

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

Appendix 7.2 – Visualisation Methodology



APPENDIX 7.2 – VISUALISATION METHODOLOGY

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Appendix Figures

There are no Figures as part of this Appendix.

Appendix Annexes

There are no Annexes to this Appendix.

1 Visualisation Methodology

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The following methodology outlines the approach to viewpoint selection, guidance used, presentation and technical production of Type 3 (in accordance with Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19¹) photowire and photomontage visualisations. Visualisations for the landscape and visual assessment are found on the following figures within **Volume 4: Visualisations**:

- **Visualisation THC 7.1: Viewpoint 1 to 7.22: Viewpoint 58**; and
- **Visualisation 7.1: Viewpoint 1 to 7.65: Viewpoint 65**.

1.1.2 Cultural Heritage visualisations are found in the below figure and are not subject to the same standards and methodology outlined below:

- **Visualisation 11.1: Heritage Viewpoint 1 to 11.30: Heritage Viewpoint 30**.

1.2 Viewpoints

1.2.1 The assessment considered the effects on visual amenity across the whole of the area affected and on visual receptors as represented by the viewpoint locations. The viewpoints included provide views from different directions and distances, representing a range of receptors. The viewpoints are to help illustrate the type of view experienced from represented receptors, inform the assessment and the competent authority and are not intended as an exact reflection of the view from any particular receptor.

1.2.2 When selecting viewpoint locations, consideration was given with regards to suitable, safe parking and access / space to undertake the photography.

1.2.3 Viewpoints selected for inclusion in the assessment and for illustration of the visual effects may be chosen as representative viewpoints, specific viewpoints or illustrative viewpoints (i.e. types, GLVIA²), and should cover as wide a range of situations as is reasonable and necessary to cover the likely significant effects. The emphasis must always be on proportionality in relation to the scale and nature of the development proposal.

1.2.4 The representative viewpoints are used to help illustrate the assessment of visual effects on the identified visual receptors (refer to **Appendix 7.1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology** for the method of identifying of receptors).

1.2.5 The locations of the agreed 65 representative viewpoints are shown on **Figure 7.6: Visual Amenity Receptors and Viewpoint Locations** and listed in **Appendix 7.5: Representative Viewpoint Sensitivity and Effects**.

1.2.6 To assist in illustrating the potential magnitude of impact to visual receptors, visualisations have been prepared for each of the 65 representative viewpoints.

1.2.7 All 65 of the representative viewpoints are illustrated by both 3D photowires (Type 3) and photomontages (type 3). The viewpoint location was surveyed on site using a handheld global positioning system (GPS).

1.2.8 The viewpoints, with a description of the location and represented or specific receptors, have been listed in **Table 1.1** below.

¹ Landscape Institute (2019). TGN 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals. Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/LI_TGN-06-19_Visual_Representation-1.pdf

² Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013). Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition

Table 1.1: Viewpoint List

Viewpoint Reference	Viewpoint Purpose (GLVIA)	Local Authority	Viewpoint Location NGR (easting, northing)	Viewpoint Description	Represented Receptors (receptor reference in brackets)
Viewpoint 1: River Beaully	Representative viewpoint	The Highland Council (THC)	249731, 844091	View southeast from Black Bridge on C1106 (Fanellan Road) crossing the River Beaully, Kilmorack	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors</u> : - residents in and around Kilmorack (THC- R-1A, THC- R-5, R4a, R4b). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptors</u> : - users of the River Beaully; and - users of Core Paths IN03.03 'War Memorial to Black Bridge by Balblair Wood' & IN03.04 'Lovat Bridge to Black Bridge' (THC- REC-5). <u>Transport receptors</u> : - users of the A831 (THC-T-1).
Viewpoint 2: Creraig (Crerag)	Representative viewpoint	THC	247871, 840927	View northeast from unnamed road, Creraig (Crerag)	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors</u> : - residents in and around Creraig (THC-R-2). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptors</u> : - users of Core Paths IN20.11 'Home Farm to Hughton by Lonbuie' & IN20.05 'East Lodge to West Lodge, Beaufort Castle' (THC-REC-6). <u>Transport receptors</u> : - users of local roads (THC-T-2).
Viewpoint 3: Ruisaurie	Representative viewpoint	THC	250248, 846239	View southeast from unnamed road, Ruisaurie	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors</u> : - residents in and around Ruisaurie (THC-R-7). <u>Transport receptors</u> : - users of local roads (THC-T-2).
Viewpoint 4: Beaully	Representative viewpoint	THC	252008, 845757	View south from car park off the A862, Beaully	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors</u> : - the settlement of Beaully (THC-R-11, THC-R-14). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptors</u> :

Viewpoint Reference	Viewpoint Purpose (GLVIA)	Local Authority	Viewpoint Location NGR (easting, northing)	Viewpoint Description	Represented Receptors (receptor reference in brackets)
					- users of the A862 (THC-REC-2); and - users of Core Path IN03.01 'Riverside Loop, Beauly' (THC-REC-4).
Viewpoint 5: Ardnagrask	Representative viewpoint	THC	252069, 848659	View south from Teandalloch Road, Ardnagrask	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors</u> : - residents in and around Ardnagrask (THC-R-12, THC-R-15); and - the settlement of Muir of Ord (THC-R-14). <u>Transport receptors</u> : - users of local roads (THC-T-2).
Viewpoint 6: Kiltarlity	Representative viewpoint	THC	251012, 840921	View north from unnamed road, Kiltarlity	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors</u> : - residents in and around Kiltarlity (THC-R-8, THC-R-10). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptors</u> : - users of Core Paths IN20.11 'Home Farm to Hughton by Lonbuie' & , IN20.05 'East Lodge to West Lodge, Beaufort Castle'; and - users of the A862, including tourists (THC-REC-2). <u>Transport receptors</u> : - users of local roads (THC-T-2).
Viewpoint 7: Balchraggan	Representative viewpoint	THC	253909, 843516	View north from Cabrich, Balchraggan	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors</u> : - residents in Balchraggan (THC-R-16). <u>Transport receptors</u> : - users of local roads, including tourists (THC-T-2).
Viewpoint 8: Easter Moniack	Representative viewpoint	THC	255187, 844126	View north from local road in Easter Moniack	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors</u> : - residents in Easter Moniack (THC-R-13, THC-R-18). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor</u> : - users of local roads, including tourists (THC-T-2).

Viewpoint Reference	Viewpoint Purpose (GLVIA)	Local Authority	Viewpoint Location NGR (easting, northing)	Viewpoint Description	Represented Receptors (receptor reference in brackets)
					- users of Core Path IN21.07 'West Lodge to Lower Achnagairn', Easter Moniac (THC-REC-7). <u>Transport receptors:</u> - users of local roads, including tourists (THC-T-2).
Viewpoint 9: Knockbain	Representative viewpoint	THC	255260, 843423	View north from unnamed road, Knockbain	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents in and around Knockbain (THC-R-19). <u>Transport receptors:</u> - users of local roads (THC-T-2).
Viewpoint 10: A832, Newton	Representative viewpoint	THC	258357, 850523	View south from the A832, Newton	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents to the north of the Beauly Firth, including those in Newton (THC-R-21). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor:</u> - users of the A862, including tourists (THC-REC-2).
Viewpoint 11: Drumchardine	Representative viewpoint	THC	257330, 844464	View southwest from unnamed road to southeast of Drumchardine	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents to the south of Inchmore including Drumchardine, Tealaggan & Easter Craggach (THC-R-23a). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor:</u> users of Core Path IN21.04 'Drumchardine Craggach loop' (THC-REC-8). <u>Transport receptors:</u> - users of local roads (THC-T-2).
Viewpoint 12: Pine Chalets, Newtonhill	Representative viewpoint	THC	257034, 843211	View west from unnamed road at Pine Chalets, southwest of Newtonhill	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - elevated residential properties on The Aird (THC-R-22, THC-R-24). <u>Transport receptors:</u>

Viewpoint Reference	Viewpoint Purpose (GLVIA)	Local Authority	Viewpoint Location NGR (easting, northing)	Viewpoint Description	Represented Receptors (receptor reference in brackets)
					- users of local roads, including tourists (THC-T-2).
Viewpoint 13: A82 Inverness	Specific viewpoint	THC	263218, 842360	View southwest from the A82, south of Inverness	Specific to: <u>Transport receptor</u> : - users of the A82, including tourists (THC-T-4).
Viewpoint 14: Caledonian Canal	Specific viewpoint	THC	261833, 840404	View northeast from the Caledonian Canal	Specific to: <u>Recreational & Amenity receptors</u> : - Users of Dochgarroch Locks, Caledonian Canal (THC-REC-1) - users of the Caledonian Canal (including the Great Glen Canoe Trail), Core Path IN19.10 Caledonian Canal Towpaths (THC-REC-11).
Viewpoint 15: Culduthel Mains Road, Inverness	Representative viewpoint	THC	266113, 841838	View south from Culduthel Main Roads, Inverness	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors</u> : - the settlement of Inverness (THC-R-11).
Viewpoint 16: Culloiden Battlefield	Specific viewpoint	THC	274595, 844891	View southeast from Culloiden Battlefield visitor centre	Specific to: <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor</u> : - visitors to Culloiden Battlefield site and visitor centre (THC-REC-24).
Viewpoint 17: B9091, Nairn	Representative viewpoint	THC	284923, 853182	View south from the B9091, Nairn	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors</u> : - Residents to the south of Nairn (THC-R-45, THC-R-46, THC-R-47). <u>Transport receptors</u> : - users of the B9091 and local roads, including tourists (THC-T-9).
Viewpoint 18: Urchany	Representative viewpoint	THC	287751, 848059	View south from unnamed road, Urchany	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors</u> : - residents in and around Urchany (THC-R-48, THC-R-49). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor</u> : - users of the Highland Tourist Route, A939 (THC-REC-16).

Viewpoint Reference	Viewpoint Purpose (GLVIA)	Local Authority	Viewpoint Location NGR (easting, northing)	Viewpoint Description	Represented Receptors (receptor reference in brackets)
					<u>Transport receptors:</u> - users of local roads (THC-T-8).
Viewpoint 19: Via Regia Heritage Path, Cairngorms National Park	Specific viewpoint	THC	304962, 836319	View north from Via Regia Heritage Path, on northern edge of the Cairngorms National Park	Specific to: <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor:</u> - visitors to the Cairngorms National Park; and - users of 'Via Regia' Heritage Path (THC-REC-23 & MOR-REC-5).
Viewpoint 20: A940, Dunphail	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	301290, 848387	View south from the A940, Dunphail, within the Findhorn Valley and the Wooded Estates special landscape area (SLA)	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents within Dunphail (MOR-R-3, MOR-R-4a, MOR-R-4b). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor:</u> - users of 'The Dava Way' Great Trail (MOR-REC-1). <u>Transport receptor:</u> - users of the A940 (MOR-T-1).
Viewpoint 21: The Dava Way	Specific viewpoint	Moray Council	302530, 844879	View north from The Dava Way long distance path / Scottish Great Trail	Specific to: <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor:</u> - users of 'The Dava Way' Great Trail (MOR-REC-1).
Viewpoint 22: Carnach	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	302849, 846499	View south from unnamed road, south of Carnach	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents to the south of Sneishin Hill (MOR-R5, MOR-R-7).
Viewpoint 23: Dallas to Knockando road	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	312955, 850627	View south from unnamed road between Dallas and Knockando, south of Dallas	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents to the south of Dallas (MOR-R-11, MOR-R-12, MOR-R-13). <u>Transport receptor:</u> - users of Dallas to Knockando local road (MOR-T-2).
Viewpoint 24: B9010, Kellas	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	317077, 854497	View southeast from the B9010 in Kellas, south of the Pluscarden Valley SLA	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents in and around Kellas (MOR-R-16, MOR-R-17). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor:</u>

Viewpoint Reference	Viewpoint Purpose (GLVIA)	Local Authority	Viewpoint Location NGR (easting, northing)	Viewpoint Description	Represented Receptors (receptor reference in brackets)
					- users of Mill of Kellas Trout Fishery (MOR-REC-4). <u>Transport receptor:</u> - users of local roads (MOR-T-2) - users of the B9010 (MOR-T-3).
Viewpoint 25: Mannoch Road Heritage Path	Specific viewpoint	Moray Council	321013, 851591	View northwest from the Mannoch Road Heritage Path on Pikey Hill	Specific to: <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor:</u> - users of the 'Mannoch Road' Heritage Path (MOR-REC-9).
Viewpoint 26: Elgin	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	321694, 859896	View southeast from Glenlossie Road, Elgin	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - the settlement of Elgin (MOR-R-9, MOR-R19a, MOR-R-19b, MOR-R-21). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptors:</u> - users of Core Paths on the southern edge of Elgin (MOR-REC-7) - users of the 'Mannoch Road' Heritage Path and Core Paths to the south of Elgin (MOR-REC-9). <u>Transport receptor:</u> - users of Glenlossie Road (MOR-T-5).
Viewpoint 27: A941, Coleburn	Specific viewpoint	Moray Council	324902, 853883	View northwest from the A941, to the south of Coleburn distillery	Specific to: <u>Transport receptor:</u> - users of the A941, including tourists (MOR-T-4).
Viewpoint 28: River Spey Valley	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	332940, 858239	View southeast from unnamed road adjacent to Dipple farmstead, within The Spey Valley SLA	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents within the Spey Valley, including Dipple (MOR-R-32a, MOR-R-32b, MOR-R-36b). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptors:</u> - users of the River Spey and the 'Speyside Way' Great Trail (MOR-REC-15). <u>Transport receptors:</u>

Viewpoint Reference	Viewpoint Purpose (GLVIA)	Local Authority	Viewpoint Location NGR (easting, northing)	Viewpoint Description	Represented Receptors (receptor reference in brackets)
					- users of local roads, including tourists (MOR-T-5).
VP29: Earth Pillars Viewpoint, Ordiequish	Specific viewpoint	Moray Council	333537, 856531	View west from the Ordiequish Earth Pillars viewpoint, within The Spey Valley SLA and adjacent to the Speyside Way long distance path	Specific to: <u>Recreational & Amenity receptors:</u> - visitors to Ordiequish Earth Pillars viewpoint and undesignated footpaths (MOR-REC-16); and - users of the 'Speyside Way' Great Trail (MOR-REC-15).
Viewpoint 30: Fochabers	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	335320, 859197	View southwest from the Gordon Castle estate on Core Path 344, on the northern edge of Fochabers, within the Gordon Castle (Bog of Gight) Garden and Designed Landscape and The Spey Valley SLA	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - the settlement of Fochabers (MOR-R-41a, MOR-R-41b). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptors:</u> - users of Core Paths in and around Fochabers, within the Spey Valley SLA (MOR-R-17); and - visitors to Gordon Castle & Walled Garden, within the Lower Spey and Gordon Castle Policies SLA and Gordon Castle (Bog of Gight) Garden and Designed Landscape (MOR-REC-18).
Viewpoint 31: A96, North Bogbain	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	339415, 853373	View east from the A96, North Bogbain	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents to the northwest of Keith, including Forgie and Aultmore (MOR-R-47, MOR-R-48). <u>Transport receptor:</u> - users of local roads (MOR-T-8).
Viewpoint 32: Buckie Fishwives Heritage Path, Newmill	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	343943, 852674	View southeast from Buckie Fishwives Heritage Path to the east of Newmill	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents within Newmill (MOR-R-53, MOR-R-54). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor:</u> - users of 'Buckie Fishwives' Heritage

Viewpoint Reference	Viewpoint Purpose (GLVIA)	Local Authority	Viewpoint Location NGR (easting, northing)	Viewpoint Description	Represented Receptors (receptor reference in brackets)
					Path (MOR-REC-22). Transport receptors: - users of local roads (MOR-T-8).
Viewpoint 33: Blackhillock	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	343478, 849183	View east from Denwell Road Blackhillock, to the south of Keith	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors</u> : - the settlement of Keith (MOR-R-50, MOR-R-55, MOR-R-56). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptors</u> : - users of Core Paths to south of Keith (MOR-REC-21). <u>Transport receptors</u> : - users of the A96, including tourists (MOR-T-7); and - users of local roads (MOR-T-8).
Viewpoint 34: Ardonald	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	345460, 844790	View northeast from unnamed road to south of the A96, Ardonald	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors</u> : - residents to the south of the A96 (AB-R-3, AB-R-15, AB-R-16, AB-R-28). <u>Transport receptors</u> : - users of the A96 (AB-T-1); and - users of local roads (AB-T-2).
Viewpoint 35: Haughs	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	349694, 848890	View south from unnamed road to east of Meikle Balloch Hill	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors</u> : - residents to the east of Meikle Balloch Hill (AB-R-14, AB-R-67).
Viewpoint 36: B9022, Deveron Valley	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	353504, 845081	View south from the B9022 in the River Deveron valley, within the Deveron Valley SLA	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors</u> : - residents within the River Deveron valley (AB-R-1, AB-R-14). <u>Transport receptors</u> : - users of the B9022 (AB-T-3).
Viewpoint 37: Rothiemay	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	355836, 849546	View south from unnamed road, Rothiemay	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors</u> : - residents in and around Rothiemay (MOR-R-65, MOR-R-66, MOR-R-68).
Viewpoint 38: Kinnoir	Representative viewpoint	Aberdeenshire Council	356194, 841756	View northeast from unnamed	Representative of:

Viewpoint Reference	Viewpoint Purpose (GLVIA)	Local Authority	Viewpoint Location NGR (easting, northing)	Viewpoint Description	Represented Receptors (receptor reference in brackets)
				road off the A97, within the Deveron Valley SLA	<u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents in and around Kinnair (AB-R-4b, AB-R-30). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor:</u> - users of footpaths within and around Kinnair Wood (AB-REC-4). <u>Transport receptors:</u> - users of local roads (AB-T-2).
Viewpoint 39: A96, Huntly	Representative viewpoint	Aberdeenshire Council	354851, 838694	View north from the A96, to the east of Huntly	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - the settlement of Huntly (AB-R-29). - residents between Battlehill, Huntly and the A947, Birkinhills (AB-R-30). - residents between the A97 south of Huntly to the A947 at Fyvie (MOR-R-45). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptors:</u> - users of Core Paths to the north of Huntly and visitors to Huntly Castle, Huntly Golf Club, and Huntly Castle Caravan Park (AB-REC-2). <u>Transport receptors:</u> - users of the A96, including tourists (AB-T-1).
Viewpoint 40: B9025, Foreglen	Representative viewpoint	Aberdeenshire Council	368944, 851188	View south from the B9025, Forglen, within the Forglen Garden and Designed Landscape and Deveron Valley SLA	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents to the west of Turriff (AB-R-31, AB-R-39). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor:</u> - visitors to Foreglen Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) (AB-REC-5). <u>Transport receptor:</u> - users of the B9025, including tourists (AB-T-5).
Viewpoint 41: Kirkton of Auchterless	Representative viewpoint	Aberdeenshire Council	369578, 84264	View northwest from unnamed	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u>

Viewpoint Reference	Viewpoint Purpose (GLVIA)	Local Authority	Viewpoint Location NGR (easting, northing)	Viewpoint Description	Represented Receptors (receptor reference in brackets)
				road, Kirkton of Auchterless	- residents in and around Kirkton of Auchterless (AB-R-7 , AB-R-18). <u>Transport receptors:</u> - users of local roads (AB-T-5).
Viewpoint 42: Seggat	Representative viewpoint	Aberdeenshire Council	373862, 841986	View north from unnamed road, Seggat, west of the A947	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents in and around Seggat (AB-R-30). <u>Transport receptors:</u> - users of local roads (AB-T-5).
Viewpoint 43: Turriff	Representative viewpoint	Aberdeenshire Council	373895, 849181	View south from unnamed road on the southern extents of Turriff	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - The Settlement of Turriff (AB-R-19 , AB-R-47). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptors:</u> - users of Core Path 314.03 'Haughs & Deveron Riverside Circular' (AB-REC-6); and - users of NCN 1 and Core Path NCN Route 1D 'Montcroffer Croft to Maud' (AB-REC-7). <u>Transport receptors:</u> - users of local roads (AB-T-5).
Viewpoint 44: Balquhindachy	Representative viewpoint	Aberdeenshire Council	376640, 847689	View northwest from unnamed road, Balquindachy, immediately north of the Hatton Castle Garden and Designated Landscape	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents in and around Balquhindachy (AB-R-8 , AB-R-9). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor:</u> - Visitors to Hatton Castle GDL (AB-REC-16). <u>Transport receptors:</u> - users of local roads (AB-T-5).
Viewpoint 45: Cuminestown	Representative viewpoint	Aberdeenshire Council	380587, 849954	View southwest from Thornhill Road to the south of Cuminestown	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - the settlement of Cuminestown (AB-R-20). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor:</u>

Viewpoint Reference	Viewpoint Purpose (GLVIA)	Local Authority	Viewpoint Location NGR (easting, northing)	Viewpoint Description	Represented Receptors (receptor reference in brackets)
					- users of Core Path NCN Route 1D 'Montcoffer Croft to Maud' (AB-REC-7). <u>Transport receptors:</u> - users of local roads (AB-T-8).
Viewpoint 46: New Byth	Representative viewpoint	Aberdeenshire Council	382078, 853913	View south from Blackhill core path (no.56) in New Byth	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - the settlement of New Byth (AB-R-33 , AB-R-40). <u>Transport receptors:</u> - users of local roads (AB-T-8).
Viewpoint 47: Culsh Monument	Specific viewpoint	Aberdeenshire Council	388145, 848297	View east from Culsh Monument, Hill of Culsh	Specific to: <u>Recreational & Amenity receptors:</u> - visitors to the Culsh Monument, New Deer Cemetery and Core Path 211.02P 'New Deer: Culsh Monument Link - Proposed Link' (AB-REC-8). - Users of Core Paths 211.01, 211.01P & Culsh Circular extension - Proposed Link (AB-REC-9).
Viewpoint 48: A981, New Deer	Representative viewpoint	Aberdeenshire Council	388720, 846945	View east from the A981 in New Deer	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - the settlement of New Deer (AB-R-9 , AB-R-24). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptors:</u> - users of Core Paths 211.01 'New Deer: Kirk Walk & Culsh Circular' and 211.01P 'New Deer: Kirk Walk & Culsh Circular extension - Proposed Link', to the north of New Deer (AB-REC-9). <u>Transport receptor:</u> - users of the A981, including tourists (AB-T-9).
Viewpoint 49: B9029, Maud	Representative viewpoint	Aberdeenshire Council	391439, 847850	View west from the B9029, Maud	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - the settlement of Maud (AB-R-22)

Viewpoint Reference	Viewpoint Purpose (GLVIA)	Local Authority	Viewpoint Location NGR (easting, northing)	Viewpoint Description	Represented Receptors (receptor reference in brackets)
					- residents between Turriff and the B9030, Stuartfield (AB-R-47). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptors:</u> - users of the Formartine and Buchan Way Great Trail (AB-REC-10); and - users of Core Paths 209.01 'Maud: Clackriach Path' & Core Path NCN Route 1D 'Montcoffer Croft to Maud' (AB-REC-7). <u>Transport receptor:</u> - users of the B9029 (AB-T-8).
Viewpoint 50: Stuartfield	Representative viewpoint	Aberdeenshire Council	396540, 845981	View south from Windhill Street, to the west of Stuartfield	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - the settlement of Stuartfield (AB-R-33, AB-R-34). <u>Transport receptors:</u> - users of local roads (AB-T-8).
Viewpoint 51: Skelmuir	Representative viewpoint	Aberdeenshire Council	398728, 842029	View north from unnamed road, Skelmuir	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents between the A948 and A952, to the south of Stuartfield (AB-R-13, AB-R-25). <u>Transport receptors:</u> - users of local roads (AB-T-8).
Viewpoint 52: Longside	Representative viewpoint	Aberdeenshire Council	403314, 847045	View northwest from Yokieshill Cottages, Longside	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - The settlement of Longside and surrounding residents (AB-R-13, AB-R-27, AB-R-36, AB-R-37). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor:</u> - users of Core Path 208.01 'Longside: Harvest Hill' (AB-REC-12). - visitors to Longside Cemetery (AB-REC-20) <u>Transport receptors:</u> - users of local roads (AB-T-8).

Viewpoint Reference	Viewpoint Purpose (GLVIA)	Local Authority	Viewpoint Location NGR (easting, northing)	Viewpoint Description	Represented Receptors (receptor reference in brackets)
Viewpoint 53: Nether Kinmundy	Representative viewpoint	Aberdeenshire Council	405278, 844072	View northwest from unnamed road, Nether Kinmundy	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors</u> : - residents in and around Nether Kinmundy (AB-R-13 , AB-R-25 , AB-R-27). <u>Transport receptors</u> : - users of local roads (AB-T-8).
Viewpoint 54: A862, Kirkhill	Specific viewpoint	THC	354124, 844567	View south from the A862, southwest of Kirkhill	Specific to: <u>Transport receptor</u> : - users of the A862, including tourists as part of the North Coast 500 (THC-REC-2).
Viewpoint 55: A82, Dochgarroch	Specific viewpoint	THC	261513, 840290	View northeast from the A82, Dochgarroch	Specific to: <u>Transport receptor</u> : - users of the A82, including tourists (THC-T-4).
Viewpoint 56: The Bin	Specific viewpoint	Aberdeenshire Council	350312, 843882	View northwest from the summit of The Bin	Specific to: <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor</u> : - visitors to The Bin (AB-REC-1).
Viewpoint 57: Inverkeithny	Representative viewpoint	Aberdeenshire Council	363005, 845375	View south from unnamed road, south of Inverkeithney	Specific to: <u>Residential receptor</u> : - residents in and around Inverkeithny (AB-R-17 , AB-R-31). <u>Transport receptor</u> : - users of local roads (AB-T-5).
Viewpoint 58: Belladrum	Specific viewpoint	THC	252068, 842398	View north from grounds of Tartan Heart festival, Belladrum	Specific to: <u>Recreational & Amenity receptors</u> : - recreational visitors to the Belladrum Tartan Hearts festival and users of Core Paths IN20.03 'Belladrum Kennels to Belladrum by Black Wood', IN20.04 Belladrum Kennels to 'Belladrum by Phoinneas Hill' & IN20.02 'Belladrum Kennels to Belladrum Farm' (THC-REC-3).
Viewpoint 59: Knock of Braemora	Specific viewpoint	Moray Council	301142, 841754	View northwest from summit of Knock of Braemora	Specific to: <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor</u> :

Viewpoint Reference	Viewpoint Purpose (GLVIA)	Local Authority	Viewpoint Location NGR (easting, northing)	Viewpoint Description	Represented Receptors (receptor reference in brackets)
					- visitors to the Knock of Braemoray (MOR-REC-1).
Viewpoint 60: A96, Barmuckity	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	324799, 861576	View south from Coxton Park, off the A96, in Barmuckity	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents to the east of Elgin (MOR-R-19a, MOR-R-37a, MOR-R-39). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor:</u> - users of National Cycle Route (NCR) 1 between Elgin and Kingston (MOR-REC-8). <u>Transport receptor:</u> - users of the A96, including tourists (MOR-T-7).
Viewpoint 61: B9103, Cranloch	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	328658, 858475	View southeast from the B9103 in Cranloch	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents in Cranloch (MOR-R-28, MOR-R-29, MOR-R-30, MOR-R-31). <u>Transport receptor:</u> - users of the B9103 (MOR-T-5).
Viewpoint 62: Inchberry	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	331848, 855862	View northeast from unnamed road, Inchberry	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents within the Spey Valley, including Inchberry (MOR-R-33a, MOR-R-33b, MOR-R-34). <u>Transport receptors:</u> - users of local roads, including tourists (MOR-T-5).
Viewpoint 63: A95/ B9018, Keith	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	346065, 851924	View southwest from the junction of the A95 and B9018, Keith	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents to the northeast of Keith (MOR-R-58, MOR-R-59, MOR-R-60). <u>Transport receptors:</u> - users of the A95, including tourists (MOR-T-9).
Viewpoint 64: Meikle Balloch Hill	Specific viewpoint	Moray Council	346964, 849341	View west from the summit of Meikle Balloch Hill	Specific to: <u>Recreational & Amenity receptors:</u> - recreational users of Meikle Balloch Hill, including Core

Viewpoint Reference	Viewpoint Purpose (GLVIA)	Local Authority	Viewpoint Location NGR (easting, northing)	Viewpoint Description	Represented Receptors (receptor reference in brackets)
					Paths CP-KT02, CP-KT03 and CP-KT27 (MOR-REC-10 & MOR-REC-23).
Viewpoint 65: Orbliston	Representative viewpoint	Moray Council	330791, 858175	View south from unnamed road, Orbliston	Representative of: <u>Residential receptors:</u> - residents around Orbliston (MOR-R-32a, MOR-R-32b). <u>Recreational & Amenity receptor:</u> - users of Core Path CP-EG52 (MOR-REC-12). <u>Transport receptors:</u> - users of local roads (MOR-T-5).

1.3 Consultation

- 1.3.1 The method for the production of the visualisations and the locations of the 65 viewpoints has been agreed with NatureScot, The Highland Council (THC), Moray Council (MC) and Aberdeenshire Council (AC) (refer to **Table 7.1** in the Consultation section of **Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual** for more detail).

1.4 Guidance

- 1.4.1 The visualisations were prepared in accordance with the following guidance:
- NatureScot - Visual Representation of Wind Farms Guidance. Version 2.2 - February 2017³;
 - The Highland Council - Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments - July 2016⁴; and
 - Landscape Institute - Visual Representation of Development Proposals Technical Guidance Note 06/19 - 17 September 2019.

1.5 Site Visit

- 1.5.1 Winter photography (considered to be worst case and when deciduous vegetation is not in leaf) was completed in March and December of 2024 and January and February 2025, while summer photography (considered to be when deciduous vegetation is in leaf) was undertaken in July 2025. High quality / resolution photographs were taken from all 65 viewpoint locations and the tripod positions were photographed for reference. Consideration was given to:
- forecast weather conditions;
 - shot itinerary based on sun position / time of day;
 - access / distance to site / duration of journey to site and required time on-site; and
 - suitable parking.

1.6 Photography

- 1.6.1 The following equipment was used for the photography:
- full frame camera (Sony A7IV) with a 50 mm 'prime' lens (Sigma 50 mm F1.4 DG DN | Art);
 - remote cabled shutter release; and
 - tripod with indexed / panoramic head (ARTCISE AS80C 63.8").
- 1.6.2 The photographs were captured by the following method:
- the tripod was erected and camera attached, along with the 50 mm lens;
 - the tripod was levelled using the tripod mounted level;
 - the height of the lens' central axis above ground level was measured and set to 1.50 m using the tape measure;
 - using a camera phone, shots were taken of the tripod in location;
 - with the camera centred on the site, 'live view' and x10 magnification was enabled and an appropriate point was identified to focus on;
 - once focused, and accounting for conditions, the correct exposure was achieved by adjusting the shutter speed;

³ NatureScot (2017). Visual Representation of Windfarms Guidance. Version 2.2 February 2017. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/visual-representation-wind-farms-guidance>

⁴ The Highlands Council (2016). Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments, 2016. Available at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/12880/visualisation_standards_for_wind_energy_developments.

- highlight warning was enabled;
- the panoramic tripod head was adjusted to centre the lens nodal point to the rotational axis of the tripod. It was important to ensure this is set to the correct measurement in order to avoid parallax error;
- a 360 degrees horizontal field of view panorama was taken from each of the 65 viewpoints. Vertical field of view was considered based on height of the proposals and proximity to the site. More distant photos may have been taken in landscape format and those closer to the site in portrait format;
- RAW files were captured to avoid loss of dynamic range and image quality;
- a minimum of 50% shot overlap was achieved with each photo. The panoramic tripod head assembly was adjusted to rotate incrementally at approximately 50% of the total horizontal field of view;
- the panorama was shot from left to right, through the panorama attempting where possible to avoid cars and any other moving objects; and
- shots were previewed to check the quality, focus, highlight warning and histogram for the shots to ensure that a well exposed usable set of photographs had been captured.

Post Processing Photos

- 1.6.3 The RAW files were processed in Adobe Photoshop and simple and standard digital photo processing techniques were applied (i.e. sharpening, noise reduction and chromatic aberration correction). Settings were adjusted as necessary to achieve the best exposure, shadow detail and clarity.

Stitching Photos

- 1.6.4 The photos were stitched in PTGui software as 360° cylindrical panorama photos.

Verification

- 1.6.5 The following techniques were used to verify the survey data:
- a handheld GPS unit was used by the surveyor to accurately record the viewpoint / camera position and also capture an array of selected survey reference points used to camera match and calibrate the photography. All survey points were captured in the British National Grid (BNG) co-ordinate system, recording an X, Y and Z co-ordinate for each;
 - the survey data was post-processed by the chartered surveyor to increase accuracy and then supplied in an Excel table for each set of viewpoint photography; and
 - a CAD file was provided containing the detail points and camera positions.

Model Assembly

- 1.6.6 The following methods were used to assemble the 3D model:
- surveyed X, Y, Z co-ordinates of reference points and the camera position were set up in 3D Studio Max;
 - the 3D computer model of the Proposed Development was defined within the Project Description;
 - the 3D computer model was georeferenced using supplied drawing data;
 - within the 3D software a virtual camera was set up using the coordinates provided by the surveyor and aligned with the reference markers;
 - a lighting environment was set up within the 3D software, using the metadata stored in the image and also surveyor location data; and
 - a 3DS Max model file for each viewpoint was assembled before rendering. The assembled model contains the digital terrain model tiles and any structures, buildings or further elements (as defined above) that can be seen in the viewpoint.

Camera Matching

1.6.7 The following describes the process of 'camera matching' to create a virtual camera:

- the process of camera matching creates a virtual camera in the same location and height and pointing in the same direction as the physical camera used on-site to capture the image;
- each viewpoint has its survey points in place and the camera was set to the required field of view and view direction;
- the process involves accurately positioning the 3D model of the Proposed Development within each existing view. This is achieved through a process of matching the surveyed points in the digitised image with those recorded by the survey team on the existing photographs;
- the survey points and specifications of the lens type relating to each view were also entered into 3DS Max;
- the survey points of the camera position and each clearly defined detail point (relating to specified objects in the view) were then highlighted on the digitised image;
- once the process of camera matching is complete, the 3D model of the Proposed Development was accurately positioned within each of the views captured. This was achieved by rendering the camera matched 3D model of the Proposed Development within 3DS Max at the same size as the digitised existing view. The position was then checked and verified by the project Landscape Architect;
- to aid in the production of photo real visualisations to a cylindrical projection, a plug-in programme called V-Ray has been used and each of the visualisations have been rendered using the V-Ray Rendering Engine software; and
- individual elements have been rendered out using different map channels to create masks (e.g. mask for the digital terrain model, towers, access tracks, proposed planting, shadows etc). These masks ensured each visible element of the Proposed Development was independently selected when individually placed into the Adobe Photoshop file for final production.

Producing the Photowire and Photomontage

1.6.8 The following describes the process of producing photowires and photomontages:

- the JPEGs were stitched into a panorama using PTGui software which provides an accurate planar or projection panorama as required. The resulting panorama was cropped to the required horizontal field of view and image size;
- at this stage panoramas were checked for acceptability by the project landscape architect;
- the renders of the 3D model were superimposed onto the baseline panorama in Adobe Photoshop. The foreground of the existing photos visible in front of the Proposed Development were then carefully copied and masked to ensure the render of the 3D model sit accurately within the depth of the view.
- the image compositing process involved digitally removing existing features such as trees that were within the extents of the Proposed Development. Areas of management felling have also been removed where this would be noticeable in the view;
- the textured render of the 3D model was then further adjusted to match the resolution, colouring and saturation of the photograph captured to create an accurate impression of what the textured elements of the Proposed Development would look like; and
- soft landscaping was added in Adobe Photoshop, only for those viewpoints where management felling planting or forest edge fringe planting would be noticeable in the view, to as accurately as possible to reflect how the Proposed Development would appear during operational years 7 and 15 (where appropriate), taking into account growth rates of any mitigation planting.

1.7 Presentation

- 1.7.1 The following describes how each viewpoint visualisation has been presented.
- 1.7.2 All representative viewpoints have been presented as photo-panoramas, in accordance with TGN 06/19 Type 3. Key features within the viewpoint baseline panoramas have been labelled for reference.
- 1.7.3 Visualisations at year 7 and year 15 are only provided where appropriate i.e. where forestry re-planting or forest edge fringe planting within the Operational Corridor (OC) are likely to form a significant part of or change the view.
- 1.7.4 Viewpoint visualisations within THC have been presented in two formats per viewpoint in accordance with LI TGN 06/19, NatureScot's SNH 2017 and THC guidance set out above. The viewpoints within THC are:
- THC: 1 to 19, 54, 55 & 58 (refer to **Visualisation THC 7.1 to 7.22**)
- 1.7.5 Viewpoint visualisations within MC and AC have been presented in accordance with LI TGN 06/19. The viewpoints within MC and AC are:
- MC: 20 to 33 and 59 to 65 (refer to **Visualisation 7.20 to 7.33, 7.59 & 7.65**); and
 - AC: 34 to 53, 56 & 57 (refer to **Visualisation 7.34 to 7.53, 7.56 & 7.57**).
- 1.7.6 All viewpoint visualisations show the existing view and the proposed view using a 3D model of the Proposed Development.
- 1.7.7 All 65 viewpoint photowire visualisations display a dashed blue line that demonstrates a vertical Limit of Deviation (LoD) with a potential tower height increase of 9 m.
- 1.7.8 Cumulative visualisations have been produced for viewpoints 2 and 52.
- 1.7.9 Details of the presentation requirements for the visualisations, as required by THC and NatureScot / Landscape Institute, are set out in **Table 1.1.2** below. TGN 06/19 is broadly consistent with NatureScot's SNH 2017 guidance and has been used.

Table 1.1.2: Visualisation Example Presentation Requirements

<u>The Highland Council</u> Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments July 2016	<u>NatureScot</u> Visual representation of wind farms: Guidance 2017 <u>Landscape Institute Guidance</u> TGN 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals 2019
Viewpoints 1 to 19, 54, 55 & 58	Viewpoints 1 to 65
Pg 1 Location, Directions of how to get there (Figure 2 of Highland standards) & photo of camera on-site	Pg 1 90 degree baseline and Type 1 annotated baseline – A1 820mm width
Pg 2 A3 65.5 degree baseline	Pg 2 90 degree photowire – A1 820mm width
Pg 3 A3 65.5 degree photowire	Pg 3 90 degree year of opening photomontage – A1 820mm width
Pg 4 A3 65.5 degree year of opening photomontage	Pg 4 90 degree year 7 photomontage– A1 820mm width (if applicable)
Pg 5 A3 65.5 degree year 7 photomontage (if applicable)	Pg 5 90 degree year 15 photomontage – A1 820mm width (if applicable)
Pg 6 A3 65.5 degree year 15 photomontage (if applicable)	Pg 6 53.5 degree photowire – A1 820mm width
Pg 7 A3 50mm photowire	Pg 7 53.5 degree year of opening photomontage – A1 820mm width
Pg 8 A3 50mm year of opening photomontage	
Pg 9 A3 50mm photomontage year 7 (if applicable)	

<u>The Highland Council</u> Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments July 2016	<u>NatureScot</u> Visual representation of wind farms: Guidance 2017 <u>Landscape Institute Guidance</u> TGN 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals 2019
Pg 10 A3 50mm photomontage year 15 (if applicable) Pg 11 A3 75mm photowire (50mm extract) Pg 12 A3 75mm year of opening photomontage (50mm extract) Pg 13 75mm photomontage year 7 (if applicable) Pg 14 75mm photomontage year 15 (if applicable)	Pg 8 53.5 degree year 7 photomontage– A1 820mm width (if applicable) Pg 9 53.5 degree year 15 photomontage– A1 820mm width (if applicable) Pg 10 50mm single image photowire – A3 390mm x 260mm image Pg 11 50mm single image year of opening photomontage – A3 390mm x 260mm image Pg 12 50mm single image year 7 photomontage – A3 390mm x 260mm image (if applicable) Pg 13 50mm single image year 15 photomontage– A3 390mm x 260mm image (if applicable)