons? If you can underground the cables from Bridlington to Drax why are Scottish residents being denied this option? Are the Planning Rules different in England? If some rationalisation works involve undergrounding of existing lines where there is a significant benefit. What benefit might that be and why won't this apply to the new overhead line? Species Protection Plans. Great. Where do human beings fit into these plans? Why can 't the existing OHL be upgraded? Will there be compensatory planting? Construction Employment and Hours of Work. 7am until 7pm (BST), 7 days a week is unacceptable near residential properties. 7am until 6pm GMT, 7 days a week is also unacceptable.<br><br>Request for Further Information - There are few, if any, pylons and overhead cables in Cairngorm National Park. They have been removed. Why, therefore, are communities in the National Park treated differently? They are free from the threat of pylons and overhead cables being erected close to their homes and they are saved from having the landscape industrialised. Those of us who do not live in The Park are definitely treated differently. Will SSEN please explain the rationale for this? Will SSEN please provide the comparative costs of both undergrounding and overgrounding the power lines along the route from Beaulay to Peterhead? Clearly, the cabling can be subsea from Peterhead to Bridlington and undergrounded in England. | 103 - 106                | Chapter 4: The Routeing Process and Alternatives        | <p>The comments received through the consultation process have been addressed in the Alignment Report of Consultation (January 2025) available on the SSE website: <a href="#">bbnp-alignment-report-on-consultation-2025.pdf</a></p> <p>Underground cabling is highly sensitive to ground conditions and terrain. There can be significant and lasting environmental impacts and future land constraints associated with undergrounding: together with the technical challenges of operating, maintaining and in the event of a fault, restoring power. Subsea cabling would not meet the requirement for a connection into proposed Greens substation and Netherton Hub; and would have similar challenges to undergrounding whilst also requiring multiple additional converter stations adjacent to each substation.</p> <p>There is a compensatory planting strategy incorporated in the EIA Report.</p> <p>Construction hours may be subject to planning conditions, but construction working is likely to be during daytime periods only. Working hours are currently anticipated to be between approximately 07:00 to 19:00 during British Summer Time (BST) and 07:00 to 18:00 during Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), seven days a week. Special measures and arrangements would be made for works in proximity to sensitive receptors. Any out of hours working would be agreed in advance with the relevant planning authority.</p> <p>The need to avoid the Cairngorms National Park was established at the Corridor Selection Stage for the project in 2022 through the application of the Holford Rules, which set out a hierarchical approach to routeing which advocates avoiding areas of highest amenity value (Holford Rule 1). The Cairngorms National Park was designated as a National Park in 2003 as an area of outstanding national importance and is therefore considered to be an area of highest amenity value.</p> |
| Strathnairn Community Council | Strathnairn Community Council is objecting the proposal due to its adverse effect on the Conservation Area of Culloden Battlefield and the SSSI area of Dalroy and Clava Landforms. Currently the area is already crossed by two pylon lines one crossing the Conservation Area and the other further south, the addition of a third, higher and more visible line of pylons is considered unacceptable. They advise that the section of the line should be laid underground, if not possible the pylons should be masked to blend into the background by painting them.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 107                      | Chapter 8: Ecology<br><br>Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage | Noted. <b>Chapter 8: Ecology</b> and <b>Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage</b> assess potential impacts on nearby ecological designations and cultural assets.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Transport Scotland            | Transport Scotland agree with the methodology proposed in the Scoping Report. Traffic flows can be obtained from Transport Scotland and the DfT's Road Traffic Statistics website. However, Transport Scotland are asking that "estimated" data from the DfT site is not used. Transport Scotland also add that base traffic data will require to be factored to the peak construction year flows, using National Road Traffic Forecasts (NRTF) Low Growth. Transport Scotland consider it acceptable that any impacts associated with the operational phase of the development are scoped out of the EIA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 127 - 129                | Chapter 13: Transport                                   | <p>We note Transport Scotland's general agreement with the proposed methodology, and we confirm estimated data from DfT are not being utilised. All base traffic info has been factored to the peak construction year using NRTF low growth as requested.</p> <p>In terms of AILs, the appropriate assessment will be carried out including swept paths and load assessments.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

| Consultee                          | Scoping Comment Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Scoping Opinion Page Ref | EIA Report Reference                                                                                                | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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|                                    | Transport Scotland note that in the event Abnormal Indivisible Loads (ALLs) are required, Transport Scotland require to be satisfied that the size of the loads proposed can negotiate the selected route and that their transportation will not have any detrimental effect on structures within the trunk road route path. In this case, a full Abnormal Loads Assessment report and Swept Path Analysis should be provided.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                          |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Ugie District Salmon Fishery Board | The Board wants to know the plan in protecting the wild salmon and sea trout and state that the operator is responsible for ensuring the present-day ecology and habitat before the project starts, during the construction stage and in the ongoing operational stage of the project. This might include for example, SSEN financing electro fishing in various feeder burns close to the project before and after the construction. If the electro-fishing reports show a detrimental affect, some form of remedy or compensation would be sought by the stakeholders in the River Ugie.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 130                      | Chapter 8: Ecology                                                                                                  | Chapter 8: Ecology assesses potential impacts on fish and mitigation measures where appropriate.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Marine Directorate                 | <p>Science Evidence Data and Digital (MD-SEDD) have issued generic scoping guidance which outlines what information, relating to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, is expected in the EIA Report. Use of the checklist, provided in Annex 1 of the standing advice, should ensure that the EIA Report contains the required information; the absence of such information may necessitate requesting additional information which may delay the process. Developers are required to submit the completed checklist in advance of their application submission.</p> <p>In addition to identifying the main watercourses and waterbodies within and downstream of the Proposed Development area, developers should identify and consider, at this early stage, any areas of Special Areas of Conservation where fish are a qualifying feature and proposed felling operations particularly in acid sensitive areas.</p> <p>Developers should specifically discuss and assess potential impacts and appropriate mitigation measures associated with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>any designated area, for which fish is a qualifying feature, within and/or downstream of the Proposed Development area;</li><li>the presence of a large density of watercourses;</li><li>the presence of large areas of deep peat deposits;</li><li>known acidification problems and/or other existing pressures on fish populations in the area; and</li><li>proposed felling operations.</li></ul> <p>MD-SEDD recommends that a a Water Quality and Fish Monitoring Plan (WQFMP) is carried out to ensure that the proposed mitigation measures are effective. A robust, strategically designed and site specific monitoring programme conducted before, during and after construction can help to identify any changes, should they occur, and assist in implementing rapid remediation before long term ecological impacts occur.</p> | 131 - 138                | <p>Chapter 3 Proposed Development</p> <p>Chapter 8: Ecology</p> <p>Chapter 10: Water and Geological Environment</p> | <p>SACs where fish are a qualifying feature have been considered through corridor, routeing and alignment selection stages and thereby assessed using a Habitats Regulations Appraisal. The outcomes of these earlier assessments have been used to inform the HRA and EIA Report for the Proposed Development and this has included avoidance of SACs (and indeed any designated sites) wherever practicable. Where SACs with fish cannot be avoided, mitigation to address pollution and noise / vibration issues in construction and maintenance, as well as issues such as removal of riparian vegetation that could reduce shade / increase runoff of acidic soils such as peat for fish such as salmonids, are all considered in the EIA Report and HRA. Local fisheries boards have been contacted for fisheries data to inform our assessments. We would not, based on current knowledge, anticipate any impacts arising from operation of the OHL for fish.</p> <p>Protection measures are detailed within the outline CEMP which accompanies <b>Chapter 3: Project Description</b>.</p> <p>Annex 1 has been completed and will be included with the submission of the s37 application.</p> |